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MONTEREY COUNTY KICKS OFF ENROLLMENT FOR OBAMACARE LOW INCOME HEALTHPLAN

Community and Labor leaders will join with Elected Officials, Natividad Hospital, County of Monterey, and low income residents of the County of Monterey to celebrate the kick off of the first days of enrollment into VIACARE, a temporary insurance plan that acts as a bridge to the expansion of MEDI – CAL in January 2014. Immediately after the press conference, a delegation of leaders will take their completed insurance applications and hand deliver their packets to the Natividad VIACARE enrollment team.

Event: Press Conference and Enrollment Action

When: Monday, March 4, 2013, 12:30p.m.

Where: Natividad Hospital front entrance, 1441 Constitution Blvd, Salinas

Who: Supervisor Simon Salinas
Supervisor Jane Parker
ULTCW Executive Board and St Mary's COPA leader, Mario Torres
St Angela Catholic Church COPA leader, Vivienne Moore
Monterey County Health Department Director, Ray Bullock
Natividad Hospital Director, Harry Weis
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council Executive Director, Cesar Lara
Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Alicia Hernandez-Sanchez
First Congregational Church of Santa Cruz, Pastor Dave Grishaw-Jones

Info: On January 13, 2013 the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted to implement a temporary low-income health program for the uninsured. After a lengthy delay, they approved the pilot program, VIACARE, which will act as precursor to the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Board of Supervisors, included a Maintenance Of Effort (MOE) of \$5.8 Million to cover nearly 600 County of Monterey residents and create a waiting list that will serve as pipeline for a January 2014 enrollment into Obamacare. Those eligible for the early insurance program, VIACARE, must meet the 100 % Federal Poverty Level income of \$931 per month or \$11,172 per year for a single person. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at the Natividad Hospital Gabilan Room, King City Department of Social Services, and Seaside Department of Social Services. Applicants must bring original documents, including California Drivers License; PG&E, Water, Rent receipts; proof of US residency such as a passport, birth certificate or naturalization papers; the most current pay stub ; Social Security card. According to health officials, there are more than 60,000 uninsured people in Monterey County. Of that population, 16,000 are eligible for the ACA expansion of MEDI – CAL. And of that group second group, 10,000 are now eligible for VIACARE and the early enrollment waiting list. Approximately, another 20,000 Monterey County residents qualify for the ACA healthcare exchange insurance plans that will available for higher income families in January 2014. Nearly 40,000 Monterey County residents are undocumented. Organizations like COPA, CLC, and SEIU ULTCW support an expansion of healthcare to also cover undocumented workers.