

**Washington Health Benefit Exchange Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 12, 2024
9:00am-12:00pm
Teleconference**

Board Members Present:

Hiroshi Nakano, Acting Chair
Dr. Mabel Bodell
David Frockt
April E. Lynne
John Schapman
Len Sorrin

Jane Beyer on behalf of Commissioner Mike Kreidler
Director Sue Birch

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Monica McLemore, Chair
Don Conant
Dr. Janice Greene

Washington Health Benefit Exchange Staff Present:

Ingrid Ulrey, Chief Executive Officer	Wynne McHale, Chief of Staff
Joan Altman, Director of Coverage Strategies & Expansion	Carla Reyes, Chief Operating Officer
Amairani Castaneda, Board Coordinator	Manny Santiago, Chief of Equity and Community Partnerships
Carly Christiansen, Executive Assistant	David Sorrell, Chief Information Officer
Jim Crawford, Chief Financial Officer	Ilene Stohl, Associate Director of Strategic Communications
Christine Gibert, Director of Policy & Market Strategy	Kristin Villas, Senior Policy Analyst
Leah Hole-Marshall, General Counsel & Chief Strategist	Laura Kate Zaichkin, Director of Market Competition & Affordability
Tara Lee, Chief Communications Officer	

Welcome and Introductions – Hiroshi Nakano, Acting Chair

Hiroshi Nakano called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Hiroshi Nakano, Acting Chair

Hiroshi Nakano requested approval of the meeting minutes from the May 24, 2024, and the July 24 and 25, 2024, Board meetings. Len Sorrin motioned to approve; John Schapman seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

CEO Update – Ingrid Ulrey, Chief Executive Officer

Ingrid Ulrey began by thanking the Board for their presence and reviewing the agenda. Ingrid shared that some staff members from the Exchange attended the National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP) summer meeting. They joined state-based marketplace staff from all over the country. Ingrid talked about the Exchange’s strategic priority areas, including leadership development, new cloud development, equity in the workplace, open enrollment readiness and preparing for 2025 legislative session.

Policy Committee Report – Hiroshi Nakano, Committee Chair

Hiroshi Nakano provided a report of the August 20, 2024, Policy Committee meeting. Hiroshi shared that Jim Crawford provided a fiscal update and reviewed activities underway to develop the next biennial budget. Hiroshi reported that Leah Hole-Marshall had provided an update on Strategic Plan progress, Kristin Villas presented on carrier progress toward meeting their 2025 plan approval deadlines, and Julia Nestor provided an update on Cascade Care Savings (state subsidy) amounts for 2025.

Operations Committee Report – John Schapman, Acting Committee Chair

John Schapman provided a report of the August 20, 2024, Operations Committee meeting. John reported that Jim Crawford had provided a fiscal update and reviewed activities underway to develop the next biennial budget. Manny Santiago and Becky Carrell (of the Health Care Authority) provided an update on implementation of programs to cover Washington residents regardless of citizenship status and the successful launch of the Apple Health Expansion (AHE) program earlier this summer. Leah Hole-Marshall provided an update on Strategic Plan progress.

Audit & Compliance Committee Report – Len Sorrin, Committee Chair

Len Sorrin provided a report of the July 18, 2024, Audit & Compliance Committee meeting. Members received updates from the finance, security, and compliance and legal teams. Jim Crawford introduced Mark LaPrade and Nathan Dunlap of third-party auditing firm BerryDunn, which will be conducting the Exchange’s FY2024 independent financial audit, to be issued in October.

Ruchi Shewaramani, Chief Information Security Officer for the Exchange, provided a security and risk update. Joanna Donbeck, Compliance Officer, provided a General Compliance report, and Leah Hole-Marshall offered a General Counsel Report.

Finance Report & Budget Requests – Jim Crawford, Chief Financial Officer

Jim Crawford provided the fiscal update noting the Exchange ended August under budget by 3.5%. This keeps the Exchange on target with fiscal year-end projections.

Jim shared that the Exchange is planning a proposed budget to include a projected drop in enrollment in January 2026, due to the expected expiration of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) extended subsidies.

Jim walked through a high-level view of the Exchange’s budget requests and provided a brief highlight of each of the three maintenance level and eight policy level requests. Jim noted the

budget aligns to the strategic priorities and provided an overview of how the requests align to the plan.

2025 Exchange Market – Christine Gibert, Director of Policy & Market Strategy; Kristin Villas, Senior Policy Analyst

Leah Hole-Marshall reviewed the plan certification process, criteria and the Exchange Board’s authority within the process. Leah gave an overview of the 2025 plan landscape and thanked the OIC for their hard work and the carriers for their participation, stating that we received 74 health plans and nine dental plans for recommendation to the Board for certification.

Christine Gibert and Kristin Villas provided an overview of rate increases and impacts on consumers. They reviewed some of the differences between initial and final rates and shared that 2025 was the third year in a row of 10% premium increases. They provided an overview of coverage options, monthly premiums, plan designs and provider quality considerations for 2025 plans.

Public Comment

Hiroshi Nakano called for public comment. No public comment was provided.

Certification of Exchange Qualified Health & Dental Plans – Christine Gibert, Director of Policy & Market Strategy

Christine Gibert reiterated that the 74 health plans and nine dental plans recommended for approval had been reviewed and met the criteria for certification and asked Board Members to certify the proposed qualified health and dental plans.

Hiroshi Nakano asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to certify the 2025 Exchange Qualified Health Plans. April E. Lynne made a motion to approve, Len Sorrin seconded the motion. Christine Gibert conducted a roll call vote of Board Members.

Yea

Abstain

Nay

David Frockt
April E. Lynne
Hiroshi Nakano
John Schapman
Len Sorrin

The motion was approved unanimously.

Hiroshi Nakano asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to certify the 2025 Exchange Qualified Dental Plans. April E. Lynne made a motion to approve, John Schapman seconded the motion. Christine Gibert conducted a roll call vote of Board Members.

Yea

David Frockt
April E. Lynne
Hiroshi Nakano
John Schapman
Len Sorrin

Abstain

Nay

The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Hiroshi Nakano adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

DRAFT