



HEALTH FOUNDATION RELEASES GUIDE TO HELP PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES COMPREHEND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Materials Will Assist Understanding the Changes and New Benefits in the Law

Cincinnati, OH (January 4, 2011) – The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati today released new materials to help people affected by mental illness in our region learn about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how it affects them. The new materials are a part of the Foundation’s larger public education effort to inform the community about the changes the law has on their health care coverage.

In 2010, it was estimated more than 85,000 people in our community are affected by severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression. More than 357,000 adults are affected by mild to moderate depression.

Several parts of the new law have already begun to take effect, but according to the March 2011 Ohio Health Issues Poll, or OHIPSM, 2 in 3 Ohio adults surveyed said they don’t understand how the changes in the law will affect them personally. These findings mirrored a similar Kentucky survey¹ conducted in December 2010 by The Health Foundation for Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

The ACA creates new rules about health insurance and healthcare that are meant to benefit those dealing with mental health issues. For example, the ACA requires all new insurance plans cover 100 percent of the cost of preventive services such as depression screening. The same applies for Medicare. Additionally, children younger than 19 cannot be denied health insurance due to a mental or physical health problem. In 2014, there will be additional changes that will benefit people affected with mental health issues.

“There are very specific changes in the ACA that are geared for those suffering from mental health issues, but most residents don’t know where to get information,” said Janice Bogner, senior program officer of The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. “We wanted to provide materials to the thousands of our Greater Cincinnati community affected by mental health issues to help them understand changes that are now in effect and anticipate changes and potential insurance coverage they may be eligible for in the future.”

While residents will still have to consult their individual insurers for all the details regarding their personal health coverage, these materials provide easy-to-understand sections on how the new law will affect them personally. Articles can be found at reform.healthfoundation.org and in several locations in the community.

¹ KHIP [Kentucky Health Issues Poll](http://reform.healthfoundation.org) (conducted December 3-28, 2010)

About The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati is an independent non-profit dedicated to improving community health through grants, evaluation and education. The Foundation works in Cincinnati and 20 surrounding counties in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. More information can be found at www.healthfoundation.org.

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