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Cheyenne Health Center Branches out in the Community to Help the Uninsured

New sites will improve access to assistance with healthcare enrollment

Health Works of Cheyenne is establishing new sites for Laramie County residents to receive assistance with health insurance enrollment. They will have Certified Application Counselors (CACs) available at three sites in addition to their health center located on Fox Farm Road.

These Certified Application Counselors provide in-person assistance to people who want to enroll in a Marketplace Healthcare Plan under the Affordable Care Act. They also provide information or answer questions regarding the new health care law and the plans it created in Wyoming. Data firm Civis Analytics found that the uninsured rate in Laramie County dropped from 12% to 10% last year. It is this year's goal to drop that rate even further by featuring CACs at several different sites regularly.

"Last year was kind of hectic, but it was also exciting," said Stacey Ferguson, the Outreach Coordinator at Health Works. "It was so new and there was a lot of confusion, but we helped a lot of people increase their access to healthcare."

Stacey's position focuses on managing her fellow CACs at Health Works and their activities during the Open Enrollment period. She hopes that the additional staff and sites this year will enable them to reach twice as many people as last year. She added, "I'm happy with what we were able to accomplish last year. This year, I want to see Laramie County's uninsured rate drop down closer to our unemployment rate into the single digits."

The Frontier Mall on Dell Range Boulevard is the new site where you can find a CAC most often. They will be on-site every day of the week from 10 am to 9 pm Monday through Saturday, and 11 am to 6 pm on Sunday. You can find them near the south entrance outside the 5 Guys Burgers and Fries restaurant.

The University of Wyoming Family Medicine on East 18th Street is another site where consumers can go to seek out CACs. They will be available to assist consumers on Tuesday mornings from 8 am to 12 pm. They return later in the week again on Thursday afternoons from 1 pm to 5 pm.

The Laramie County Health Department on Central Avenue will have a CAC present Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Once a month, a Health Works CAC will make the trip to Pine Bluffs to provide assistance to those frequenting the University of Wyoming Medical Clinic. You can find them there on November 21, December 15 and January 19.

Open enrollment for Marketplace Health Insurance begins November 15. The CACs of Health Works will be present at their Mall site all-day to answer questions or enroll consumers in a plan. For more information on connecting with CACs call 2-1-1 or visit www.wypca.org. For information on Health Works visit www.wyhealthworks.org.

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