



Department of Employee Relations

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Maria Monteagudo
Director

David Heard
Fire and Police Commission
Executive Director

Michael Brady
Employee Benefits Director

Troy Hamlin
Labor Negotiator

July 7, 2006

To the Honorable
Common Council
Finance and Personnel Committee
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

RE: COMMON COUNCIL FILE REGARDING TEN CITY DIABETES CHALLENGE

Dear Ladies and Gentleman:

The City of Milwaukee has been working with the American Pharmacist Association (APhA) Foundation and local sponsors, including Julie Whipple of "Use Your Medications Wisely" to communicate to the City employees, City retirees, their spouses and dependents the importance of diabetes management and participation in the Ten City Diabetes Challenge. There is a significant financial benefit to the employer and the employee in getting members with diabetes to manage and control it.

All 5600 City employees and retirees in the Basic Plan have been mailed information about the program. Julie Whipple has visited police and fire stations and other work locations to provide information packets and speak with supervisors. The program asks participants who have diabetes to agree to meet with a pharmacist every other month to review their efforts to control the diabetes. In return the members are provided with "diabetes related" blood pressure and lipid medications with no 20% co-insurance.

The City of Milwaukee has for a number of years provided diabetes supplies and diabetes medications with no co-insurance to members in the Basic Plan. While this was a good policy, it does not allow us to provide the kind of incentive to attract people to the program.

There are currently sixteen persons enrolled in the program. Fifty-seven have requested information about the program. The sponsoring group, including Julie Whipple and the 40 participating pharmacies are going to do additional mailings to persons. The program is completely confidential and the City has no information about who is participating or who may have diabetes. There was a goal to get 100 persons involved in the program so there could be enough data regarding the impact on those participating...



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I would recommend that the City provide an incentive for anyone who participates in the program for a total of six months of a one time \$100 credit to their monthly premium.

Most active employees are paying \$75 for single and \$150 for family coverage for the Basic Plan.

I would hope that this would get the attention of additional participants. It is assumed that as many as 500 City employees, retirees, dependents and spouses may currently have diabetes.

I will give you an update later in the year in the additional efforts to get participation.

Sincerely,

Michael Brady
Employee Benefits

City Comptroller W. Martin Morics
Mark Ramion, LRB
Edwin Reyes, DER
Dennis Yaccarino, Budget