MEDIA RELEASE

MICHELE EBERLE NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AGENCY'S CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

BALTIMORE (Nov. 20, 2017) – Michele S. Eberle has been named the new executive director for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), the agency's board of directors announced at its regular meeting Monday afternoon.

"On behalf of the board, we are thrilled to welcome Michele as the executive director," said Dennis R. Schrader, secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and board chairman of MHBE. "Michele brings extensive knowledge and experience to the organization and we are looking forward to her leadership."

The Annapolis resident has served since 2015 as the chief operating officer for the exchange, which administers Maryland Health Connection. The agency facilitates access to private health insurance and Medicaid for 1.1 million Marylanders, one of every six residents of the state.

She succeeds Dr. Howard M. Haft, the deputy secretary for public health services at the Maryland Department of Health who was appointed as interim executive director of MHBE in May 2017.

"I am honored to serve as the next executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange," Eberle said. "I know firsthand the commitment and dedication of the agency's staff in assisting uninsured Marylanders get health coverage. I am proud of the collaboration with our partner agencies and stakeholders that is making the share of Marylanders with health coverage the most it has ever been.

"We're pleased that enrollment for 2018 plans has been brisk since Nov. 1, ahead of the pace a year ago," she said. "We hope that uninsured Maryland residents pursue a plan or information about free, expert assistance if they need it on MarylandHealthConnection.gov during these final three weeks of open enrollment."

Prior to joining the health exchange, Eberle served from 2013 to 2015 as executive director of the former Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP), a high-risk pool whose purpose was to decrease uncompensated care costs through access to affordable comprehensive health benefits for about 20,000 medically uninsurable residents.

Prior to moving to Maryland in 2011, Eberle led a non-profit agency in Oregon that provided support, counseling, emergency shelter, prevention programs and outreach for women and children affected by family violence. The Buffalo, N.Y. native has had other management roles in health care, insurance and technology companies in Maryland, the Pacific Northwest and New England.

Eberle earned a master's degree in business administration at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H. and a bachelor's degree in management science and computer science at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.

About the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange: The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011, administers Maryland Health Connection.

About Maryland Health Connection: Maryland Health Connection (MHC) is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable. Enroll at MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app for Apple and Android devices.

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