

Tracy: Emergency Health Care Contract Authorization Granted

June 15, 2011

Quincy, IL.....The bi-partisan Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) on Tuesday authorized the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to enter into emergency 90 day contracts to operate a self-insured program while ongoing legal cases with state group health insurance providers get sorted out.

"The action by COGFA was needed to ensure state employees have access to health coverage accepted by local caregivers," said Tracy. "Unfortunately, many questions have yet to be answered leaving many public employees and retirees still confused. I am hopeful that HFS and CMS will have satisfactory answers for employees and retirees sooner than later."

According to the CMS website this morning, HMO IL, Blue Advantage HMO and CIGNA remain the only options for **FY12 until CMS has reached agreement with other vendors. CMS is currently working with both the FY11 and FY12 vendors to potentially enter into contracts.**

Here are important details found on the CMS Website as of this morning:

1. This is not a 90 -day contract extension. These are new contracts and they will expire after the 90-day period; however, the implementation of new contracts could result in your current health care provider, such as Health Link or Health Alliance, continuing to be your provider for the next 90-day period beginning July 1, 2011.
2. The Benefit Choice deadline remains this Friday, June 17, 2011. The most recent Benefit Choice Election form submitted by you to your benefits office will represent your healthcare choice, if that carrier agrees to the 90-day contract

Rep. Jil Tracy



Our District Office:
3701 East Lake Centre
Suite 3

Quincy, Illinois 62305
217-223-0833
Email: jiltracy@jiltracy.com
Website www.jiltracy.com

extension. **The Benefit Choice Period will NOT be extended.**

3. CMS is still committed to a special enrollment period; however, at this time the dates have not been determined. Once dates have been set, information will be provided to you and will also be available on the CMS website.

Tracy said she will report back with any news as decisions are being made. She is also encouraging state employees and retirees to monitor the situation by visiting the CMS website at: http://www.state.il.us/cms/3_servicese_ben_choice/state-ben.htm.

"This process has been scary and frustrating for many current and retired public employees. Thank you for your continued patience as a satisfactory solution is found," said Tracy.