



Chief Executive Office
Risk Management Division
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November 6, 2013

To Pre-Medicare Retiree Medical Plan Participants:

Welcome to the new benefit administration services provided by Stanislaus County Risk Management. Enclosed in this packet you will find important information related to your 2014 open enrollment for medical benefits.

As you are aware, benefit administration services have recently transitioned from the Retired Employees of Stanislaus County (RESCO) to Stanislaus County Risk Management for the plan year starting January 1, 2014. We appreciate your patience over the past two weeks as we prepared information and communication materials and acquired the resources necessary to ensure a smooth transition for all plan participants during the new open enrollment period.

Open enrollment for your 2014 medical plan is from November 6, 2013 through November 22, 2013. You must turn in your benefit enrollment form to County Risk Management no later than 5:00 pm on November 22, 2013 in order to be enrolled in the County's medical insurance program starting January 1, 2014.

The enclosed Benefit Guide provides detailed information on your plan options and the policies and procedures for enrolling in the 2014 medical benefits program. You are also invited to participate in one of the two open enrollment meetings scheduled specifically for early retirees:

Thursday, November 14, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Friday, November 15, 2013
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Both meetings will take place in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in the basement at 1010 10th Street in Modesto.

If you are unable to attend one of the two meetings, you can still contact Risk Management staff to address any questions that you may have regarding the open enrollment process. Additionally, you can learn more about each of the County's three health plans by using the contact information provided in your Benefit Guide.

Questions and concerns have been raised regarding the significant rate increases in 2014 for the medical insurance program. The rate increases are the result of several factors, including ongoing inflation for medical care in the local medical community and the County's need to

“catch up” with medical insurance rates which were set too low in the 2012 and 2013 plan years. County staff have prepared two comprehensive reports on the medical insurance program for the Board of Supervisors in the last six months. If you would like to learn more information regarding the financial performance of the medical insurance program, please refer to the staff reports which are posted on the Board of Supervisors website at www.stancounty.com. You can find the staff reports listed on the Board of Supervisors agendas on May 14, 2013 and October 29, 2013. A summary of this information will also be presented during each of the two planned open enrollment meetings.

Another significant change for the 2014 plan year is the availability of the new healthcare exchange, known as *Covered California*. The new healthcare program provides multiple plan and benefit options in Stanislaus County, as well as all other areas throughout California. County Risk Management has partnered with Alliant Employee Benefits to offer plan participants dedicated customer service representatives to help you research plan options and identify potential financial assistance available in *Covered California*. Alliant representatives will help you compare plans available through *Covered California* to your 2014 medical program options available through Stanislaus County. Many current retirees may qualify for significant savings through *Covered California* based on several factors, including household income and family size. More information on this new option is provided in the enclosed Benefit Guide.

We look forward to working with you through the 2014 open enrollment process and to assist with your questions regarding the County medical benefits program. We are dedicated to providing you a high level of service and support as you make these important plan selections for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Jody L. Hayes
Deputy Executive Officer
Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office
Risk Management Division