



POSITIVELY PALM BEACH

Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.
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Medicaid drains state's wallet Recession fuels need for low-income health care

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
Tallahassee Bureau Chief
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TALLAHASSEE — Put aside the furor about national health care reform. Florida leaders have a more immediate problem.

With jobs disappearing and incomes sinking, Floridians are increasingly turning to the government-run Medicaid program for health care — driving up costs and playing a major role in a potential \$3 billion state budget shortfall next year.

The shortfall could lead to cuts in Medicaid, which serves low-income, elderly and disabled people, while also forcing lawmakers to make tough election-year spending choices among health and education programs.

Crestview Republican Durell Peaden, chairman of the Senate committee that oversees health spending, gave a one-word answer when asked about lawmakers' options in dealing with Medicaid: "Cut."

"Everything's up for grabs," Peaden said.

Medicaid is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, and Florida faces a shortfall of as much as \$1.8 billion in paying for its share during the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Florida has grappled with increasing Medicaid costs for years, but projections for the 2010-11 year are eye-

opening: The program could serve nearly 3 million people — at an overall cost of about \$19.1 billion.

Karen Woodall, a longtime social-services lobbyist who works on Medicaid and children's health issues,

pointed to Florida's struggling economy for the increasing number of Medicaid recipients and costs. Volusia and Flagler counties have seen double-digit percentage increases in Medicaid recipients during the past year.

"If we have (among) the highest foreclosure

rates and the highest unemployment rates in the country, what do we think is going to happen?" Woodall said.

Gov. Charlie Crist is slated to release a proposed 2010-11 budget this week that will offer initial ideas about how to deal with Medicaid and the broader shortfall. But the real work will come during the annual legislative session that starts in March.

Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, made clear Wednesday he does not want to raise taxes to deal with the financial problems, largely echoing earlier statements by House Republican leaders.

"We must separate the requireds from the desireds," Atwater said. "The people of Florida do not have one more dime to send us."

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(Continued from cover page...)

But making that separation won't be easy, particularly because Medicaid and education are the biggest parts of the state budget. Lawmakers also have problems in education funding, including a drop in property tax revenues that are used for public schools.

"We're just looking for places that we can legitimately cut that will not hurt the delivery of educational services to children," said Sen. Steve Wise, a Jacksonville Republican who chairs the committee in charge of public-school funding. "That's the bottom line."

Medicaid is a major part of Florida's health care system, with large chunks of money going toward costs such as hospital treatment for low-income people and nursing home care for seniors.

When lawmakers passed the current fiscal year's budget in May, they expected Medicaid to serve about 2.6 million people at a cost of \$17.5 billion. But those numbers have continued to climb during the year.

Florida is required to pay for some services in Medicaid, such as hospital and physician care.

Other services are considered "optional" and could be targeted for cuts. But at least some of those optional services, such as paying for prescription drugs and dialysis, would be difficult to reduce or eliminate.

While cuts in some programs are likely, lawmakers and health-industry officials also are looking to Washington for more help in paying for Medicaid next year.

The federal government provides Medicaid money to states through a system of matching funds. Washington increased its share of Medicaid costs as part of last year's federal economic-stimulus package, but the higher matching amounts are scheduled to expire in December 2010 — the middle of Florida's fiscal year.

State leaders hope to continue receiving the higher amounts through the June 30, 2011, end of the fiscal year. If so, that could chop an estimated \$745 million off the state's potential shortfall.

Deanna Schaeffer, governmental affairs officer for Halifax Health in Daytona Beach, said that not receiving the additional federal money would be "debilitating to the Medicaid program."

Paul Belcher, a vice president of the Florida Hospital Association who previously worked on the Senate staff, told lawmakers last week the situation they face is "daunting."

"You have a challenge like I have not seen before in this state," said Belcher, who has been involved in the budget process for about 25 years.

Is anyone listening?

Lorenzo Robertson
CARE Council member

As a Black Gay man living with AIDS in Palm Beach County I often wonder, is anyone listening? All of us working in the HIV/AIDS area are very aware how HIV/AIDS have devastated and continues to wreak havoc on our community, but does the general population look at HIV/AIDS in the same manner. I don't think they do because if they did we would start to see decreases in new infections, decreases in teen pregnancy, decreases in STDs, but unfortunately we are not experiencing decrease.

