



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds

Eric O. Stanchfield  
SECRETARY

801 W Badger Road  
PO Box 7931  
Madison WI 53707-7931

1-877-533-5020 (toll free)  
Fax (608) 267-4549  
TTY (608) 267-0676  
<http://etf.wi.gov>

**CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 21, 2004  
**TO:** Group Insurance Board  
**FROM:** Steve Grob, Manager, Optional Plans  
**SUBJECT:** Optional Vision Program– Status Update

This memo provides an update on the status of the optional vision care insurance program provided by Spectera. It is informational; no action is necessary.

**Background**

Under authority granted to the Group Insurance Board (Board) by Wis. Stats. § 40.03 (6) (b) and pursuant to § 20.921 (1)(a) 3. and ETF10.20, the Board is responsible for approving optional group insurance plans to be offered via payroll deduction. At its April 2003 meeting, the Board approved the Spectera vision plan to be offered to State employees and retirees.

**Discussion**

During the summer of 2003, Spectera increased the number of network providers participating in the vision program. There are currently over 500 providers within Wisconsin; approximately 200 are private practice providers, the rest are retail providers. At the same time the Department of Administration Central Payroll and Spectera developed an automated payroll deduction and reporting system that simplifies the effort required from agencies. Marketing materials were reviewed and approved by staff and the Board's disclaimer language was appropriately included.

The enrollment period for this program was held last fall coinciding with the Dual-choice enrollment but with a deadline extending through November. Twenty-four state agencies opted to participate in the program and 2,132 employees enrolled. Including the 632 annuitant contracts, there are over 5,000 covered lives in the program.

The enrollment process and first few months of coverage proceeded with no notable problems. Typical start-up problems including finding and correcting miskeyed documents, providing additional provider education, and improving processes have been addressed. Staff attended the April payroll council meeting to seek input on the status of the program. As a result of that meeting, there will be additional education and clarification regarding using the benefits with next year's enrollment material. Upon request from payroll council staff, Spectera has adjusted their procedures to allow on an exception basis issuing refund checks directly to agencies, rather than balancing through the reporting system.

Reviewed and approved by Tom Korpady, Division of Insurance Services.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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