Executive Director Report
March 2022
By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, March 3, 2022

Administration
2023 Assessment Projections – Preliminary assessment projections for 2023 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 9 (HMO’s) is underway. The Notice of Elections and Request for Nominations will be sent to eligible member plans on March 4; nominations are open until March 28, 2022. The election will take place at the May 11, 2022 Member Plan meeting.

Current 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

June 1, 2022 Governor-Appointed Board Openings – The term for WSHIP’s Provider Representative (Dr. Rick Hourigan) and Consumer Representative (Cary Acheta) will be ending on May 31, 2022. Board members have the option to reapply for an additional term, and new applications are also welcome by the Governor’s office.

COVID-19 Update
Pursuant to recent federal guidance issued to health plans, WSHIP voluntarily added coverage to its Non-Medicare plans prescription drug coverage for over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests. This allows enrollees to be reimbursed for up to eight FDA-approved OTC COVID-19 tests per month used for diagnostic purposes only. Coverage is effective January 15, 2022 and will continue for the duration of the pandemic emergency order.

Washington State Government – 2022 Legislative Session
Sydney Zvara will provide a legislative update at the Board meeting.

State of Reform Conference
I attended the virtual 2022 State of Reform Federal Health Policy Conference on February 17, 2022.