County Executive Russ Pry Urges Medicaid Recipients to “Renew It Now”

Earlier today, Summit County Executive Russ Pry joined with Summit County Public Health Commissioner Gene Nixon and Dr. Kris Drummond, CEO of AccessPointe Community Health Centers, to stress the importance of renewing Medicaid benefits and the urgency in renewing those benefits as quickly as possible.

During 2014, Medicaid renewals were waived due to the State’s movement to the new eligibility system, Ohio Benefits. This waiver expired at the end of 2014. This year, participants must now renew their Medicaid benefits in order to keep those benefits.

Each month, the State will send out renewal applications to a portion of the Medicaid population. To date, more than 17,000 people in Summit County were sent the Medicaid Renewal packets for January, February and March renewals, however, less than 34% of those forms have been returned.

“The County is doing everything possible to assist our citizens with renewing their Medicaid,” said Summit County Executive Russ Pry. “All of our full-time case managers have been trained to handle the renewals. We also have eight part-time staff and are adding another eight part-time staff to assist with these renewals,” added Pry.

The renewal packets are being mailed by the State and show a return address of “Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.” Citizens should complete the forms immediately and then mail it or drop it off during the day at any Job and Family Services locations. The Sojourner Truth Building, located at 37 N. High Street in Akron has a night-deposit box that can be utilized.

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Renewing on-line is the fastest way and is encouraged. To renew on-line go to: https://benefits.ohio.gov/ or participants can also click the “Renew It Now” button on the County of Summit website: https://co.summitoh.net/.

According to Dr. Kris Drummond, “With insurance from Medicaid or the healthcare marketplace, consumers have access to 63 preventive services at no charge, no deductible, and no co-pay that range from immunizations to mammograms to diabetes screenings.”

It is very important to renew Medicaid benefits, not doing so will cause people to lose health care benefits. “It is important that we all maintain insurance coverage, not only to avoid the risk of incurring unaffordable medical bills, but it also allows access to critical health services, health screenings and preventive health services that keep individuals and families healthy and our community healthy,” said Summit County Health Commissioner Gene Nixon.

Summit County Public Health Commissioner Gene Nixon, Summit County Executive Russ Pry and Dr. Kris Drummond, CEO of AxessPointe Community Health Centers

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