

DMS

difference

Open Enrollment for Your 2010 Benefits

By Elizabeth Irvin

Lately the news is filled with stories about health care reform, a serious flu virus and the overall costs of health care. It makes you realize that it's a great time to be a state employee or State of Florida retiree because we have several options to choose from for health insurance and other benefits. Open Enrollment, starting Sept. 14, is our yearly chance to check our benefits and make changes if we need to so we have the best coverage for our own needs.

State employees and retirees should prepare to make important decisions regarding health insurance and other benefits. Open Enrollment runs from 8:30 a.m. Eastern time, Monday, Sept. 14 through 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Friday, Oct.

9, and allows us the opportunity to choose from a list of plans for health and insurance benefits. During this period, we can add or change benefits including health, dental, life and vision insurance, and other supplemental products.

"Open Enrollment empowers employees and retirees to get involved with their health care and other benefits," said Division of State Group Insurance (DSGI) Director Michelle Robleto. "Not all employees have the same family needs and responsibilities. It's important that employees carefully review their current plans and make responsible choices to suit their families' future needs."

Take time to carefully review your information and select the best plan and coverage for your family. This decision is an important one and we encourage you to take an active role in getting the most out of your benefit options. Any benefits changes made during this fall's Open Enrollment period take effect January 1, 2010.

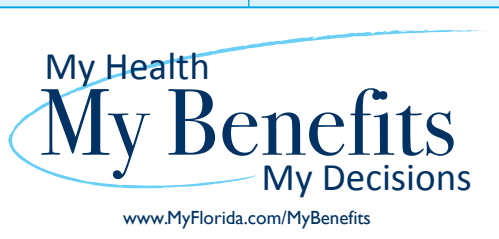
DSGI employees coordinate Open Enrollment, and negotiate with vendors to provide the best plans at the best prices. The [MyBenefits Web site](#) helps employees choose the best plan. It

features a number of online tools, including cost calculators and comparison of multiple plans.

"Our team works hard providing state

employees with different options as well as help in the decision-making process," said Robleto. "I hope everyone takes advantage of the resources available to them and makes the necessary changes to ensure their families' protection."

Enroll on the [People First Web site](#) anytime between Sept. 14 and Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. To speak to a representative, contact the People First Service Center toll free at (866) 663-4735.



Help for Florida's uninsured

State benefits don't extend to OPS employees; however, [Cover Florida](#) may be a good option. In Florida, Governor Crist and the 2008 Florida Legislature created Cover Florida to help give uninsured Floridians an option for their health care insurance. Through Cover Florida, insurance companies offer stripped-down health plans for stripped-down prices. The more coverage a person receives, the more he or she pays.

Health Resources

Learn more about [health care in Florida](#) and look up information on medical conditions, locate a facility or provider and find many resources for your health.

From the Secretary

Health care reform has been a loud buzzword recently. There doesn't seem to be an easy answer, so we wait and keep our eyes on Washington D.C.

In Florida, Governor Crist and the 2008 Florida Legislature created "Cover Florida," which may be an option for OPS state employees. (See sidebar, page one, for details.)

Non-OPS state employees and retirees have several affordable health care benefit options available through the state group insurance plans. Sept. 14 kicks off the month-long Open Enrollment period when we make sure the benefits we selected last year meet our needs for the upcoming year.

As the current national debate proves, a lot about health care is out of our control, but doing what we can to take care of our health is important. Open Enrollment gives us the chance to do something about our health care coverage by choosing plans and options that fit our needs.

Take advantage of Open Enrollment, **Sept. 14 to Oct. 9**. Check the MyBenefits Web site to learn more about our benefits options and use the online calculators there.

Attend one of the benefits fairs where you can talk with insurance company representatives and team members from our Division of State Group Insurance to help you understand what plan might be your best option. For our Tallahassee team members, we have benefit fairs Sept. 14 in the Betty Easley Center and Shuster's Café at the CCOC, and Sept. 17 at the civic center. These benefit fairs run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include some wellness fair activities.

Florida is committed to this benefit for its public servants. Look at what you or your family may need in 2010 and do what you can to use our benefits to help you prepare.

Thanks for all you do,



DMS Online

Use The Workplace to find out in real-time what is happening at DMS, with your co-workers and with each division. Check it all out and especially:

- Secretary South's weekly messages.
- DMS birthday calendar
- Announcements
- Shout Outs
- Meet new DMS team members
- See who is retiring
- Wake up on Wellness Tips

DMS Open Enrollment Help Sessions With HR

Have questions regarding your benefits? Want to discuss your choices? Need help with the enrollment process?

