



Executive Director Report

March 2021

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, March 3, 2021

Administration

2022 Assessment Projections – Preliminary assessment projections for 2022 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).

Board

Election Nomination Process – The election process for Board member positions 2 (Health Care Service Contractors) and 10 (All Member Plans) is underway. The Notice of Elections and Request for Nominations will be sent to eligible member plans on March 5; additional nominations are open until March 29, 2021. The election will take place at the May 12, 2021 Member Plan meeting.

Governor-Appointed Board Openings – The following two WSHIP Board positions are still in need of Governor-Appointments. If you know of anyone interested in applying, please ask them to contact me or Ambar Algera, Director Boards & Commissions at the Governor's office, at ambar.algera@gov.wa.gov.

Open Board positions:

- Large Employer Representative
- Small Employer Representative

Washington State Government – 2021 Legislative Session

HB 1096 (the WSHIP bill) – HB 1096 passed the House of Representatives on February 24, 2021 (96-0). This bill removes the December 31, 2022 expiration date for WSHIP non-Medicare coverage. The bill has bipartisan sponsorship and support. The bill has been referred to the Senate Health & Long Term Care committee where it awaits scheduling for a public hearing.

Legislative Session Updates – Sydney Zvara will provide additional updates on the 2021 legislative session at the Board meeting. The session is scheduled for January 11, 2021 to April 25, 2021.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

Washington Healthplanfinder is now offering a special enrollment period for Washingtonians who are currently uninsured or seeking new coverage. This special enrollment period, in response to the current public health emergency, opened Feb. 15 and runs for 90 days, ending May 15, 2021.

State of Reform Conference

I will be attending the virtual 2021 State of Reform Federal Health Policy Conference which is scheduled for April 7-8. This is the State of Reform's first federally-focused conference. It will include leaders from across 50 states and inside the DC beltway. If you are interested in attending this virtual conference, please let Anita know and she would be glad to register you.