

The Health Council of South Florida (Council) is one of eleven local health councils created by FS 408.033 to coordinate health services planning across the state. Insofar as the Health Council of South Florida has determined that health services are and must be based on a foundation of ethics, our strategic goals emphasize reducing disparities in access to care, improving health promotion, and minimizing the effects of HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties (District XI). <sup>[1]</sup> The Council's legislative priorities for action by Florida legislators during the 2011 Legislative Session are therefore:

<sup>[1]</sup>*Ethical standards to Promote the Health of the Community: A white paper on community health, February 2003*

### **HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUSED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

#### **Local Health Councils**

**MAINTAIN** level funding of local health councils statewide to a minimum of \$999,999 (\$90,909 to each of the 11 councils) as provided in FY 10-11.

Residents and health care providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties have derived substantial benefits from the Council serving as the preferred partner for strategic and community-based planning.

For the past five years, the Health Council has maintained a favorable 88% program expense ratio allocated to direct program activities.

#### **AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP)**

**MAINTAIN** level funding at \$13.8 M to sustain current enrollment levels.

AICP is a federal matching funds program. The program's current overall cost-effectiveness or Gross Value Added Ratio is approximately \$5.00 for every dollar invested. In 2009-2010, AICP provided private health care services for 3,024 clients throughout Florida.

Over the past five years, the total estimated AICP cost savings to Medicaid was \$63.3 M.

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[www.MiamiDadeMatters.org](http://www.MiamiDadeMatters.org)

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*To be the source of unbiased health data; quality program planning; management and evaluation; strong community partnerships in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties; and targeted healthcare policy at the local, state, and national levels.*

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## HEALTH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ALIGNED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### ACCESS TO CARE

- **Jackson Health System**

**Ensure** Public Health Trust and county government take the necessary steps to continue Jackson's health services in a high-quality, sustainable system.

- **Sovereign Immunity for Volunteer Physicians**

**Support** efforts to maintain funding for the Volunteer Health Provider Program, which grants sovereign immunity to free clinics and the volunteer health professional who serve in them.

- **Sovereign Immunity for Medicaid Providers**

**Support** efforts to grant Medicaid providers sovereign immunity, which increases access to care for Medicaid patients.

- **Sovereign Immunity for University of Miami Physicians in the Jackson Health System**

**Ensure** legislation to grant the University of Miami sovereign immunity. This relief from the Florida Legislature is critical for our University of Miami Miller School of Medicine faculty and the viability of the partnership in place between the University and Jackson Health System, as they strive to continue providing world class care and services to Floridians.

- **Simplification and Streamlining of KidCare Program**

**Support** continued efforts to simplify and streamline of KidCare Program application process.

- **Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged**

**Ensure** the funding directed through the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program is adequate, in the amounts indicated in the General Appropriations Act, to continue serving over 819,000 Floridians.

**Maintain** funding of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund through allocations from the State Transportation Trust Fund.

- **Certificate of Need (CON)**

**Oppose** further efforts to eliminate the Certificate of Need program and any other deregulation proposals that would impair quality and/or raise the cost of medical care in South Florida.

- **Free Clinics**

**Educate** policymakers about the significant role that free clinics play in Florida's healthcare safety net.

**Pursue** efforts to reduce the requirements for retired physicians licensed in another state to obtain a Florida limited volunteer license to practice solely in a free clinic.

- **Scope of Practice of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners**

**Support** efforts to expand the scope of practice for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners allowing them to prescribe controlled substances and practice to the full extent of their education and training.

- **Academic Health Sciences Center**

**Ensure** bonding request for the Academic Health Sciences Center that will consolidate the Miami-Dade County Health Department's administrative and program offices at FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus. This Center is expected to generate 66,000 new jobs and have an annual economic impact of more than \$8.9 billion by 2025.

*\* The building will be financed through a bond and repaid through the Department of Health lease payments.*

## HEALTH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ALIGNED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### ACCESS TO CARE - CONTINUED

- **Rural Health**

**Maintain** state funding of rural health networks at current levels and **support** rural health network initiatives geared towards providing access to comprehensive primary care for residents of Monroe County.

**Support** legislation and funding to promote increased availability of health professionals interested in rural practice and to address issues of availability of healthcare and healthcare planning in Monroe County.

### MEDICAID REFORM

**Ensure** the development of a financially sound Medicaid Reform plan which enhances current levels of service and addresses specific problem areas requiring improved strategies.

*\*Services requiring enhancement and problem areas requiring change are outlined in the attached list as identified by the Health Council of South Florida Medicaid Reform Task Force.*

- **Medicaid Waiver and Low-Income Pool Program**

**Maintain** Medicaid Waiver and current levels of general revenue appropriations to the Low Income Pool (LIP) program.

- **Medicaid Fraud**

**Support** efforts to decrease fraud in Medicaid funding and addressing innovative strategies that reduce Medicaid fraud through enhancement of technology, regulation, and enforcement.

