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News

Up to speed on health care reform

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Major Hospital Foundation offers roundtable on health care reform

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Major Hospital Foundation is sponsoring a community roundtable to provide information and answers to small businesses about the new health care reform bill that recently was signed into law.

Scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Intelliplex Medical Arts Conference Room, roundtable hosts Todd Plymate, president of Plymate Inc., and John Coffin, president of Atmosphere Dynamics Corp. and a member of the Major Hospital Foundation board, know that many business owners are concerned about what the health care reform bill will mean for their companies. They are inviting business owners and their representatives to join them for lunch and a frank discussion.

Reservations are required by Tuesday since the foundation is serving lunch. Any individuals or groups interested in attending should R.S.V.P. to Angela Gill, Major Hospital Foundation executive director, at (317) 421-0361.

Jack Horner, Major Health Partners president and CEO, will present "an objective and factual" talk about the changes health care reform will mandate for businesses.

"All kinds of conflicting information is circulating, and we hope to provide some clarity with our presentation," Horner said.

Gill said Horner is extremely well-versed on health care reform and a valuable source of information on the complicated bill.

"People have a lot of questions," Gill said. "They want to know when the changes start and how the bill affects different sizes of businesses. There are penalties if you don't comply and benefits if you do."

In addition to providing information on health care reform, Gill has an ulterior motive. She also wants the community to learn more about the Major Hospital Foundation and how it supports Major Hospital.

Gill is targeting various groups in Shelby County every month for a different roundtable discussion, and each meeting will include a short presentation on the Major Hospital Foundation.

"We're offering something of specific interest to each demographic group, and we certainly don't plan to ask for charitable contributions at these roundtables," Gill said. "This is purely an opportunity to get to know about the foundation and to learn about something that affects them at the same time."

Gill added that all charitable organizations, including Major Hospital Foundation, need to make certain that donors understand the purpose of the charity and how it would use their donations. The foundation has provided money for the Healing Garden at Benesse and provides grants to the hospital for special projects.

For example, the foundation provided a \$10,000 grant to purchase prescriptions for in-patients who cannot afford their medication, especially when not having it is going to place the patient at risk for needing to return for another expensive hospital stay that the medicine could prevent.

The grant has assisted 55 patients with 93 prescriptions since it was first offered in April of 2009.

"We want to give people the opportunity to see what the foundation and the hospital offer to our

community," Gill said.

The foundation is planning a different roundtable each month this year, and Gill is considering programs aimed at manufacturing, professionals, service businesses, funeral homes and others. Groups interested in booking a presentation should contact Gill so she can schedule a roundtable topic that will appeal to them.

The first roundtable focused on the agricultural community and was hosted by foundation board members Bruce Everhart, Gregg Graham, Louis McIntire and Kevin Nigh.

Guests received free cholesterol screen and blood pressure checks along with breakfast and tours of the Benesse Oncology Center in Intelliplex. The speaker was Linda Wessic, vice president of nursing, who spoke about the recent Thomson-Reuters Top 100 Hospital Award and the cardiac care service coming to Major Hospital.

Jim Shafer, president of the Major Hospital Foundation, believes that the roundtables are an excellent way to spread the word about the hospital and the work that it does in the community.

For additional information, contact Gill at (317) 421-0361.

IF YOU GO

WHO: Major Hospital Foundation.

WHAT: Community Roundtable on health care reform; lunch included.

WHERE: Intelliplex Medical Arts Conference Room, 2455 Intelliplex Drive.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

R.S.V.P.: By Tuesday to Angela Gill, (317) 421-0361.

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