



## Executive Director Report

May 2018

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, May 1, 2018

### **Administration**

Annual Report – WSHIP’s Annual Report is nearing completion. We are continuing to make enhancements to help the reader better understand the two distinct programs that WSHIP operates – non-Medicare and Medicare – and the current status of the Pool. The report will include several of the newly-designed charts from WSHIP’s administrator.

Health Annual Statement – WSHIP has filed its Health Annual Statement with the Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC) as required by RCW 48.41.070. The statement is due each year by May 1.

2019 Assessment Projections – Notification of WSHIP’s Projected 2019 Assessment was sent to member plans in March 2018. Based on our preliminary financial information, we anticipate total CY 2019 assessments of \$24 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).

### **Board**

Election Nomination Process – The election process for Board member positions 2, 7, 9 and 10 will take place at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Plan meeting. Results will be announced at the Board meeting which immediately follows. The results will also be posted to our website.

Governor Appointments – I am pleased to announce that Alison Mondri and Roger Bairstow have been appointed by the Governor to serve an additional term on the WSHIP Board effective June 1, 2018. The Governor appointment for WSHIP’s small business representative is still pending applications.

### **NASCHIP**

NASCHIP held its Annual Meeting teleconference on April 18, 2018. NASCHIP (National Association of State Comprehensive Health Insurance Plans) is the national non-profit organization for state administered high risk pools. At the Annual Meeting I was re-elected to serve an additional term on the NASCHIP Board of Directors. Currently, WSHIP is one of 12 state high risk pools in operation – Alaska, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, and Wyoming.

### **Washington State Government – Interim Session**

Sydney Zvara and I will be scheduling visits throughout the interim session with legislators and others to learn about their priorities and needs for the 2019 session and provide updates related to WSHIP.

### **Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)**

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange recently announced that it is lowering its carrier assessment rate for 2019 by 55%, from \$7.46 to \$3.36 per member per month. The Exchange is funded through the state’s premium tax on health insurance carriers, reimbursement for providing Medicaid-related services, and this assessment on insurance carriers.