NEWS RELEASE

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HCCMCA Announces New Member --
State Of Alaska

Joining HCCMCA in the fall of 2016 brought the Division of Retirement & Benefits, State of Alaska, another step closer to achieving their health plan's mission "To supply high quality, sustainable health benefits for members."

Emily Ricci, Chief Health Policy Administrator for the Division, works in the Division to manage employee health plans. The Division administers the two AlaskaCare Health Plans, which cover approximately 16,500 state employees plus dependents, and another 69,000 retirees through public employees, teachers, and judicial retirees.

She explains, "The Coalition has done a wonderful job of negotiating the discounts we need, so we can take advantage of savings. The rising costs of health care is a big issue, for all payers, and the HCCMCA's unique model makes it easy to access those savings quickly." Discussions regarding the State of Alaska joining the Coalition had been taking place since before 2012, so "it really was quite a big deal to finally be able to join," added Ricci.

One of the most immediate benefits of working with the Coalition came by taking advantage of its annual Fall Health Fairs. Formerly, the State had been sponsoring and running its Health Fairs internally; the Coalition's involvement was a great help, especially for the retiree population, who are immediately able to benefit from the Fairs.

In addition, the State will also be leveraging savings negotiated with Alaska Regional Hospital, as well as the Surgery Center of Anchorage. Both will prove to be a significant source of savings, very welcome in an environment where all savings are critical for the State.

Looking to the future, Ricci anticipates the Division will utilize other options offered by the HCCMCA. "We are very excited that we've been able to become members of the Coalition, and look forward to working with everyone to continue to save money while providing high quality health benefits."