

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vrakas Advances Consumer Driven Health Plan

Waukesha, Wis. – County Executive Dan Vrakas announced today that he is proposing new health care options for Waukesha County employees in 2007 that would allow them to participate in a Consumer Driven Health Care Plan and a Health Savings Account.

Consumer Driven Health Care plans have become more prevalent in the marketplace because they are designed to reduce healthcare spending by empowering employees to make educated and informed choices about their medical needs. Such plans also provide employees with tools and information regarding healthcare costs, quality and alternative treatment options.

“We are taking a cue from the private sector and looking at options that we believe will save taxpayer dollars in the long run,” stated Vrakas.

Through the Health Savings Account, employees will have access to a tax-free savings plan that is funded by employee and employer contributions. Employees will be able to decide how and when to use their funds, which they can access to pay for out-of-pocket expenses such as deductibles and co-pays or can be rolled over to the next year to build those funds for retirement expenses.

“I view these new healthcare options as the beginning of a long term approach and a way of partnering with employees to meet the needs of the County and its employees as they prepare for addressing retirement costs and plans,” added Vrakas.

Vrakas introduced a county ordinance that will offer the new health care options to all non-represented employees. The ordinance will be placed on the County Board Personnel Committee agenda for action on August 15.

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