



Executive Director Report

May 2017

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, May 4, 2017

Administration

Annual Report – WSHIP’s 2016 Annual Report is nearing completion. The report will be posted to our website and emailed to policymakers, member plans, and others. Printed copies will be available upon request. New this year is an expanded section about WSHIP’s history, addressing key areas of interest about our state’s high risk pool experience prior to the Affordable Care Act such as comprehensiveness of WSHIP benefits, how premiums were set, and the results of surveys conducted prior to 2010 about what happened to applicants who were rejected in the market due to pre-existing conditions but chose not to enroll in WSHIP. For example, the last survey in 2009 indicated that 75% of respondents currently had health insurance coverage and 25% were uninsured. More than 50% of all respondents indicated they already had coverage at the time they applied and were rejected for individual coverage and many had the option to continue that coverage. Others found new coverage (e.g., through a spouse’s employer). Also new to this year’s report is non-Medicare vs. Medicare claims information to better understand the differences between the two populations currently served by WSHIP.

Health Annual Statement – WSHIP has filed its Health Annual Statement to the Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The statement is due each year by May 1.

2018 Assessment Projections – Notification of WSHIP’s 2018 Assessment Projections was sent to member plans in March 2017. Based on our preliminary financial information, we anticipated total CY 2018 assessments of \$35.5 million. These projections will be updated throughout the year. It is important to note that our projections are based on current market conditions (i.e., individual plans are offered in all counties; therefore, WSHIP non-Medicare plans remain closed to new enrollment). These projections also take into account the legislature’s passage of 2SHB 1338 which delays the sunset of WSHIP’s non-Medicare plans until December 31, 2022.

Board

Election Nomination Process – The election nomination process for Board member position #7 (Disability/Stop Loss) will take place at the Member Plan meeting on May 10th. Jamie Clark is running unopposed for the position.

Governor Appointments – The Governor has re-appointed Mark Rose as a representative for agents effective June 1, 2017. Andi Bailey is not applying for an additional term and her position as a representative for small business has not yet been filled. Andi will remain on the Board until the Governor appoints a new representative.

Washington State Government – Legislative Session

2SHB 1338 – On April 25, 2017, Governor Inslee signed into law Second Substitute House Bill 1338 which extends the scheduled 2017 sunset of WSHIP’s non-Medicare plans to December 31, 2022 and expresses the intent of the legislature to further study the role of WSHIP in the future, as well as its funding mechanism. The bill passed out of the House 93 to 5 and passed out of the Senate unanimously.

Federal Transition – Repeal and Replace

American Health Care Act – On May 4, 2017, the House passed legislation to repeal and replace large portions of the Affordable Care Act after adding \$8 billion over 5 years to provide assistance to reduce premiums or other out-of-pocket costs for people with pre-existing conditions who would be charged higher premiums in states that get waivers from ACA pricing rules. The legislation now moves to the Senate where more changes to the bill are expected.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

2017 Open Enrollment Update – The Washington Health Benefit Exchange announced that as of April, more than 204,000 individuals have enrolled in a 2017 Qualified Health Plan during the most recent open enrollment – a 23 percent jump over the previous year. In its first year, family dental plan enrollment was 20,854.