The U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau

presents

the fourth in the 2009 series of

Wi$eUp Teleconference Calls

Health Insurance:
A Key Component in Financial Planning

Friday, July 31, 2009
2:00pm to 3:00pm EDT

Register online at www.dol.gov/wb/mentor2.asp or by phone at 202-693-6767 to receive the toll free call-in number and passcode.

Do you understand how health insurance works and what your options are for getting and keeping coverage? What factors should you consider when evaluating a policy? What rights do you have as a health insurance consumer? How do life changes impact your health insurance coverage? Do you know what COBRA continuation health coverage is and how to qualify for benefits? What are your options for obtaining free or reduced price medical care? Do you understand the tax aspects of health insurance, such as itemized deductions for medical expenses and health savings accounts?

Join us to hear the following speakers discuss planning for healthcare expenses:

Eliza Navarro Bangit, J.D., is a Senior Research Associate at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Her research focuses on federal and state laws governing the private insurance market, with a focus on access, affordability and adequacy of coverage. Other areas of focus include the examination of state initiatives in covering the uninsured including state high-risk pool programs, subsidies for private health insurance coverage and small employer tax credits, the regulation of association health plans and multiple employer arrangements, and the proliferation of fraudulent
health insurance coverage promoted through associations. Prior to joining the Institute, Ms. Bangit served as Program Associate at the Institute for Health Policy Solutions, where she conducted a wide array of data research and analysis involving employer-based health insurance coverage and initiatives to expand health insurance coverage to children and families. Ms. Bangit received her J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, and her M.A. and B.A. from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Deborah Perry has worked for the Department of Labor’s Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for 11 years and is currently the Senior Technical Advisor for the Office of Participant Assistance in Washington, DC; however, she works out of the Dallas Regional Office. Prior to becoming the Senior Technical Advisor, Ms. Perry was the Supervisory Benefits Advisor that managed the Technical Assistance and Outreach Group in the Dallas Regional Office. Ms. Perry graduated cum laude with a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, has a M.S. in Accounting from Bentley College Graduate School and a B.A. in History from Boston University. Additionally, she has earned the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) designation and is a member of both the Texas and Dallas Bar Associations.

Jennifer Sicking, Certified Public Accountant (CPA)/Personal Financial Specialist (PFS), is a tax accountant with Ken Hughes & Associates in Flower Mound, Texas. Her experience includes work in several industries, but her practice is heavily weighted in healthcare, computer technology, and real estate. Ms. Sicking’s services include federal and state tax return preparation, physician practice management consulting, and software consulting. Ms. Sicking graduated cum laude with a Masters of Science degree in Accounting with a specialization in Entrepreneurship from the University of North Texas. She is a guest lecturer at the University of Texas at Arlington, and a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Texas Society of CPAs.

A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

Transcripts and audio recordings of past Wi$eUp Teleconference Calls are available online at www.wiseupwomen.org.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau’s Wi$eUp project is dedicated to helping workers reduce debt and increase savings and investments. In addition to bimonthly teleconference calls, the Wi$eUp project consists of a curriculum offered online and in classroom settings and an online “Ask the Experts” feature. For more information, including how to register to become a Wi$eUp participant, expert, or service provider, please visit www.dol.gov/wb or www.wiseupwomen.org. Also, now check out Wi$eUp on YouTube www.youtube.com/WiseUpWomen.