

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2015

Kitsap Public Health District to continue as local lead organization for the Washington Health Benefit Exchange customer support program

KITSAP COUNTY, WA– The Washington Health Benefit Exchange announced this week the selection of the Kitsap Public Health District to continue providing in-person assistance as part of the *Washington Healthplanfinder* customer support network.

Kitsap Public Health is one of nine organizations, which include public health agencies, regional health networks and other community organizations, chosen statewide to help residents enroll in health insurance on the *Washington Healthplanfinder* for the next open enrollment period, which runs from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31, 2016. Kitsap Public Health will serve residents in Kitsap and North Mason Counties.

“Our continued partnership with these knowledgeable and trusted organizations makes it possible to reach Washington’s uninsured population and support customers already enrolled through *Washington Healthplanfinder*,” said Pam MacEwan, CEO of the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.

Kitsap Public Health has Navigators on staff, and is responsible for building and overseeing a network of Navigators including those at Peninsula Community Health Services. Navigators provide free, in-person support to help direct residents through the *Washington Healthplanfinder* enrollment process in an effort to reduce the uninsured rate in Washington.

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Assistance in English and Spanish is available from Navigators at Kitsap Public Health in person or via phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Assistance is also available weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Peninsula Community Health Services. Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling Kitsap Public Health at 360-337-5235 or Peninsula Community Health Services at 360-377-3776. Those requesting assistance will need to have the following information available to sign-up: Social Security number, gross monthly income before taxes, tax filing status, and copies of insurance information if the enrollee or other family members have other insurance.

Kitsap Public Health and Peninsula Community Health Services will be at the Kitsap Mall near Kohl's from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 31 to promote open enrollment and answer questions about open enrollment and other agency services.

Washington Healthplanfinder allows individuals, families and businesses to compare health insurance plans side by side, determine if they are eligible for free or low-cost coverage, and choose the plan that fits their needs and budget. Washington residents can begin enrolling Nov. 1 for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2016.

Visit wahealthplanfinder.org to learn more about *Washington Healthplanfinder*.

About the Washington Health Benefit Exchange

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange is a public-private partnership established in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) to implement a new health insurance marketplace for individuals and small businesses. The Exchange is separate from the state and governed by an independent 11-member board. For more information, visit www.wahbexchange.org.

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