



*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.*

## Summer 2009 Newsletter

### In This Issue

[STATE OF FLORIDA HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[The Levy Update](#)

[AIDS Insurance Continuation Program \(AICP\)](#)

[Florida Association of Free Clinics](#)

[Black Infant Health Community Collaborative](#)

[MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[Miami Matters Initiative](#)

[Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade](#)

[Hospital Preparedness Consortium](#)

[Miami-Dade Health Action Network](#)

[Miami-Dade Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning](#)

[HHS Initiative - Team Miami](#)

[MONROE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[Local Coordinating Board for Transportation Disadvantaged](#)

Dear Community Partners:

*There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still...*

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt



Forging ahead with new and exciting projects, the Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) embraces change while anticipating the dynamics necessary to stay current and innovative in today's changing healthcare environment. In this summer edition of our newsletter, you will find information on the groundbreaking paths the HCSF has chosen to explore. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C. as an advocate during the "Free Clinic Legislative Day", I was delighted to meet with legislators and decision makers who admired the HCSF's continued efforts to unite community partners, cheered HCSF's ability to leverage community resources effectively and encouraged HCSF to continue instilling its message of diverse communities sharing one voice of improved health and wellness.

During my travels, I engaged in panel discussions at Princeton University's Center for Migration and Development Conference entitled "Conquering the Divide: Revisiting the Links between Culture and Healthcare". This conference reflected the culmination of a two-year

[HEALTH COUNCIL  
COMMITTEES](#)

[Ethics Committee](#)

[Policy, Planning and  
Advisory Committee \(PPAC\)](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[Quick Links](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Join Our List](#)



research project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Attendees from all parts of the healthcare industry gathered to answer the question "What is Ailing the U.S.?" and discussed problems and solutions regarding "Healthcare and Immigration-Access and Barriers."

Lastly, I invite you to read about the development of the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC) and join us as we embark on our journey with a new initiative entitled *Miami Matters*. As the unbiased health planning organization for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, the HCSF seeks further opportunities to address the barriers that many of these communities and its residents face with access to basic and deserved healthcare.

Best regards,

Marisel Losa, MHSA

President & Chief Executive Officer

Health Council of South Florida, Inc.

## STATE OF FLORIDA HIGHLIGHTS

### THE LEVY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*by Robert M. Levy, Legislative Consultant to HCSF*

Healthcare highlights from the past legislative session in this issue of the Levy Update include:

- Full funding of the Medicaid Aged and Disabled (MEDS-AD) and Medically Needy Programs, which were scheduled to expire on July 1, 2009 was approved
- Maintained funding for KidCare, and increased coverage to include mental health and dental
- Reallocation of \$40,395,709 from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund and \$65,969,126 to Grants & Aids Medicaid
- Increase in cigarette taxes by \$1 per pack. This is slated to raise close to \$1 billion per year to fund a variety of health care needs
- Passed Senate Bill 462, requiring the Department of Health to design and establish a comprehensive electronic system to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances by December 1, 2010
- Passed House Bill 481, providing an additional penalty for violation of provisions related to school buses, racing on highways, and reckless driving. These funds are deposited into the Administrative

Trust Fund administered by the Department of Health. The trust fund provides funding for verified trauma centers in Florida

[Click here](#) to view the full Levy Legislative Update.

For additional information concerning legislative healthcare issues, please contact Bob Levy at Robert M. Levy & Associates, Offices in Tallahassee (850) 681-0254 and Miami (305) 758-1194.

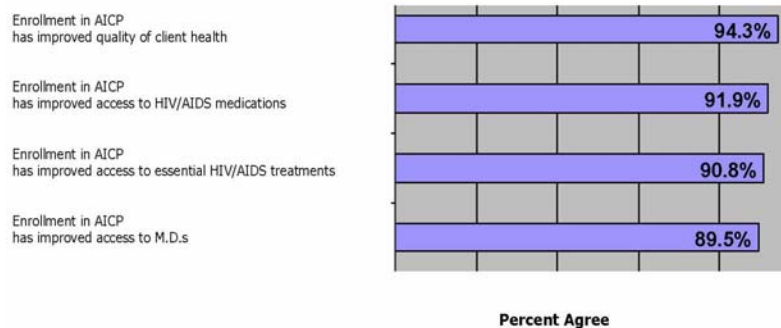
## AIDS INSURANCE CONTINUATION PROGRAM (AICP)



