

# ADVOCATE

**CTA**

**Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association**

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April 2011

## CTA DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

The following was approved by the CTA State Council of Education at its April meeting. OMTA will be working with other local associations to implement as much of this plan as possible and will be sending updates through the building reps as to what role you can play.

May 9-13, 2011, will be a week of escalating action ending in a bold statewide unifying activity. The entire week of action will involve a broad coalition of the Education Coalition (including California State PTA, California School Boards Association, School Administrators, School Employees, SEIU, County Offices and County Administrators, School Business Officials and Superintendent of Public Instruction), parents, all other labor unions, and faith and community groups. **The week begins and ends with a group of educators (with others invited to join) taking over the State Capitol.**

To guide our internal organizing through this week of action, we are using the acronym

### L.E.A.R.N.

**L**egislative **E**very Parent **A**ppreciation and Allies **R**evenue **N**ot Business as Usual

#### MONDAY, MAY 9

Focus on **LEGISLATIVE** activities

- Calls, visits, e-mails, target lawmakers in critical areas, voter registration tables on college campuses

#### TUESDAY, MAY 10

Reach out to **EVERY PARENT**

- Phone calls, fliers, letters home, walking neighborhoods, leafleting, mall grade-ins, videos

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Use Day of the Teacher to **APPRECIATE educators and ALLIES**

- Partner with PTA to thank educators, field trips to fire stations, campus honor tents to recognize faculty and staff, and other ally activities.

...Thursday & Friday Schedule on page four

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*Rick McClure*

Gulp, gulp. That's the sound of me eating crow. In my last Advocate, I predicted that the legislature would approve the Governor's initiative to allow voters to approve or disapprove the extension of current taxes set to expire on June 30. As we all now know, the legislature did not agree to put the issue to the voters -- leaving everyone to ask the question "What now?" On the cover of this issue, I've reproduced for you, in part, the plan that CTA has for putting pressure on the legislature to simply vote to approve the extension of those taxes. That vote will still require the same two Republican votes in each house of the legislature, obviously a tough sell for them. The consequences to our schools if they don't though is terrible to imagine. Many districts in the state will probably be



forced into insolvency. Dramatically shortening the school year is a real possibility (we haven't shortened it here in OMSD, but many districts have taken as much as 5 days off the school year), perhaps to as few as 150 days.

OMTA will be working with other local associations to implement the State of Emergency Plan developed by CTA. You can count on me, and the rest of the OMTA leadership, to be working with you and everyone else in the education community to do everything possible to avoid the consequences of further deep cuts to our school budgets. I hope all of you will do your part to help in this cause. It is our profession as well as the future of our students that is at stake here.

By the time you read this, we will be in the middle of testing season. In the last issue of the Advocate I made the case that the new academies and distinctive schools might change the culture here of testing being the end all and be all of what we do. My hope is that the first casualties will be the so called Sprint to the STAR, 30 day plans, and other activities designed to improve test scores. Too often, these activities steal precious time from instruction --time that could be better used by teaching the standards and the regular curriculum, rather than just prepping kids for the test. Even worse, most of these activities require teachers to do busy work for someone else to prove that they are spending every minute of their time prepping kids for the test. Imagine if all the time and energy that goes into these activities was instead spent on collaborating with your colleagues on how to increase what kids are learning. Imagine if that classroom time spent teaching kids how to bubble was instead spent on meaningful instruction. Imagine if teachers actually had professional control of the classrooms they are responsible for. My prediction is that test scores would take care of themselves in those circumstances, exactly my argument for the academies and distinctive schools. And teaching subjects other than ELA and Math? Imagine being able to teach art, and music, and social studies, and science, and PE. How much better off our kids would be for it?

Finally, I think I must speak about the attack nationwide on public employee unions. In states like Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, and Florida, Republican Governors and Legislatures are passing, or attempting to pass, legislation essentially ending public employee collective bargaining rights. They are doing this under the guise of being fiscally responsible and taking away some of the "outrageous" salaries, benefits, and pensions of public employees, including teachers. Many of you have seen similar attacks here in California on our pension system. These attacks take a grain of truth and then expand it to make it seem as if we are robbing the public blind in our greed and disregard for the taxpayers. Losing our collective bargaining rights is unlikely to happen here in California, but it should alarm all of you that it's happening in other states. I try very hard to avoid taking partisan positions in my job as OMTA President, but I'm going to make an exception here. If any of you need a reason to vote Democratic, this is it. In the states I mentioned here, there is a war going on against teachers and it's being fought by the Republican Party. I would suggest everyone give some thought to that the next time you vote.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTH NET

### **What is changing?**

OMTA is changing medical plan carriers effective July 1, 2011. Health Net will replace Anthem Blue Cross as vendor. Kaiser HMO plan options will remain.

