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People With Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

SEPTEMBER 04TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

People With Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

Submitted by

Ruth Dockins

Seems as if everyone has heard about the Health Insurance Marketplace and yet most have not had any answers to their questions as yet. The following information was just received by me from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. You will see from reading this information that if you are on Medicare you do not have to do anything! The Marketplace WILL NOT have any effect on your Medicare coverage.

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW WILL THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE THAT STARTS IN 2014 AFFECT MY MEDICARE COVERAGE?

The Health Insurance Marketplace is designed to help people who don't have any health insurance. You have health insurance through Medicare. The Marketplace **won't** have any effect on your Medicare coverage.

Your Medicare benefits aren't changing. No matter how you get Medicare, whether through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan, you'll still have the same benefits and security you have now, and you won't have to make any

changes.

The Marketplace provides new health insurance options for many Americans. If you have family and friends who **don't** have health insurance, tell them to visit **HealthCare.gov** to learn more about their options.

DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING WITH MARKETPLACE PLANS DURING MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT (OCTOBER 15 – DECEMBER 7, 2013)?

Medicare's Open Enrollment isn't part of the new Health Insurance Marketplace. It's against the law for someone who knows that you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace plan.

Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15 – December 7, 2013) is the time when all people with Medicare are encouraged to review their current health and prescription drug coverage, including any changes in costs, coverage and benefits that will take effect next year. If you want to change your coverage for next year, this is the time to do it. If you're satisfied that your current coverage will continue to meet your needs for next year, you don't need to do anything. For more information on Medicare Open Enrollment, visit **Medicare.gov** or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

NOTE: The Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment period (October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) overlaps with the Medicare Open Enrollment period (October 15 – December 7, 2013). Therefore, people with Medicare who are looking to make Medicare coverage changes should make sure that they are reviewing **Medicare plans** and **not Marketplace options**.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M CONTACTED ABOUT SIGNING UP FOR A HEALTH PLAN?

The Medicare open enrollment period is a time when there's a higher risk for fraudulent activities.

It's against the law for someone who knows that you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace plan.

DO NOT share your Medicare number or other personal information with anyone who knocks on your door or contacts you uninvited to sell you a health plan.

Senior Medicare Patrol programs are teaching people with Medicare how to detect and report fraud, and protect themselves from fraudulent activity and identity theft.

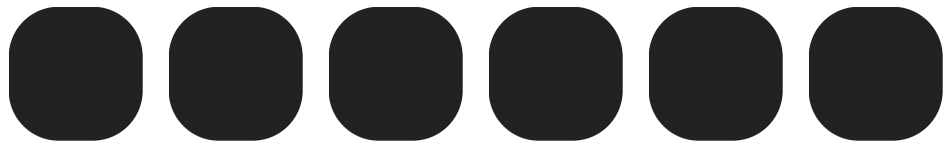
To learn more about health care fraud and ways to protect against it, visit **StopMedicareFraud.gov** or the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program in your area (locate your SMP at **SMPresource.org** or call me at **1-800-392-8771**).

This information is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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Dexter Rotary to Host Emergency Blood Drive

AUGUST 18TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Rotary to Host Emergency Blood Drive

Dexter, Missouri - The American Red Cross issued an emergency request for donors of all blood types to roll up a sleeve and help save lives. Red Cross blood donations were down by about 10 percent across the country in June, with about 50,000 fewer donations than expected. July and August have also been down.

“We’re asking for the public’s help now to prevent a more serious shortage,” said Stephanie Millian, spokesperson for the Red Cross. “Each day donations come up short, less blood is available for patients in need. It’s the blood products on the shelves today that help save lives in an emergency.”

September is National Preparedness Month, a time for Americans to prepare for emergencies of all types, including ones that require blood transfusions. By giving blood through the American Red Cross, donors help ensure an adequate supply is available. This is the perfect time to give!

The Dexter Rotary Club hosts a Blood Drive four times a year; however during the summer months, blood donations typically decrease and the need for blood increases. **On Monday, August 19th, the American Red Cross will be at the Sacred Heart Church from noon - 5 p.m. Please donate!**

It can take up to three days for donated blood to be tested, processed and made available for patients, so the blood on the shelves is what saves the day when an emergency strikes.

Currently, eligible donors of all blood types, especially O negative, A negative and B negative, are needed for the Red Cross to readily meet patient needs. Donors who gave blood at the start of summer may now be eligible to donate again.

Help the Red Cross be prepared by making an appointment to donate blood. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. If you can't give blood at this drive here are a few upcoming dates.

August 2013

Aug. 23 from 2-6 p.m. at Dexter Church of Christ, 1014 N. One Mile Road in Dexter, Mo.

Aug. 30 from 2-6 p.m. at Life Chapel Assembly of God, 22443 State Highway 51 in Puxico, Mo.

September 2013

Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Tree Inn, 1608 U.S. 60 Business West in Dexter, Mo.

Sept. 13 from 1-5 p.m. at Bank of Advance, 105 E. Gabriel in Advance, Mo.

