



Sept. 29, 2023

The Honorable Annette Cleveland, Chair,
Health & Long Term Care Committee

The Honorable Marcus Riccelli, Chair, Health
Care & Wellness Committee

The Honorable Ron Muzzall, Ranking
Minority Member, Health & Long Term
Care Committee

The Honorable Joe Schmick, Ranking Minority
Member, Health Care & Wellness Committee

The Honorable June Robinson, Chair, Ways
& Means Committee

The Honorable Timm Ormsby, Chair,
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Lynda Wilson, Ranking
Minority Member, Ways & Means
Committee

The Honorable Chris Corry, Ranking Minority
Member, Appropriations Committee

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) is pleased to submit our Annual Strategic Plan Update, pursuant to RCW 43.71.030(9). This update includes detailed information about Exchange activity over the past year.

The Exchange helps Washingtonians obtain health care coverage through its modern, integrated platform *Washington Healthplanfinder*, the Spokane-based Customer Support Center, and in-person assistance through a robust network of more than 3,000 navigators and brokers across the state.

The Exchange has continued to use its authority as a state-based marketplace to implement a series of significant federal and state driven initiatives to connect people to health coverage. Major programmatic activities this year include:

- **Driving affordability through Cascade Care.** Cascade Care makes health insurance accessible and affordable for *Washington Healthplanfinder* customers through 1) high-quality, low-cost, thoughtfully designed **standard plans**; 2) the nation's first public option plan, **Cascade Select**, intended to be the most affordable plans for customers; and 3) a state subsidy named **Cascade Care Savings**, which lowers customers' premiums through state-funded premium assistance.

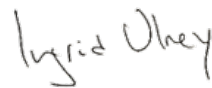
- **Keeping people covered during the Medicaid Unwind.** In collaboration with our partners, the Exchange has been working hard to help ensure that anyone leaving Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) who is eligible for a qualified health plan (QHP), signs up through *Washington Healthplanfinder*. Since Medicaid redeterminations resumed, the percentage of eligible customers selecting a QHP after their Apple Health ended has increased nearly 60% (from 17% before April 1, to 27% currently).
- **Expanding access to coverage regardless of citizenship status.** At the direction of the Legislature, Washington applied and received approval for a Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver. Starting Nov. 1, 2023, all Washington residents, regardless of immigration status, will be able to access health and dental coverage through *Washington Healthplanfinder* for plan year 2024. The Exchange is also closely partnering with the Health Care Authority to prepare for the upcoming Washington Apple Health Expansion.

The Exchange is honored to serve under the direction of its bipartisan Board of Directors and further the mission of radically improving the way Washingtonians secure health insurance. We appreciate your ongoing support for, and interest in, the Exchange. Please let us know if you have any questions about this annual update.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims
Board Chair



Ingrid Ulrey
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures (1)

cc: Washington Health Exchange Board Members

Chair: Ron Sims, *retired Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and former King County Executive*

April Betts Gibson, *Regional Executive Director, Proliance Surgeons*

Don Conant, *General Manager, Valley Nut and Bolt, and Assistant Professor, School of Business at St. Martin's University*

Leonard Sorrin, *Retired, Vice-President, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Premera Blue Cross*

Mabel Bodell, MD, *Nephrologist, Confluence Health*

Maureen McLaughlin, *Independent Hospital and Health Care Professional*

Hiroshi Nakano, *Director of Value Based Care, Valley Medical Center*

John Schapman, *Deputy Director, North Central Accountable Community of Health*

David Frockt, *Former Washington State Senator*

Ex-Officio: Mike Kreidler, *Washington State Insurance Commissioner*

Ex-Officio: Susan Birch, *Director, Washington State Health Care Authority*

Leah Hole-Marshall, *General Counsel and Chief Strategist, Exchange*

Jim Crawford, *Chief Financial Officer, Exchange*

Joan Altman, *Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, Exchange*