



ISSUES IN RETIREMENT PLANNING

Director Cameron was appointed by the NAIC to chair the Annuity Suitability Working Group. This group is tasked with reviewing and recommending revisions to the Suitability in Annuity Transactions Model Regulation, which was written to ensure that consumers purchasing annuities are appropriately informed at the time of purchase.

During the most recent NAIC meeting, Director Cameron participated in a panel discussion on



the need for retirement planning. Defined benefit pension plans have steadily declined since the early 1980s. In 1979, 38 percent of private sector employees participated in traditional pension plans. Today, only 14 percent of workers have access to these types of plans.

Further, defined contribution plans – e.g. 401(k) plans and IRAs – have not always performed to expectations. More importantly, less than half of working households make contributions to private retirement accounts. The median retirement savings account balance for working-age households totals \$2,500. Currently, the leading source of income for most retired workers and their spouses is Social Security.

TWILIGHT CRITERIUM

UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling team participated in the Downtown Boise Twilight Criterium cycling race on July 15. Pictured with the team is six-year-old Reagan Cornwall who was diagnosed last year with progressive, bilateral, sensorineural hearing loss. Reagan received a UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation grant, providing her with hearing aids. The Foundation provides grants of up to \$5,000 annually for children who have medical needs not covered by commercial insurance.



HONORS



October Nickel, Insurance Analyst Sr., has completed the LOMA 335 "Operational Excellence in Financial Services" course and earned the designation of Accredited Insurance Examiner from the Insurance Regulatory Examiners Society.

Individuals who achieve this status have demonstrated commitment to the insurance regulatory profession. The Department congratulates October on this outstanding accomplishment.

ASK THE DOI

Can a bail agent pay an inmate for referring business to the bail agent?

As of July 1, 2017, a new subsection of the Idaho Insurance Code prohibits bail agents from compensating or agreeing to compensate incarcerated individuals for influencing other incarcerated individuals to engage the bail agent's services. Compensation includes payment in any form to any person.

The reason for this legislation is to assure that inmates in a county jail are not put in a position to be pressured by other inmates to do business with certain bail agents to the exclusion of other bail agents.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

One of the most challenging duties of the State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fatal fire without becoming emotionally involved. Such a fire took the lives of four individuals in Donnelly. On July 1, the Donnelly Fire Department responded to a fire at the Tamarack Resort Community. They found a residence fully engulfed in fire, and soon realized four of the five occupants did not make it out. Responders immediately requested assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Conditions following the initial fire deteriorated, making the structure unsafe and forcing investigators to call for heavy machinery to remove hazards. This investigation continues with the hope it will soon be resolved.



"Everyone is looking for answers to this tragedy," said State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. "We owe the families of the victims a complete and thorough investigation in the hope that the information we provide will help with closure. Conclusions might not come on the timelines that people are used to, but we are dedicated to leaving no stone unturned while endeavoring to keep investigators safe."



LICENSING

Resident Licensing Exam Pass Rates are now posted on the [website](#) for public view. Idaho requires licensing candidates to pass the general exam and the state specific exam separately to qualify for licensure. Posting exam results is a recommended standard of the NAIC.

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE AND INSURANCE EXCHANGES

How does Your Health Idaho affect Medicare coverage?

- A person who is eligible for Medicare does not use the exchange to get health and drug coverage. The exception is that a Medicare-eligible individual who pays a premium for Part A or who has end-stage renal disease (kidney failure that requires dialysis or transplant) can enroll in an exchange plan instead of Medicare.

Your Health Idaho does not sell Medicare, including:

- Advantage plans, Part D prescription drug plans, Medicare supplemental insurance (Medigap)

If a person becomes eligible for Medicare while enrolled in an exchange plan, they may want to drop the exchange plan and enroll in Medicare for the following reasons:

- A late enrollment penalty may apply and coverage gaps may occur if a person does not enroll in Medicare when they first become eligible
- A plan purchased on the exchange will not supplement Medicare coverage
- A person eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A will no longer be eligible to receive premium assistance on the exchange

SHIBA counselors can answer questions about how the exchange does or does not affect someone eligible for Medicare. Your Health Idaho can help with the timing of when to disenroll from an exchange plan to avoid coverage gaps. Individuals are encouraged to contact their agents for information about specific plans.

COMPANY ACTIVITIES

Company Activities adopted examination reports for Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho and Western Community Insurance Company for the period ending December 31, 2015. A report for Idaho Counties Risk Management Program Underwriters was also adopted. Reports of examination can be viewed on our website.

Third Party Administrators licensed in Idaho were required to submit annual filings to the Department no later than July 1 for review.

Analysts continue to review filings for Idaho domestics, holding companies, and registered self-funded health plans.

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.