

Health Planning Council of SW Florida

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2009

Collier County HIT Project

Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida (HPC) has contracted with Collier County Government to create an implementation plan for transferring patient-level data from participating providers to the Physician Led Access Network (PLAN) of Collier County. PLAN is a non-profit community-based referral network that coordinates medical care for eligible low-income adults in need of health services in Collier County. Led by physicians, it is a community partnership that brings together doctors, community clinics, hospitals, diagnostic and laboratory facilities and other healthcare providers through an integrated system of care.

Collier County received a Health Information Technology (HIT) Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in part to create an electronic information network transferring data from the community's hospital systems and the primary care clinics to PLAN. This process will begin with the establishment of two committees with representatives from Collier County, PLAN and all of the providers associated with PLAN. The first is a Project Committee to guide the development of the project. The second is a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) consisting of IT/Data/Information practitioners who will be the working group.

Working with the Technical Advisory Panel, HPC will identify the patient-level data to be transferred from the providers to PLAN, develop a procedure as to how the data will be collected and a data collection schedule, identify the technical needs of the project (i.e. hardware and software), determine the methodology to transfer the data from the providers to PLAN and develop the format for data analysis and reporting. HPC will conduct a national survey of the status of HIT data sharing projects for the underinsured/uninsured regarding patient-level data and will be providing comprehensive reports on at least two of these projects.

Learn more about PLAN at: <http://www.plancc.org/>

**New* Updated County Health Profiles are now available. View them at our website: <http://hpcswf.com>*

About the Health Planning Council

The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc. (HPC) was authorized by Florida Statute in 1982 to plan for the health care needs of the residents of seven counties – Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota. The responsibility for planning for efficient, cost-effective health systems is shared with the Florida Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administrative (AHCA) and a statewide network of 11 local health planning councils.

HPC, through its Board of Directors, brings together interested consumers, providers and purchasers of health services in a neutral setting to collaborate on developing and implementing plans and programs to improve the health care system for the area. HPC has a partnership with public health departments, community health centers, state agencies, providers and consumers. HPC provides health statistics and reports through quantitative data gathering, data analysis, implementing focus groups and facilitating community meetings. HPC's philosophy maintains that policies relevant to residents of Southwest Florida can best be attained through participatory processes.

HPC works to increase the availability and accessibility of data regarding health needs and health services within the region. Consequently, providing health data remains a primary focus of the HPC. Of particular interest to the HPC is to improve access to health care for persons with limited financial resources and to reduce disparities in health status.

HPC is committed to soliciting community involvement for its planning initiatives. In addition to its planning functions, HPC is the Lead Agency for the following health-related programs: Early Steps/Early Intervention Program serving children ages 0 to 3 with developmental disabilities and their families in Collier, Lee, Glades and Hendry counties; Ryan White Title II, a program providing access to medical and related services to low income persons with HIV/AIDS in the seven county region; Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), a program providing emergency, temporary housing assistance to persons with HIV-related needs in all seven counties plus Manatee county; AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP), a program providing health insurance premium, deductible and co-payment assistance to low income persons with HIV/AIDS.

Early Steps of SW FL

Early Steps of SW FL is a program that serves children birth to three years of age that have special needs or any kind of developmental delay. This program provides services in the child's natural environment using a Primary Service Provider approach. The provider works in the home, and childcare centers providing strategies to the caregiver on improving developmental delays. Early Steps is a family centered program that is voluntary, and serves all families. Early Steps covers four counties: Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee. Last year 2007-2008 the number of children that were receiving Early Steps services was 1,525. [By county: Collier: 549 children; Glades: 6 children; Hendry: 73 children; Lee: 897 children]. This past year our program grew 19%. The purpose of this program is to start intervention early to help get children ready for the pre-school setting and maximize their development during the period of greatest brain development. Fifty-seven percent of the families that we serve are low income families and forty-seven percent primarily speak Spanish.

Wish List

Diapers	Baby Clothes
Toys	Books
Shoes	High Chair
Car Seats	Exer-saucers
Bouncy Chairs	Juice
Formula	A.D.O.S. - Autism Kit

If you are able to provide any of the items on the wish list, please contact Jessica Mattias at (239)433-6700 or jessicamattias@hpcswf.com



Kayla has faced physical challenges from the day she was born. On that day, all of her organs were failing except for her heart and lungs; she was having seizures, and had only 10% of the required blood so she needed 4 blood transfusions. After her organs repaired themselves and the seizures stopped, I finally took my baby home.

The next several months were very hard for us. Besides being a mom to an infant with special needs and taking care of the rest of my family, I constantly wondered if she was going to be disabled. So the hardest part was dealing with all these new emotions. Over the next two years tremendous things happened. Kayla was diagnosed at 6 months with Spastic Quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy, which led to numerous tests to find out the extent of the brain damage.

