



## CONNECT eNEWSLETTER – May 2009 EDITION

### HEALTHEASE CONTRACT TERMINATION

Health First Network has terminated their contract with HealthEase to provide Medicaid HMO services. This termination will take effect on August 31, 2009. It is important to note that this termination does not affect the Well Care Medicare product.

We have been negotiating with HealthEase on this product since late in 2008. Our contract was a downstream risk contract meaning we took some of the risk from HealthEase. We have explored several alternatives to the current arrangement but at this point have not reached an agreement. I will tell you that the contract with HealthEase is only a small part of the issue. In September of 2007 the overall premium for the Medicaid HMO members paid by the state of Florida to HealthEase in this area was \$198 per member per month (PMPM). In March of this year the state of Florida has cut this premium to a rate of \$170 PMPM. That means that in a period of 19 months the state has reduced \$7 million or 14% from the premium they pay for the approximately 21,000 members in the HMO here in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

Besides the fact that HFNI has lost money on this product, it is disconcerting to have this occur to say the least. I feel HFNI has done an exemplary job on managing the health of the HealthEase recipients. HFNI has reduced emergency room usage. HFNI has placed a number of patients into disease and case management thereby helping/educating them with their illnesses and keeping them healthy. HFNI has instituted a high risk maternity program that reduced our NICU days drastically, helping these moms to full term or near full term births. In all likelihood these are the type of programs with local emphasis and management which will be lost.

Negotiations with all parties continue but we at HFNI are not very hopeful of a positive solution. We wanted to give our physicians and other providers at least a 90 day notice of this action. We are engaged with the health plan concerning our/your responsibilities for continuity of care after August 31, 2009 for the patients you are currently seeing. We will share the results of those discussions at the appropriate time.

### ELECTION AND ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

The Annual Health First Network Shareholder meeting will be held at the HFNI Office located at 715 S. Palafox St. on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. All shareholders (and only shareholders—no substitutes) are encouraged to attend. If you are a shareholder you should have received a notice in the mail about this meeting along with a ballot to vote in this year's Board of Directors election. If you are a shareholder and did not previously receive the notice and ballot please contact Michelle Hamilton at 850-434-6192. If you have any questions about this meeting you may call Charles Brewer at 850-434-8082.



### RECOGNIZING PHYSICIANS CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN HARD TIMES

Health First Network is pleased to honor the following physicians who have taken it upon themselves to provide healthcare services for those who are most in need. In these financially challenging times, the following Health First Network Physicians have volunteered their health services to our community:

#### Good Samaritan Clinic:

Dr. Mike Kasabian  
Dr. Andrew Kortz  
Dr. Paul Pandolfi  
Dr. Richard Sellers  
Dr. David Simpson  
Dr. William Zimmern

#### We Care Program:

Dr. John Tyson  
Dr. John Garner  
Dr. Alex Inclan  
Dr. Joseph Dennis  
Dr. Allen Patton  
Dr. Karanbir Gill  
Dr. Andrew Kees  
Dr. Keane Arney  
Dr. Andrew Kortz  
Dr. Kevin Botts  
Dr. Barbara Wade  
Dr. Kirby Turnage  
Dr. Barry Lurate  
Dr. Kurt Jones  
Dr. Benjamin Lloyd  
Dr. Kurt Stockamp  
Dr. Boyd Skinner  
Dr. Layne Yonehiro  
Dr. Brent Videau  
Dr. Ludovic Lasquety  
Dr. Brent Parra  
Dr. Marcelo Branco  
Dr. Carl Speer  
Dr. Mark Boatwright  
Dr. Charles Roth  
Dr. Mark Giovanni  
Dr. Charles Chapleau  
Dr. Mark Wehry  
Dr. Chris Tugwell  
Dr. Martha Stewart  
Dr. Christian Allmon  
Dr. Mary Jane Benson  
Dr. Christopher LeCroy  
Dr. Maurice Bouchard  
Dr. Daniel Doty  
Dr. Methusamy Velusamy  
Dr. Daniel Phillips  
Dr. Michael Fry  
Dr. David Miles  
Dr. Michael Redmond  
Dr. David Chandler

Dr. Michael Reisberg  
Dr. David Phillips  
Dr. Michael Caluda  
Dr. David Bernstein  
Dr. Michael Plunkett  
Dr. David Simpson  
Dr. Michael Kasabian  
Dr. David Frank Andrews  
Dr. Mounzer Soued  
Dr. Davinder Sekhon  
Dr. Norman Haines  
Dr. Dennis Peters  
Dr. Patrick Reilly  
Dr. Dewey Torres  
Dr. Paul Tamburro  
Dr. Donald Netherland  
Dr. Paul Pandolfi  
Dr. Donald Todd  
Dr. Paula Pyle  
Dr. Douglas Tappan  
Dr. Phillip Benton  
Dr. Eduardo Puente  
Dr. Rammahan Rao  
Dr. Edwin Rogers  
Dr. Ramon Aycock  
Dr. Elaine Brennan  
Dr. Randall Rich  
Dr. Elias Skoufis  
Dr. Richard Sellers  
Dr. Elmer Brestan  
Dr. Robert Spencer  
Dr. Fares Haikim  
Dr. Robert Cameron  
Dr. Fernando Kafie  
Dr. Robert Ruby  
Dr. Frank Castagna  
Dr. Roger Moraski  
Dr. Frank Messina  
Dr. Roger Orth  
Dr. Frank Greskovich III  
Dr. Ronnie Wiles  
Dr. F. Brooks Hodnette III  
Dr. Safwan Jaalouk  
Dr. George Rees  
Dr. Sam Parker  
Dr. Scott Finelli  
Dr. George Rees  
Dr. Shailesh Patel  
Dr. German Herrera  
Dr. Stephen Myers  
Dr. George Dmytrenko

Dr. Steve Kronlage  
Dr. Ghosn Issa  
Dr. Stuart Harlin  
Dr. Hani Razek  
Dr. Sumil Gupta  
Dr. Howell Martin  
Dr. Thomas Paine  
Dr. Humam Hameda  
Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald  
Dr. Jack Lurate  
Dr. Thomas Sunnenberg  
Dr. Jack Kotlarz  
Dr. Thomas Tan  
Dr. James Lonquist  
Dr. Tipton McNight  
Dr. James Friedland  
Dr. Troy Tipton  
Dr. James Pennington  
Dr. Wade Peters  
Dr. James Stringfield  
Dr. John Wagner  
Dr. James Smith  
Dr. Wayne Cartee  
Dr. Jason Marshall  
Dr. Wayne Adkinsson  
Dr. E. Jean Dabezies  
Dr. Wayne Campbell  
Dr. Jerrald Kuenn  
Dr. William Langhorne II  
Dr. Jim Fleishhauer  
Dr. William Langhorn III  
Dr. Joe Guitian  
Dr. William Pickens  
Dr. John Grammer  
Dr. William Bailey  
Dr. John Myers  
Dr. William Henghold  
Dr. John DeJong  
Dr. William Smith  
Dr. John Gary  
Dr. William Clark  
Dr. John Wade  
Dr. William Zimmern  
Dr. John Bray  
Dr. Winifred Hansen  
Dr. John Wagner  
Dr. Ziad Mamish  
Dr. John Luetkemeyer

St. Joseph Parish:  
Dr. William Whibbs

Thank you for your commitment to our community and to the patients we serve. We are honored to have you as partners in health and healing. These are just a few examples and we would be happy to hear of more and recognize them in the future.



CONNECT TO GOOD HEALTH

**SCHOOL HEALTH MEDICAL PROVIDER SURVEY**

If you have not already done so, please complete this very brief School Health Medical Provider Survey and fax back to Health First Network at Fax# 438-0298. [Click here for survey](#). Your feedback provides valuable information to the Escambia School District for the children in our community.

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