Workshop launches insurance campaign

Post staff report

A workshop Saturday about creating a health care system that helps all Americans will kick off a weeklong series of events in Greater Cincinnati aimed at getting health insurance for everybody in the country.

The April 29-May 7 "CoverCincy" campaign is part of a national "Cover the Uninsured Week" project to get health insurance for 46 million Americans who don't have it.

The sponsors of the effort, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other organizations, are urging people to tell Congress that health insurance should be its top priority.

In Cincinnati, the campaign begins Saturday at the downtown Cinergy Center, the convention center, with an 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. workshop sponsored by the Citizens' Health Care Working Group.

The public is invited to participate in discussions about how to make health care work for all people.

The weeklong campaign will climax on May 7 with a Medicaid enrollment blitz.

On that day, volunteers will help people enroll in Medicaid at Kroger stores in Amelia, Bond Hill, Cherry Grove, Covedale, Hamilton, Hartwell, Mount Orab, Norwood, Price Hill, Queen City, Westwood and Woodlawn.

During next week, numerous meetings and events are scheduled throughout the area. For specific information, go online to the Web site: CoverCincy.org.

"The uninsured are clearly not getting necessary medical care and they are suffering adverse health outcomes as a result," said Trey Daly, a senior attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati who is chairman of the Cincinnati campaign.

"In Cincinnati, we are adding our voice to all those throughout the nation who will be calling for reliable and affordable health coverage for all Americans during Cover the Uninsured Week."

Major sponsors of the Cincinnati campaign are Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, The Health Alliance and Mercy Health Partners.