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T.S. Hill Middle School Cookout

AUGUST 16TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

T.S. Hill Middle School Cookout

Submitted by Jill Temples

SMT Writer

Dexter, Missouri- Tuesday, August 20th parents and students will hold a social cookout from **5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Middle School**

Hotdogs, chips, snacks, and sodas outside at 5:30 p.m. There will be a short welcome in the Middle school gymnasium around 5:30 p.m.

Parents will then have the opportunity to walk through the student's schedule of classes and meet their teachers while the students continue to socialize outside.

Bring your student's schedule!

This is a meet and greet with our parents and students and a fun way to kick off the school year!

We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to become familiar with middle school policies, procedures, and staff!

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My American Dream

AUGUST 15TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

My American Dream

Article Submitted to

news@showmetimes.com

My American Dream

My American Dream is a simple dream; Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. While it sounds like an easy accomplishment; what an amount of time, hard work, perseverance, and patience it takes to make it occur. Our forefathers knew this, and they assisted a wanting and anxious nation in changing the course of history.

My early poverty was not a deterrent to success. Luckily, my single mother didn't make my older brother or I aware of it through her loving nature, and selfless parenting. I learned from her stories that life was a challenge, and that taking risks was the catalyst for changing a person's lot in life. The world was always brand new and offered limitless opportunities and possibilities in our house. Still, I was just a kid wanting what every other kid had. I learned quickly you couldn't always get what you wanted when you wanted it. So I learned through humor and humility to make what seemed impossible...possible.

I used the education afforded to me to do many things and learned an abundant amount of skills as a young adult. I became a musician and businessman, and an entrepreneur in each role. I was not satisfied with mediocrity. I was always looking to improve by building on my goals and dreams. In doing so, I found myself surrounded by supportive mentors and friends who guided me through the peaks and valleys. All I had to do was listen so I wouldn't recreate the mistakes of their past. I feel the same about my Country. We need to listen to past generations and study the leaders who came before us; for the torch has been passed once again.

My goal is to help teach the next generation that the American Dream is living, breathing, and true for those who wish to work diligently for a better life. The Declaration of Independence guaranteed and outlined our rights in accordance with the word of God. I accept that I have but one Life. I accept that Liberty is my birthright. And finally, I cherish Pursuing Happiness.

What is my goal for the future? I wish to leave this Land better than I found it for that next generation of Americans. One day it will be their time to lift our flag with pride; high above our plains, bluffs, and rivers. I wish to see them pledge allegiance to their Country with their hands over their hearts. I pray they find that shining city on a hill that President Reagan once spoke of, and build a home.

May our children never see another Pearl Harbor or 9/11, because we chose to stop evil in its tracks. May we always remember those who gave their lives so we could disagree publicly, yet yield rationally through a peaceful transfer of power. May we foster the goodwill in our citizens who pray beside us on any given Sunday. And may God remain the hallmark of a wanting and anxious nation...for in His strength will come the peace we all seek as Americans. May God bless us all, and May God Bless the United States of America.

Neal E. Boyd

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My Mother Was the Best Father in the World

AUGUST 13TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

My Mother Was the Best Father in the World

Article Submitted to
news@showmetimes.com

My Mother Was the Best Father in the World

Some people say you never miss what you never had. I grew up without a father, and I have to take issue with the previous statement. There are many children growing up without a father and we hear their futures seem statistically dim. It doesn't have to be this way.

I never wanted to be a statistic. While others may be filled with anger by the abandonment, my brother and I were taught to persevere in spite of it. I was told I had a lot going against me. I was black and overweight in a small town. But like many children I had a talent that was nurtured by a single mother who wasn't jaded by her own abandonment...or at least didn't show it in front of my brother and I. Perhaps my white mother felt our struggles were greater than her own, or that she took responsibility for the circumstances we didn't choose. Regardless, pain and anger were replaced by hope and determination to buck the statistical odds and make a better life.

We were taught anger leads to fear and fear makes you weak and vulnerable...prone to fall for easy fixes, failure and addiction. We were taught that nothing ever comes easy; in fact, the more difficult the challenge the more satisfaction came along with it. We were taught to set our goals early, which made *this* Sikeston boy believe he could become Student Body President of his high school if he started campaigning in the sixth grade.

And I do miss my father, though I've never really known him. I miss what he could have taught me. Perhaps I could've been taught to manage my weight earlier and become a sports star like the rest of the men in my family. Perhaps I could've learned to be the father he never was, so when my children come along I won't be winging it for lack of an example.

It saddens me to see so many children, of all nationalities, struggling with abandonment...the seething anger that seems to overwhelm so many. The loneliness and betrayal that consumes a household, and sometimes leads to all forms of abuse. We see the results in the news every single day, and while we can't change the past, we have the *God-given* strength to alter the future.

Nurture your children's dreams and calm their fears. Tell them you love them as much as possible. For the parents left to raise children alone, you are never truly alone with your children by your side. Instill in them that there are consequences to both action and inaction. And if your children believe in *Luck*, let them know that *Luck is when Preparation meets Opportunity*. They must be ready when opportunity comes around. Don't let society educate your children. The more they learn to articulate their concerns and goals, the sooner success will find them. Remember that children hear and repeat everything we say and repeat everything that we do. God blessed us with this one life and the lives of those dependent on us. And we must be responsible and make the most of it in order to limit regrets.

Neal E. Boyd

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