

# City of Lewiston Press Release

**Members of the Media:** Below is a press release wherein **Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald encourages residents to speak out against Anthem’s new insurance plan—a plan which significantly locks out Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) and its affiliates, including more than 300 physicians, from Anthem’s approved provider list.**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**August 5, 2013**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CONTACT:**

Dottie Perham-Whittier  
Community Relations Coordinator  
City of Lewiston  
513-3000, X3205  
TTY/TDD: 513-3007  
[www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MAYOR MACDONALD URGES RESIDENTS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST ANTHEM INSURANCE PLAN**

**LEWISTON:** The Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance will conduct a series of hearings around the State in August on a proposal from Anthem Insurance to move its existing individual policyholders into a new plan, a plan which significantly locks out Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) and its affiliates, including more than 300 physicians, from Anthem’s approved provider list. Anthem has made a deal with MaineHealth in Portland to use only hospitals and doctors affiliated with MaineHealth and to exclude CMMC and five other hospitals (and their affiliated doctors) that compete with MaineHealth from its “narrow network”

Under the new federal law, effective January 1, 2014, all individuals must have health insurance, and federal subsidies will be available to help low-income individuals to pay for the premiums. However, Anthem is proposing that anyone who wants to participate in its federally subsidized plans must use the “narrow network” plans that exclude CMMC and its doctors. If approved, this change could force residents covered by individual or small group Anthem health plans to change doctors and to travel significant distances to receive care.

**According to Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald, “This anti-competitive plan is designed to make it more difficult for Anthem patients to seek local medical care and services, will force many to change physicians, and will negatively impact Central Maine Healthcare, one of our region’s largest employers. This proposal is bad for patients, bad for CMMC, and bad for the entire Lewiston/Auburn region. It is clearly intended to advance the financial interests of**

***Maine Medical Center and the Portland region to our detriment. I urge all area residents to speak out against it.”***

The local public hearing as to whether this proposal is ***“in the best interest of the policyholders”*** will begin at **5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2013, in Kirk Hall at Central Maine Community College, 1250 Turner Street, Auburn.**

Residents are also encouraged to call or contact Dan Corcoran, President of Anthem – Maine to complain about how Anthem and MaineHealth are compromising local access to care in Maine.

Anthem – MAINE  
2 Gannett Drive  
South Portland, Me 04106-6911  
(207) 822-7000.

For Further Information, Contact: Robert Macdonald, Mayor, 212-8867.

###