### AICP Client Survey

The AICP distributes a survey to all actively enrolled clients every year. Information obtained from this survey provides a mechanism for gaining insight into the clients' perceived value of AICP and the quality of care received through the program. The survey incorporates a series of key quality-outcomes which include client perceptions concerning (a) personal quality of health; (b) intensity of health care services and utilization; and (c) quality of access to specialized HIV/AIDS care. In 2008, the client satisfaction rating on AICP Overall Quality was 94.3%.

**Perceived Impact of AICP Enrollment  
on Quality of Health and Improved Access 2008**



### AICP Provider Workshop

The Council's third AICP provider workshop was held in Orlando, Florida on May 14, 2009. A majority of the AICP provider network community-based organizations from

across the state participated in the event and the outcome of the workshop was highly successful as evidenced by the program evaluation. During the workshop, providers received an update on AICP in addition to a program overview from the U.S. Department of Labor on Federal COBRA rules and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). AICP providers also had the opportunity to share best practices and network with other workshop participants. AICP technical assistance was provided regarding program enrollment protocols and policy. Additionally, providers were given the opportunity to discuss other program concerns during the open-forum session of the workshop. Key recommendations from the workshop will be considered by the Council in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health Bureau of HIV/AIDS.



Miguel Mudafort, HCSF, Francia Alcala, HCSF, Rebecca McGaughey, Big Bend CARE Inc, Robert Sandrock, HCSF, Vanessa Naranjo, HCSF

For additional information, please contact Robert Sandrock, HIV/AIDS Division Senior Manager/AICP Director at (305) 592-1452, ext. 111 or via email at [rsandrock@healthcouncil.org](mailto:rsandrock@healthcouncil.org)

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF FREE CLINICS (FAFC)



Under the leadership of the Health Council, the FAFC is working with the National Free Clinic Association and the Miami-Dade Health Action Network (MD-HAN) to support free clinics which provide medical homes for the underserved, uninsured persons residing in the State the Florida.

The first issue of the FAFC newsletter was distributed in June and provides extensive information regarding membership, news, a spotlight on a local community clinic, and grant opportunities. To view the newsletter, the Health Council invites you to visit the FAFC website at <http://www.healthcouncil.org/freeclinics.asp>.

For additional information, please contact Manivone Douangdara, Community Health Specialist, at (305)592-1452, ext. 120 or via email at [manie@healthcouncil.org](mailto:manie@healthcouncil.org).

## BLACK INFANT HEALTH COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE (BIHCC)

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) participated in the Black Infant Health Community Collaborative (BIHCC) Partners in Leadership Conference held June 11-13, 2009 at the Marriott Westshore, Tampa, Florida. The statewide conference focused on the importance of the mother's environment for the growth and development of their fetus and infant; incorporating this knowledge in the implementation of current community action plans for decreasing perinatal health disparities; and developing low cost community-based strategies targeted to the mother's environment. Key note speakers included Dr. Stanley Graven, Emeritus, University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Babies, and Janine Lewis, President, Lewis Health Solutions. The visioning and goal setting

session was facilitated by Kayla Kirsch, President, Leapfrog Consulting. The conference culminated with each of the counties represented drafting strategies to reduce local perinatal health disparities for the year 2009-10.

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

### MIAMI MATTERS INITIATIVE

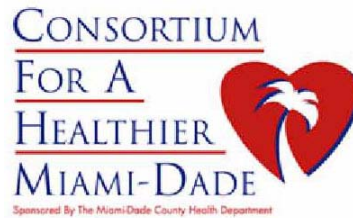


The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) is leading the development of the *Miami Matters* website that will provide an easy to understand presentation layer of health, environmental and other quality of life indicators for community stakeholders. This groundbreaking, cost-effective tool will replace the previously printed community health report card that was developed with the vision of updates every three years.

