



## Executive Director Report

May 2020

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, May 6, 2020

### **Administration**

Annual Report – WSHIP’s Annual Report for 2019 has been completed. The report will be distributed via email in the next few weeks. A small number of printed copies will also be available.

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.

2021 Assessment Projections – Notification of WSHIP’s Projected 2021 Assessments was sent to member plans in March. 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).

COVID-19 Response – WSHIP implemented several steps to help support enrollees during the COVID-19 emergency including waiving cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing, adjusting our prescription refill policy, encouraging telemedicine services, and temporarily extending the premium payment grace period.

### **Board**

Member Plan Elections – The election process for Board member position 7 (Disability) will take place at the May 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 – The Governor’s Boards and Commissions Office has re-appointed Mark Rose to the WSHIP Board representing agents for a term beginning June 1, 2020. Governor appointments for WSHIP’s small and large business representatives are still needed. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please ask them to contact me at [sbecker@wship.org](mailto:sbecker@wship.org) or Keith Swenson, Director of Boards & Commissions at the Governor’s office, at [Keith.Swenson@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Swenson@gov.wa.gov).

### **Washington State Government**

Legislative Session – Following release of the state budget forecast in June, a special legislative session is anticipated this summer to address COVID-19 and related budget issues.

### **Washington Health Benefit Exchange**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) opened a limited-time special enrollment period that ends May 8. To date, the HBE reports that over 19,500 have signed up for coverage since the Exchange announced the special enrollment on March 10. This includes 7,000 uninsured Washington residents who have come in through the COVID-19 special enrollment period, and 12,500 additional customers who have come in through a qualifying life event.