

Health Plan Of Nevada Awarded State Contract

LAS VEGAS, NV. — Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. (HPN), Nevada's oldest and largest health maintenance organization (HMO), was awarded a contract from the State of Nevada which allows HPN to offer its health care coverage to State employees in 1987. The award of the contract was made official on Thursday, August 7, 1986 in Carson City, Nevada.

This award is a renewal for HPN. HPN, a state-wide, federally-qualified HMO, has been covering state employees under its health plan since July, 1984. Under the terms of the new contract, HPN will be one of two HMOs offered to eligible state employees.

Currently, there are approximately 13,000 eligible State employees. HPN now enrolls more than 3,500 of these or 25% of the population. Total HPN State employee membership, which includes dependents, is approximately 7,000.

"We are delighted to have been selected to continue our relationship with the State of

Nevada," said Anthony M. Marlon, M.D., Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Sierra Health Services, Inc., the parent company of HPN. "The State is our largest account, and we look forward to serving its employees with high quality, cost effective medical care for a long time to come," he added.

Open enrollment for State employees begins in November with an effective date of January 1, 1987. Open enrollment is the period during which employees are free to choose their medical coverage for the year from among the plans being offered by their employer.

HMOs are an alternative to traditional medical insurance plans. They combine both the delivery and the financing of health care and stress preventive care. Members of HMOs pay no claim forms or deductibles, but must choose to receive their medical care from among the physicians who participate in the plan. Members pay only a nominal fee, usually \$3, for visiting the doctor. Currently more than 20 million people in the United States are enrolled in HMOs.

Senior Citizen Program Flourishes At UNLV

Response to UNLV's Senior Citizens Program during the past year has been tremendous, according to Ann Alu, coordinator of the program that allows seniors (62 years and above) to enroll in university courses free of charge. More than 600 local senior citizens signed up for the tuition-free courses during the last academic year, and university officials are hoping the response will be even better during 1986-87.

"This has become one of our most important and worthwhile community service programs," said UNLV President Robert Maxson. "The Senior Citizens Program is our way of repaying the contributions that Southern Nevada seniors have made to the university through the years."

According to Alu, seniors can register for any of the university's hundreds of courses during fall and spring semesters, provided space is available in the class they want. Alu handles all registration procedures for senior program participants. Seniors can register continuously through the end of UNLV's late registration period September 10, but Alu recommends that anyone interested contact her office immediately to begin the registration process. Seniors can elect to take classes for a letter grade, pass/fail or simply audit a course. The only fees involved are an occasional lab fee or computer fee for certain courses; seniors also purchase their own textbooks.

"This program has exceeded our expectations," said Alu, who added that many university faculty members are now requesting that seniors be placed in their classes. "The seniors bring a refreshing perspective and a lifetime of experience that enhance classroom discussions," Alu explained.

Another positive outgrowth of the seniors program has been the recently initiated senior volunteer program. Also coordinated by Alu, the senior volunteer program places senior citizens in campus offices where they volunteer their time and services. Alu attempts to match a senior's life experience and job background with the needs of the office requesting a volunteer.

"Currently we have many more requests for senior volunteers than we have volunteers available," Alu said.

Although the Senior Citizens Program has existed at UNLV for the past 14 years, it was not until the university initiated a widespread media awareness campaign that response to the program increased significantly. For additional information on the Senior Citizens Program contact Ann Alu's office at 739-3656.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Tens of thousands of Jews visited the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, commemorating Tisha B'Av, amidst unfruitful attempts by a radical Jewish group to pray on Temple Mount. Police did permit, however, the four Knesseters of the Tehiya Party, to conduct a tour of Temple Mount.



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