



September 2014

WELCOME NEW SHINE COUNSELORS!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly certified SHINE Counselors! We are so glad that you have made the decision to join SHINE – you will find this position very rewarding. You are now among an elite group of people who make a real difference to those seeking to clarify the confusing world of health insurance.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO RECERTIFIED SHINE COUNSELORS!

OPEN ENROLLMENT - Coming soon...

October 15-December 7, 2014

Presentations to SHINE counselors (***only changes from typical location are noted***)

- October 7: Minuteman 9:30-3:00 Crosby Conf. Ctr., 22 Crosby Drive, Bedford
Boston (Ethos, GBCGAC) 9:00-12:00, EOE - One Ashburton Place Cafeteria
Southeast (HESSCO, Attleboro, Cape Cod) 10:00-2:30 Holiday Inn Taunton
- October 9: Berkshires 12:30-4:00
Hamden, Hampshire & Franklin Counties 11:30-4 Baystate Conf. Ctr., Holyoke
Metrowest 9:00-1:00 Whitney Place Assisted Living, Natick
Mystic Valley 9:30-2:30
- October 14: Merrimack Valley 9:00-2:00
Worcester 9:00-2:00

SOCIAL SECURITY

Roberto Medina from Social Security has given SHINE the two forms that are needed to complete a Special Enrollment Period for those have been covered under an employer's group health plan and now wish to enroll in Part B. These forms are to be completed and returned to the Social Security Administration.

The first form is completed by the employer and needs an authorized signature. The second form is to be completed and signed by the applicant. Both forms are attached at the end of this newsletter.

Roberto also reminded SHINE to encourage consumers to set up a "My Social Security" account. Social Security staff is available to go out into the community with Social Security computers to help seniors register online.

DOMA

As a reminder, the Supreme Court ruled Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional thus allowing same sex married couples access to the federal insurance benefits – Medicare! The Social Security Administration recognizes state law which means that residents of certain states may not yet have access to the Medicare benefits of their same sex spouse.

MARKETPLACE

People with Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

Open enrollment for the **Health Insurance Marketplaces** runs from November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015. Medicare beneficiaries should be aware that they cannot purchase Medicare contracted plans through the Marketplace. *In fact, insurance brokers are strictly prohibited from knowingly selling Marketplace health plans to Medicare beneficiaries.* A number of scams were reported last year in which callers were telling Medicare beneficiaries that Obamacare requires them to change their health coverage and subsequently asking them for their social security numbers and/or bank account information. Scams such as these should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov. Beneficiaries should also be aware that the longer Marketplace open enrollment period does not apply to them. They still only have until December 7th to make changes to their Medicare prescription drug or Medicare Advantage coverage.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

END OBSERVATION STATUS: House Bill No. H.R. 1179 and Senate Bill No. S. 569

Diane Paulson from MAP reminds us to call Senators and Representatives regarding this very important legislation related to the consequences of observation stays which are impacting

many Medicare beneficiaries. Every Member of the Massachusetts delegation, including the newly elected Katherine Clark, is listed as a sponsor! It is still important to call your Senators and Reps. to thank them for their support and pass along real life stories of people who have experienced dire consequences from hospital observation stays.

To find the state senator or representative in your area: <https://malegislature.gov>

Reminder: Medicare Advantage plans DO NOT require the 3 day admitted inpatient status to begin covering a stay in a skilled nursing facility.

[SHINE State Staff Comings and Goings](#)

Best Wishes to Jessica Gutierrez-Dutra who was the SHINE Special Projects Coordinator in the state office. Jessica has been accepted to the Simmons College RN/Nurse Practitioner Program which started at the beginning of September! Jessica will be greatly missed in the state SHINE office. Thank you to Jessica for all of her hard work with One Care, outreach and in forming relationships with agencies with non-English speaking clients. We wish her all the best in her future!

New to the SHINE State Office:

Barbara Deveau started as the Assistant Director in late August and has worked in the elder care field for over 20 years. She has worked at Minuteman Senior Services and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services as well as in corporate elder care. Her most recent position was in municipal government for the Town of Lexington Senior Center. Barbara was responsible for program growth as well as daily operations and has been SHINE certified for 8 years. Barbara is a Licensed Social Worker and graduated from the State University of N.Y. at Cortland with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Gerontology. Barbara enjoys traveling, cycling and spending time with family.

Barbara is the new editor of The Beacon and welcomes comments and suggestions on content and format!

ATTACHMENTS

- Social Security Request for Employment Information
- Social Security Application for Enrollment in Medicare

Contact SHINE State Staff

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