



Community Health Plan of Washington Strengthens Support for North Central Region Members

The organization brings on Christal Eshelman to advance whole person care through deep community connections

SEATTLE – May 20, 2021 – Christal Eshelman has been appointed as Regional Manager of Integrated Managed Care in North Central Washington for [Community Health Plan of Washington \(CHPW\)](#), Washington’s local not-for-profit Medicaid and Medicare managed care plan. Eshelman will help CHPW to better support the whole health and well-being of its members in Okanagan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties by overseeing integrated physical, behavioral health, and community-based services.

“As CHPW continues to address the unique needs of each of the communities we serve across Washington, we are very excited to welcome Christal to CHPW’s team of dedicated regional managers who serve as an important liaison for our work with our local partners,” said Leanne Berge, CEO of Community Health Plan of Washington and Community Health Network of Washington. “Christal’s county experience and long-established roots in the community are so valuable for us in providing whole-person, integrated care to our members in North Central Washington.” “At CHPW, we believe in the power of community – bringing together all the organizations and individual resources who are part of our members’ community to enable our members and their families to achieve their best health and well-being.

In her role as Regional Manager, Eshelman provides on-the-ground support for CHPW members in the region by managing partnerships with healthcare and community-based organizations. She serves as the primary CHPW regional liaison to local, county, and state agencies and advisory boards, Accountable Community of Health workgroups, and providers who are working together to integrate behavioral health and physical health services along with social services, as needed.

Eshelman joins CHPW with more than five years of experience managing public health and healthcare transformation programs. She most recently was the regional assessment epidemiologist with Chelan-Douglas Health District supporting COVID-19 response in the Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties. This included communicating and coordinating with healthcare partners and planning initiatives in response to the pandemic.

Prior to this role, she was the regional project manager for the North Central Accountable Community of Health where she engaged community leaders in initiatives such as Opioid Response, Community-based Care Coordination, Integrated Managed Care, Community Partnership for Transition Solutions, and Healthcare Workforce.



“As someone born and raised in North Central Washington, I’ve dedicated my career to improving the care and resources that impact my community’s health and well-being,” said Eshelman. “I’m excited to take part in the important work CHPW is doing to increase access to quality healthcare across our state.”

Eshelman joins CHPW as part of the organization’s continued regional growth across Washington State, including, most recently, hiring Joe Contris as the organization’s Pierce County’s Regional Manager of Integrated Managed Care in February. Eshelman is CHPW’s seventh regional manager the health plan in service of its members and provider network across Washington.

To learn more about CHPW, visit chpw.org.

About CHPW

Founded in 1992 by a network of community and migrant health centers (CHCs) in Washington State, Community Health Plan of Washington is a community-governed, not-for-profit health plan formed to help coordinate care and advocate for people who were not being served by traditional insurance companies. The mission of CHPW is to deliver accessible managed care services that meet the needs and improve the health of Washington communities and to make managed care participation beneficial for community-responsive providers. CHPW serves approximately 250,000 members through Medicaid (income-based program called Apple Health in WA) and Medicare (age and disability-based program) across the State. CHPW connects members to various physical, behavioral and social support services, and reinvests surpluses back into the community to help advance health equity and improve access to high quality care for all people. Its parent, Community Health Network of Washington, serves nearly one million individuals across Washington through its Member federally qualified community health centers across the State of Washington, and now offers Cascade Select on the health exchange. To learn more, visit chpw.org or connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

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