



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Employees

**FROM:** Michael R. Gargiulo

**DATE:** September 19, 2013- Revised 9/23/13

**SUBJECT:** New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options

In 2014, the health care reform law creates a new type of online marketplace for purchasing health insurance coverage. This marketplace is referred to as a Health Insurance Marketplace, or an Exchange. You are not required to purchase insurance coverage through the Marketplace, as Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is continuing to offer health coverage as explained below.

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is providing the enclosed notice to help you understand your health insurance coverage options that will be available to you starting in 2014. Beginning in October 2013, you will be able to find and compare health insurance plans through the Marketplace and your coverage may start as early as January 1, 2014.

If you purchase coverage through a Marketplace, you may be eligible for a federal subsidy that lowers your monthly premiums or reduces your cost sharing. However, to receive these federal savings, you cannot be eligible for health plan coverage through Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES that is affordable and provides "minimum value." This determination is made beginning January 1, 2014.

The availability of coverage through the Marketplace does not affect your eligibility for coverage through the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES's health plan. The enclosed notice provides information about Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES's health plan as it exists today. Information on Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES's health plan coverage for 2014 will be provided in connection with the plan's open enrollment period starting on November 1, 2013 and ending on November 30, 2013 for coverage effective on January 1, 2014.

Please contact David Stern, Risk Manager for additional information on the plan's coverage. More information on the health care reform law and the Marketplaces is available at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).