

New Direction

Wellness is our Way of Life

INITIATIVES

November

- ▣ MMIS Partnership with West Virginia approved by Governor deJongh.
- ▣ MAP looking to hire an MMIS coordinator.
- ▣ HIE/EHR Steering Committee formed and already hard at work.
- ▣ HIE planning continues; DOH looking to hire HIE analyst.
- ▣ Eligibility system stabilization contract proposals to be reviewed.
- ▣ Ponce Group works with Virgin Islands Medical Society to support provider EHR support.

Did You Know?

Where residents of the VI get health coverage.

Current Coverage by
paysor source:

Uninsured 28.7 %
State Employees,
Retirees & Dependents
27.0 %
Other/Private 24.1 %
Medicare 12.7 %
Medicaid 7.4 %



“Congratulations to Governor deJongh. We are excited about moving forward with enhancements to health programs in the U.S. Virgin Islands under your leadership”

Commissioner Julia Sheen

Notes from the Commissioner

Health IT Updates

MMIS -- The Governor is moving ahead with the West Virginia partnership to acquire an MMIS system for the territory. A working session with Molina, Inc, West Virginia's MMIS operator and Fiscal Agent, will be held to finalize work plans. A job search is underway to fill the position of MMIS coordinator for the project and the ongoing MMIS operation in the Territory.

HIE -- Kai Hendricks, is advertising the availability of a position as HIE analyst. An Integrated Plan team meeting is expected in the next few weeks, and the team hopes to draft a Strategic and Operational Plans in the next 90 days.

MAP eligibility -- Proposals have been received to perform work on the VIMS eligibility system. This work is needed to prepare for possible MAP expansion and the initiation of a Pharmacy Benefits Management agreement with Cigna.

REC -- The Ponce group partnership has been working to survey providers and establish a system to provide support for their acquisition of Electronic Health Records systems and achievement of 'meaningful use'.

Retro Claiming

The Medical Assistance Program has just completed two phases of a Medicaid retro-claim project that will bring new federal revenue to the Virgin Islands and help to finance future health care reform.

Here's how it works. The Territory provides funding for hospitals, clinics, and ambulances on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. Johns, separate and apart from any revenue that those facilities are able to derive from billing MAP. Through the efforts of Ms. Harrigan, Mr. Drigo and their staff, we have been able to determine what portion of those territorial funds were attributable to the cost of providing services to MAP clients. This process is known as the Certification of a Public Expenditure, or "CPE".

The results thus far: MAP has been able to claim the remaining unspent portions of the federal Medicaid allotments for 2007, 2008, and 2009. The total benefit to the Territory is approximately \$14 million.

MAP hopes to be able to use these funds to enhance the rates that it pays to hospitals and to expand MAP eligibility for children and pregnant women.

Watch these pages for future developments!