

SVUSD INSURANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE for SVEA

January/February 2014

The SVUSD Insurance Committee continues to meet bi-monthly. The January/February meeting was held February 20th. Below are some of the items discussed.

BUDGET UPDATE: Prudent use of the Plan continues to see the SVUSD plan running below projected costs. Even with the 6% increase in HMO medical rates and 9% increase in PPO medical rates that began in January, expenditures are under by 6.76% for the current period. The efforts of our members who continue to be prudent users help to keep costs down. Keep up the good work!

HEALTH CARE REFORM: AON reported that increased costs related to ACA implementation that began in the 2014 year were picked up by our carrier Blue Shield. These costs vary by plan and will become a part of the rate renewal in the future. This means these costs will be passed on to SVUSD in the next fiscal year.

BLUE SHIELD CASE/DISEASE MANAGEMENT REPORTS: Disease/Case Management programs are administered by Blue Shield to help members manage their chronic conditions through a unique combination of at-home monitoring, education and nurse-patient relationships. Members are offered personalized services tailored to their needs. The committee was provided data for utilization of these services by plan participants. This service helps to avoid costly complications and support optimal quality of life and service for those who take advantage of this FREE and confidential benefit.

PHARMACY OPTIONS: In a continuing effort to control costs, data was presented on pharmacy usage by our members. Generics are always encouraged as these have the same efficacy of brand names at a significantly reduced cost. Interesting to note was the list of providers plan participants use to fill their prescriptions. CVS was far and away the most utilized. Walgreens was the most costly to the District's PPO plan. Participants are encouraged to explore using Costco as they have some of the best (lowest) prices and can be utilized by ANYONE whether or not they are a Costco member. A drug discount program is even available (income requirements apply)!

NEXT MEETING: This was the Committee's third meeting of the 2013-14 school year. Our next meeting will take place on April 24th. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact, Cheryl Johnson (johnsoncherl@svusd.k12.ca.us), Stephen Miller (Stephen.Miller@svusd.org), Lisa Eck (leck@cta.org) or me, Frank Werner (wernerfrk@svusd.org), if you have any questions regarding insurance or our benefit plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Werner
SVUSD Insurance Committee Member Representing SVEA