The HCSF initially presented *Miami Matters* to the community in May 2009. A formal presentation is pivotal to understand the full potential of this tool and to raise awareness among our partners of the vast benefits a website like this would provide for our community.

For additional information, please contact Vanessa Rodriguez, Community Health & Advocacy Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 118 or via email at [vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org](mailto:vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org).

## CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE



The Health Council, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Health Department and the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, recently completed an assessment of tobacco prevention and cessation efforts in the County. This process involved creating a Community Asset Inventory and conducting an evaluation of Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Activities undertaken by the Consortium in 2008-2009.

This will be used to improve the Consortium's management of tobacco and cessation initiatives and enhance its membership through outreach and education in the community.

For further information please contact Shelley-Anne Glasgow-Wilson, Senior Community Health Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 107 or via email at [sglasgow@healthcouncil.org](mailto:sglasgow@healthcouncil.org).

## HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM



The Miami Dade County Hospital Preparedness Consortium Steering Committee (MDCHPC) met on April 6, 2009 to review and revise the Consortium's strategic plan. This strategic plan will serve as a guide for the Consortium's processes and strategies from 2009-2012. Highlighted in this revised plan is the new MDCHPC mission:

"To establish a forum for all Miami-Dade County healthcare agencies that will allow for collaborative all-hazards planning and preparedness activities."

Ongoing MDCHPC activities will align with this new mission to enhance collaborations and effective emergency planning.

For additional information about the Consortium, please

visit <http://www.mdchospitals.org>.

For further information, please contact Jersey Garcia, Senior Community Health Specialist, at (305)592-1452, ext.106 or via email at [jgarcia@healthcouncil.org](mailto:jgarcia@healthcouncil.org).

## MIAMI-DADE HEALTH ACTION NETWORK (MD-HAN)



The Miami-Dade Health Action Network (MD-HAN) celebrated its first year anniversary at its May 14, 2009 full Network meeting. Florida State Surgeon General Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros was in attendance for this significant celebration. Dr. Viamonte Ros highlighted the importance of MD-HAN and its relevancy with the current need for coordination of care for the uninsured in Miami-Dade County. Additionally, the Miami-Dade County Health Department Administrator, Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD provided a snapshot of MD-HAN's accomplishments and upcoming projects which include the procurement of funding for the development of an electronic medical record system for Saint John Bosco Clinic and Good News Care Center, members of the MD-HAN. The Network also established three standing committees that will identify and drive MD-HAN goals and objectives in the areas of information technology, finance, and standards and performance.

If you are interested in joining the Network and participating in these exciting projects, please contact Jersey Garcia, Senior Community Health Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext.106 or via email at [jgarcia@healthcouncil.org](mailto:jgarcia@healthcouncil.org).

## MIAMI-DADE OFFICE OF COUNTYWIDE HEALTHCARE PLANNING (OCHP)

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) continues to collaborate with the Miami-Dade Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning to assess the perspective of small business owners towards the perceived cost/benefits of health insurance. The survey will be disseminated over the summer and will target small businesses that are registered with the County's Small Business Administration. The results will be used for future countywide healthcare planning efforts.

For additional information please contact Shelley-Anne Glasgow-Wilson, Senior Community Health Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 107 or via email at [sglasgow@healthcouncil.org](mailto:sglasgow@healthcouncil.org).

## HHS INITIATIVE

### *Team Miami: A Community Partnership for Evidence-Based Solutions to Improving Elders' Health*

The HCSF is proud to announce that Team Miami received recognition in the Ethnic/Cultural Diversity category of the 2009 Aging Innovations Awards presented by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for its community partnership to implement the HHS Hispanic Health Disparities Initiative on diabetes. This effort represents the first collaboration between the aging network, community health planners and service delivery organizations to partner in addressing issues of disparities affecting elder Hispanics.

Team Miami created and implemented a plan for addressing health outcomes disparities between Hispanic and other non-minority elders concerning diabetes. Team Miami, led by the Alliance for Aging, includes the Health Council of South Florida, the Miami-Dade Public Health Department, Citrus Health Network, Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Centers, Inc., St. John Bosco Clinic, and the office of the Miami-Dade County Mayor. Team Miami targeted zip codes that had the highest levels of preventable hospitalizations for diabetes and secured funding from the Health Foundation of South Florida to fund chronic disease self-management programs in these areas. Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Centers, Inc. and Citrus Health Network are the two members of the team that are now providing these programs.

