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December 9, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Learn About Health Care Reform Implementation

United States Congresswoman Lois Capps, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal and leaders from county departments of Public Health, Social Services, and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services are hosting an informational meeting on the implementation of Health Care Reform. The informational meeting will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Public Health Department- Santa Maria Health Care Center 2115 S. Centerpointe Parkway, Santa Maria, CA, Auditorium.

The December 14, 2013 meeting will provide information for residents about Health insurance/coverage and the opportunity to actually enroll in Medi-Cal and/or the Health Exchange programs. In addition, the Public Health Department will provide free flu shots and blood pressure checks. The meeting schedule is:

- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm On-Site Medi-Cal & Health Benefit Exchange Enrollment, Free flu shots, blood pressure checks
- 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm Information on Health Care Reform (Speakers)
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm On-Site Medi-Cal & Health Benefit Exchange Enrollment, Free flu shots, blood pressure checks

Since US citizens and legal residents are required to obtain health insurance/coverage beginning January 1, 2014, County leaders and departments are diligently working to encourage the community to **ENROLL**. The staff at the Santa Maria Health Care Center is prepared to assist any community member by enrolling them in Medi-Cal or the Health Benefit Exchange.

An estimated 40,000 uninsured residents of Santa Barbara County will be eligible for expanded Medi-Cal or the Health Benefit Exchange beginning January 1, 2014. The open enrollment period for the Health Benefit Exchange through Covered California ends on March 15, 2014. Uninsured individuals are encouraged to complete enrollment by December 23, 2013 to have active health care coverage on January 1, 2014.

Health Care Reform is complex and many residents who are uninsured may not be aware of how they will benefit from this historic opportunity!

For more information, see the websites for the Department of Social Services http://www.countyofsb.org/social_services/default.aspx and the Public Health Department www.sbcphd.org under Health Care Reform.

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