



Executive Director Report

March 2020

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, March 4, 2020

Administration

2021 Assessment Projections – Preliminary assessment projections for 2021 are currently being developed and will be sent to member plans this month. These projections will be based on current market conditions (i.e., individual health plans are offered in all counties in Washington State; therefore, WSHIP non-Medicare plans are closed to new enrollment).

Amendment to Bylaws – Quorum Definition – On January 27, 2020 the OIC approved our request to amend the quorum provisions in the WSHIP Bylaws. The amendment creates a new quorum definition in the event there are two or more governor appointed director positions vacant.

Board

Election Nomination Process – The election process for Board member position 7 (Disability and Stop Loss) is underway. The Notice of Elections and Request for Nominations was sent to eligible member plans on March 4; additional nominations are open until March 27, 2020. The election will take place at the May 11, 2020 Member Plan meeting.

Governor-Appointed Board Openings – The following two WSHIP Board positions are in need of Governor-appointments. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please ask them to contact me or Keith Swenson, Director Boards & Commissions at the Governor's office, at Keith.Swenson@gov.wa.gov.

- Large Employer Representative
- Small Employer Representative

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

The HBE reports that more than 212,000 customers selected a 2020 health plan through the Washington Healthplanfinder. Plans are offered in all counties. The total number was slightly lower, 3.8%, than the nearly 221,000 selections last year. On average, customers have slightly lower premiums this year compared to last year. About 60% of customers continue to receive a federal premium tax subsidy to help lower the cost of their coverage, while 40% of customers are non-subsidized.

Cascade Care

On February 27, 2020, the Health Care Authority (HCA) released a request for applications (RFA) for the procurement of public option plans offered under Cascade Care. The first application deadline is March 13, 2020 which includes the letter of intent to apply and a non-disclosure agreement. The remaining application is due to two phases – Phase 1 materials are due on April 17 and Phase 2 materials are due on May 22. The HCA will announce apparent successful bidders in July 2020. The Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) will be developing and submitting a plan for implementing state premium subsidies for consumers with income up to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level. That report is due to the legislature in November 2020.

State of Reform Conference

I attended the Washington State of Reform Health Policy Conference on January 9, 2020, along with Anita Wuellner, Sydney Smith Zvara, and Shannon Wolf.

Washington State Government – 2020 Legislative Session

The 2020 legislative session is scheduled to end on March 12, 2020. Sydney will provide an update at our Board meeting.