For Week Ending February 1, 2013

Counselor and Coordinator Announcements:

1. **Colorado SHIPs reach all-time record for 12 month period for outreach:** For the first time, Public and Media Events in Colorado exceeded the level reached in the first year of Part D, and every year since! There were 961 activities in 2012, up considerably from the 684 in 2011, and also exceeding the previous record number of 876 set in 2005 – most of you met your goals and many of you exceeded them, which contributed to this record of making your services visible to communities – what great work this reflects!

2. **Federal Poverty Guidelines announced:** New income guidelines have been announced, which raises the income permitted to qualify for Extra Help, Medicare Savings Programs, and other income qualifying benefits. We will be revising our Help With Costs shortly, but meanwhile here is the link to NCOA's Extra Help chart: http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/center-for-benefits/part-d-lis-eligibility-and-benefits-chart.pdf.No update yet on their site for Medicare Savings Programs figures – we'll pass them along as soon as we have it put together in our Help With Costs document.

3. **DMEPOS:** It stands for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthodics and Supplies – parts of Colorado are gearing up for the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Round 2, impacting Denver, Colorado Springs, Aurora, Broomfield areas. The state as a whole will be impacted by the nationwide mail order diabetic supplies competitive bidding. When contracts to winning bids have been finalized,

consumers will be able to find suppliers
at www.medicare.gov/supplier (probably later in spring).

4. **Colorado 17th in rate of deaths by injury:** If you want to know more about this factoid, go to the interactive map released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/newsroom-content/2013/01/interactive-the-facts-hurt.html

5. **An Exchange, by any other name:** Colorado Health Benefit Exchange has their new name up on their website – it is Connect for Health Colorado. More information at their websitewww.getcoveredco.org.

And finally, on a sad note, we learned this week that Alberta Just passed away on December 6th. Alberta was a long time SHIP counselor in the Trinidad area. She discontinued her counseling due to health reasons about a year ago. She cared very much for her community, and attended to the details of helping them gain the health services to which they were entitled.

Alice