



Update on a Potential Transition to DataPath

Please forward this information to your employees who have accounts with Future Planning.

Like you, VEHI learned for the first time on Wednesday, March 7, of Future Planning Associates (FPA) decision to end administrative services for HRAs, HSAs and FSAs with school districts and supervisory unions.

We began work that very day, in conjunction with BCBSVT, to develop a research and action program to address the short- and long-term consequences of this momentous change. The latter included vetting a new TPA vendor, **DataPath**, which FPA proposed in its March 7th letter.

DataPath is the software company that FPA uses as a platform for its MySource card and online portal, which means, if school districts contract with DP, the transition should be relatively seamless.

A branch of DataPath administers HRA, HSA and FSAs, and performs this work for teachers and school personnel in Arkansas. It also has a "favored customer" relationship with that state's Blue Cross Blue Shield affiliate.

VEHI is working closely with DataPath and BCBSVT to get a **claims data feed** in place as quickly as possible. Before claims data can be sent electronically to DataPath, steps must be taken to protect the privacy of employees.

While you are not required to use DataPath, here are some reasons why it may make sense to do so, at least until the end of the calendar year, based on our research to date:

- DataPath has access to FPA enrollment data and plan designs, with minimal work required on the employer's end.
- DataPath uses the same online portal that members use today.
- Debit cards will not be reissued. Members will experience, however, a weekend "blackout" period while the data is converted to DataPath.
- DataPath has agreed to the same fee structures as FPA.
- DataPath has fully-automated, claims processing technology.
- DataPath is confident it can take on the volume of service and the current plan designs in place now.
- DataPath will take over all claims as of their effective date, with no run-out or further reporting required from FPA.

- DataPath will work with FPA, BCBSVT and VEHI to resolve outstanding problems incurred by employees and school districts between January 1 and May 31.

We understand the desire to move forward quickly, but, respectfully, we ask that you not make any final decisions until VEHI has a better understanding of the best viable alternative to FPA, at least in the short term, and has communicated that to you. And, as importantly, until we have finished our due diligence with Datapath.

This is the most pressing matter VEHI is dealing with now; everyone is focused on it and will stay focused until it is resolved. We are very aware of the problems and hardships FPA's actions have caused school employees, central office personnel, local unions and school boards.

In this emergency situation, VEHI is in the best position to do the research and have conversations with all affected school districts and local unions about the post-FPA future, and to disseminate what it learns widely, comprehensively, and in a timely and consistent manner.

Hang in there with us. At the end of our research, the decision as to which TPA to contract with still rests with the local parties.

Please let us know what more we can do for you.

This communication has been sent School Business Officials, Superintendents, Human Resources, Health Members, Local Union Leaders and School Board Chairs.