



FROM HHS REGIONAL DIRECTOR KIM GILLAN

REGION VIII - COLORADO, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, UTAH AND WYOMING

January 2014

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Health Care Community Leaders,

Engage, Educate and Enroll

As we wish our friends and family a happy, healthy New Year, these words have special meaning starting in 2014. Jan 1 marked a new day in health care for millions of families and individuals who now have the opportunity to access, through the Affordable Care Act, quality and affordable coverage—regardless of pre-existing conditions. This has tremendous positive benefits for our urban and rural residents and communities—and with your help, we are working to engage, educate and enroll throughout the region!

Nationwide, over 9 million people now have access to coverage, through the marketplace, Medicaid and ACA changes that allow young people to stay on their parent’s insurance plans until they are 26. In our region, 91,000 plus folks have enrolled for health insurance through the FFM’s and Colorado’s state-run exchange. This is exciting news and also provides tremendous momentum for our enrollment efforts through the open enrollment period, through March 31, 2014. Noteworthy is that Native Americans can enroll throughout the year.

As the new Regional Director, let me thank you for your hard work to reach the 91,000 mark. We are resolved to help you continue your enrollment and outreach efforts. In future newsletters, we will incorporate information from across the region on success stories, event ideas, best practices and collaboration initiatives. Please share these with Elsa at elsa.ramirez@hhs.gov.

This issue of the newsletter contains updates on Consumer Assistance and Case Work, Corrections activities and notification of various webinars. Reaching out into our rural communities, Native American Tribes, and engaging younger people to help them access health care coverage requires hard work and team work.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with you over the next few months, as I start my travels throughout the region. Most importantly, please know the Region 8 staff is prepared to help; if we don’t know the answer, we will find it!

Kim Gillan
Regional Director

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www.healthcare.gov

www.marketplace.gov



Connecting Offenders to Health Coverage

As we continue to help Americans access quality affordable health coverage, it is important that we also pay attention to the needs of offenders returning to the community. Access to health care is one of the key components to reduce recidivism and ensure a successful transition out of jail and prison. Since many offenders will need medications and treatment services in the community that were once provided while incarcerated, community organizations will play a vital role to ensure a successful transition, and to help make the necessary connections to coverage options. Although many of you have not worked with former offenders in the past, we encourage you to do so. HHS has developed resource tools to help you assist this population with coverage options. The link to these resources is included below. Additionally, the Denver Regional Office is delighted to provide technical assistance or to help with outreach opportunities to offenders. Please contact us for more information, or to discuss options to work with the offender population.

SAMHSA's Getting Ready for the Health Insurance Marketplace Toolkits

Criminal Justice

Ways to Promote New Insurance Opportunities (fact sheets)

Legal Aid

Corrections Systems

Court Systems

Jails

Probation & Parole Officers



Consumer Assistance Factsheets: How to Use Your Coverage Information

What to know about seeing your doctor: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/seeing-your-doctor.pdf>

What to know about getting your prescription medications: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/getting-your-prescription-medications.pdf>

Appealing your insurers' decision not to pay: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/appealing-your-insurers-decision-not-to-pay.PDF>

I signed up, but don't have health coverage. What should I do?

<http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/signed-up-but-no-coverage.pdf>

Getting emergency care: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/getting-emergency-care.pdf>

What you should know about early renewal of health coverage:

<http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/early-renewal-of-coverage.pdf>

What you should know about provider networks: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/what-you-should-know-provider-networks.pdf>

IRS Factsheet on Premium Assistance: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5120.pdf>

Helping Consumers with Casework: CMS Casework Process

In addition to focusing on the transition to coverage for millions of Americans – we are also focused on making sure those who need additional assistance to complete the enrollment process are able to get it.

A [Tip Sheet](#) has been posted on our Assisters Resource page to provide guidance on how to best assist those consumers who are experiencing continuing issues with tax credit eligibility determinations, completing their applications due to technical glitches, Medicaid or CHIP eligibility determinations, or selecting an insurance plan. Most of these consumers will be able to seek assistance from the Call Center. If the consumer has questions about accessing the benefits of their plan, they should be directed to call the insurer directly.



Winter 2014 Webinar Dates for the Affordable Care Act 101 Presented by SBA & Small Business Majority

Health care continues to be an important issue for small business owners. The Small Business Administration and Small Business Majority are committed to helping businesses navigate the changes and opportunities in health care through the Affordable Care Act 101 webinar series.

Each week, small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in small business health insurance marketplaces. Other topics discussed include insurance reforms, the small business health care tax credit, and employer shared responsibility provisions. SBA representatives help small business owners understand the facts of the Affordable Care Act so they can make informed decisions about providing health insurance for their employees.

The Affordable Care Act 101 takes place every Thursday at 2 PM ET. Below are the registration links for upcoming presentations.

- Thursday, January 23 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)
- Thursday, January 30 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)
- Thursday, February 6 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)
- Thursday, February 13 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)
- Thursday, February 20 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)
- Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)

For more information on how the new health care law affects small businesses, check out www.businessusa.gov/healthcare.

December Marketplace Enrollment Report

Nearly 2.2 million people have selected plans from the state and federal marketplaces by Dec. 28, 2013 (the end of third reporting period for open enrollment), Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced. A new HHS report provides the first demographic information about enrollees. Enrollment in the federal Marketplace in December was seven-fold greater than the combined total for October and November – and eight-fold greater for young adults ages 18 to 34.

Key findings from today's report include:

- Nearly 2.2 million (2,153,421) people selected Marketplace plans from Oct. 1 through Dec. 28, 2013

To hear stories of Americans enrolling in the Marketplace visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/mystory/index.html>

The report is live

here: http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/MarketPlaceEnrollment/Jan2014/ib_2014jan_enrollment.pdf



Food for Thought – Enrollment Outreach

- Tax Season is starting and many groups offer free tax preparation like AARP, making this an opportunity for enrollment assisters to partner with groups.
- The value of reaching out to Mom can't be underestimated when it comes to reaching young people and families in making health care decisions.

HHS Blog: Get covered to stay in the game

By Alonzo Mourning

<https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/get-covered-to-stay-in-the-game/> and Video at <http://go.usa.gov/ZFPA>

When sickness or injury strike, having health insurance can mean the difference between falling and getting back up and dropping out of the game.

I know, because I was at the top of my game - I felt invincible - but when I went for my regular team physical it turned out I had a serious kidney disease. Thankfully it was caught in time to treat it and luckily, I was insured.

Today people across the country who are uninsured, or just want to check out their options can get affordable, quality insurance through the new Health Insurance Marketplace.

Through the Marketplace, you can compare brand name plans and even get lower monthly payments. And importantly, as part of the health care law, health insurance plans have to offer [preventive services](#) like flu shots, diabetes and blood pressure screenings for free. Plus there are no annual or lifetime caps on coverage. So you too can get the physical you need to catch small problems before they become big ones. And the coverage you need to get ongoing care without breaking the bank.

[Visit HealthCare.gov today to look at your options.](#)

Quality, affordable coverage is just a [call, click or conversation away](#). You have until March 31 to sign up.

Enroll today so you can stay in the game.

Questions? Best Practices to Share? Please feel free to contact us:

Regional Director: Kim Gillan kim.gillan@hhs.gov

Executive Officer: Doyle Forrestal doyle.forrestal@hhs.gov

Outreach: Elsa Ramirez elsa.ramirez@hhs.gov

Intergovernmental Affairs: Carol Garcia carol.garcia@hhs.gov

Executive Assistant: Kristin Hunt Kristin.hunt@hhs.gov