



HEALTHCARE REFORM AND THE COUNTY'S PLAN

Effective on November 1, 2010 the Thomas County Board of Commissioners Employee Benefits Plan will be amended to comply with the changes included in the Patient Protection Care Act (PPACA) and the Wellstone -Domenici Parity Act. Healthcare reform will change the County's overall health care plan and the Flexible Spending Plan as well. The changes are detailed below. Please note that under federal law the County's plan is considered a "Grandfathered Plan". For more information please call **Twink** or **Jessie** at 225-4100 at the County Commissioners Office.

HEALTH BENEFIT CHANGES

The following changes will apply to the health benefits plan:

1. Coverage for dependent children will be allowed for children ages 19 to 26. There is no requirement for full time student status. The child does not have to reside with the parent. The child can be married but the spouse is not eligible for coverage.
2. There are no annual or lifetime limits on "essential benefits". However, the definition of "essential benefits" has not been established. There is no longer a \$ 1 million limit.
3. The plan will have equity in benefits being provided for mental health/substance abuse at the same level as medical/health services.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN CHANGES

The following changes will apply to the flexible spending plan effective on January 1, 2011:

1. Over the counter medical supplies will not be covered unless you have a written prescription from your physician.
2. The "run-out" for applying 2010 dollars to 2011 claims can not be used for over the counter items.

COMING SOON - CITIZENS MAPPING ACCESS POINT

County Information Systems Manager **Derrick Ogletree** reported to the County Commission at its 29 September meeting that the county's geographic information system is ready to go "public". Beginning October 25, GIS will be accessible via the internet on a website that will be labeled Citizens Mapping Access Point or **CMAP**. According to Derrick, **CMAP** "will place a wealth of information at the fingertips of our citizens". **CMAP** is the product of an 18 month effort conducted jointly with the South Georgia Regional Commission in Valdosta and our in-house GIS Team.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE NOW !!!
AT THE THOMAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
7:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. DAILY