

From the Presidents Desk...
Dean Holmes, TAHU President

Our May meeting was held at the main campus of WakeMed Hospital System here in Raleigh. This has become an annual event at TAHU and something we look forward to with great anticipation.

This year we heard about a great community program called Energize!, a 12 week "boot camp" for children at risk of diabetes and other obesity-related health problems. Diet, exercise, and nutrition are integral parts of the program, and parents are required to participate alongside their children. It's no secret that children (and adults) on average are not physically active as in years past, so programs such as Energize! attempt to restart healthy habits with children and their parents.

I would also like to thank Reid Waller and Assurant for being a co-sponsor of the meeting.

Our last meeting before summer break will be on Tuesday, June 8th at Brier Creek Country Club when we will be installing next year's officers and board. Join us for a legislative update lead by David Smith. We all are getting a ton of information about healthcare reform, and David is going to help us put it all in perspective.

Planning for our fall golf tournament is in full gear, taking applications and sponsorship opportunities. Please contact Reid Waller for details at reid.waller@assurant.com.

It has been a pleasure serving as TAHU president this year and I know there are great days ahead for this chapter and our organization.

Have a great summer!

Dean Holmes
Triangle Chapter President

State Legislative Report

Rufus Langley - TAHU Law & Legislation Chair

They're Baaaack! Our state legislators are back for the "short" session. This is mainly to consider the budget. Our lobbyist, Robert Paschal, has provided us with following report on items of interest in the insurance areas.

Several matters of interest were introduced during the opening days of this legislative session, and they are as follows:

HB 589 - Insurance and State Health Plan Cover Hearing Aids and Autism. This legislation is a mandate and would require every health benefit plan and the State Health Plan to provide coverage for one hearing aid per hearing impaired ear up to \$2,500 per hearing aid every 36 months. Additionally, the State Health Plan would be required to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism. The House and Senate passed differing versions of this legislation during the 2009 session, and this bill has been sent to conference committee so that House and Senate conferees can iron out the differences between the two versions of this bill. The primary sponsors of this legislation are Representatives England, Alexander, Wiley and Glazier.

HJR 1674 – Authorizing Resolution/Protect Healthcare Freedom. This bill is at this point a blank bill, meaning that a few lines of legislation have been introduced simply as a placeholder until the full details of the bill can be sent to bill drafting and inserted into the legislation filed with the Clerk. The bill will be entitled "An Act to Protect the Freedom to Choose Health Care and Health Insurance." It is a Republican-sponsored initiative, and the primary sponsors are Representatives Stam, Tillis, Barnhart and Burris-Floyd. I will report to you again as the full text of this bill is filed.

HB 1704 – Implement Long Term Care Partnership Program is the result of an off season study, and was introduced by Representatives Weiss, Farmer-Butterfield, Pierce and England. It would implement a long-term care partnership program, and would ensure that North Carolina's long-term care insurance laws comport with long-term care partnership provisions in the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Both the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of Insurance would be heavily involved in implementing and managing this program, and my information indicates that both strongly support it.

One new piece of legislation will be required to address recent developments involving **risk pools**. Under the newly enacted federal healthcare legislation, a federal risk pool has been created. It will go into effect on July 1, 2010, and a total of \$5 billion has been appropriated in federal funds to provide coverage under the risk pool. North Carolina's share of these funds will be \$145 million.

Governor Perdue and Insurance Commissioner Goodwin have designated North Carolina's High Risk Pool to be the administrator of the federal program, and Michael Keough, Executive Director of Inclusive Health, has been designated as the contact person to work with the federal Department of Health and Human Services to implement and oversee the federal risk pool in North Carolina.

The enabling legislation which provided various powers to North Carolina's Risk Pool did not provide the power to administer a federal Risk Pool, therefore, legislation will be needed to add a provision authorizing the North Carolina Risk Pool to serve as administrator for the federal Risk Pool. Representative Verla Insko will introduce the bill to provide the North Carolina pool with the appropriate authority to manage the federal pool, and I will keep you advised as the federal pool comes on line.

The federal pool will provide greater benefits than the state pool and will cost less, but there is a catch. Eligibility criteria for the federal pool requires that individuals go completely without coverage for six months before being eligible to join the federal pool. There will be no pre-existing condition provision and no limitation on benefits payable during the lifetime of enrollment. Rates will be 100% of the standard risk rate, in contrast to the current rate level of the North Carolina pool, which is 150% of the standard risk rate.

Next TAHU Meeting
June 8, 2010

Brier Creek Country Club
9400 Club Hill Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617

[Brier Creek Country Club](#)
[Google Map Directions](#)

Topic: Legislative Update
Speaker: David Smith

[Register Online](#)

TAHU June Luncheon Sponsorship



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

www.bcbsnc.com

New TAHU Members

TAHU welcomes our new members and their (sponsor):

- Jeanne Hess (NAHU)
- Frankie Satterfield-Vaughan (Michele Saunders)
- Brenda White (Teri Gutierrez)
- Cristobal Wong (Teri Gutierrez)

TAHU Financial Reports
Tony Gutierrez, TAHU Treasurer

The latest TAHU financial reports are available anytime online at:
<https://accounting.quickbooks.com>

Login Name: **tahumembership**
Password: **triangle**

You can see a variety of reports including profit & loss, balance sheets, invoices, budget vs. actuals, check and deposit details, and much more.

Save The Date!!!!



Upcoming Events.....

June 2010

TAHU Luncheon

Date: June 8, 2010
Time: 11:30 am
Location: Brier Creek Country Club

July 2010

No Meeting

August 2010

TAHU Meeting

Date: June 10, 2010
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

September 2010

TAHU Charity Golf Tournament

Date: September 29, 2010
Time: 11:30 am
Location: [Lonnie Poole Golf Course](#)