

New Dirigo Voucher Plan for Part Time Employees

Dear Editor,

The cost of providing healthcare for employees is one of the greatest challenges facing businesses in Maine. That reality applies to Merrymeeting Behavioral Health Associates in Brunswick. Our agency has about 166 employees, many of them part time workers who don't have health coverage due to the cost. The issue of health insurance has been an ongoing challenge.

Many of our staff members provide in-home support to clients. Our staff must be as healthy as possible, providing service in the field as they do. This year, Maine's Dirigo Health Agency (DHA) introduced a new voucher program that provides financial assistance to help part time or seasonal, uninsured workers participate in their employer's health insurance plan. The program works as a 'wrap around' benefit to our existing health coverage, making it affordable for both the company and the employee. Our agency is proud to have been the very first Maine company to offer the new plan to our part time employees.

Dirigo's subsidized Voucher Program is an affordable option that comes at a time of critical need. I encourage other businesses and organizations throughout Maine to look into it and sign up.

Jim Talbot, Director
Merrymeeting Behavioral Health Associates