



Benefit Focus

Department of Administration, Office of Group Health Insurance Boise, ID March 22, 2004

Technical Evaluation Team Issues Recommendations

Blue Cross of Idaho Selected as FY2005 Provider Of Group Medical, Vision and Behavioral Plans

Blue Cross of Idaho has been selected as the FY 2005 insurance carrier for the State of Idaho Group Medical, Vision and Behavioral Health coverages.

The state's Health Insurance Remarketing **Technical Evaluation Team**



Team made its recommendation following interviews of finalists earlier this month. The initial "invitation to bid" for the state's health, vision and behavioral insurance contracts was sent to 52 potential vendors last November.

"The Technical Evaluation Team thoroughly considered the responses to the requirements contained in the Request for Proposal, providing a comprehensive evaluation for each one," said **Pam Ahrens**, Director of the Department of Administration. "We truly appreciated their commitment of time and expertise to this process."

The Evaluation Team recommended the state continue with the current **fully insured** model for this year. They suggested that a formal feasibility study be conducted on the potential advantages of a **self-insured** model of coverage. For FY 05, the team also recommended the state consider providing employees a choice of both the current **traditional coverage** and **preferred provider organization (PPO)** models. (*definitions page 2*)

An **Employee Advisory Panel** has now formally begun its work to assist the Department in the **overall design of the plan**, anticipated to be completed by April 1. Plan design is based upon the level of funding as appropriated by the Idaho Legislature. "We want to thank the members of this important panel for their valuable input and time as well," Pam added.

Plan Now to Attend Open Enrollment Meetings

Mark your calendars now to attend the Open Enrollment Meetings to be held at locations throughout the state between **April 19** through **May 4**. Staff from the Office of Group Insurance will conduct the meetings to explain the plan design and respond to your questions prior to the beginning of **Open Enrollment May 1-28**. The schedule is as follows:

- April 19: **Boise-Capitol Mall**, West Conf. Room, Joe R. Williams Bldg., 8-10 a.m.
- April 19: **Boise**, DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- April 20: **Nampa**, H & W, 823 Park Center Blvd, 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 20: **Caldwell**, H & W, 3402 Franklin, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- April 21: **Twin Falls**, H & W, 601 Poleline Rd, 10-11:30 a.m. and 12 to 1:30 p.m.
- Jerome**, State Police Office, 3 to 5 p.m.
- April 22: **Pocatello**, Idaho State University, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m., Student Union/Movie Theater
- April 23: **Blackfoot-SHS**, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- Idaho Falls- EITC**, 12 noon to 2 p.m.
- April 26: **Meridian**, Div. Building Safety, 9 -11 a.m.
- Boise**, Dept. of Agriculture, 2 to 4 p.m.
- April 27: **Boise**, Transportation, 9 to 11 a.m.
- ISIC Med. Sec. Prison**, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- April 29: **Lewiston**, Transportation, 2600 North & South Hwy, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- Lewiston**, Health & Welfare, 1118 F St., 3rd Floor Conf. Rm., 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- Orofino – SHN**, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- April 30: **Coeur d'Alene**, Transportation, 600 W. Prairie, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- DEQ**, 2110 Ironwood Parkway, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- May 4: **Boise – BSU** – 9:30 to 11 a .m. (Student Union — Jordan A & B)

Group Health Remarketing Technical Evaluation Team ...

Members:

Joan Krosch	Department of Insurance
Jim Alcorn	State Insurance Fund
David Miller	Idaho State University
Julia Dresser	Boise Corporation (Cascade)
Jay Anderson	J.R. Simplot Corp. (retired)
Diana Jansen	Dept. of Health & Welfare

Advisors:

Cynthia Ness	Office of Group Insurance
Cindy Dickinson	Office of Group Insurance Department of Administration

Consultants:

Doug Toschi	Wohlman and Toschi
Robert Schmidt	Milliman, USA

Project Coordinator:

Jan Cox	Department of Administration
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Blue Cross of Idaho Carrier Transition Information

If you or one of your dependents are currently receiving **ongoing medical treatment** and are concerned how the change in insurance providers may impact you, **Blue Cross of Idaho** has set up a Transition Information Telephone Line.

Toll-Free: 866 804-2253
Boise Area: 331-8897

You may call during normal business hours. Please call the **Office of Group Insurance** at numbers below for all other insurance questions.

Health Insurance Information
Resources Online!



<http://www2.state.id.us/empportal/>



Department of Administration
Office of Group Insurance

(208) 332-1860 1-800 531- 0597

Email inquiries to:
ogi@adm.state.id.us

State Insurance Remarketing Timeline of 2004 Key Activities

January:	Presentation to Legislative Change in Employee Compensation Committee (CEC) Request for Proposal (RFP) Responses Received From Providers
February:	RFP Evaluation Employee Advisory Panel Organized to Help in Plan Design Decisions
March/April:	Employee Advisory Panel Meetings Technical Evaluation Group Proposal Interviews Notice of Intent to Award Legislative Appropriation Plan Design Finalization State Employee and Retiree Education Meetings and Related Information Outreach
May 1-28:	Open Enrollment

Health Insurance Definitions:

Fully Insured Plan:

A plan where the employer contracts with an insurance company to assume financial responsibility for the enrollees' medical claims and for all incurred administration costs.

Self-Insured Plan:

A plan offered by employers who directly assume the cost of health insurance for their employees. Some self-insured plans bear the entire risk. Other self-insured employers insure against large claims by purchasing stop-loss coverage. Some employers contract with insurance carriers or third-party administrators for claims processing.

Traditional Plan:

A medical plan that allows the participant the choice of any provider without effect on reimbursement. These plans reimburse the patient and/or provider as expenses are incurred.

Preferred Provider Organization:

A medical plan where coverage is provided to participants through a network of selected health care providers (such as hospitals and physicians).