



For Immediate Release

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Jim Pennington to Step Down as President and CEO of The Health Plan

Wheeling, WV (October 23, 2019) - Jim Pennington has announced his plans to step down as President and CEO of The Health Plan upon the expiration of his current employment agreement at the end of the year.

"We greatly appreciate the contributions that Jim has made to The Health Plan and thank him for his excellent leadership and service," John Wright, Chairman of The Health Plan Board of Directors, said. "We are sorry to see him go and we wish him the very best. We are certain that the Executive Management Team will continue the smooth operation of The Health Plan after Jim steps down."

A West Virginia native, Pennington has led The Health Plan since July 2014. He catapulted The Health Plan into the national arena of healthcare insurance, growing the self-funded business significantly during his tenure. Pennington was also extremely focused on making a solid footprint in the state of West Virginia. He was instrumental in moving The Health Plan's corporate headquarters to Wheeling, WV. An advocate of health and wellness, Pennington was the catalyst for bringing the first "Tough as Nails" Urban Challenge to Wheeling as part of the Wellness Weekend events in downtown Wheeling that included the Ogden Classic Half-Marathon and 5K. Pennington was also the lead promoter on bringing the Mountain East Conference (MEC) Basketball Championships to Wheeling, WV.

"I appreciate the opportunity to come back to West Virginia and lead a dynamic organization. It has been my honor to work with The Health Plan Board of Directors, the Executive Management Team and everyone at The Health Plan. I look forward to the next chapter of my life."

In May, officials at the West Virginia University Health System and The Health Plan announced their intent to come together to form a fully integrated healthcare delivery and financing system for the people of West Virginia.

“We look forward to an exciting future for The Health Plan, including working towards a partnership and alignment with WVU Medicine,” Wright said.

An announcement regarding Pennington’s successor will be made in the coming weeks.

For more information on The Health Plan, visit healthplan.org.

About The Health Plan

The Health Plan (www.healthplan.org) is a clinically-driven, technology-enhanced and customer-focused health maintenance organization that manages and improves the health and well-being of its members. Established in 1979, the West Virginia-based company, with offices in Wheeling, Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia and Massillon, Ohio has offered a complete line of managed care products and services designed to provide health care systems and clients with innovative health care benefits and plans at a reasonable cost across the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.