For additional information please contact Vanessa Rodriguez, Community Health & Advocacy Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 118 or via email at [vrodriguez@healthcouncil.org](mailto:vrodriguez@healthcouncil.org).

## MONROE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

### MONROE COUNTY LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (LCB)

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) continues to serve as the official designated planning agency for the Monroe County Local Coordinating Board For Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB). The LCB has put its support behind an initiative of the Alliance for Aging to address access to transportation for the elder population in Monroe County. The Alliance is exploring the feasibility of putting in place the 'Volunteer Friends' transportation model, developed by the Beverly Foundation and the Independent Living Partnership.

HCSF issued a request for proposals for Community Transport Coordinator for Monroe County as part of its duties. Proposals will be accepted until August 17, 2009, and the RFP documents are available on the HCSF website.

For further information please contact Shelley-Anne Glasgow-Wilson, Senior Community Health Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 107 or via email at [sglasgow@healthcouncil.org](mailto:sglasgow@healthcouncil.org).

## HEALTH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Health Council of South Florida's Ethics Committee, chaired by Deacon Albert Mindel, has been successful in its efforts to recruit new members and to re-strategize the Committee's approach in order to best serve the Miami-Dade and Monroe County communities. The Committee is dedicated to identifying meaningful projects that will best utilize the expertise of its members.

The Committee recently adopted a new mission statement:

"To serve as an unbiased forum and resource to identify and address ethical issues related to health status, access to healthcare, and health disparities in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. This will be accomplished through education, advocacy, and collaboration with community partners."

This Committee meets on the third Thursday of every other month in the Health Council Conference Room. If there is an issue that you would like the Committee to address, we welcome community participation and input.

For additional information please contact Vanessa Rodriguez, Community Health & Advocacy Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 118 or via email at [vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org](mailto:vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org).

### **POLICY, PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PPAC)**

The Health Council has been working diligently to re-establish the Policy, Planning and Advisory Committee (PPAC) is comprised of a dynamic group of individuals who represent physicians, business leaders, government representatives, consumers, purchasers, educators, social service providers, managed care representatives, nurses, and legal professionals. This Committee assists with the Council's major health planning responsibilities, which include the development of the District XI community health profiles, assisting in identifying priorities for the Council's legislative agenda and other policy recommendations as requested by the Board.

For further information please contact Vanessa Rodriguez, Community Health & Advocacy Specialist, at (305) 592-1452, ext. 118 or via email at [vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org](mailto:vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org).

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**Monday, August 10, 2009 and  
Monday, September 14, 2009**  
Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade  
Executive Committee  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Health Council of South Florida Conference Room  
8095 NW 12th Street, Suite 300  
Doral, FL

**Wednesday, August 12 - Friday, August 14, 2009**  
Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association  
2009 Annual Conference  
Hilton Walt Disney World  
1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard  
Lake Buena Vista, FL

**Thursday, August 17, 2009**  
Health Council of South Florida  
Ethics Committee  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
Health Council of South Florida Conference Room  
8095 NW 12th Street, Suite 300  
Doral, FL

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009**

Miami-Dade County Hospital Preparedness Consortium Steering  
Committee  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
General Meeting  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Miami-Dade County Health Department  
8600 NW 17th Street, Suite 200  
Doral, FL

**Thursday, October 8, 2009**

MD-HAN Steering Committee Meeting  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Miami-Dade County Health Department  
8600 NW 17th Street, Suite 200  
Doral, FL

**Wednesday, October 14, 2009**

HPC Clinical & Ethical Issues Committee Meeting  
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM  
Adler Realty Conference Room  
1200 NW 78th Avenue, Suite 109  
Doral, FL

**Thursday, October 22, 2009**

ASTAC Meeting  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Holiday Inn  
1355 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL

**Wednesday, October 28, 2009**

HPC Exercise Committee Meeting  
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM  
Adler Realty Conference Room  
1200 NW 78th Avenue, Suite 109  
Doral, FL

---