Why are our communities not getting the message? There are many reasons as to why HIV/AIDS is not an important issue for most. One reason may be that there are not as many HIV/AIDS prevention advertisements as there have been in the past. This communicates to the general public that HIV/AIDS must not be that bad in our community, because they are not talking about it as much as they did in the past. Another reason may be that people are trying to make ends meet. If my concern is, "How do I feed my children and keep a roof over their heads?" HIV/AIDS is definitely not at the forefront of my mind. Perhaps another reason may be if someone is trying to get their next high, which relates to making poor decisions, where again HIV/AIDS generally does not enter the thought processes, especially when they are scoring their next hit of their drug of choice.

From those limited examples we can see that we have our work cut out for us. If we plan to have an impact on this HIV/AIDS war we need to come up with some new strategies because our old strategies are just that OLD. How do we address generation Y, with their twittering, sextexting, Facebook, etc.? In addition to still assuring we get the message to those that are not as young. We have got to start to examine our prevention efforts and determine how we can do a better job.

With a renewed interested and implementation of outreach, which many agencies had not been funded to do during the last funding cycle, I think we begin to reach the people that live on the fringes of society with HIV/AIDS prevention messages. In addition, they need outreach or some type of intervention for those that are in the areas that feel they are not and will not and can not be impacted by HIV/AIDS.

We in the HIV/AIDS community need to start addressing the HIV/AIDS, pink elephant sitting in the living room, we continue to walk around. I know that if we start to work more collaboratively in our HIV/AIDS arena we can begin to see some decreases in new HIV infections. Let's start the dialogue. Let's collaborate. Let me know that someone is listening?

PEOPLE WITH VOICES TALENT SHOW WORLD AIDS DAY PALM BEACH COUNTY

In December, the Comprehensive AIDS Program along with Florida Atlantic University came together to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in our community in celebration of World AIDS Day. There were approximately 200 attendees. Several groups competed in the People with Voices Talent Show, in which the groups had a message that HIV/AIDS is preventable and education is the key. The talent show winners included Kally Khourshid, Baby Divas Step Dance Team, Nehemie Celestin, Grace Mitchell and Ashanti Moore.

The Talent Show was complemented by a free health fair. CAP tested approximately 28 people for HIV. The Palm Beach County Health Department did the STD testing. Other health centers tested participants' blood sugar levels and blood pressure. We had around 14-16 vendors present. MAC cosmetics did the make-up for the dance contest contestants on behalf of the MAC AIDS Foundation. CAP, FAU AIDS committee & Chic-Fil-A provided the food to support the event.

For additional information regarding CAP's services contact 561-472-2466 or www.cappbc.org.

Motorcycle Ride for Life 2010

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County celebrated National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with several events throughout the county during the weekend of February 6, 2010. The 9th Annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Motorcycle Ride for Life was organized by Willie White, President of the Harley Boys of the Palm Beaches and Elizabeth P. Robinson's new non-profit organization, M.A.I.N., Inc. (Minority AIDS Information Network, Inc.).

Elected officials County Commissioner Priscilla Taylor, State Rep. Mack Bernard, Senator Chris Smith presented proclamations and awards to the participants of the annual Motorcycle Ride for Life. County Commissioner Priscilla Taylor congratulated Elizabeth P. Robinson and Lorenzo Robertson for a job well done in organizing this annual event to help bring HIV/AIDS awareness to residents of Palm Beach County..

Compass and M.A.I.N. provided HIV education, information, and incentives at Pompey Park in Delray Beach . At Wells Recreation Center in Riviera Beach the Palm Beach County Health Department and United Deliverance Resource Center and guest provided CTR (HIV testing), educational material, food, music, fun, and games to bring HIV awareness, prevention and linkage services.

In addition, at Wells Recreation Center, there was an AIDS Awareness Walk and a Health Fair going on with all other forms of informational and educational incentives and activities. Below are pictures from the events. If you have any questions please give Elizabeth P. Robinson a call at (561) 201-4009.

