

# What's New

West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner



Volume 1, Issue 11

## Laws and Regulations

On July 18, 2012, HHS published a Final Rule titled *Data Collection to Support Standards Related to Essential Health Benefits; Recognition of Entities for the Accreditation of Qualified Health Plans*. Follow the link to view: [Final Rule](#)

## Guidance and Other Federal Communications

The CBO and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) have updated their estimates of the budgetary effects of the health insurance coverage provisions of the ACA to take into account the Supreme Court decision. The reported is located [here](#).

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CMS made information available regarding the single, streamlined application for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Exchange, on July 2, 2012. The data elements are open for public comment until September 4, 2012. Follow the links to view:

[Announcement](#), [Federal Register Notice](#)

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On July 2, 2012, HHS released an updated list of the three largest small group plans by state as reported by Healthcare.gov. This information is provided as an update to the prior publication "Essential Health Benefits: Illustrative List of the Largest Three Small Group Products by State" released on January 25, 2012, and complements the bulletin on the EHB released on December 16, 2011. The document also provides the list of the three largest nationally available Federal Employee Health Benefit Program plans and the single largest Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program based on enrollment. Here is the [link](#).

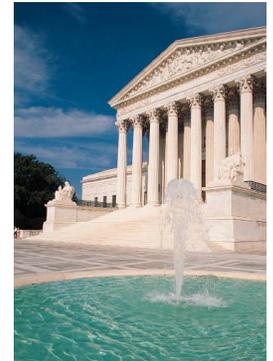
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HHS recognized the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and URAC as the accrediting entity for QHP's in Exchanges. The rule is located [here](#).

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States have begun releasing their Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Analysis. Here are three states that have release the information. To review the data please click on the state.

[Rhode Island](#)  
[Virginia](#)  
[Washington](#)



### Inside this issue:

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## Grant Announcements and Other Funding

On July 19, 2012, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) announced a new funding opportunity through the ACA for designing and testing improvements to States' health care systems. [Grant Announcement](#)

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On July 16, 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a two-year, \$1 million dollar funding opportunity. The grant would support State Medicaid agencies in implementing a system to collect, report, and analyze data on the Initial Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid. The following links provide additional information.

[Announcement](#), [Grant Overview](#)

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## Exchange RFP Activity In Other States

**Hawaii**—the Hawaii Health Connector issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Health Insurance Exchange Implementation Project. The intent of the RFP is to acquire a fully functional Health Insurance Exchange System. [RFP](#), [Announcement](#)

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**Oregon**—The Oregon Health Insurance Exchange (ORHIX) issued an RFP seeking a service center solution that provides ORHIX service center representatives with the technological operating system needed for enrollment, call center function, and service delivery. The project period will run from September 18, 2012 to March 1, 2013. The RFP contemplates an award of an unspecified amount. [RFP](#)

## Exchange Activity In Other States

**Alaska**—On July 17, 2012, Governor Sean Parnell announced that Alaska will not implement a state-based Exchange. The announcement and study can be found by following the links:

[Governor Announcement](#), [Study Announcement](#), [Exchange Report](#)

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**Arkansas**—On July 18, 2012, the Arkansas Insurance Department provided updates on the planning for a partnership with a Federally-Facilitated Exchange. [Meeting Notice](#), [Presentation](#)

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**California**—On July 19, 2012, the Board of the California Health Benefit Exchange held a meeting focused primarily on two major issues: Qualified Health Plans (QHP) contracting and the approach and staffing for the service center. [Agenda](#), [Meeting Materials](#)

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**Colorado**—The Governor's Office, Division of Insurance and the Health Benefit Exchange held a public meeting on July 18, 2012 on the Essential Health Benefits (EHB). Information can be found here: [Agenda](#), [Presentation](#)



**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this document does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the state of West Virginia or the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner. Links to news reports are often housed on state Exchange planning websites and are subject to change. Please contact us if unable to locate a document.

