



FEH BOCES News and Notes September 8, 2015

Great Opening!

Thank you for the fantastic opening! It was great to see everyone at our general orientation and to cover important topics for the start of the school year. The return of students went very well and everyone contributed to a positive opening that sets the stage for an excellent year! The presentation slides are available on our home page.

Adult Education Brochure Fall 2015

The fall offerings for Adult Education are now posted on the home page. BOCES staff and Retirees get half off on the cost. The registration deadline is Friday, October 8.

New PBM – Health Insurance Consortium

The FEH BOCES participates with eight of our component school districts in the FEH Health Insurance Consortium. The FEH BOCES provide coordination for the consortium through the work of Stephanie Bannon and staff in her office. A group known as the Joint Governing Board meets periodically to make important decisions about the consortium. Each district has an employee representative and an employer representative (Suzanne Rivers and Stephen Shafer for the BOCES). 14 votes of the 18 voting members are required for the JGB to take action. In addition the consortium has a Board of Directors composed of the nine superintendents. The Board of Directors affirms decisions made by the JGB, acting independently only if the JGB fails to act on a critical matter such as setting premiums.

On August 10, the JGB voted to change our prescription benefit manager (PBM) from CVS Caremark to Express Scripts effective January 1, 2016. The current contract with CVS Caremark expires on December 31, 2015 and four companies submitted proposals to provide the services. Express-Scripts proposed a product comparable to our current arrangement with Caremark at a substantially lower projected cost over the next three years. This change also will occur for our retirees 65 and older who utilize Silverscript (a Caremark subsidiary).

Stephanie and key members of her staff have started weekly conference calls with Express Scripts to make sure that the transition is as smooth and seamless as possible. Express Scripts representatives will brief the JGB on September 25 regarding communication with employees regarding the change. The process should be relatively seamless with the exception of using a new prescription card that will be sent to you in advance of the January 1, 2016 cut over. There will be more information to follow.