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Kentucky Spirit leaves the state

Cabinet assigns company's clients to other Medicaid managed-care firms

by Molly Burchett
Kentucky Health News

About 125,000 Medicaid patients in Kentucky have a new insurance company, with Saturday's departure of Kentucky Spirit from the state.

The state Cabinet for Health and Family Services reassigned Kentucky Spirit's clients to Coventry Cares or WellCare, and sent letters to the clients last week notifying them of the reassignment. They will have 90 days to change companies if they are not satisfied with their new one.

The letters were conditional, because the state was still in a legal battle trying to keep the company in the state for two more months. Cabinet officials told Beth Musgrave of the Lexington Herald-Leader

that Kentucky Spirit stopped serving Kentucky clients shortly after midnight Saturday, and that the cabinet will file a lawsuit seeking damages because Kentucky Spirit breached its three-year contract that began in 2011.

"If successful, the state could win millions of dollars from Kentucky Spirit, a subsidiary of St. Louis-based Centene Corp.," Musgrave notes. The company alleges that it lost money because the state gave it incomplete information.

"We are staffed up and as prepared as we can be," said Michael Murphy, CEO of Coventry Cares, in an interview with Kentucky Health News Wednesday.

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First runner-up Zoe Abney, Miss Estill County Pre-teen Madison Hensley, and second runner-up Kyra Farthing were crowned Tuesday night at the 2013 Estill County Fair. Zoe is the daughter of Justin and Nancy Abney. Madison is the daughter of Jeff and Karen Hensley, and Kyra is the daughter of Jimmy and April Farthing. Photo by Cathy Dawes



Edna "Arlene" Worrell dressed patriotically for a cookout and ceremony to honor veterans at Irvine Health and Rehab on Thursday, July 4th. The rain came down but it did not dampen the spirits of the holiday. Photo by Delores Rowland

Irvine votes 3-2 to back-pay EDA

The debate over money allegedly owed to Estill Development Alliance (EDA) was resolved by the Irvine Council at their meeting on Monday.

Verlon Prewitt, the founder of EDA, addressed the council before their vote. Prewitt made a large donation to EDA in the mid-90's to get the organization started.

The idea for EDA came to Prewitt as he was looking for a large warehouse for Carhartt.

He said Estill County or Richmond neither had an industrial park at that time. Carhartt located a warehouse at Madisonville in western Kentucky which now employs over 600 employees.

Carhartt said the EDA consolidates an industrial board, chamber of commerce, tourism, and performing arts. The three local governments are asked to contribute one-

third each. EDA claims that Irvine is in arrears for the last three years or \$30,000.

"I'm not going to spend the city's money without something to show for it," said Irvine Mayor Ernest Lee Farmer.

Farmer stated the city's contract with EDA is for one year at a time. He added the city did not enter into a contract with EDA during the three previous years although the \$10,000 annual payment to EDA was in the budget.

According to the mayor, the contract calls for EDA to supply Irvine with a Main Street manager. Farmer said that Joe Crawford, director of EDA, had also failed to update the council quarterly as the contract called for.

Crawford said it was difficult to find someone to work as Main Street manager for \$8 an hour, 20 hours a week.

"If I'm a part of an organization, I pay my dues until I get out of that organization," explained Councilmember Nelle Williams.

"I can't see giving \$10,000 of taxpayer money for nothing," said Councilman Woody Tipton.

Ian Mooers with EDA said that in the fall, an ECU class will be conducting a business survey in downtown Irvine.

He added that other cities smaller than Irvine are progressing.

Mooers stated that Citizens Guaranty Bank has picked up the tab for EDA

when Irvine did not pay. Councilman Tobo Bryant said the city must have a member on the EDA board to pay the \$10,000 a year. The mayor serves as Irvine's representative is the mayor.

The vote to pay EDA the \$30,000 owed for three previous years passed 3-2.

The city of Ravenna had asked for a contribution to its volunteers picnic this fall. Bryant said that Irvine cannot contribute to that legally. However, the council voted to donate some festival shirts to Ravenna.

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Ravenna discusses making more money, including city-wide yard sale in August

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

On Monday, July 8, 2013, members of the Ravenna City Council met to discuss ways for the city to make extra money.

Councilwoman Tina Johnson suggested that the city hold a community-wide yard sale during the first weekend of August and charge each resident that

participates in the yard sale a \$5 fee. That money would go into the city's operating funds. Johnson said that she thought it would be good way for the city to make extra money.

Johnson said that in the future the council would plan to hold the community yard sale during the same weekend as the Highway 52 yard sale.

Police Chief Ken White suggested that the council give permit holders some type of sticker to place at the residence that would be visible to the police as they patrolled the streets that they would know who had paid for a permit and who had not.

White also asked the council what to do if he came to a residence that hadn't obtained a yard sale permit. He was informed by the council that he would

have to stop at the home and ask the resident to pay the fee at that time.

Councilman William Van Cleve suggest that an official letter be sent to the city of Irvine and to the Estill County Fiscal Court and ask that both local governments assist the city of Ravenna in the upkeep of the Veteran's Memorial Park. He said that people from all over the county use the park on a daily basis and he thought it would be nice if each local government would contribute \$1,000 per year for the upkeep of the park.

Jim Richardson stated, "The county and the city of Irvine are both under financial duress, just like we are. We will set up road blocks and collect the money if we have to."

The second reading of the 2012-2013 amended budget was read during the meet-

ing, as well as the second reading of the 2013-2014 budget, and both were accepted by the council.

Newly elected councilwoman Amy Crowe questioned \$16,140 worth of miscellaneous receipts that were listed in the monthly financial report. City clerk Susan Lay explained that it was money collected from the surplus sale as well as a check that had been deposited into the account.

Van Cleve asked what the miscellaneous expenses were that were listed in the financial report and Lay informed the council that \$41 of the money was to reimburse Mayor Tipton for cleaning supplies and the rest of the money was to pay off a bill with Sam's Club.

"We're paying the debts off a little at a time so that's a good thing," added Mayor Tipton.



Micah Adams won the greased pig contest in the eleven to fifteen age category during Old Fashion Night. Photo by Cathy Dawes

Obituaries

- Hallie Walters Banks, 70
- Wilma Jean King Hall, 85
- Darrell Gene Hollingsworth, 47
- Henriella Thomas, 93

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