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## **Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange Hosts a Second Round of “Healthy Chat” Events**

### *Seven Local Sessions Will Answer Questions, Encourage a Dialogue*

HARTFORD, CT – February 7, 2013 – Individuals, families, small business owners, advocates and brokers are invited to participate in “Healthy Chat” events hosted by the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (the Exchange). Each of the seven upcoming statewide town hall-style events is free and open to the public. The events are an opportunity to ask questions and engage in a dialogue about the big changes that could benefit health insurance buyers with Exchange leadership and health care reform experts. These town-hall meetings are a continuation of the “Healthy Chat” series launched in the second half of last year, which was recognized by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight as being a national best practice for outreach and engagement.

The Exchange is a quasi-public agency chaired by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and is a key component of the federal Affordable Care Act. The first of the 2013 Healthy Chat events is Tuesday, February 19 at the Norwich Technical High School, with a 5:00 p.m. registration.

Kevin Counihan, CEO of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, will lead the discussion at all events. He’ll be joined by a panel of industry experts, and a member of the NBC-30 news team who will moderate. The sessions will be in English, with a Spanish translator present at each event. “Our October 2013 launch is fast approaching. We want to inform the public of our continued progress, and answer questions from residents who want to learn more about how the Exchange can benefit them as they prepare for open enrollment to begin,” said Counihan, “We are working aggressively to expand access to affordable, high quality health care coverage, and we are committed to educating individuals across our entire state about the new options available to them.”

Information about the free events, including pre-registration details, is available on [www.healthychatct.com](http://www.healthychatct.com). Healthy Chat locations, dates and times include:

**Norwich**, Tuesday, February 19, Norwich Technical High School, 7 Manhan Drive, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Willimantic**, Thursday, February 21, EASTCONN Capitol Theater, 896 Main Street, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Manchester**, Tuesday, February 26, Manchester Community College, Arts Sciences & Technology Building, SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium, 60 Bidwell Street, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Meriden**, Thursday, February 28, Four Points by Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Torrington**, Tuesday, March 5, Torrington Elks Lodge #372, 70 Litchfield Street, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Danbury**, Thursday, March 14, Western Conn. State University, Student Center Theater, 181 White Street, Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Enfield**, Tuesday, March 19, Holiday Inn Enfield, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd., Registration 5:00 p.m., Event 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The Exchange will post Healthy Chat updates and information to Twitter and people can follow virtually on Twitter via the hashtag #HealthyChatCT.

### **About The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange**

The Connecticut Health Exchange (the Exchange) was created by the Connecticut Legislature in 2011 and is a quasi-public agency to satisfy requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act. The mission of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange is to increase the number of insured residents in Connecticut, promote health, lower costs and eliminate health disparities. Our vision is to provide an on-line eligibility, shopping and enrollment experience for state residents and small businesses.

The Exchange will ensure that participating health plans available during October 2013 open enrollment meet certain standards and facilitate competition and choices by rating the quality of each plan. Individuals and families buying coverage through exchanges may qualify for premium tax credits. The exchanges also will coordinate eligibility and enrollment with state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. More information is available by visiting [www.ct.gov/hix](http://www.ct.gov/hix)

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