



Monday, November 12, 2001

## Benefits open enrollment begins Nov. 14

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU staff writer

OU employees are encouraged to review open enrollment materials that they should receive in the U.S. mail by Wednesday, Nov. 14, the start of the period in which they can change their benefits. Open enrollment runs through Friday, Nov. 30. New coverage will be effective Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Employees also can bring questions and concerns to the Benefits Fair on Monday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Oakland Center Gold Rooms A & B, said Kimberly Crossley, benefits services manager, **University Human Resources**.

At the fair, representatives from the various OU benefits providers will be on hand to answer any questions and provide information.

The benefits fair and open enrollment are open to all employees eligible for benefits through Oakland University. The benefits fair will include OU's dental insurance carrier, Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, and all of its medical insurance carriers: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network and Health Alliance Plan. Other providers that are scheduled to attend are Co-op Optical, TIAA-Cref, MSU Credit Union, JC Walter Agency, Lafayette Life Insurance and Great Lakes Strategies, OU's flexible spending accounts carrier.

This year, Selectcare is no longer a medical insurance option for OU employees, effective January 1, 2002, Crossley said. Selectcare was purchased by Health Alliance Plan. Faculty members currently covered by Selectcare who don't enroll in a different plan will automatically be covered by Health Alliance Plan, effective January 1, 2002, she said.

This fall, a Health Benefits Council was formed to review proposed new rates from OU's health care providers, said Lynne Schaefer, vice president, Finance and Administration. The council includes members from each OU collective bargaining group, AP/ICs, and the Academic Council. The council began its review on Oct. 1. As a result of this work, some rate reductions have been achieved.

"The Health Benefits Council remains very concerned about our health care rates and has set an ambitious agenda for the next six months to explore ways to reduce our premium costs or the size of future increases," Schaefer said. "Employees will be hearing more from the council in the coming months."

If you have suggestions or questions that you would like to have considered by the Health Benefits Council, please send those to **Crossley**.

Open Enrollment materials will include a raffle card for a drawing at the benefits fair. Raffle prizes range from bookstore gift certificates to four Red Wings tickets.

For more information about a particular plan, employees may contact the providers:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield**  
(800) 637-2227
- **Health Alliance Plan**  
(800) 422-4641
- **Delta Dental Plan**  
(800) 482-8915
- **Lafayette Life Insurance**  
(800) 555-6048
- **Great Lakes Strategies**  
(800) 858-4231

For more information about the benefits fair and open enrollment, employees may contact the Benefits Services Office, 142 North Foundation Hall, at (248) 370-3483.

**SUMMARY**

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