

SVUSD INSURANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE for SVEA

November/December 2014

The first meeting of the 2014-15 school year was held on December 11th. The SVUSD Insurance Committee continues to meet bi-monthly. Below are some of the items discussed.

BUDGET UPDATE: The District's budget expenditures continue to run under projections. However, the three-month period covering September - November saw an uptick in overall usage and tightening of the budget. We are now under projected annual costs by \$385,787 or 2.36%, despite the fact that the month of November saw expenses exceed monthly projections by \$339,731. There have been several large claims that are contributing to this rise in projected costs. Reminder: insurance costs run on a January 1 to December 31 cycle, while the SVUSD budget runs July 1 to June 30. The Insurance Committee will continue to monitor this recent upward trend.

CHANGE IN BROKER/CONSULTANT: Burnham was introduced as the District's new broker/consultant at the October meeting of the IC and today we met our service contacts: Dan Exceen, Senior VP, and Anne Marie Estrada, Senior Account Executive. They took over for our former broker/consultant group, AON-Hewitt. Burnham has experience working with school districts, including districts within Orange County, and brings that expertise to the SVUSD Insurance Committee.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Went very successfully! There were the usual number of switches from HMO to PPO and vice-versa. The spousal audit, which was also a part of open enrollment, went very well, with only five employees not getting the necessary paperwork filed as required. The one hiccup was with the required appointments for signing up/continuing with the new FSA provider, American Fidelity. Some members found this to be burdensome because they were unaware that they had to make an appointment, compared to the previous online method of confirming your FSA accounts. We will continue to work with the District to ensure the process runs more smoothly next year.

BLUE SHIELD WELLNESS: Blue Shield, our medical plan provider, is again making a push for those covered by the plan to take a more proactive role regarding their health. As a part of this, Blue Shield participants will be receiving a form in the mail from Blue Shield to confirm that you have taken advantage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision that allows for an annual Physical Exam/Wellness Check-Up. Under the provisions of the ACA, Annual Physical Exams are provided WITHOUT OFFICE CO-PAYS AND/OR DEDUCTIBLE PAYMENTS! It was suggested by the Insurance Committee that the language in the Blue Shield form include the correct verbiage for members to use so that when they make an appointment for a Wellness Check Up they can be assured there will be no co-pay/charge. Also, to encourage more participants to become pro-active regarding their health care, it was suggested that there be a drawing for plan members who get their Wellness Check Up at the beginning of the year. A form from Blue Shield should arrive this week that members can take to their physician to sign off on/stamp that verifies you have completed your Wellness Check Up. Afterward, plan members can send the form to the District Office for a chance to win one of ten \$500 gift cards. ANYONE covered under the plan will have the chance to submit a completed Well-Check form and enter the drawing. Why not get that physical you have been putting off and give yourself a chance to win a \$500 gift card? The opportunity to enter will run from January until March 31, 2015.

NEXT MEETING: This was the Committee's second meeting for the 2014-15 school year. Our next meeting will take place in **February**. 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 benefit plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Werner, SVUSD Insurance Committee Member Representing SVEA