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Union News

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Health Enhancement Plan (HEP) News for Individuals with One of the Five Chronic Conditions

Excerpts taken from www.osc.ct.gov

As part of enrollment in the Health Enhancement Program (HEP), all enrolled members and their covered spouses and dependents -- collectively called “participants” -- committed to getting age appropriate screenings. If you have not done so, please be sure to register on the HEP portal (www.CTHEP.com) to gain access to important tools about maintaining your health and for information about HEP benefits and requirements, along with your compliance status. Employees, spouses, and dependents (age 18 and over) must register individually.

Additionally, participants committed that if they were (or come to be) diagnosed with one of the listed chronic conditions they would participate in disease counseling. Those conditions are: Diabetes (both Type 1 and 2), Asthma and COPD, Heart failure/heart disease, Hyperlipidemia, and Hypertension. **This year, the Disease Counseling component of the Health Enhancement Program is coming into full operation.**

Participants will be automatically enrolled in Disease Counseling if the claims records provided to our care coordination team at Care Management Solutions (also known as “CMS”) indicate they have one of the listed diagnoses. Participants will receive notification by mail that they have been enrolled and instructions about how to access the resources provided by the program.

If you have any questions concerning the HEP, please visit www.CTHEP.com or contact your local Human Resources office.

Over

UConn Affordability

In June 2013, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee “authorized a study to examine how the affordability of a UConn undergraduate education has changed, with particular attention to in-state students.” While the legislative report does not examine CSU or ConnSCU, the fact that legislators are looking into the question of public college affordability could lead to future legislative action that would impact all public institutions in Connecticut.

The main points of the draft report include:

- College prices have risen well beyond inflation.
- By every way of considering price, college has become less affordable.
- UConn’s in-state affordability levels and trends compare favorably to the flagship median in every measure of affordability based on state median household income.
- UConn also is relatively affordable when examining net price, which is the price actually paid by students.
- UConn compares favorably to other flagships and within its sector on some student debt measures.

A hearing was held on October 3, 2013 and several UConn students testified, in addition to the UConn Administration. A final report is expected prior to the start of the legislative session in January.

The Program Review and Investigations Committee was established to strengthen the General Assembly's capacity for legislative oversight. By law, the twelve-member committee is equally bipartisan and bicameral. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate and House Minority Leaders each appoint three members to the committee.

With no specific subject matter boundaries, the committee's primary charge is to examine "state government programs and their administration to ascertain whether such programs are effective, continue to serve their intended purposes, are conducted in an efficient and effective manner, or require modification or elimination." It may raise and report out bills related to these examinations.