

Health Council of South Florida, Inc.

Spring 2004 Newsletter



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SECOND BIENNIAL HEALTH POLICY DINNER TO BE HELD ON MAY 18, 2004

This year's Biennial Health Policy Dinner will focus on one of the most challenging and pressing issues today - the topic of patient safety. We are honored to have Paul Barach, MD, MPH as the keynote speaker. Dr. Barach is the Director of the Miami Center for Patient Safety at the University of Miami. The event is scheduled for May 18, 2004 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Hotel Sofitel.

Dr. Barach is an internationally recognized expert in the area of patient safety and was previously director of Patient Safety Curriculum at the University of Chicago's Pritzker Medical School. He was also recently appointed editor of the journal, *Quality and Safety in Healthcare*. As the director of Miami's new center, Dr. Barach is bringing patient safety to the forefront as a critical factor in the provision of quality health care. The Miami Patient Safety Center conducts research and serves as a resource where other medical centers can come for guidance in building safety programs.

The Governor's Task Force on the Access of Affordable Health Insurance highlighted the importance of reducing preventable medical mistakes in its Final Report. In addition, the Miami Patient Safety Center recently submitted its reports to the Agency for Health Care Administration on *Quality Indicators for Consumer's Use in Selecting Hospitals* and a *Study on the Establishment of a Patient Safety Authority*. Dr. Barach will be speaking on these important policy and technical resource developments.

Presenting sponsors for the event are Baptist Health South Florida and Jackson Health System. Sponsorships for the health policy discussion dinner are available at the following levels:

- Gold Sponsor - Contribution of \$1,500
- Silver Sponsor - Contribution of \$750
- Table Sponsor - \$600

If you or your organization would like more information about attending or sponsoring the Health Policy Dinner, please contact Priscilla Pouchet, Office Administrator, at 305-592-1452 or ppouchet@healthcouncil.org.

NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The Council's Board of Directors focused on development of its Strategic Plan 2004-2007 at its Annual Board Retreat. Representatives of state and local governments and agencies as well as community leaders participated in the all day event. A vision statement was developed and the Council's mission statement was revised to focus on the importance of promoting wellness and the Council's role in health planning in the community.

Vision

*Every individual will practice wellness and all institutions
will contribute to a healthy and safe environment.*

Mission

*To engage in community-based planning that improves
health and promotes wellness in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.*

MONROE COUNTY TRAUMA STUDY GROUP

In August 2003 the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners created an informal study group (the Monroe County Trauma Study Group) to outline the issues associated with trauma transport system improvement for the Middle and Lower Keys and to ascertain local interest in enhancing the transport system of severely injured persons. The Council has been actively involved with the Monroe County Trauma Study Group since its initial meeting in October 2003 through the provision of technical support. The Council will produce a report of the study group's findings and recommendations, which will be available in early Summer 2004. For more information regarding Monroe County trauma issues, please contact Troy Johnson, Health Planner, at 305-592-1452 or tjohnson@healthcouncil.org.

AIDS INSURANCE CONTINUATION PROGRAM (AICP)

Today, AICP continues to operate as one of the most innovative federally and state funded public health programs in the nation. By preserving the private health insurance coverage of insured low-income Florida residents and families living with HIV/AIDS, AICP cost-effectively assists in the purchase of private-sector health care for those most likely to qualify for Medicaid or Medicare enrollment. Due to its very successful implementation as a pilot program for Monroe and Broward Counties in 1989, AICP was expanded in 1994 to operate on a statewide basis. To date, AICP has successfully preserved the private health insurance coverage of more than 5,164 low-income Floridians living with HIV/AIDS.

In 2003 alone, it is estimated that AICP purchased for its 1,981 active clients more than \$38 million in private-sector health care for a total outlay of \$5.5 million in health insurance premium-payment expenditures. Moreover, during the period of 1998 to 2003, it is estimated that AICP has purchased more than \$186 million in private health care goods and services for total programmatic expenditures of less than \$25 million. This level of sustained AICP performance represents a six-year annualized purchase of almost \$7 in private-sector health care for each program dollar expended.

By helping to ensure that AICP clients have high quality access to private physicians experienced in treating HIV/AIDS, as well as comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services, the probability of maintaining optimum long-term client

health with commensurately reduced health care demand is potentially increased. Accordingly, it is not surprising that in 2002, 50.0% of all clients disenrolled returned to the workforce, and 91.0% of clients polled indicated their health had improved during the prior year of program participation.

Florida's AICP continues to demonstrate year after year that the extension of health insurance assistance to insured low-income state residents with HIV/AIDS can both preserve vital health care access and return substantial savings to the state's taxpayers. In an era where state governments struggle with ever more challenging budget issues, Florida's AICP stands out as an example of how the public sector can find innovative solutions for some of its most critical health care missions. For more information about the AICP program, please contact Nicole Montgomery, AICP Program Director, at 305-592-1452 or nmontgomery@healthcouncil.org.

FLORIDA'S HEALTH FLEX PLANS

In addressing the ever increasing numbers of working uninsured, the Florida Legislature has identified counties (including Miami-Dade County) as pilot areas to implement, with the approval from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), low cost alternative health coverage plans (Health Flex plans) for the working uninsured. On behalf of AHCA, the Council conducted focus groups with Spanish and Creole speaking consumers and hosted roundtable discussions with small business owners and managers in South Florida to gather comments and opinions on the pilot program. The Quantum Foundation and the Health Foundation of South Florida have collaborated in this initiative by funding the activities which provided valuable insight on community needs for health insurance coverage. Important findings from this project will be utilized to help shape viable health care coverage programs for uninsured Floridians.

