

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 9, 2020
TO: Health Service Board
FROM: Dr. Stephen Follansbee, Board President
RE: President's Report

I re-state the Five Goals of the HSS Strategic Plan for 2020-2022, so that we can keep these in mind during each discussion.

1. Affordable and Sustainable
2. Reduce Complexity and Fragmentation
3. Engage and Support
4. Choice and Flexibility
5. Whole Person Health and Well-Being

I am participating in the 66th Annual Conference of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP). The Health and Welfare Track sessions will continue intermittently through Thursday, November 19. All sessions will be available until December 31, 2020. I urge Health Service Board Commissioners to consider attendance, which can count as Education hours.

I will not attempt a more comprehensive report on the various trends and developments covered to date. Much of the initial sessions relate to the Strategic Plan of HSS. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are pervasive and covered in detail. A few highlights include the evidence for the rapid expansion of Virtual Care. One commentator said that about 5 years of progress has been made in the last 5 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The overriding theme is continued progress to the Engaged Enrollee (Participant). As HSB and HSS continues to focus on this, both in the context of the Non-Medicare Health Plan RFP currently in process but also with our other vendors, what can we as Commissioners do to further implement this?

The first and strongest recommendation is for us to model desired behaviors. A high-level national (and soon to be ex-) government official stated publically that he had no idea when his last screening test for SARS-CoV-2 had been performed prior to his diagnosis. He said, "Ask my doctors." This is not modeling the behavior we are seeking. We promise and demonstrate that we are the Engaged Participants in our Healthcare.

We have a responsibility to encourage our peers and family to become more comfortable with Virtual Care, as we explore this for ourselves. There is an exponentially increasing number of programs and tools being developed in the care of mental health, chronic conditions, musculoskeletal disorders, weight control, and substance use, to name a few. The more we can encourage ourselves, our friends, and family to develop the skills and access the tools necessary to participate in these promising advances, the more successful we will be in our Strategic Plan.