

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

June 1, 2017

CalOptima Employees Award Scholarships to Members Pursuing Careers in Health Care

CEO Michael Schrader informed the Board of Directors that CalOptima's Employee Activities Committee (EAC) recently held a scholarship essay contest for CalOptima members pursuing careers in health care or social services. The scholarship money was raised entirely by employees through voluntary EAC fundraising activities. Scholarship applicants covered three topics in their essays: why they are working toward a health care or social services career, how CalOptima has helped them and why they would make a good candidate for the award. First, second and third place winners will receive a \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 scholarship, respectively. They are Jacque Ruddy, a student at USC pursuing a Master's in Social Work; Nichole Flores, a student at Santa Ana College pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Cal State Fullerton; and Kathy Dang, a student at Golden West College pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Cal State Long Beach. As the first place winner, Ms. Ruddy has also been entered into a long-running national essay contest sponsored by the Association for Community Affiliated Plans.

CalOptima Debuts "Good Health" Educational Campaign

Mr. Schrader informed the Board that CalOptima's "Good Health" wellness campaign debuted in May. The campaign raises awareness among CalOptima members and the public about the importance of being screened for cervical cancer. Radio commercials in Spanish and Vietnamese began airing just before Mother's Day and will continue through June. Outreach also includes Spanish and Vietnamese print and online ads, with Korean and English ads starting mid-June. CalOptima's goal is to help members understand the availability of services and to increase the agency's quality scores in this area.

CalOptima Supports Children's Health Insurance Program

The Board approved a staff request to adopt a support position for the reauthorization of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP is a state-federal partnership that provides health insurance to low-income children. The program has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support since its creation in 1997 and currently covers approximately 9 million U.S. children, including more than 900,000 in California and 109,000 in Orange County. Without Congressional action, CHIP funding is set to expire September 30, 2017, the end of this federal fiscal year. Recently, there has been discussion at the federal level regarding reauthorizing CHIP funding as part of the federal budget process. Staff and our federal lobbyists will draft a support letter to share with members of the Orange County congressional delegation, as well as with key Senate and House committee members.

In other actions:

- Board Chair Paul Yost, M.D., and Vice Chair Lee Penrose were both re-elected to their positions by the Board for an additional year, through June 30, 2018.
- The Board approved CalOptima's FY 2017-18 Operating Budget, which provides revenues and appropriations for the following categories: Medi-Cal, OneCare, OneCare Connect, PACE, facilities and investment income.

ABOUT CALOPTIMA

CalOptima is a county organized health system that administers health insurance programs for low-income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County. Our mission is to provide members with access to quality health care services delivered in a cost-effective and compassionate manner. As one of Orange County's largest health insurers, we provide coverage through four major programs: Medi-Cal, OneCare Connect Cal MediConnect Plan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan), OneCare (HMO SNP) (a Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan), and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

If you have any questions, please contact:

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