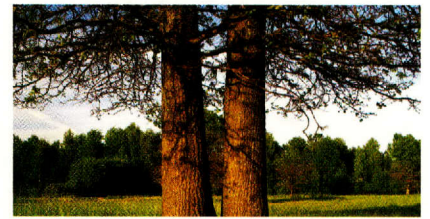


CONNECTION

DISCUSSING RETIREE BENEFITS AND OTHER NEWS

Spring 2012 • Volume 17 • Number 1

Inside: P2 Director's Message P3 AE Fair Schedule
P4 You can still get a 1099-R form



A PUBLICATION OF
ERS
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT
SYSTEM OF TEXAS

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS COMING SOON

Most retirees don't need to make a lot of benefit changes when Annual Enrollment comes around. You might want to make a change in your dental or Optional Term Life insurance. But remember, if you are over 65, you don't have to wait for Annual Enrollment to change your health insurance. You can move from HealthSelectSM of Texas or an HMO to the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan or, if you live in certain Houston-area counties, the KelseyCare Medicare Advantage HMO, at any time throughout the year. If you do need to make changes, look for the dates for your 2012 Annual Enrollment period on your Personal Benefits Enrollment Statement you will receive in the mail.

Please note that this is a change from previous enrollment periods—you will need to make sure you make changes during the appropriate phase.

Phase	Date	Retiree Groups
1	July 2-13	ERS retirees
2	July 9-20	Survivors, Optional Retirement Program members
3	July 16-27	TRS retirees

We've changed the process to ensure shorter call wait times. See page 3 of this newsletter for a schedule of Annual Enrollment fairs, where you can get more information on the types of changes you can make.

If you are enrolled in Medicare and **not** a member of the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan, you should definitely consider joining. It offers significant savings for many members, in particular for survivors and members who cover a spouse or dependent enrolled in Medicare. There is no deductible with the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan. Humana offers a lot of popular programs for Medicare Advantage Plan participants, from the Silver Sneakers Fitness Program and tobacco cessation programs to the Well Dine Food Program, which delivers meals to your door after a hospital stay at no cost to you. And remember, you can enroll in the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan or return to your previous medical provider effective at the beginning of the next month if either option doesn't work for you.

You must comply—certify!

If you or a covered family member uses tobacco, you must certify every tobacco user that you cover for health insurance. You will pay \$30, \$60, or \$90 more each month in additional health insurance premiums, depending on how many tobacco users you cover. Find information about how to certify, and find programs that can help you or a family member quit using tobacco at www.ers.state.tx.us/Programs/Tobacco_Users/ or call toll-free (877) 275-4377 or 711 for Relay Texas.

tx.us/Programs/Tobacco_Users/ or call toll-free (877) 275-4377 or 711 for Relay Texas.

Time to use Blue Points

HealthSelectSM of Texas members who have Blue PointsSM must use them by August 31, 2012. Because of processing delays, points you earn this summer may not be available to you for redemption on August 31, 2012. Visit www.bcbstx.com/hs/ or call BCBSTX toll-free at (800) 252-8039 to check your balance or to get more information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

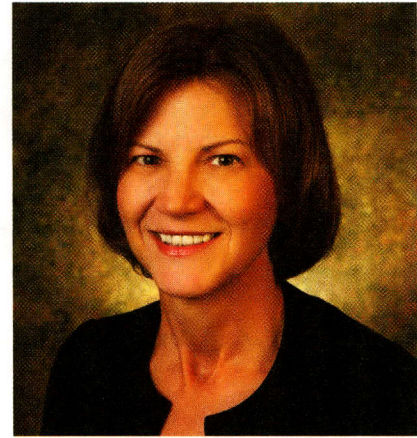
For retirees, spouses, and other dependents in HealthSelectSM of Texas, you've probably heard that the ERS Board of Trustees voted to change the third party administrator (TPA) for that plan to UnitedHealthcare. This does not affect participants in the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan, the Kelsey Care Medicare Advantage HMO, or other HMOs. Some HealthSelect participants will need to change physicians, and because United is adding new providers all the time, that number is shrinking. We switched TPAs because state law requires re-bidding the TPA contract and the selected vendor will significantly lower administrative costs.