## Exchange Activity In Other States

The Colorado Exchange Board held a meeting on July 23, 2012. The agenda shows that a number of topics were discussed. Information can be found here: [Agenda](#), [Meeting Materials](#)

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**Connecticut**—The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange Board met to recommend a plan for the medical portion of the EHB, and another plan for the prescription portion of the EHB on July 26, 2012. The meeting agenda also included: reviewing the CEO's report; voting on policies and procedures; hearing updates regarding consumer outreach; and discussing vendor procurements. Additional information is located [here](#).

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**District of Columbia**—DC's Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) Executive Board held their first meeting on July 23, 2012.

▪ [Meeting Announcement](#) ▪ [Meeting Agenda](#)

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**Hawaii**—On July 24, 2012, the Connector held a Legal Policy Committee meeting. According to the meeting agenda, key highlights included: (1) discussion on plan management ; (2) a review and clarification of dental plans; and (3) a blueprint review and policy discussion of agents and brokers in the Connector. Meeting materials included: (1) agency and broker requirements under the ACA and compensation requirements under the Medicare Advantage Program; and (2) a presentation on Navigators and Agents/Brokers from the May 2012 CCIIO Health Insurance Exchange System-Wide Meeting. Materials are located at the following links: [Agenda](#), [Meeting Materials](#)

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**Illinois**—Illinois announced on July 18, 2012, that they will operate a state-federal partnership Exchange for the first year of the Exchange citing logistical challenges were insurmountable at this point. The news article is located [here](#).

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**Kentucky**—On July 17, 2012, Governor Steve Beshear issued an executive order creating the Office of the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange. For additional information follow these links: [Executive Order](#), [HBE Advisory Board Membership](#)

Kentucky Department of Insurance and Cabinet for Health and Family Services will be hosting meeting to inform the public on the exchange and the process. Additional information is located [here](#).

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**Maryland**—On July 18, 2012, the Exchange Navigator Program Advisory Committee held a kick-off meeting. The meeting included a review of the statutory and regulatory requirements for navigators; a discussion of the implications of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012 on Navigator development; and a presentation by Manatt Health Solutions on its work plan for conducting analyses and identifying an inventory of Navigator options available to the Exchange. [Meeting Materials](#)

On July 26, 2012, the Exchange's Plan Management Advisory Committee met. The agenda shows that the focus was on the options for: (1) How dental/vision benefits would be offered; (2) The manner in which carriers must disclose the cost of the benefits; and (3) whether carriers who offer embedded dental/vision plans would be required to offer stand-alone plans. Additional information can be found: [Agenda](#), [Presentation](#)

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**Michigan**—The AP reported on July 19, 2012, that Michigan Governor Rick Snyder is urging House Republicans to finish hearings so that the state can move forward on finalizing Exchange Legislation SB 693. The Governor has previously stated that he may issue an Executive Order, but he told the AP that he was not going to at this time. The article is located [here](#).

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**Minnesota**—Minnesota awarded contractor MAXIMUS a \$41 million contract to design and develop a technical solution for Minnesota's statewide health insurance Exchange and Medicaid modernization. The press release is located [here](#).

On July 26, 2012, **Minnesota's Health Insurance Exchange** Advisory Task Force met to review the recent IT contract awarded to MAXIMUS; a summary of final rules on IRS Premium Tax Credits and Essential Health Benefits; market research on public education and outreach; and recommendations from the Adverse Selection Work Group. [Meeting Announcement](#), [Agenda](#), [Market Research Presentation](#), [Workgroup Report](#)

## Exchange Activity In Other States

**Mississippi**—Mississippi announced that they will halt work on the Exchange until after the November Election. The announcement is located [here](#).

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**New Mexico**—The NM Human Services Department announced the formation of a 12-member task force to help the State explore implementation of a state-based Exchange. The task force's first meeting took place on June 27, 2012. The news article is located [here](#).

