

Executive Column

Linda Haugan, Assistant Executive Officer

The County Board of Supervisors started holding monthly “study sessions” on topics that interest them. On March 19, 2013, several Human Services (HS) directors participated in a study session on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) also known as Health Care Reform. The session concentrated on the Medi-Cal expansion that will go into effect Jan. 1, 2014.



Under this expansion, adults between 19 and 64 years old with incomes up to \$15,864, who currently are not eligible for Medi-Cal will be able to access health-care. San Bernardino County has about 230,000 individuals who could potentially enroll in the Medi-Cal program after the first of the year.

Adults and families who are over this income limit will be able to access health coverage through a marketplace called “Covered California.” Individuals will be able to visit the website or contact the call center in order to purchase insurance.

The Medi-Cal expansion will impact HS departments in a number of ways. The Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) will be responsible for taking applications for individuals who are newly eligible to Medi-Cal. TAD will also help anyone who is not eligible to Medi-Cal to purchase insurance through Covered California. Since more people will have access to insurance, the Department of Behavioral Health and Department of Public Health will see much more traffic in their clinics.

The mechanics of how the ACA will work at the local level is still being worked out by the state and federal government. You will be hearing many more specifics about your particular roles in this process over the next few months. But if you would like to have a better understanding of Health Care Reform and Covered California, I encourage you to visit the following websites: www.coveredca.com and www.healthcare.gov.

I want to thank Nancy Swanson, CaSonya Thomas, Trudy Raymundo and Ron Buttram for their terrific presentations at the study session. I also want to thank Jeanine Chenault and Veronica Rodriguez for the power point that made us all look so good.

Until Next time.....

County of San Bernardino
Human Services



HS Connection Newsletter