To make sure your provider is in the HealthSelect network, visit www.healthselectoftexas.com. We've also added "Provider Search Tips" to make searching for a provider even easier. You can search for primary care physicians (PCPs), specialists, behavioral health providers, and health care facilities. If you don't find your doctor listed, you can call United at (866) 574-6088 and United will ask your doctor or facility to join the network. Be sure to check back before September 1 to see if your doctor or facility has agreed to join the network.

Visit our frequently asked questions page at www.ers.state.tx.us/Insurance/HealthSelect/Contract_Administrator/ to find out more. We are updating this document continually, and we will expand it throughout the transition. It's important to remember that ERS designs the HealthSelect plan, including copays, coinsurance, and eligibility rules within the available funding. The role of UnitedHealthcare is to pay claims and otherwise administer the plan according to the plan design and policy given to them by ERS. United will also manage the provider network, provide customer service, and provide wellness and disease management programs.

We're hosting information sessions around Texas this summer to give you a chance to meet United's HealthSelect representatives and learn about the new programs that you will now have as part of HealthSelect. We'll announce the dates and locations in your Annual Enrollment packet, so be sure to look for a session near you. I hope we'll see you there.

Ann S Bishop



Ann S. Bishop

Get the latest ERS news now

Don't forget you can sign up for the latest news from ERS about a variety of topics—from retiree news to the discount purchase program. It's free and only takes a minute to sign up.

Go to www.ers.state.tx.us



and click on the retired state employee or the higher education employee link. Enter your email address and choose the topics that interest you. With your subscription, you'll get news from the Your ERS Connection newsletter faster, often well before the print version is mailed.

Have questions about the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan?

Humana representatives will be onsite through June at the ERS building in Austin on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon.

From July 2 – July 13, Humana representatives will be available at the ERS building all day Monday – Friday.

Schedule a 25-minute appointment by calling (855) 377-0001 or schedule online at www.ers.state.tx.us. Representatives can answer questions about your claims, benefits, doctors, and other topics.

The ERS Building is at 200 E. 18th St. in Austin. Parking is available at the ERS building.

2012 ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FAIR SCHEDULE

Do you have to attend a fair? No, you're welcome to attend. It's not required or necessary in order to make enrollment changes. Remember, if you're enrolled in Medicare, you'll be able to change your health plan at any time during the year.

06/25/12

Holiday Inn Midtown
6000 Middle Fiskville Rd.
Austin, TX 78752

Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport
9100 Gulf Freeway
Houston, TX 77017

Paris Junior College
2400 Clarksville St.
Paris, TX 75460

06/26/12

Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 S. IH 35
Austin, TX 78745

American Bank Center
1901 North Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Harvey Convention Center
2000 W. Front St.
Tyler, TX 75702

06/27/12

Adams Street Community Center
511 East Adams St.
Brownwood, TX 76801

South Texas College
3201 West Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, 78501

Stephen F. Austin State University
Student Rec. Center, 1817 Wilson Dr.
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

06/28/12

Anderson High School
8403 Mesa Dr.
Austin, TX 78759

Denton Texas Woman's University
Hubbard Hall, 303 Administration Dr.
Denton, TX 76204

TxDOT
600 W. Expressway 83
Pharr, TX 78539

06/29/12

Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 S. IH 35
Austin, TX 78745

Service Support Center
1902 N. Loop 499
Harlingen, TX 78550

Multi-Purpose Events Center
1000 Fifth St.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

07/02/12

Sul Ross State University
Pete P. Gallego Center
400 North Harrison St.
Alpine, TX 79830

Houston Community College
3100 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002

Houston Harte University Center
1910 Rosemont Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904

07/03/12

Abilene Civic Center
1100 N. 6th St.
Abilene, TX 79601

Texas Tech Univ. Health Sciences
Medical Education Building
5001 El Paso Dr.
El Paso, TX 79905

Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd.
Live Oak TX 78233

07/05/12

Blinn College Student Center
902 College Ave.
Brenham, TX 77833

Best Western Plus
8051 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75251-1301

07/06/12

Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education
Center
1400 19th St.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Guadalupe & Lillia Martinez Fine Arts
Center
West End Washington St.
Laredo, TX 78040

Midland College
3600 N. Garfield St.
Midland, TX 79705

07/09/12

Brown Heatly Bldg.
4900 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78751

Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus
300 Trinity Campus Circle
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Texas Tech Univ. Health Science Center
International Cultural Center
601 Indiana Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79430

07/10/12

Amarillo College
2201 South Washington
Amarillo, TX 79109

07/10/12

Employees Retirement System of Texas
200 E 18th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Travis Building
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

TxDOT
2501 SW Loop
Fort Worth, TX 76133

07/11/12

Reagan High School
7104 Berkman Dr.
Austin, TX 78752

TxDOT
7600 Washington Ave.
Houston, TX 77007

TxDOT
4625 East Highway 80
Mesquite, TX 75150

07/12/12

Holiday Inn Round Rock
2370 Chisolm Trail
Round Rock, TX 78681

HHSC
285 Liberty St.
Beaumont, TX 77701

HHSC
801 S. State Hwy 161
Bank of America Bldg. #200
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

07/13/12

TCEQ
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A
Austin, TX 78753

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa
9800 Hyatt Resort Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78251

TSTC
John B. Connelly Auditorium
3801 Campus Dr.
Waco, TX 76705

Starting September 1, the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan will be known as the HealthSelect Medicare Advantage Plan. We're changing the name to clarify that the plan is a unique plan designed by ERS and is not the same as the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan available on the private market.



PO Box 13207
 Austin, TX 78711-3207
www.ers.state.tx.us

PRSR STD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Employees
 Retirement
 System

ERS CONNECTION

Executive Director
 Ann S. Bishop

Board of Trustees

Yolanda Griego, Chair
 I. Craig Hester, Vice-Chair
 Cydney Donnell
 Cheryl MacBride
 Brian D. Ragland
 Frederick E. Rowe, Jr.

Editorial & Subscription Information

Employees Retirement System of Texas
 Communications and Research Division
 (200 E. 18th St.) P.O. Box 13207
 Austin, TX 78711-3207

(877) 275-4377 toll-free
 711 TTY



YOU CAN STILL GET A 1099-R

If you filed for an extension on your federal income taxes and still need a 1099-R form, you can request a copy online. Log in to your account at www.ers.state.tx.us, click on the 1099-R information link, click the blue link under "1099-R Description," and click the yellow "Reprint 1099-R" button near the bottom of the screen. Please note that all 1099-Rs for the 2012 tax year will be reprinted if you have more than one form.

UPDATE YOUR TEXAS\$AVER BENEFICIARY

Don't forget that your Texa\$aver beneficiary is kept separate from your insurance beneficiary—you need to keep both up to date. For Texa\$aver, you must send an original, signed Beneficiary Form to have your assets distributed according to your wishes. To update your beneficiary, print out the beneficiary form for your account at [www.ers.state.tx.us/Employees/Programs/Texa\\$aver_401\(k\)_and_457/](http://www.ers.state.tx.us/Employees/Programs/Texa$aver_401(k)_and_457/) and return it to Texa\$aver by mail, fax, or email.

PAY INSURANCE PREMIUMS THE EASY WAY

If you want to make sure your insurance premiums are made on time and your annuity is not enough to cover your premium, you can pay your monthly insurance premium automatically from your bank account. You will need to fill out a form called Automatic Withdrawal/ Cancellation of Insurance Premiums for the Texas Employees Group

Benefits Program (GBP) (ERS 2.945) available at www.ers.state.tx.us/Retirees/Forms/. Fill it out, sign it, and mail it to ERS at the address on the form. You can also call toll-free (877) 275-4377.

ELIGIBILITY AUDIT SAVES YOU MONEY

In 2012, ERS ended its Dependent Eligibility Audit, an effort to verify that all enrolled health insurance dependents met eligibility requirements. We appreciate your cooperation in finding and sending in copies of documents during the audit.

When the audit was concluded, we found that 11,530, or 5.34% of all enrolled dependents, could not prove that they met eligibility requirements. Those dependents are no longer enrolled in the GBP. The health care cost for the individuals dropped as a result of the audit was about \$25.5 million. The GBP will no longer collect contributions from these individuals, however, which were about \$10.7 million. That means the overall value of this audit to the plan was about \$12.2 million of net expense. The savings will go into the insurance claims fund to help pay for medical and prescription drug claims for eligible members.