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COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

BULLETIN 2011-11

TO: Parties Interested in Filing Application Materials to be Considered a Qualified Association or Certified Group Purchasing Cooperative

FROM: Joseph G. Murphy, Commissioner of Insurance

DATE: May 27, 2011

RE: Application Process and Timelines for Qualified Associations and Certified Group Purchasing Cooperatives Pursuant to 211 CMR 151.00

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 176J, §12(a) and SECTION 34 of Chapter 288 of the Acts of 2010, the Division of Insurance ("Division") has promulgated 211 CMR 151.00 and issues this Bulletin to provide further guidance to interested parties regarding the process for applying to the Division to be a Qualified Association and/or a Certified Group Purchasing Cooperative ("Certified Cooperative").

Qualified Associations

Parties intending to submit materials to the Division in accordance with the requirements of 211 CMR 151.05 for consideration as a Qualified Association may submit their application to the attention of the Division's Bureau of Managed Care ***at any time***. Such applicants shall submit their application in accordance with the instructions for Qualified Association applications, which are available on the Division website at www.mass.gov/doi. The Division will keep a list of Qualified Associations on its website, to which Certified Cooperatives may refer when considering contracting with such Qualified Associations.

Certified Cooperatives

Parties intending to submit materials in accordance with the requirements of 211 CMR 151.08 for consideration as one of the initial six Certified Cooperatives may submit six paper copies and one electronic Compact Disc copy of their application to the attention of the Division's Health

Care Access Bureau from ***August 1 through August 15, 2011 only.*** An application to be a Certified Cooperative will be considered to have been submitted to the Health Care Access Bureau by August 15, 2011 if it is in an envelope that is properly addressed and is postmarked no later than August 15, 2011.

After August 15, 2011, the Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") will not consider any additional applications to be a Certified Cooperative unless and until there are fewer than six Certified Cooperatives in the Commonwealth and the Commissioner provides public notice of the reopening of the Certified Cooperative application process.

Meetings Regarding Application Process

In order to allow interested parties to ask questions regarding the Qualified Association and Certified Cooperative application process, the Division has scheduled meetings on the following dates at the following locations. ***Please note that these locations are subject to change.***

Monday, June 13, 2011, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Middlesex Community College, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell; Morse Federal Building, Assembly Room. Pay parking available at Lower Locks Garage on Warren Court or metered street parking.

Friday, June 17, 2011, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Division of Insurance, 1000 Washington Street, Boston; Room 1-E. Pay parking available.

Monday, June 20, 2011, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Worcester State University, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester; North/South Auditorium, Student Center. Parking on campus near Student Center.

Monday, June 27, 2011, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Bridgewater State University, 200 East Campus Drive, Bridgewater; Crimson Hall (Building 38), Dunn Conference Room. Parking in Lower Great Hill Lot K.

Monday, July 11, 2011, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: University of Massachusetts, 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, Campus Center, Lower Concourse, Room 163C. Pay parking in Campus Center Garage.

Questions regarding this Bulletin should be directed to Kevin Patrick Beagan, Deputy Commissioner, Health Care Access Bureau at (617) 521-7323.