



2018 - 2019

WA

# Annual Report

**WVA** WASHINGTON  
VACCINE  
ASSOCIATION

## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Undoubtably, my first full year as WVA chairman has proved to be one of change – some purposeful and metered, some wrought upon the Association by circumstance. However, despite the myriad challenges, the WVA Board utilized its expertise to set strategic goals and make necessary arrangements to ensure that the organization could begin attaining results in each focus area: **1)** maintaining payer equity, **2)** improving known areas of leakage in the assessment system, and **3)** reifying relationships with strategic partners and stakeholders.

After setting organizational aims, the Board voted to retain its Executive Director as a full-time employee beginning in January 2019 to manage operational integrity and outside vendors, execute Board policy, and oversee stakeholder relations. This structural change is anticipated to aid the Association in attaining its short and long-term goals.

This year, the WVA again succeeded in full payer participation, identified and corrected pockets of provider noncompliance, and exceeded its investment and liquidity reserve targets. As a result, the Association was able to absorb vaccine inflation costs for a third year and further reduced vaccine assessments by 2%. I am encouraged by the realization of these benchmarks and look forward to additional change that will enable the organization to better serve its important role in Washington State's Childhood Vaccine Program.

John A Sobeck, MD, MBA  
Board Chair

## A Powerful Model

WVA plays a crucial role in ensuring all Washington children have access to recommended vaccines despite rising national vaccine prices by stabilizing funding for vaccine purchase. Our model has powerful benefits:

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- **No Provider Financing Costs.** Instead of fronting significant dollars to keep vaccines on hand, providers receive and administer pediatric vaccines procured by the Washington State Department of Health (department) and use their existing billing system to trigger WVA's collection of funds from health plans for privately-insured children.
- **Consolidated Storage and Ordering.** Provider staff can avoid both navigating complex ordering systems and keeping separate storage inventories for vaccines based on insurance status. This allows for a blended stock of vaccines and a streamlined ordering process, supported by the department.
- **Stable Vaccine Supply.** Providers can focus on patient needs and have the full compliment of recommended vaccines on hand to immunize kids.
- **Healthcare Savings.** The department's bulk purchases of all pediatric vaccines from the Center for Disease Control's contracts with manufacturers provides significant cost savings versus private market costs.

## Partnering to Manage Disease-Preventable Outbreaks

Washington State experienced multiple disease outbreaks in 2018 and 2019, most notably the measles. Vaccination is crucial in preventing outbreaks. During outbreaks, the department works to ensure providers and local health jurisdictions have necessary support and access to vaccines to adequately respond to the outbreaks and populations affected. The WVA's role is to provide the department adequate funds to assure they have the capability to purchase vaccines and manage the supply when ordering peaks during periods of outbreak.





## WORKING TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE VACCINE STORAGE, MANAGEMENT, AND HANDLING

This year, the WVA partnered with the department and other stakeholders to develop a vaccine loss policy to encourage provider accountability in vaccine ordering, management, storage, and handling to meet a long-term goal to lower aggregate vaccine waste. The workgroup focused on ensuring that providers enrolled in the state universal vaccine program are properly educated and institute practices that limit the potential for vaccine loss. The WVA is proud to be part of this important initiative to safeguard the state's investment in this important vaccination initiative.

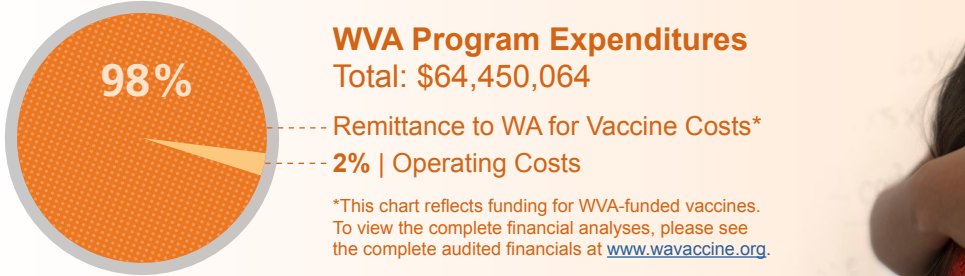
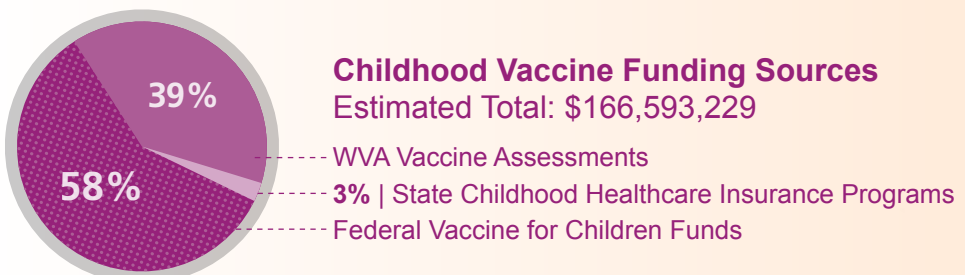
- 15 Workgroup members
- 7 Workgroup meetings
- 60<sup>+</sup> Estimated hours spent developing vaccine loss policy

**55/1016** > **100%**

55 out of the 1,016 provider sites enrolled in the Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program needed additional follow-up and education.

100% of the 55 provider sites that received education/training complied with the follow-up actions outlined by the department and signed the policy. (January - August 2019)

## FINANCIALS July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



### WVA Board of Directors

**John Sobeck, MD, MBA, Chair**  
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Medical Director for Preventative Care, Kaiser Permanente

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South Sound Pediatrics

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Sr. Director, Finance and Risk Management, Coordinated Care

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Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington

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Clinical Pharmacy Project Coordinator, Regence Group-Healthcare Services Seattle/Tacoma

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Vice President, Pharmacy Strategic Programs, Premera Blue Cross

**Randy Parker**  
Administrator, Carpenters Trust of Western Washington

**Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES**  
Director, Office of Immunization and Child Profile, Washington State Department of Health

### WVA Executive Director

Julia Zell, MA, Esq.

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