

Court Members

Dear Members,

On April 8, 2011, the UPE Court Office-Technical Board and the Court Professional Board met with the Court to discuss the Court's proposal to change the dental provider from Principal Financial Group to Standard Dental, and to change the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider from Pacific Care to ComPsych.

Edgewood Partners Insurance Center (EPIC) consultants presented a renewal analysis summary providing a cost comparison between Principal and Standard. Although there was some savings to the Court, significant costs would be passed along to our members in the form of co-payments, and lesser services. Considering the increased costs to our members and that contract negotiations will begin next year, the Court Office-Technical Board voted to not change the dental provider at this time. The Court Professional Board also voted to not change the dental provider.

The Court also proposed deleting the named provider from the contract in order to have the flexibility to "shop" for different providers without first meeting with the affected bargaining units. As contract negotiations will begin next year, the Court Office-Technical Board voted to not modify the current contract at this time. The Court Professional Board also voted to not modify their contract.

The Court further proposed changes to the medical coverage. Although there was some savings to the Court, the proposed changes would raise the co-payments and out-of-pocket costs to our members significantly. Considering the costs and that contract negotiations will begin next year, the Court Office-Technical Board voted to reject the proposed changes to the medical coverage at this time. The Court Professional Board also voted to reject the proposed changes to the medical coverage.

EPIC consultants also presented a renewal analysis summary for the Employee Assistance Program. As there was some improvement of services to our members and little to no disruption of current services, the Court Office-Technical Board voted to accept the Court's proposal to change the EAP provider to ComPsych. The Court Professional Board also voted to change the EAP provider to ComPsych.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message to you. Both the Court Office-Technical Board and the Court Professional Board reached their decisions after carefully considering all of the Court's proposals.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cedric Porter at UPE, Local #1 or send an email to info@upel.org.

The next Court Office-Technical Board meeting is May 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
United Public Employees, Local #1

Geri Bradford-Hill
Court Office-Technical Governing Board Chair