- **Medical Homes**

**Support** efforts to establish a patient-centered medical home pilot.

- **Long Term Care Reform**

**Support** the utilization of the 40 years experience of the cost-effective, non-profit aging network under Medicaid Reform.

**Ensure** the preservation of State General Revenue Programs that provide meals and supportive services to thousands of older adults in Miami-Dade Counties.

**Maintain** level funding for palliative care to ensure extended support for hospice and long-term care.

### HEALTH PROMOTION / DISEASE PREVENTION

- **Distracted-Driving**

**Support** legislation that would prohibit and penalize drivers for engaging in any non-driver activity with potential for distraction from the primary task of driving which markedly increases the risk of a traffic accident. The three main types of distractions are: visual, manual, and cognitive.

*\*Pending FY 2011 legislation-"The Distracted Driving Prevention Act" would bring \$94 million in incentives to states that ban dangerous activities such as texting and cellphone use behind the wheel.*

- **Health Disparities**

**Maintain** Closing the Gap funding to support 21<sup>st</sup> century linguistically and culturally competent strategies designed to reach emerging majority and underrepresented populations.

- **Obesity**

**Support** policies and strategies for preventing and/or reducing obesity through physical activity and nutrition.

*\*Obesity is the #1 healthcare problem in the U.S. and costs the healthcare system billions each year.*



## Health Council of South Florida 2011 State Legislative Agenda

*As the preferred partner for strategic planning in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, the Health Council of South Florida would like to thank the key stakeholders below for their collective efforts in arriving to a consensus regarding the legislative priority issues for this community.*

<p><b>HCSF Board of Directors Executive Committee</b></p> <p>Jose Perdomo, MHSA, JD, Edward Rosasco, FACHE Debra S. Walker, PhD Nelson Lazo, MBA</p> <p><b>Members</b></p> <p>Kim Bassett, MBA, BSN Melvyn Fletcher, MD, FAAP Pascal Goldschmidt, MD Rev. Ted Greer, Jr., Ph.D Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH Arianna Nesbitt, MPSA Fred Stock, MSW, LNHA</p> <p><b>HCSF Policy, Planning &amp; Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>David Saltman, LCSW, <i>Chair</i> <a href="mailto:saltmand@fiu.edu">saltmand@fiu.edu</a></p> <p><b>HCSF Ethics Committee</b></p> <p>Deacon Albert Mindel, MSFS, <i>Chair</i> <a href="mailto:amindel@bellsouth.net">amindel@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>Florida Association of Free Clinics</b></p> <p>Mark R. Cruise, FAFC <i>Chair</i> <a href="mailto:mark@freeclinicsolutions.com">mark@freeclinicsolutions.com</a></p>	<p><b>Medicaid Reform Task Force</b></p> <p>Catalyst Miami Florida CHAIN Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Health Choice Network Health Council of South Florida Health Foundation of South Florida Jackson Health System Miami Children’s Hospital Miami-Dade County Health Department Miami Foundation Palm Breeze Assisted Living Facility South Florida Regional Extension Center Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work Tenet Health Corporation</p> <p><b>Legislative Forum Conveners</b></p> <p>Marisel Losa, MHSA <i>President &amp; CEO</i> <i>Health Council of South Florida</i></p> <p>Steven E. Marcus, EdD <i>President &amp; CEO</i> <i>Health Foundation of South Florida</i></p>	<p><b>Legislative Forum Presenters</b></p> <p>Laura Goodhue <i>Executive Director</i> <i>Florida CHAIN</i></p> <p>Robert M. Levy <i>Robert M. Levy &amp; Associates</i></p> <p>Max B. Rothman, JD, LL.M <i>President &amp; CEO</i> <i>Alliance for Aging</i></p> <p>Donna E. Shalala, PhD <i>President</i> <i>University of Miami</i></p> <p>Anna Small, Esq., ARNP, CNM <i>Florida Nurses Association</i></p> <p><b>Legislative Forum Contributors</b></p> <p>Baptist Health South Florida Catalyst Miami Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition Health Choice Network Jewish Community Services of South Florida Miami Dade College Medical Campus Miami-Dade County Health Department Miami-Dade County Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning</p>	<p><b>Legislative Forum Contributors Continued</b></p> <p>Miami-Dade County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Miami Children’s Hospital Miami Children’s Foundation Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor Mount Sinai Medical Center South Florida Hospital &amp; Healthcare Association United Way of Miami-Dade University of Miami University of Miami Miller School of Medicine</p> <hr/> <p><b>Health Council of South Florida Contact Information:</b></p> <p>Marisel Losa, MHSA President &amp; CEO <a href="mailto:mlosa@healthcouncil.org">mlosa@healthcouncil.org</a></p> <p>Vanessa Rodriguez Director, Advocacy &amp; External Affairs <a href="mailto:vrodriguez@healthcouncil.org">vrodriguez@healthcouncil.org</a></p> <p>Cristina Tuero Health Services Coordinator <a href="mailto:ctuero@healthcouncil.org">ctuero@healthcouncil.org</a></p>
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