The next Motorcycle Ride for Life is Sunday, June 27 in recognition of National Testing Day. For information, please call M.A.I.N., Inc. at (561) 201-4009



County Commissioner P. Taylor, Elizabeth P. Robinson, State Rep. Mack Bernard, Senator Chris Smith's Legislative Aid Beatrice Coleman, Lorenzo Robertson, and Caroline Hill



Virgil Mae, Member Boynton Born Free Riders; Norman Dawson, President, Boynton Born Free Riders; Willie White, President, Palm Beach Harley Boys; Syvan, Member Boynton Born Free Riders; and Elizabeth Robinson, Executive Director, Minority AIDS Initiative Network, Inc. in the center

M.A.I.N. volunteers from several local motorcycle clubs, independent riders, and vehicles leaving Pompey Park in Delray Beach heading to I-95 on tour of neighborhoods in West Palm Beach, Mangonia Park ending in Riviera Beach at Wells Recreation Center.



Motorcycle Ride for Life tour escorted by City of Riviera Beach Police Department (not pictured), Norman Dawson, President, Boynton Beach Born Free Riders and David Young, Treasurer, 561 Riders Motorcycle Club pictured in safety vest after safe arrival in Wells Gym for the health fair and presentation of proclamations and awards

Compass, Inc. Health Educator (name?) facilitates HIV/AIDS education and information presentation at Pompey Park in Delray Beach. Participants gather for HIV/AIDS presentation and line up for Motorcycle Ride for Life.



March

- 22**
5p.m.-9p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 6:00 p.m.
HIV Education Series Hilton
Airport
West Palm Beach
- 6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 23**
1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 24**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center
Potluck Support Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak Support Group
Compass
- 25**
4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 26**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE Orientation
Compass
- 29**
5p.m.-9p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 7:00 p.m.
Quilting Bee
Compass
- 30**
1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral
HIV Testing
Compass
- 31**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center
Potluck Support Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak
Support Group
Compass
- 1**
4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 2**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE
Orientation
Compass
- 5**
6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 6**
1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 7**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center
Potluck Support Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak Support Group
Compass
- 15**
8:00 p.m.
Positive Living
Support Group
Compass
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center
Potluck Support Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak Support Group
Compass
- 8**
4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 9**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE
Orientation
Compass
- 12**
6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV
Testing
Compass
- 7:00 p.m.
Quilting Bee
Compass
- 13**
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 14**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center
Potluck Support Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak
Support Group
Compass
- 16**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE
Orientation
Compass
- 19**
6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 20**
1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 21**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center Potluck Support
Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak
Support Group
Compass
- 22**
8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 23**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE
Orientation
Compass
- 26**
6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.**
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 7:00 p.m.**
Quilting Bee
Compass
- 16**
6:30p.m.
CHANGE
Orientation
Compass
- 19**
6:30 p.m.
NA Meeting
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 20**
1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 21**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center Potluck Support
Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak
Support Group
Compass
- 29**
8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass
- 7:00 p.m.**
Quilting Bee
Compass
- 27**
2 p.m.-6 p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral
HIV Testing
Compass
- 28**
11:00 a.m.
Da Group
Peer Led Support Group
United Deliverance
- 11:00 a.m.
Drop In Center Potluck Support
Group
CAP
Palm Springs
- 7:30 p.m.
BrothasSpeak
Support Group
Compass
- 8:00 p.m.
Positive Living Support Group
Compass
- 4p.m.-7:30p.m.
FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing
Compass

HOTLINES

A.G. Holley State Hospital TB Hotline	1-800-482-4636
CDC Info Hotline	1-800-342-2437
Crisis Line (Center Line)	211
Drug Abuse Hotline	662-4357
Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline	1-800-352-2437
Gay and Lesbian Hotline	1-888-843-4564
Medicare Hotline	1-800-638-6833
National Deaf AIDS Line.....	1-800-AIDS-TTY
Project Inform Treatment Hotline	1-800-822-7422
STD Hotline	1-800-227-8922

EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Accessible Life Saving Education for at Risk Teens (ALERT)	966-4288
American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR)	1-800-392-6327
CDC HIV/AIDS Treatment Information.....	1-800-448-0440
Children with AIDS Project of America.....	1-602-973-4319
Clinical Trials Information.....	1-800-Trials-A
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC	533-7227
Glades Health Initiative, Ind.	996-0500
National Minority AIDS Council.....	1-202-483-6622
PBC Health Department	540-1300
PBC HIV CARE Council	844-4430
Red Cross, American	833-7711
Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP)	586-4843
Treasure the Children/Charles' Crew Adolescent Speakers, Inc	790-6291

