

THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

OCEAN COUNTY
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191



Joseph H. Vicari
Freeholder Director

(732) 929-2002
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September 27, 2011

Dear Mayor Kelaher:

As the Freeholder Chairman of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, I need your help to spread the word that the Medicare Open Enrollment period is earlier this year: **October 15 through December 7, 2011.**

During this enrollment period, people with Medicare can sign up for a new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan or switch their current plan. This is the time to review and make changes to coverage however the final selection for 2012 must be made by **December 7, 2011.**

A recent poll of older adults regarding their knowledge of Medicare that was conducted for the National Council on Aging (NCOA) indicated that 46% of the people who responded have never shopped around for better Medicare coverage, 41% thought they couldn't save any money, 35% were confused by Medicare and 16% didn't understand Medicare at all. Medicare plans change every year, and so do our health needs, therefore; older adults really need to explore their options.

I am happy to inform you that help is available for seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries with the enrollment process or to answer any questions about the program. Trained Medicare counselors are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, 1027 Hooper Ave., Bldg. #2, First Floor, Toms River, at the County Connection at the Ocean County Mall from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and at a number of our Outreach locations throughout the county by calling **732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899.**

It is my sincere hope that you will share this important information with your residents and assure them we are here to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph H. Vicari".

Joseph H. Vicari
Freeholder Director

JHV/DJM/sk