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Media Release

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August 18th Public Meeting on Health Care Coverage Changes *Changes Especially Beneficial to the Uninsured and Underinsured*

BREMERTON, WA — An informational meeting has been scheduled to discuss changes to health care and health insurance coverage as a result of the new federal Affordable Care Act. The law will especially provide improved health insurance coverage for the uninsured and underinsured. The event is on Sunday, August 18, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Norm Dicks Government Center, First Floor Meeting Room, located at 345 6th Street in Bremerton.

Sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter of Organizing for Action, a non-profit 501c (4) group, and the Kitsap Public Health District, the meeting will feature a presentation by Michelle Vest, principal with CareSync Consulting, LLC, and owner of West Coast Consulting Group, LLC, who will cover:

1. How individuals, families, and small businesses can obtain quality health insurance plans through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Healthplanfinder) starting October 1, 2013.
2. How Medicaid expansion will affect you.
3. Changes you will see at your doctor's office, hospital, and emergency room. These changes focus on care coordination, illness prevention, and patient involvement in care.

The presentation will introduce the broader aspects of the new law, including its focus on improving the health of individuals and, ultimately, the entire community, and reducing and containing per capita health care costs. The presentation will cover cost-containment practices including the elimination of duplicate tests; coordination of patient records and treatment plans among providers; and incentives for doctors who make patients well.

At the event, some myths concerning the Affordable Care Act will also be debunked including the use of "death panels", the creation of a socialized medicine system, and subsidies to undocumented immigrants. The event is not a political or sales event; it is strictly informational in nature and will help attendees learn more about the new law and how it may benefit them.

Staff from the Kitsap Public Health District will be available at the event to address questions and concerns from those interested in signing up for health insurance for the first time when open enrollment begins through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange on October 1.

For more information, contact Kerry Dobbelaere with the Kitsap Public Health District at (360) 337-5235, kerry.dobbelaere@kitsappublichealth.org, or Mary Jaffe with Organizing for Action at (360) 769-0752, toad-farm@wavecable.com.

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