We enrolled with Early Steps and received services at the Children's Rehab Center. Those most helpful throughout this time were the therapists at CRC and the caring staff at Early Steps not only for being there to answer all of my questions and help me with education material, but also for support, socialization through the playgroups, and much needed equipment for Kayla. Although being a single parent to a special needs child can be emotionally and physically draining, the reward is far greater than I could ever imagine. I wake up every day to a smiling face, so pure, innocent, happy and healthy. Kayla has given me strength and hope; she has taught me to be humble and not take things for granted. I am so thankful to have Kayla in my life, and I wouldn't change a thing.

-Charyse Hilliard, mother from Southwest FL LES

Ryan White Part B Program

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is Federal legislation that addresses the unmet health needs of persons living with HIV disease (PLWH) by funding primary health care and support services that enhance access to and retention in care. First enacted by Congress in 1990, it was amended and reauthorized in 1996 and again in 2000 and 2006/7. The CARE Act was named after Ryan White, an Indiana teenager whose courageous struggle with HIV/AIDS and against AIDS-related discrimination helped educate the nation.

Like many health problems, HIV disease disproportionately strikes people in poverty, racial/ethnic populations, and others who are underserved by healthcare and prevention systems. HIV often leads to poverty due to costly healthcare or an inability to work that is often accompanied by a loss of employer-related health insurance. CARE Act-funded programs are the "payer of last resort." They fill gaps in care not covered by other resources. Most likely users of CARE Act services include people with no other source of healthcare and those with Medicaid or private insurance whose care needs are not being met.

In Southwest Florida, there is a state Part B program allocation, three (3) Part C programs, AETC opportunities, and access to Part D services. The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida is the lead agency for the state of Florida in Area 8 for the Ryan White Part B program. The Florida Ryan White Part B program is administered through the [Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS](#).

In the State of Florida's Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need, there are seven (7) core services: Medical Care, Pharmaceuticals, Dental Care, Case Management, Health Insurance, Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Treatment. In Area 8, the local planning body – Regional HIV/AIDS Council (RHAC) – recommended funding priorities in-line with these core services. The RHAC makes funding priority recommendations to the Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida who in turn develops and implements programs to allocate the funding and serve those most in need.

To learn more visit our website at
<http://hpcswf.com>



Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, known as HOPWA, is funded through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide states ("HOPWA") and designated eligible metropolitan areas ("HUD HOPWA") with resources and incentives for meeting the housing needs of persons with HIV disease and AIDS. The Department of Health, which contracts with lead agency organizations at the local level, administers Florida's HOPWA program. The state HOPWA program provides temporary housing assistance to eligible individuals. The services include: Transitional Housing, Assistance with Rent, Mortgage, Utilities and Supportive Services (such as Case Management).

AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP)

The AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP) is a statewide program for persons who are diagnosed with AIDS or are HIV positive with symptoms and who, because of their illness, are unable to maintain their private health insurance coverage. The program makes direct payments (up to \$750/month) to each client's employer or insurance company for the continuation of medical, dental, mental health and optical coverage. The AICP does not pay for disability or life insurance. The AICP will also pay any fees associated with conversion of a COBRA policy to an individual policy or policy upgrades. The program will also pay client co-payments and deductibles on an as-needed basis.

HPCSWF is governed by a twelve member Board of Directors representing health care consumers, providers and purchasers appointed by their respective county commissioners and distributed based on population.

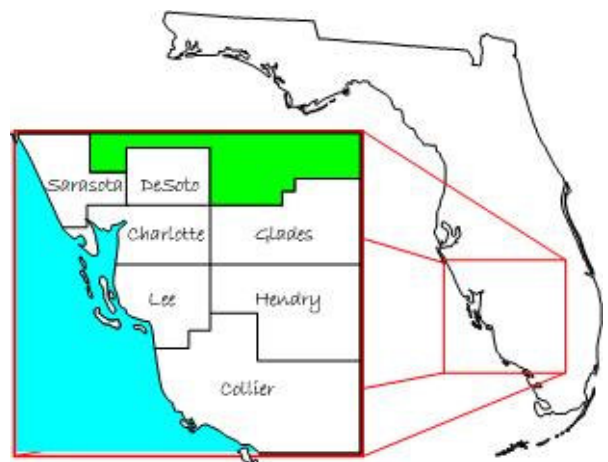
The current 2009 HPCSWF Board of Directors and Officers:

- Danny Halvatzis, Chairman, Lee County
- Martha Valiant, M.D., Vice Chairman, Hendry County
- Robert Rosenbluth, M.D., Treasurer, Sarasota County
- Shannon Hall, Secretary, Glades County
- William Crone, Collier County
- Thomas E. Danson, Jr., Sarasota County
- Tricia Duffy, Charlotte County
- Paul Erickson, DeSoto County
- Marcy Krumbine, Collier County
- Sharon Murphy, Lee County
- Roger D. Ward, Lee County
- Robert A. Zack, Sarasota County



The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501c3 organization.

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Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Serving Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties

