



For Immediate Release

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Changes affecting Families with Children on Medicaid or FAMIS

Choosing an insurance plan, whether private or government-funded, is not an easy task. The process can be overwhelming for both recipients and providers. Families with children covered by FAMIS Plus (Medicaid) and FAMIS (CHIP) in the Martinsville area (including Henry, Patrick and Franklin Counties), now have the option to choose from five new managed care organizations (MCOs) for service starting on January 1, 2012. These MCOs include: Amerigroup, Anthem, CareNet, MajestaCare, Optima, or Virginia Premier.

The MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness has a Project Connect Outreach Worker who helps local families who may be eligible for the FAMIS plans and helps them with the application process. She can also answer questions about benefits and MCOs and, if children are not eligible for the FAMIS plans, help them connect to other local resources. "We have been receiving calls from families inquiring about which MCO they should choose. Although families are the only ones that can make that decision", says Ann Walker, Project Connect Outreach Advocate, "we are encouraging families to check with their current providers to find out which MCOs they accept. They are also encouraged to check with their preferred hospital and pharmacy since not all MCOs have contracts with all of them".

Medicaid enrolled families who have access to the internet, can also go to <http://viriniamanagedcare.com/English/pdfs/NSW.pdf> where they can access a comparison chart of the various MCOs. Families may also call the following customer service center for assistance: Medicaid (FAMIS Plus) Managed Care Help Line at 1-800-643-2273.

FAMIS enrolled families should call the FAMIS Central Processing Unit (CPU) at 1-866-873-2647 or go online to access a comparison chart of the various MCOs at <http://www.famis.org/plans.cfm?language=English>.

Finally, families should feel free to call Ann Walker FAMIS Project Connect Outreach Advocate at (276) 732-0509 should they have additional questions or if they need assistance with a new application or a renewal application.

If families have been denied coverage for their children, the FAMIS Outreach Project staff can provide information and referral to other health safety nets to ensure that children gain access to the care they need and deserve. In addition to assistance by telephone, Ms. Walker is available at several locations in the area each week. Please call (276)732-0509 for locations and times.

Project Connect is an initiative funded by the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) and the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, LLC to help families learn about the low to no cost state sponsored health insurance plans (**FAMIS** and **FAMIS Plus**) for their children.

The MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness is a non-profit organization with a mission of promoting health and improving access to basic medical care, funded in part by the Harvest Foundation. More information on the Coalition can be found online at www.healthycommunitymhc.org.