#### **Helping Consumers Access Affordable Health Care**

Personal Assistance Within Reach

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Jan Plummer, Navigator Program Coordinator, NC Get Covered Presentation -May 1, 2015

## **Rural Challenges**

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Factors affecting access to coverage and utilization of insurance

Reaching uninsured consumers in remote areas for enrollment or exemptions Post enrollment challenges with premium payment methods Family glitch- unaffordable employer spouse and dependent plans Internet access- large percentage with no email address or computer access New Tax Filing Status

Auto enrollments in January caused people to terminate their insurance

because they could not pay their new premium amount.



### Navigators are Explorers

That search for new in-roads to the uninsured

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Discovering the hot-spots for rural uninsured

Strategic placement in 21 in-kind offices within agencies serving low income, unemployed, uninsured throughout the 8 county region.

Layoffs and Closures

Flexible hours and days for appointments- personal scheduling

Posting pull tab flyers in grocery stores, mobile home parks, community centers, staff break rooms, transit buses, free clinics, country stores, hair and nail salons, fast food restaurants, bulletins

WORD OF MOUTH



### **Navigators are Post Enrollment Liaisons**

Plan selection and enrollment are just the beginning...

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Refer people in "gap" to community health clinics Over half newly insured = Lower health literacy, longer appointments Assist consumers with finding a PCP or changing PCP Medicaid terminations = Insurance terminology challenges Premium Payments = Challenges in a cash-based economy Auto-Enrollments = Termination of Coverage because can't catch up Reporting Life Changes – Confusing Results Refer Consumers to Free Tax Assistance Explain letters, EOBs, call insurance company

# Loyalty and Reliance

Consumers return to the Navigator who helped them before Throughout the year!

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Limited to no phone time, voicemail capability, computers, internet access Advise on payment- pre-paid credit cards, cashiers checks, no bank account People drop in for us to read and explain mail from issuers and Marketplace Explain/Print Insurance Cards Help to find or change a Primary Care Physician Explore inconsistencies with medication cost, i.e. generics, birth control Switch plans to a different issuer Registering on the Issuer Website for auto draft Finding a Network Provider for Unique Conditions Explain referral process to PCPs for the HMO plans



#### **Typical Escalations** Navigators escalate cases to the Marketplace and \* \* \* contact Insurance Company **Typical Post Enrollment Problems and Questions** I. Have not received a bill several weeks after enrollment-no record of payment Provide a Payment Submission Form to us? 2. I reported a change in my address, income, phone number... and my plan terminated. Termination/ Nomenclature of plan names is confusing. 3. We can't afford the premium they charged us in January, so we let our insurance terminate-can you help us? Can issuers consider allowing people longer to catchup? We explain auto-enrollment We call 4. I was assigned a doctor by United- but the practice is not accepting new patients. practices to see who is accepting new patients 5. There are limited doctors in my county so I can't get the plan I want. Coventry not offered far west, United limited

A Community Action Agency

# Navigator TOOLBELT

Helpful Tools on hand to Assist Consumers

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No Out of Pocket Cost Flyer

FPL Chart

Authorization on account for a long as possible

Coverage to Care Maps/Books

Community Health Clinic/Dental Brochures

**Community Resources List** 

Mountain Projects, Inc. Resources

Insurance Company Websites- Demonstration

**Physician Directory** 

Folder, follow-up appointment!