### **How will this affect employees?**

The plans offered through Health Net are similar to the plans OMTA currently offers through Anthem Blue Cross. Members currently enrolled in Anthem Blue Cross will need to enroll in one of the Health Net plans.

### **What type of plans are being offered by Health Net?**

Health Net is offering an Elect Open Access (EOA) HMO plan to replace the Anthem Blue Cross HMO plan. And Health Net is offering a PPO medical plan to replace the Anthem Blue Cross POS plan.

### **How does the Health Net Elect Open Access (EOA) HMO plan work?**

When you first enroll in Health Net's Elect Open Access (EOA) HMO plan, you must select a Participating Physician Group (PPG) from Health Net's list of PPG's. Then you must choose a contracted Primary Care Provider (PCP) within that group. Each member of your family can choose a different PCP and a different PPG to fit their individual's needs.

A Primary Care Provider (PCP) can be a Pediatrician, General Practice, Internal Medicine, or Family Practice. Your PCP will coordinate your routine and hospital care. You will also need a referral to see a Specialist within your Medical Group.

**See PPO specialist without a referral.** The EOA HMO plan allows self-referral flexibility to PPO physicians, practitioners and health professionals statewide at a slightly higher copayment (you may also need claim forms for certain services). Certain services requiring hospitalization, outpatient surgery, maternity care and other therapeutic care must be coordinated and authorized by your PCP in order to be covered by Health Net.

### **Do I need a referral for Mental Health or Substance Abuse care if I am enrolled in the EOA HMO plan?**

No, in California, HMO members have direct access to mental health care. Members should call the toll free Member Service number on their ID cards to initiate the access to care.

### **What do I do if I am in the middle of care on July 1, 2011 and I am using the same provider that I had under the Anthem Blue Cross HMO plan?**

If the provider is a Specialist, you will need to get a referral from the Primary Care Provider in that Medical Group.

### **Are all of the doctors I am currently using in the HMO plan through Anthem Blue Cross in the Health Net network**

Almost all of the doctors you are currently using are on the Health Net EOA HMO plan. You should go to [www.healthnet.com](http://www.healthnet.com) and click on Provider Search in the upper right hand corner to make sure your doctors are contracted with Health Net.

### **What do I do if I am in the middle of care on July 1, 2011 and my Doctor is not contracted with Health Net?**

Again most of the HMO providers you are currently using are also contracted with Health Net. However, if you are in the middle of a course of treatment (i.e. chemotherapy, pregnancy, etc.) you can complete a Transition of Care form and submit it to the Health Net Patient Management Department. They will review your request and notify you if you can continue to see your current provider until the course of treatment is complete.

### **Will I get a new ID card on July 1, 2011?**

Yes, you and each covered dependent will receive a new ID card that will have your Primary Care Provider's name on it if you enroll in the EOA HMO plan. If you enroll in the Health Net PPO plan you will receive a new ID card for each covered dependent as well. You will present this ID card to your physician and also at the pharmacy.

### **Are there any changes to the Prescription Drug plan?**

**Yes**, the current Medco prescription drug plan will be replaced by the new Health Net plans. The Health Net EOA HMO plan duplicates the current benefits (copayments) on the prescription drug plan through Medco. However, effective July 1, 2011 the Health Net prescription plan will be administered by Health Net and CVS Caremark.

### **How will my Retail and/or Mail Order Drug plan work under the new Health Net plans?**

Because this is considered a new policy, you will need to get a new prescription from your physician and submit it Health Net.

A longer version of this FAQ can be found at [www.myomta.org](http://www.myomta.org), along with other important information about the new Health Net Plan.

## OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

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Vineyard: Lesia Beasom  
Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik  
Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren  
Music/PE/APE: David Moody  
Speech: Susan Yee  
Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz  
Early Ed Center: Leticia Martinez  
HFB: Vacant

...Learn Schedule from page one

THURSDAY, MAY 12

Promote the need for **REVENUE** for schools and other essential public services

- Educate members and community about TAX FAIRNESS, "Refrain from Shopping" day, day without higher education dollars, campus lunch-ins.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

It's **NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL**. Declare a STATE OF EMERGENCY.

- 300 volunteers needed for a sit-in in the State Capitol (beginning Monday, May 9) and regional rallies calling on legislators to "free the occupants by passing the tax extensions and protecting public education and other essential public services. Regional rallies are being planned for Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Fresno or Bakersfield, Inland Empire, San Diego.

## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

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OMTA  
Executive Board Meeting  
May 2nd  
Rep Council Meeting  
May 16th

OMSD  
School Board Meetings  
May 5th & 19th  
7 pm at Central School