Don't stress. Our DMS Human Resources Office (HR) is here to lend you a helping hand!!

Come to one of the open enrollment help sessions, planned especially for DMS employees by our HR team. They will help answer your questions, discuss options to ensure you make an informed decision, and assist you with your enrollment in People First.

- Tuesday, September 22
- Wednesday, September 30
- Tuesday, October 6

Two sessions each day: 7-9 a.m. or 2-4 p.m. No appointment needed; first come, first serve basis.

Our team members outside of Tallahassee can schedule a phone session. Just call Jackie (number below)!

All sessions are in CCOC Building 4050, room 260K.

For more information, contact Jackie Williams at (850) 488-1517.

Department of Management Services

SERVICE MOTTO

We Serve Those Who Serve Florida

SERVICE VISION

Engaged Employees; Satisfied Customers

SERVICE MISSION

Providing Smarter, Better, Faster Services

OUR SERVICE PROMISE

To Serve with **CLASS**

Communicate Concerns Immediately

Listen, Learn and Grow together

Act with Integrity and Honor

Strive for Greatness

Serve with a Servant's Heart

2009 PRIORITIES

1 Increase Customer Satisfaction

2 Engage Employees

3 Demonstrate Customer Value

Meet

David Disalvo People First Director

Just what does the People First Director do?

I am a project manager and the contract manager over the People First contract with our vendor, Convergys. My team provides Convergys with business requirements for the People First system, formally tests and approves new system enhancements, and provides communication and training to agencies/users.

What takes up most of your time each day?

It changes every day. I may be meeting on future system enhancements, working through service center improvements, meeting with vendors, legislative or auditor staff, or helping a user resolve an issue.

What is the best thing about your job?

The product (People First system) and the services provided (People First Service Center) is light years from where we started, thanks to a great team that makes a positive difference in the people we serve and solid support from others at DMS.

Where are you from originally and how did you land at DMS?

I moved here when I was four and attended Kate Sullivan, Trinity Catholic, and Leon High School (where my daughter now attends). I received my MBA from FSU and stayed in Tallahassee to raise my family. I worked at the Office of Program Policy and Government Analysis (OPPAGA), Florida House of Representatives and was the Human Resources Director at the Department of Children and Families (DCF). My DCF experience helps me lead the People First team.

What motto/phrase/advice do you try to live by?

Always be honest and truthful, and everything will fall into place. My grandfather told me, "If you smile, the world smiles with you, but if you cry, you cry alone." Sometimes you have to pick yourself up, stay optimistic and get ready for the next challenge.

What is a unique or startling fact about you that people may not know?

I studied abroad and lived in Florence, Italy, in college. It was such a great experience that 20 years later, I took my family there. I love Italian food and play the other game of football (soccer).

What's the last movie you saw?

Cinderella Man, an inspirational sports movie and a descriptive picture of the tough Depression era. We are so fortunate today to live in such a great country and have all that we have.



David Disalvo, People First Director, with his wife, Kelley, and their children Anna Marie and Carlton at the majestic Trevi Fountain in Italy, a place David called home when he was in college.

Recipe of the Month

Tortellini Pasta Salad

4 ounces fresh cheese tortellini
¼ cup fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
½ cup Italian pitted black olives
¾ cup grape tomatoes, halved



In three quarts boiling water, cook tortellini until tender, about four minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water.

Combine balsamic vinegar and olive oil; mix well. In a large bowl combine tortellini, cheese, tomatoes and black olives. Pour on dressing and toss gently to mix. Chill one hour before serving.

Submitted by **Pam Donaldson**, Office of the Secretary

Send your favorite recipe to Communications@dms.MyFlorida.com!

DMS Wants To Know

Q: What can I do to stay healthy at work?

A: DMS team members should stay home when they are sick. In some cases, you may be contagious before you have symptoms. Your best defense is a good offense, whether you are near a sick coworker (or a sick family member).

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to limit the spread.

Reliable sources for more information are the [CDC Web site](#), the [American Lung Association](#) and [WebMD](#).

September 11 Americans observe Patriot Day (signed into law Dec. 18, 2001). The day remembers and honors those who lost their lives or were injured in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our country. On Patriot Day, fly your American flags, at half-staff where possible, and observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. (Eastern time), the time the first plane flew into the World Trade Center.



NEWSLETTER TEAM: Cathy Schroeder, Communications Director • Linda McDonald, Deputy Communications Director • Linda Ogle, Creative Director • Vangie Felix, Graphic Designer II • Katelynn Ogle, Graphic Designer • Charlotte Rakestraw, Graphics Design Apprentice

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