



News Release

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Uninsured Parents May Now Enroll in Utah's Primary Care Network

(Salt Lake City, UT) – With the number of uninsured Utahns growing every year, open enrollment for Primary Care Network (PCN) of the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) could not have come at a better time. The health care plan re-opens enrollment to parents beginning today, May 8, 2006. Enrollment will remain open until all 4,000 available spaces are filled.

To qualify as a parent, adults ages 19-64 must have a dependent child under age 19 living at home with them. Due to federal restrictions, certain PCN enrollment periods are open only to parents. Enrollment for all adults is likely to be announced later this year.

The yearly enrollment fee is \$15, \$25 or \$50, depending on a person's income and situation. One Utah single mother of two children, Melissa Whytock, said that being able to visit the doctor and get the basic health check-ups she needs is worth it. Through PCN, she was able to fill a critical prescription last month for a co-pay of only \$5. "That saved me a ton of money," Whytock said.

Since the close of this year's legislative session, income guidelines for PCN have increased. For example, a single parent with two children (family of three) may now earn up to \$2,075 a month. A family of five with an income of \$3,350 a month may also

Page 2 of 2 – Uninsured Parents May Now Enroll in Utah’s Primary Care Network

qualify. More details and examples of income guidelines are available online at

www.health.utah.gov/pcn.

PCN offers health services such as immunizations, four prescriptions a month, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, and dental check-ups. As for finding a dentist who accepts PCN, Whytock said it was easy. She simply looked at the online PCN Provider List and called the first dentist listed for her area. “I called and made an appointment for two weeks from that day,” she said.

There are many different ways parents can apply for PCN. Parents can apply for their children under the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which is also accepting applications, and then fill out a shorter PCN Addendum Application for themselves. Or, they can apply using the traditional PCN form. Parents can call the UDOH Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2542 to have an application mailed to them, fill one out at their local eligibility office, or take the fastest route and apply online at

www.health.utah.gov/pcn.

For more information, or to find an eligibility office near you, call 1-888-222-2542 or visit www.health.utah.gov/pcn.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.