



North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) announced today that the contract for the NDPERS administered group health plan will be awarded to Sanford Health Plan (SHP). The health plan contract with SHP takes effect on July 1, 2015.

“Members will be able to use their current medical providers and be confident that the plan’s benefits will continue,” said Jon Strinden, NDPERS Board Chairman.

The Sanford Health Plan continues the state’s commitment to provide comprehensive medical insurance coverage for approximately 29,000 public employees, retirees and their families. Sanford has assured the Board that it has the financial resources available and will have the administrative services in place to handle this transition. Members that utilize the preferred providers under the existing Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) arrangement will not have any disruption of services for the upcoming year.

The Board’s decision to award the contract to SHP came after a seven month long process during which the Board considered bids submitted in response to three Requests for Proposals, met with representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) and Sanford Health Plan, and extensively reviewed the various proposed plan options. Sanford’s bid was less than the bid submitted by BCBS for a comparable plan. BCBS has held the PERS group health contract for the past 37 years.

“The board has valued its partnership with BCBS and its efforts on behalf of our membership. The Board thanks BCBS and its employees for the past 37 years of dedicated service to the PERS Plan,” said Jon Strinden, NDPERS Board Chairman.

More information will be sent to covered employees in the coming weeks.