



April 13, 2007

OGB ANNUAL ENROLLMENT UNDER WAY

Baton Rouge--On Monday, April 9, 2007, a judge in the Nineteenth Judicial District dismissed demands in a lawsuit filed by FARA Inc., clearing the way for the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) to begin its annual enrollment for medical plans on Tuesday, April 10th.

FARA had filed a lawsuit late on Friday afternoon, March 30, seeking injunctive relief and Writ of Mandamus against OGB to halt the annual enrollment process scheduled to begin on Monday April 2, 2007. FARA is a current medical plan administrator for OGB that had not been selected for a new contract effective July 1, 2007. Judge Timothy E. Kelley had granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) halting the annual enrollment process and scheduled a hearing for Thursday, April 5.

At the hearing on April 5th, Judge Kelley overruled OGB's Motion to Dissolve the TRO finding that the Chief Executive Officer of OGB had violated state law by not informing the OGB Policy and Planning Board of his intent to discontinue the Managed Care Option (MCO) plan and allowing members of the Board to discuss this issue prior to making the decision.

On Monday, April 9, Judge Kelley presided at a hearing to determine whether FARA's Request for a Preliminary Injunction should be granted, continuing the ban on holding the annual enrollment process. However, at this hearing, Judge Kelley ruled that the Chief Executive Officer of OGB had complied with the spirit of the law by informing the OGB Policy and Planning Board by e-mail on February 26th that the MCO plan would be discontinued. The Board had ample opportunity (over six weeks) to schedule a meeting to discuss this issue if it had so desired. Based upon this finding, FARA's requests for Preliminary Injunction and a Writ of Mandamus were dismissed and the annual enrollment process began on April 10th.

The annual enrollment period will be extended one week until close of business on Friday, May 4th. The meetings which were not held during the first week of April will be rescheduled. All members will have an opportunity to attend a meeting and make selections for medical plan coverage to be effective July 1, 2007. All plan members currently participating in the Vantage or FARA plans should make a new selection as these plans will not continue to be offered after July 1, 2007. Any Vantage or FARA participant not making a new selection will be transferred into the PPO plan.

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