



## Executive Director Report

November 2023

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, November 1, 2023

### **Administration**

Open Enrollment and Rate Notices – Open enrollment for WSHIP enrollees 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 2024 premium rates, along with information about coverage alternatives available from the Washington Healthplanfinder and private market. Medicare enrollees are also reminded to consider Medicare Advantage plans that may now be available in their area.

Medicare Advantage Plan Analysis – Leif Associates has completed their yearly analysis of Medicare Advantage Plans in order to determine counties with “reasonable choice” for 2024. One additional county, Mason, was added to the list of counties with reasonable choice bringing the total up to 15 counties for 2024. Ms. Leif will present her analysis at the Board meeting.

### **Board**

Governor-Appointed Board Openings – There are openings for a consumer representative and a large employer representative on the WSHIP Board. Applications are currently being accepted by the Governor’s Boards & Commissions Office. If you know of anyone interested in applying, please ask them to contact Ambar Algera, Director Boards & Commissions at the Governor’s Office, at [ambar.algera@gov.wa.gov](mailto:ambar.algera@gov.wa.gov).

### **Washington State Government**

WA Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) – By December 1, 2023, the HBE (in consultation with the OIC and HCA) is required to submit to the Legislature an analysis of public option plan rates paid to hospitals for in-network services and whether they have impacted hospital financial sustainability. The draft report is available on the HBE’s website. Comments are due by November 7. The HBE recently published the draft 2025 Standard Plan (Cascade Care) designs. Comments are due by November 27, 2023.

HCA Health Care Cost Transparency Board – The Cost Board met on October 18 to discuss statewide affordability efforts and the Board’s initiative on analytics support. The following week, the Board’s Transparency Advisory Committee on Primary Care met to review and discuss Rhode Island’s investments in primary care, as well as The Center for Medicare & Medicaid’s (CMS) “Making Care Primary” initiative. The Advisory Committee also voted on code-level definitions for use in data analysis.

Universal Health Care Commission – On October 12, the Commission met to discuss its Finance Technical Advisory Committee’s guidance on ERISA and to vote on adoption of the Commission’s 2023 report to the Legislature. The Commission also continued its discussion of transitional solutions and began planning for 2024.

### **State of Reform Conference**

The annual WA State of Reform Health Policy Conference is scheduled for January 4, 2024. The conference will be in-person only at the Sheraton Grand Seattle.