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Asuris Northwest Health relocates to Schade Tower

(Spokane) – Asuris Northwest Health, the Spokane affiliate of Regence BlueShield, will operate from a new office in the historical Schade Tower in Spokane’s U-District, beginning May 21.

Asuris and Schade owners finalized a multi-year lease for Asuris to occupy 8,010 square feet on the second and third floors of the historical brewery, located at 528 E. Spokane Falls Blvd. As part of the agreement, monument signage outside the building will reflect a new building name – Asuris Schade Tower. The building is owned by an investment group that includes Spokane contractor Barry Baker.

The move will place Asuris closer to Spokane’s downtown business and health care core, which will position the company to serve area brokers, physicians, and members from a more central location. The new office space is also larger than Asuris’s current space at 1121 N. Argonne Road, which will accommodate future growth.

Regence/Asuris CEO Mark Ganz, a Spokane native, and Asuris President Mary McWilliams, who also chairs the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, will be in Spokane June 26 to help celebrate the move at a grand opening event. Concurrently, Asuris will host a 3-day, Regence-wide sales conference that will bring nearly 200 Regence employees to Spokane from western Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

“We’re excited about these activities on several fronts,” McWilliams said. “We believe Spokane has great potential for business and community growth, and we want to continue our 90-year tradition of service with significant investment in Eastern Washington.” McWilliams is also considering an Eastern Washington appointment to the Washington Community Board of Regence BlueShield.

“Asuris is truly growing in the greater Spokane area, rather than out of it,” Brady Cass, Spokane Sales Manager, added. “That’s good for local business, good for our members, and good for the community at large.”

Asuris, a not-for-profit health plan, continues to grow alongside major competitors in Eastern Washington’s health insurance market, and the move will help support Asuris’s cause to transform health care for members and their families. Asuris operates as an unbranded affiliate of Regence; serving more than 40,000 members in eastern Washington.

The Spokane Asuris office currently has a staff of sales, provider relations, and administration, while claims, customer service and most back-end operations are handled through offices in other parts of Washington, Idaho, Utah and Oregon.

About Asuris Northwest Health

Based in Spokane, Asuris Northwest Health offers a full range of health care coverage options, including dental and vision coverage, for Eastern Washington employers and individuals. Asuris also offers Medicare supplemental plans and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, and provides member access to more than 19,000 health care providers. For more information, visit the company’s Web site at www.asuris.com. Asuris Northwest Health, a not-for-profit health plan, is a subsidiary of Regence BlueShield, a leading health plan in Washington.