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**New York**—On July 24, 2012, the New York Department of Health released a report written by the Wakely Consulting Group that examines whether to standardize benefit designs in New York State's Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange. Among other findings, the report shows that there is a very broad dispersion of the types of health plans and levels of cost-sharing across the small group market, with differences between Upstate and Downstate. The report is located here: [Report](#)

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**Oregon** - Insurance Division choose not to speculate on the cost projects of premiums in 2014. They released a study that shows both increases and decrease. For additional information please click [here](#).

**Tennessee**—TN held their first outreach meeting of many on July 17, 2012. The purpose was to gather public opinion on the EHB package. For additional information follow these links: [Press Release](#), [Meeting Locations](#)

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**Utah**—The Utah Health System Reform Task Force held a meeting to discussed the State's response to the Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). For additional information follow these links: [Meeting Agenda](#), [Dept. Health Medicaid Eligibility Presentation](#), [OLRGC Presentation on Employer Penalties and Tax Credits](#), [Presentation on Reinsurance and Risk Pools](#)

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**Vermont**—The VT Department of Health Access submitted an application for a \$104.4 million Level Two Exchange Establishment Grant to CMS on June 29, 2012. According to the press release, the grant application is for “support efforts like major IT systems development, education and training programs, and a strong evaluation strategy.” The press release is located [here](#).

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**Washington**—During the month of July, the Washington Health Benefit Exchange held the following meetings:

- [Exchange Board](#): Meeting focused on committee presentations, dental plans in the Exchange, the Navigator program, and the policy issues timeline;
- [Policy Committee Agenda](#): Meeting focused on consumer rating system and dental plans in the Exchange;
- [Plan Management Workgroup](#): Meeting focused on a review of the Health Care Provider Directory proposal, enrollment and billing, the appeals process for a denial of a Qualified Health Plan and technical aspects of the enrollment process in the Exchange;
- [Operations Committee](#): Meeting focused on a discussion and presentation by Wakely Consulting on self-sustainability
- [Consumer Workgroup Meeting Materials](#): Meeting focused on the Navigator Program, Premium Aggregation, and Consumer Rating Program.

**West Virginia**—Governor Tomblin sent a letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius to ask a series of questions related to Medicaid expansion and Exchange regulations. The letter asked the Secretary to provide additional guidance and information on Medicaid expansion and Exchange regulations, including: access to federal funding in the event the State chooses not to expand Medicaid; the timeline for HHS-issued guidance on the Federally Facilitated Exchange (FFE) and FFE partnership options; and funding opportunities for a state whose expansion does not reach all the way to 133% of FPL. The following links provide additional information:

[Letter](#), [Press Release](#)

16,000 West Virginia insurance customers received rebates. The article is located [here](#).

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# August 2012

## West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

1124 Smith Street  
Room 305  
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: 304-558-6279  
Fax: 304-558-0138  
Email: Jeremiah.Samples@wvinsurance.gov

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Upcoming Calendar Meetings

Tuesday August 14		Tuesday August 28	
Carrier	10:00 AM	Consumer	10:00 AM
Producer	1:00 PM	Providers	1:00 PM

Additional information is available on our web site: [www.bewv.com](http://www.bewv.com)

## Other Reference Materials, Notices and Related Information

Beginning August 1, 2012, women will be eligible for preventive services that provide early detection and screenings. Additional information is located [here](#).

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The New York Times reported that there will be challenges to the subsidies that will be available in Exchanges set-up and run by the federal government in states that fail or refuse to establish their own Exchanges. The article is located [here](#).

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The California Healthline reported on July 13, 2012, that the Governors of California and 11 other states have sent letters expressing their commitment to creating state-based health insurance exchanges under the federal health reform law. The article is located [here](#).

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On July 26, 2012, the Obama administration announced a ground-breaking public-private partnership to prevent health care fraud. The link can be found [here](#).



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