

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). ^[1] The Council's legislative priorities for action by Florida legislators during the 2014 Legislative Session are therefore:

^[1]*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 \$999,999 (\$90,909 to each of the 11 councils) as provided in FY 13-14.

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.

Statewide, local health councils generate a Return on Investment (ROI) of over \$62.00 for every \$1.00 invested.

AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP)

MAINTAIN level funding at \$15 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 \$5.34 for every \$1.00 invested. In calendar year 2012, AICP provided private health care services for 2,492 clients throughout Florida.

Over the past five years, the total estimated AICP cost savings to Medicaid was \$63 M.

In 2012, 20% of AICP clients disenrolled from the program and returned to the workforce due to improved health.

Our mission is to be the source of unbiased health and quality of life data and analysis; the preferred partner for quality program planning, management, evaluation, and community services; the facilitator of collaboration and partnerships in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties; and the trusted champion for ethical and targeted healthcare policy at the local, state, and national levels.

Health Council of South Florida Recent Accomplishments

- ✓ **Responsible Fiscal Administration.** HCSF Administration engages in responsible fiscal administration that contributes to its continued improvement and sustainability, demonstrated by external audits which have provided a clean opinion of HCSF financial statements.
- ✓ **Successful Program Administration.** HCSF successfully established and currently administers the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC), identifying more than 110 free clinics, the most of any state in the U.S. FAFC provides a support network through capacity building, resource development, and advocacy for free clinics, offering cost-effective alternatives to reduce the burden of ER over utilization of the healthcare system.
- ✓ **Enhanced Community Collaboration.** Since its implementation, the Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan (ECHPP), aimed at maximizing the impact of HIV/AIDS prevention in Miami-Dade County has successfully enhanced the collaboration between community stakeholders, service providers resulting in an increased number and availability of HIV screenings for the community and the identification and re-engagement to care of individuals who had previously tested positive.
- ✓ **Partnership Development.** HCSF serves as the project administrator for the Miami-Dade Health Action Network (MD-HAN), a multi-sector cross collaborative, which includes over 1,500 interested Community Partners, guided by a Steering Committee serving as the neutral convening platform addressing issues regarding access to health care in Miami-Dade County. The goal of MD-HAN is to promote an integrated safety-net system for providing efficient quality healthcare to the vulnerable populations in Miami-Dade.

AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP) Recent Accomplishments

- ✓ **AICP provided insurance assistance to more than 2,400 low-income Floridians living with HIV/AIDS.** By helping individuals maintain their private health insurance coverage, many Floridians did not need to access other public health programs such as the Medicaid or the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.
- ✓ **AICP clients received approximately \$5 in private medical care goods and services for every \$1 invested in the program.** If AICP was not available, many clients would have to be enrolled in other public health programs.
- ✓ **The annual average cost savings to the state per AICP client is \$18,090.36.** The AICP client premium was \$495.47 for an annual average premium cost amounting to \$5,945.64. If the same AICP client was enrolled in the Florida Medicaid Program their average monthly premium cost would be \$2,003.00 or \$24,036.00 on an annual basis.

HEALTH COUNCIL OF SOUTH FLORIDA: 2014 COMMUNITY ALIGNED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ACCESS TO CARE

- **Affordable Care Act**
Support extending health coverage to uninsured adults who fall below 133% of the federal poverty with insurance that provides all necessary benefits and meets affordability criteria.
Oppose further efforts, to delay or start the implementation the ACA.
- **Scope of Practice for Practitioners**
Support efforts to expand the healthcare workforce development and scope of practice for all licensed health professionals, allowing them practice to the full extent of their education and training (i.e. advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants).
- **Children's Health**
Support extending Medicaid and CHIP (KidCare) coverage to all lawfully residing children by removing the 5-year waiting period for children of lawfully residing immigrant parents.

- **Medicaid**
Support extending health coverage to uninsured adults who fall below 133% of the federal poverty level by drawing down all federal dollars made available.
- **Volunteer Health Care Provider Program**
Support efforts to maintain funding for the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program, which grants sovereign immunity to free clinics and the volunteer health professionals who serve in them.

Work with DOH and AHCA to facilitate more seamless Volunteer Health Care Provider Program coverage for free clinic services to patients who are being transitioned on and off Medicaid.
- **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 allow them to practice to the full extent of their training. Such efforts help to address limited availability of healthcare and healthcare planning in Monroe County.

HEALTH PROMOTION / DISEASE PREVENTION

- **Health Disparities**
Maintain Closing the Gap funding to support linguistically and culturally competent strategies designed to reach emerging majority and underrepresented populations.
- **Healthy Behaviors**
Support efforts that integrate nutrition and physical activity standards that encourage healthy behaviors in child care centers, schools and senior centers.

Obesity is the #1 healthcare problem in the U.S. and costs the healthcare system billions each year. In Miami-Dade, 29.3% of adults are obese and Diabetes affects 20.7% of adults age 65 or over. In economic terms, the direct medical expenditure attributable to diabetes in 2007 was estimated to be \$116 billion.

Support the allocation of funding of school crossing guards to promote active transportation (walking and biking) and ensure safe and secure routes to schools in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

The state of Florida has the highest pedestrian death rate in the nation. Miami-Dade County currently exhibits the 4th highest number of child pedestrian injuries per 100,000 residents among populous counties in Florida.
- **Community Health Workers (CHWs)**
Support efforts to standardize curricula, certification and occupational classification of Community Health Workers (CHWs). CHWs conduct outreach for medical personnel or health organizations to implement programs in the community that promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health.

LEGAL/REGULATORY

- **Assisted Living Facilities**
Monitor the recommendations from the Assisted Living Task Force and the negotiated rule-making process of the Department of Elder Affairs for Assisted Living Facilities to ensure the protection, welfare, and care of those in need in our community.
- **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.
- **Volunteer Licensure Requirements**
Pursue efforts to alter and simplify the requirements for qualified physicians to obtain a Florida limited volunteer licensed to practice solely in a free clinic. This includes active military physicians licensed in another state as well as retired



Health Council of South Florida 2013-2014 State Legislative Agenda

As the preferred partner for strategic and community-based planning for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, the Health Council of South Florida brings an evidence based, data-driven approach to health planning in our community.

Providing quality community-based services to meet community planning needs.



We invite you to visit our website and learn more about the Health Council of South Florida and its initiatives.



www.healthcouncil.org

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