



**Washington Health Benefit Exchange  
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Policy Committee Members Present:**

Hiroshi Nakano, Chair  
Len Sorrin  
Karen Keiser

**Washington Health Benefit Exchange Staff Present:**

Ingrid Ulrey, Chief Executive Officer	Leah Hole-Marshall, General Counsel & Chief Strategist
Jim Crawford, Chief Financial Officer	
Christine Gibert, Director of Policy & Market Strategy	Tara Lee, Chief Communications Officer Kristin Villas, Senior Policy Analyst

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Monica Soni, Chief Medical Officer, Covered California

**Welcome and Introductions**

Policy Committee Chair, Hiroshi Nakano, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The January 28, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**Introduction to Covered CA Quality Program – *Kristin Villas, Senior Policy Analyst; Dr. Monica Soni, Chief Medical Officer, Covered California***

Kristin Villas discussed the importance of quality in the individual market and that the Board's role of steward of the individual market includes advancing quality through its certification criteria. Kristin shared that Covered California's quality program is known as the most advanced among state exchanges.

Dr. Soni provided an overview of Covered California's quality program, highlighting its evolution and impact. Dr. Soni explained the program's focus on a limited number of clinical measures including blood pressure control, diabetes control, colorectal cancer screening, and childhood immunization. She emphasized the use of financial incentives to drive improvements, noting significant engagement from health plan executives and substantial improvements in quality metrics. She also discussed the challenges faced, particularly with childhood immunization rates, and the efforts to address these through partnerships and innovative



approaches. Dr. Soni emphasized that a focus on equity in quality measurement is necessary to improve outcomes across all demographic groups.

**Federal Responsiveness Planning – Leah Hole-Marshall, General Counsel & Chief Strategist**

Leah Hole-Marshall discussed the current ACA Section 1332 waiver, which allows individuals with an unrecognized federal documentation status to purchase coverage through the exchange and be eligible to receive state subsidies. She highlighted the possibility that this waiver might be terminated later this year and outlined guiding principles for contingency planning.

Leah discussed the Enhanced Premium Tax Credit (ePTC) expiration at the end of 2025 and mitigation strategies being considered to address the expected impact on enrollment and state residents. Leah shared the Exchange’s collaborative work with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) earlier this year to explore affordability interventions, which culminated in OIC’s issuance of an emergency rule to direct carriers regarding premium alignment for cost-sharing reduction costs in silver plans. Additionally, she touched on a 2026 Cascade Care Savings policy change to encourage carriers to eliminate tobacco rating, which would stretch the value of state subsidy funding further and maximize federal premium subsidies. Leah concluded by acknowledging the significant work involved in addressing affordability challenges anticipated in 2026.

**Adjourn**

Hiroshi Nakano, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.