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# Fort Bend County Podcasts

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## Podcast Episode 53 – New Year, New Start

January 22, 2026

**\*\*Disclaimer\*\*-Please note, anything that is said in the podcast does not supersede actual plan or program languages, and anyone wishing for specific information in regard to coverage should go directly to the plan documents found under risk management on eConnect.**

**Gina:** Welcome to this week's Benefit Detective Podcast. I'm Gina.

**Wendy:** And I'm Wendy.

**Gina:** Happy New Year, everyone! It's a new year with a new start.

**Wendy:** Yes. We have a new PBM called Smith Rx.

**Gina:** We sure do. Can you tell us more about it, Wendy?

**Wendy:** Sure! Effective one 01/01/2026, we switched from CVS Caremark to Smith Rx. By now, you should have received your new insurance card in the mail from Boon Chapman with the new Smith Rx logo and information.

**Gina:** If you haven't, you can download it by going to the Boon Chapman portal or by creating an account through Smith Rx member portal, which is found through the Smith Rx website.

**Wendy:** Quick reminders. During annual enrollment, if you completed the spousal eligibility verification form and it stated pending for your spouse's employer, we need that certificate of credible coverage and or proof of non-eligibility form. That deadline is coming up. It is due 01/31/2026. Make sure you check your January paychecks to see that your elected benefits and your benefit premiums are correct.

**Gina:** That's right. Because those that made changes during last annual enrollment, unless otherwise specified by risk management, those benefits are currently effective.

**Gina:** Also, flexible spending accounts start over as of 01/01/2026. So keep in mind, you have to have a qualifying child in order to be eligible for dependent care reimbursement.

**Gina:** Don't wait and be too late! Get a head start with Nicotine Cessation for the 2027 discount on medical insurance.

**Wendy:** So, contact the Fort Bend County Employee Clinic to enroll at (281) 633-7760.

**Wendy:** If you have a midyear status change, for example, marriage, birth, loss of coverage, don't forget you have thirty days from the date of the event to add that dependent to your Fort Bend County benefits.



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**Gina:** And for additional information on what is a qualifying midyear status change, please visit risk management's website on eConnect under benefits.

**Gina:** 1095s will be available for download for all retirees and active employees at the February. Paper 1095s will be mailed out the March. Please note that this information is not needed to file taxes.

**Gina:** Boon Chapman will be here on January 27 to help answer any and all questions on bills, eligibility, claims, and much more. So, give Risk Management a call to reserve your appointment time today.

**Gina:** Well, that's a wrap for this week's Benefit Detective Podcast. I'm Gina.

**Wendy:** And I'm Wendy. Listen for our next podcast.

**Gina:** And remember, the Benefit Detectives are here to help.