

## Health Insurance Literacy Initiative (HILI) Status

December, 2015

### Professional Development

#### Smart Choice Basics™

The HILI team offered a webinar for **54** Extension Educators from **9** states who paid a fee to become certified to teach the new *Smart Choice Health Insurance Basics™* (SCB) program. About half agreed to participate in the pilot test from November, 2015 – January, 2016. Results will be used for program modifications.

*Smart Choice Basics™* differs from the more comprehensive *Smart Choice Health Insurance™* curriculum. SCB can be done in one hour and focuses on the “why” of health insurance.

The teaching team consisted of **Maria Pippidis, Mia Russell** and **Virginia Brown**. Congratulations on a smooth webinar that received multiple compliments.



#### Smart Choice Health Insurance™ Update Webinar

On October 1, the HILI team offered an update webinar for **46** Certified Extension Educators. Participants were introduced to the results of the 2014-15 pilot test. They learned about new products being introduced in 2015-16. Some Certified Educators from participating states shared stories of their programming.

The HILI team thanks **Bao Nguyen** for his support with both of these webinars.



#### UME Faculty and Staff Update

**Mia Russell** conducted a briefing for UME faculty and staff on October 29. The briefing focused on how to make a smart choice during the fall health insurance open enrollment period. She shared key materials available to help everyone across UME.

The materials were also shared with the faculty and staff in the School of Public Health.

## Program Development

**Mia Russell** and **Virginia Brown** conducted a pilot test of *Smart Actions for Using Your Health Insurance*, a module of the forthcoming *Smart Use Health Insurance™* curriculum. HILI member, **Chris Garcia** from the UMD Residential Facilities Department arranged for **10** staff to be given time to participate.



**Lisa McCoy** moderated post-workshop focus group to learn how best to make the materials work for staff for whom Spanish is their first language. The curriculum will be translated into Spanish by the Graduate Interpretation and Translation Studies program with funding from a UMD Diversity grant.

## Scholarship

### Interviewed

**Bonnie Braun** was interviewed for an article on health insurance for BabyCenter.com.

### New Health Insurance Fact Sheet

We're pleased to announce that a new fact sheet authored by **Mia Russell** just completed the UME Publication Review Process. That fact sheet is entitled, *Why Health Insurance is Important* and is available at:

[www.extension.umd.edu/insure](http://www.extension.umd.edu/insure).

## Two Presentations

**Suzanne Barthlomeae**, **Mia Russell** and **Maria Pippidis** presented a poster entitled, *Health Insurance Literacy: Exploring Demographic Characteristics* at the National Association of Extension Family Consumer Sciences annual meeting.



They also presented a poster at the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education annual symposium entitled *Building health insurance literacy: Evidence from Smart Choice Health Insurance™*.

## Acknowledgement

This health insurance literacy initiative was developed with funding from University of Maryland Extension, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and University of Delaware Cooperative Extension.

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