

Executive Summary

The Health Council of South Florida is pleased to offer its Comprehensive Health Plan for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, 2003-2006. The purpose of the Comprehensive Health Plan is to develop a body of information useful to help assure access to quality health care for all residents of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The Comprehensive Health Plan intends to offer information on health status, health care resources, health care utilization, financing of health care, barriers to care, and preferences for the Certificate of Need regulatory process administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration. As such, it serves as a reference document that aims to convert health care data into useful information. The Comprehensive Health Plan embraces the application of community-based health planning principles. The Comprehensive Health Plan was effected through a planning process recognizing that its utility lies in the domain of all community partners -- whether neighborhood associations, health agencies, providers, universities, elected officials, non-governmental organizations or associations -- advocating daily for expanded opportunities to improve health care in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

The development of this Comprehensive Health Plan employs the concepts and precepts of community based health planning. It was created for, by and with the communities of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, and as such, belongs to it. It is the intent of the Health Council staff that this Comprehensive Health Plan be used by the community as a tool for education and advocacy, and as a basis to formulate public policy that will improve health care for all residents of District XI.

The major themes of the plan complement the Guiding Values, Principles and Beliefs of the Health Council of South Florida (from the Strategic Plan, 2000-2003), including those of universal access to health care, parity among all groups, self-responsibility,

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community conscientiousness and collaboration, shared resources, and a holistic view of health and social services. The plan is also consistent with the Strategic Goals and Objectives set forth by the Health Council's Board of Directors, including:

- The development of strategies and materials for community outreach, awareness and education, paying attention to the particular needs of specific consumer groups, such as elders, the uninsured, minority groups with health disparities and persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- The promotion of health care access to preventive and primary care services among targeted population groups throughout South Florida's diverse communities.
- The expansion and use of valid, reliable and appropriate data and information, and their exchange with private and public entities.

Chapter 3, Regional Profile, lays the foundation of the District by providing brief descriptions of the demographics and socio-economic characteristics, paying special attention to issues of population, diversity, economics and education. The richness of District XI's cultural diversity, combined with its unique geography (particularly Monroe County's), poses special challenges for access to care.

Chapter 4, Health Status, is a mini-epidemiological assessment of the District, by health status indicators. Using federal, state and local information regarding the leading causes of death and morbidity in the District, chapter 4 discusses how the District (and each county) is faring in comparison to the State's average morbidity and mortality for specific health indicators. Where appropriate, the objectives of Healthy People 2010 have been added to help develop targeted benchmarks and local policies to improve individual indicators. Furthermore, an analysis of data related to infectious diseases,

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child immunization levels, maternal and child health, and mental health and substance abuse is also provided.

Chapter 5, Health Care Resources, describes the availability of resources for the provision of health care services within District XI and its counties. Areas highlighted include the inventory of primary care resources, active licensed health professionals, licensed health facilities, facilities for licensed health services, the accreditation of health care facilities and managed care health insurance plans.

Chapter 6, Health Care Utilization, provides a review of selected measures of hospital inpatient utilization (e.g., total discharges, average length of stay, average charges) for District XI, as well as the State. Furthermore, utilization data for community nursing homes, emergency departments, and operational Certificate of Need programs (e.g., open heart surgery) are presented and a comparative analysis is provided to highlight utilization differences between Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and the State.

Chapter 7, Health Care Financing, describes the magnitude of residents lacking the means to adequately address their health care needs (i.e., the uninsured, underinsured) and the extent to which health care entities invest to address community health care issues. Highlighted in this chapter are funding and expenditure amounts reported from major federal, state and county governmental entities, as well as local foundations.

Chapter 8, Barriers to Care, embraces a comprehensive approach to identify leading barriers to care. Through the utilization of an electronic *Community Health Survey* developed by the local health councils, as well as through public input from local community gatherings, health care services that are difficult to obtain are identified.

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Population groups that have the most difficulty in obtaining health care services, and leading barriers that hinder access to health care have also been described.

Chapter 9, Policy Issues and Recommendations, provides a discussion of the different types of beds and services subject to Certificate of Need (CON) review, as well as an analysis of CON activity by District XI hospitals during the past two years (2000-2002). A series of goals and strategies designed to increase access, affordability, and quality of health care services at the local level are set to help guide community-drive implementation efforts.

The Health Council of South Florida's regional recommendations for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties outline a course of action that District XI residents, advocates, providers, elected officials, among others can undertake during the next three years (2003-2006) to improve health care in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The goals, implementation strategies and outcome objectives presented are intended to guide the development of health services and facilities within the planning district, ensure greater access to health care, and ultimately improve the health outcomes of District XI residents.

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