CURTAILING CHILDHOOD OBESITY: PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As the fourth-largest school district in the nation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has a tremendous opportunity to positively influence the nutritional health of its 338,417 school children. To this end, the Council was awarded a grant by the Health Foundation of South Florida to engage the school system in addressing this growing concern and to identify best practices for possible replication in Miami-Dade County. To broaden the community's understanding of dietary related health risk behaviors among local high school students, the Council compiled a synopsis of Youth Risk Behavior Survey data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Based on these results, areas for further action and community engagement for promoting healthy eating and weight management practices among high school aged youth in Miami are presented. Role models, such as teachers, parents, dieticians, health advocates, and school food managers are urged to utilize this resource to support local efforts working to improve the health and wellness among youth. For more information about this project, please contact Vianca Stubbs at 305-592-1452 or vstubbs@healthcouncil.org.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OVERLOAD: A SITUATION ASSESSMENT

The problem of hospital emergency departments (EDs) operating at or beyond capacity has been recognized as a serious healthcare issue. Since overcrowding in local hospital EDs has a dramatic impact on the entire population and its access to care, the project *Emergency Department Overload: A Situation Assessment*, was funded by the Health Foundation of South Florida to determine what strategies have already been identified in the literature and recognized by key decision makers and healthcare providers in the field for possible local implementation. The Council reviewed and analyzed 22 documents showcasing national and state perspectives concerning the growing crises of ED overload. An additional 10 locally generated or oriented documents and databases were included in the literature review to provide a snapshot of the local perspective. Concurrently, a series of key informant interviews were performed to obtain a richer understanding of the factors occurring that contribute to overcrowded EDs, resulting in ambulance diversions, and

longer wait times for services. A total of 16 interviews were completed with four groups of key informants: eight hospital Chief Executive Officers, four Medical Directors, two ambulance providers, and two professional associations.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED ACTIVITY

1st Batching Cycle 2004, Hospital Beds & Facilities: Applications filed, March 10, 2004.

Six district hospitals filed Certificate of Need applications with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration:

- ***Baptist Hospital of Miami, Inc.***
To add 7 Level III NICU beds (Previous application submitted in the 1st Batching Cycle 2003 was denied).
- ***Lifemark Hospitals of Florida, Inc. d/b/a Palmetto General Hospital***
To establish a comprehensive medical rehabilitation unit of up to 20 beds through the delicensure of up to 20 acute care beds.
- ***Mount Sinai Medical Center of Florida, Inc. d/b/a Mount Sinai Medical Center & Miami Heart Institute***
To Add 22 Comprehensive Medical Rehabilitation beds through delicensure of existing acute beds.
- ***South Miami Hospital, Inc.***
To establish a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of up to 6 beds through the delicensure of up to 6 acute care beds.
(Previous applications, the most recent submitted in the 2nd Batching Cycle 2003, were denied; see below.)
- ***Variety Children's Hospital, Inc. d/b/a Miami Children's Hospital***
To add up to 4 Level III NICU beds through the conversion of up to 4 acute care beds.
- ***Villa Maria Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Inc.***
To establish a new Comprehensive Medical Rehabilitation hospital of up to 40 beds through the transfer of up to 40 beds at St. Catherine's Rehabilitation Hospital (Previous application submitted in the 2nd Batching Cycle 2003 was denied; see below).

2nd Batching Cycle 2003, Hospital Beds & Facilities: Agency Decisions, December 2003

Denied

CON No. 9722

Villa Maria Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Inc. applied to establish a new 40-bed Comprehensive Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) Satellite Hospital through the transfer of 40 Comprehensive Medical Rehabilitation beds at St. Catherine's Rehabilitation Hospital. The Agency found that, "The applicant failed to demonstrate that access and availability of CMR care will improve in the district as a result of this project or that this is a more efficient use of resources."

Three Miami-Dade County hospitals submitted Certificate of Need Applications in response to the Agency's determination that 10 additional Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) beds were needed in the district.

Approved

CON No. 9724

Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County/Jackson Memorial Hospital to add 10 beds to its existing 66-bed Level III NICU. The hospital agreed to delicense 5 Level II NICU beds at Jackson Memorial Hospital North which have not been in service for some time.

Approved

CON No. 9725

Variety Children's Hospital, Inc./Miami Children's Hospital to add 8 Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit beds through the conversion of up to 8 existing Acute Care beds with the condition that “

A minimum of 35 percent of the total annual patient days in the Level III NICU shall be provided to Medicaid/charity patients on a combined basis.”

Denied

CON No. 9725

South Miami Hospital, Inc. to establish a 6-bed Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit via the conversion of 6 Level II NICU beds. The Agency’s decision was based upon the following findings:

- "The minimum unit size for Level III NICU,... is 15 beds. The applicant is only proposing to establish a six-bed program."
- "...it is not clear if the advantages gained through the reduction of the transport of low birth weight infants is outweighed by the risks associated with establishing a number of small neonatal intensive care units within a planning area."
- "South Miami Hospital is not a high indigent care provider."