

Smith County Mental Health Parity Opt-Out Notice to all Eligible Employees and Covered Members/Enrollees on the Smith County Health Plan

**Notice to Enrollees in a Self-Funded Nonfederal Governmental Group Health Plan
For Plan Years Beginning On or After September 23, 2010**

Group health plans sponsored by State and local governmental employers must generally comply with Federal law requirements in title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act. However, these employers are permitted to elect to exempt a plan from the requirements listed below for any part of the plan that is "self-funded" by the employer, rather than provided through a health insurance policy. The County of Smith has elected to exempt The County of Smith Employee Health Plan from the following requirement:

*Protections against having benefits for mental health and substance use disorders be subject to more restrictions than apply to medical and surgical benefits covered by the plan.

The exemption from these Federal requirements will be in effect for the plan year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015. The election may be renewed for subsequent plan years.

The County of Smith Employee Health Plan is not provided through insurance. Smith County elects under authority of section 2722(a)(2) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, and 45 CFR 146.180 of Federal regulations, to exempt The County of Smith Employee Health Plan from the following requirements of title XXVII of the PHS Act:

Parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

This election has been made in conformity with all rules of the plan sponsor, including any public hearing, if required. A copy of the notice to plan enrollees will be provided to plan enrollees in accordance with 45 CFR 146.180(f.) If you have any questions regarding this election, please contact Human Resources at (903) 590-4642.