



## Executive Director Report

November 2018

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, November 6, 2018

### **Administration**

Open Enrollment and Rate Notices – WSHIP’s open enrollment begins this month. This is the period each fall when enrollees may switch plans for coverage that will begin January 1. Notices to enrollees include WSHIP’s 2019 premium rates, along with information about coverage alternatives available from the Washington Healthplanfinder and private market.

Medicare Advantage Plan Analysis – Leif Associates has completed their yearly analysis of Medicare Advantage Plans in order to determine counties with “reasonable choice” for 2019. The results of this year’s analysis will be presented at the November Board meeting.

### **Board**

Governor Appointments – The Governor appointment for WSHIP’s small employer Board position is still pending. Keith Swenson, Director of Boards & Commissions at the Governor’s Office, is continuing his efforts to identify potential applicants and I have conducted additional outreach to the Association of Washington Business (AWB), National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and the Independent Business Association (IBA). Sydney and I are also communicating about this Board opening during our outreach meetings. 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 at [Keith.Swenson@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Swenson@gov.wa.gov).

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

We have continued our informal visits with legislators and others to learn about their priorities and needs for the 2019 session and provide updates related to WSHIP. In October, Sydney and I met with Sen. Cleveland, Chair of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.

### **Washington State Government – 2018 Committee Assembly Days & 2019 Legislative Session**

The 2018 Committee Assembly days are scheduled as follows: Senate – Nov. 14 & 15; House - December 3 & 4; and Joint – Dec. 5. Sydney Zvara will be in Olympia during Committee Assembly days to continue our outreach/communication efforts. The 2019 Legislative Session begins Jan. 14, 2019.

### **State of Reform Conference – January 10, 2019**

The Washington State of Reform Health Policy Conference is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2019 at the Westin Hotel in Seattle (the day after WSHIP’s January Board meeting). This is an all-day event that features industry experts and policy-makers covering the issues facing health care today in Washington State. I am planning to attend along with Anita and Sydney. It is an excellent opportunity for WSHIP staff and Board members to both learn and network with policymakers in our state. Please contact Anita as soon as possible if you’d like her to register you for the conference or assist with travel arrangements.

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

2019 Open Enrollment – 40 Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and six Qualified Dental Plans (QDPs) will be offered for 2019 through Washington Healthplanfinder during their Nov. 1 thru December 15 open enrollment period. Plans will be offered in every county. Six new in-person assistance locations are being introduced this year in areas including Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham, Yakima, Kennewick and Wenatchee.