



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Lisa Marie Shekell

404-657-9118

lshekell@dch.ga.gov

State Health Benefit Plan Announces 2015 Plan Year Enhancements *DCH SHBP Takes Steps to Enhance Member Choice in 2015*

ATLANTA (April 15, 2014) – The Department of Community Health (DCH) State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) released an invitation for proposal (IFP) to qualified companies to increase the number of vendors that administer the state’s health insurance plan. SHBP also plans to expand the type of plan design options for the 2015 plan year.

The goal of the IFP is to solicit submissions for 1) a second statewide Third Party Administrator (TPA), including medical management, and 2) a fully insured, in-network-only plan for the metro Atlanta service area. The second TPA would offer SHBP members the option of a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), a Medicare Advantage option for retirees, and a statewide HMO option. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa) would continue to offer the Gold, Silver and Bronze Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs), Medicare Advantage to retirees, and would add a statewide HMO option for the 2015 plan year.

“SHBP is looking to enhance member choice in the 2015 plan year,” said DCH Commissioner Clyde L. Reese III, Esq. “To accomplish this, SHBP is exploring the possibility of increasing the number of vendors that administer the SHBP plan design and expand the type of plan design options that are available.”

The responses will be initially organized and catalogued by the SHBP actuarial consultant, AON Hewitt. The substantive review will be done internally by a DCH-staffed evaluation team. A teacher will also participate as a member of the evaluation team.

DCH plans to announce the selected vendors on July 1, 2014, for the 2015 plan year.

Following the July announcement of successful vendors, SHBP intends to finalize the 2015 plan designs and 2015 member rates. The 2015 plan designs and member rates will be presented to and voted on by the Board of Community Health in August 2014. Open Enrollment will be held in late October/early November 2014 for the January 1, 2015, start date of the new plan year.

The ultimate lineup being considered for the 2015 plan year is as follows:

- BCBSGa – Gold, Silver, Bronze HRA (exclusively), statewide HMO, Medicare Advantage
- Second Statewide TPA – HDHP (exclusively), statewide HMO, Medicare Advantage
- Third Vendor – fully insured in-network-only for metro Atlanta service area
- The current Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) contract with Express Scripts Inc. and the current Wellness contract with Healthways Inc. would be renewed for the 2015 plan year.

About the Georgia Department of Community Health

Through effective planning, purchasing and oversight, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) provides access to affordable, quality health care to millions of Georgians, including some of the state's uninsured and most vulnerable populations.

DCH is responsible for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids,[®] the State Health Benefit Plan, Healthcare Facility Regulation and Health Information Technology in Georgia.

Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., serves as Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Community Health.

To learn more about DCH and its dedication to **A Healthy Georgia**, visit www.dch.georgia.gov.

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