Executive Director's Report

2025

Date: June 18, 2025
To: Group Insurance Commission
From: Matthew Veno, Executive Director
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide Commissioners with the monthly Executive Director's report in writing. Questions and comments from Commissioners on the content of this memo are welcome during this portion of the agenda.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staffing

There are two upcoming retirements at the GIC.

Maureen Quinn has been with the GIC for over 5 years and with the Commonwealth for almost 20 years, and she will be retiring on June 30. Maureen joined the GIC to oversee Project Management at the agency, with a particular focus on helping implement the many technology-driven modernization initiatives that have taken place over the past 5 years. Maureen has played a key role in the development and implementation of many new programs, systems and services at the GIC. With a firm but always friendly hand, Maureen has been instrumental in helping the agency run smoothly, supporting progress, solving problems, and improving services for GIC employees and members alike.

Brock Veidenheimer will be retiring from the GIC, leaving on July 18. Brock joined the GIC in 2019 and has led the agency's Human Resource programs, supporting employees and the agency as we pivoted to a remote work environment during the Covid pandemic. Brock also led an update of HR-related programs and initiatives as the agency has transformed to a more technology-driven organization and supporting employees and the agency as we pivoted to a remote work environment during the Covid pandemic. One of the first faces to greet new employees, Brock has been a steady and approachable presence and a trusted resource for staff throughout the agency.

Maureen and Brock have made lasting contributions to both GIC's operations and the culture and community we value at the agency. They will both be missed. Please join me in wishing them much happiness in their retirements.

LEGISLATIVE & MUNICIPAL

Legislature

At last month's commission meeting, we continued the discussion around the GIC's projected FY25 funding gap and the Governor's supplemental budget that aimed to close said gap. Later that afternoon, as we expected, the Senate followed the House's action and passed the supplemental budget. The

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Governor signed the bill into law a few hours later. As a result, the temporary pause in payments to carriers that began on May 12 was lifted, and payment for pended claims promptly resumed. We added this information to our website homepage and communicated it directly to our coordinators.

Both the House and Senate have passed their respective FY26 budgets, and a conference committee is meeting to work out the differences between the appropriation bills. As always, we are monitoring language and funding levels that pertain to the GIC and make ourselves readily available to staff and legislators for any questions they may have.

Regarding other legislation, we continue to track and monitor bills as they move through committees and will keep the Commission apprised of any legislation that is moving and would be impactful for the GIC.

Municipal

We continue to receive inquiries from municipalities, school districts, and the like about joining the GIC. As requests come in, staff provides an array of information and offers an introductory meeting to answer specific questions about joining. Most recently, we have been in conversation with READS Collaborative, a public organization that specializes in the development of regional programs for children age 3 to 22 with low incidence disabilities. Its board voted to join the GIC on June 5, and we received its formal letter of intent to join the GIC. Notably, READS wishes to join effective January 1, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS

Leslie Monteiro returned from maternity leave at the end of May and we were very fortunate to have had the expert assistance of Lynne Kelly and Sam Hammar from A&F IT during Leslie's leave. They were instrumental in pushing out all GIC messaging regarding Annual Enrollment and other items that arose during the last 6 months. We are very grateful for their support.

As discussed during May's meeting, CVS Caremark has decided to remove Zepbound from the formulary across its business and prefer Wegovy for weight loss effective July 1, 2025. As this will cause disruption for some GIC members, we published an FAQ webpage for impacted members. This FAQ includes a step-by-step overview of the process for how members may seek an exception and continue taking Zepbound, depending on their eligibility. CVS Caremark began accepting and reviewing exception requests on Monday May 16th to minimize disruption for members who may have already tried and failed on Wegovy or who have a contraindication or intolerance to Wegovy. Members who have questions or concerns about this upcoming change should contact CVS Caremark's GIC customer care line at: 877-876-7214.