

# GUILD LEADER

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## **Guild Seeks Members' Help Identifying Blue Cross Problems**

### *ProJo Management Cooperating in Resolving Issues*

A potential problem has developed with the new Blue Cross health insurance coverage and we need your help in figuring out how much of a problem it is. It concerns psychiatric and counseling services.

In the last couple of weeks, several people have called us to say that claims they filed for psychiatric visits that were covered by the old United Plan are being rejected by Blue Cross. The problem is made more confusing because the people filing the claims said they made sure in the October-December sign up period that they checked the Belo intranet and saw their doctors listed as in the network. In one case, a January visit was covered. Now, it appears, they are out.

But several of the doctors have told our members that they have not dropped out of any Blue Cross program.

So far, the company has worked with the Guild and the affected members to resolve the problems. However it has required time and patience.

In several cases, the problem has resulted from doctors having multiple offices. In these cases Blue Cross has failed to recognize that a, in-network doctor at location A is the same as a doctor at location B, resulting in the denial of a claim.

In another case, a doctor was incorrectly listed as being in the Blue Cross network. The insurance company has agreed to treat the doctor as "in network" for this year.

We need to know how widespread these problems are and would like to get at it fixed all at once, if possible.

If you or anyone under your coverage has ever used psychiatric or counseling services (or think you might in the foreseeable future), please call your provider and find out if he/she is in the Belo Blue Cross network (Blue Cross of Texas).

Then call Tim Schick at the Guild office at 421-9466 or President John Hill at 277-7381 and tell us what you find out.

Also let us know if there have been any billing problems between Blue Cross and your providers.

Please be assured that the Guild will respect your medical privacy. We don't need to know the whys of your situation, only the names of your providers, if they are in or out of the Belo Blue Cross network and, if possible, if you remember seeing them on the provider list before you signed up.

The Guild will also work with you to resolve any coverage problems.

# *Executive Committee, Unit Council*

## *Nominees Uncontested*

Incumbent members of the local Executive Committee are unopposed for re-election. Under the Guild's bylaws, unopposed candidates are automatically elected. They will serve until June 2007.

Reelected are: President John Hill, Vice President Jeff Andrade, Secretary Thom Cahir, Treasurer Greg Smith and at-large members Lisa Buben, Michael Cote, Felice Freyer, Kerry Kohring, Vincent Pezzillo, Del St. Jean and Karen Ziner.

The Providence Unit Council has five returning incumbents and two new members, who were also elected without opposition. The council, which oversees grievances and other routine issues related to the Providence Journal, is made up of: Bob Kerr, Susan Quackenbush, Kevin Mailhot, Mike McDermott, Lorraine Knight Linda Cox and Lynn Chaput.

The Worcester Unit Council, which deals the with Telegram & Gazette, consists of Bronislaus Kush, Alex Goodwin, Linda McDonnell, Jamie Bowlin, Robert Nelson, Barbara Houle and Gary Richardson.