HIV/AIDS TESTING

Compass, Inc*	533-9699
<i>Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP)</i>	
Belle Glade*	996-7059
Delray Beach*	274-6400
Riviera Beach*	844-1266
West Palm Beach*	472-2466
Glades Health Initiative, Inc*	996-0500
Drug Abuse Foundation (DAF).....	278-0000
Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA).....	844-3556
Families First Palm Beach County.....	721-2887
Jesus People Proclaim Int'l Ministries.....	368-9044
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.....	296-5722
<i>PBC Health Department (sliding scale fee)</i>	
C.L. Brumback Health Center	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center	274-3105
Lantana Health Center.....	547-6805
Riviera Beach Health Center*	804-7909
West Palm Beach Health Center	514-5465
Riviera Beach Family Resource Center	840-1888
St. James Missionary Baptist.....	842-5971
United Deliverance Resource Center*	844-7071
Women of Color, Rise Above Your Shame.....	577-3612

*Rapid HIV Testing Available

DENTAL CLINICS

C.L. Brumback Health Center	996-1636
Delray Beach Health Center	274-3111
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
West Palm Beach Health Center	514-5310

PHARMACIES

<i>Department of Health</i>	
Belle Glade	996-1637
Delray Beach	274-3107
Riviera Beach	804-7940
West Palm Beach	514-5380
Commcare Pharmacy	615-0564
BioScrip Specialty Pharmacy (Spanish speaking)	683-0001

HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGENCIES

<i>Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)</i>	
West Palm Beach	472-2466
Belle Glade	996-7059
Delray Beach.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach	844-1266
Pahokee	924-7773

CARE RESOURCE

Coral Gables	1-305-667-9296
Fort Lauderdale	1-954-567-7141
Miami	1-305-573-5411
Compass	533-9699
Youth Line	533-9699
<i>Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.</i>	
North/Central Palm Beach County	832-6185
Southern Palm Beach County	995-0490
Farmworkers Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida Lighthouse	499-1442
Gratitude Guild, Inc.	833-6826
HIV Pastoral Care	1-305-858-4649
Hospice By the Sea	395-5031
Hospice of Palm Beach.....	848-5200
Integrated Healthcare Systems	586-7404
Latin American Immigrants & Refugee Org.	966-4515
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County	655-8944
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.....	296-5722
Palm Beach County Home	842-6111
Palm Beach Research Center	689-0606
Planned Parenthood	848-6300
Oakwood Center	383-5912 or 383-5777
Social Security Administration	1-800-722-1213
Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.	844-4220

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHYSICIANS

<i>Central County</i>	
<i>Riviera Beach Health Center</i>	
Manochehr Khojasteh, MD	804-7900
Celeste Li, MD	804-7900
Kleper de Almeida, MD (Spanish Speaking)	967-0101
Kenneth Ness, MD	655-8388
Olayemi O. Osiyemi, MD	832-6770
Donald Watren, MD	655-9660
Larry Bush, MD	967-0101
<i>Southern County</i>	
Infectious Disease Consultants	499-1442
Hamed A. Komaiha, MD, Jose C. Villalba, MD,	
Jaroslav F. Ondrusek, MD, Cesar A. Randich, MD, Melvin S. Kohan, MD	
<i>Delray Beach Health Center</i>	
Snehprabha Samant, MD	274-3178
Guadalupe Medical Center (Spanish Speaking)	642-0768
<i>Infectious Disease Associates</i>	
Julio Cardenas, MD, Ines Mbagga, MD, Susan Saxe, MD, Jill Howard,	
MD, Sanda Cebular, MD, Kurt Weise, MD	
Delray.....	496-1095
Boca Raton	393-8224
<i>Western County</i>	
Lyonel Jean Baptiste, MD	992-9216
Juan Carlos Rondon, MD	924-7788

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

VA Medical Center (for veterans only).....	422-7522
<i>Palm Beach County Health Department</i>	
Riviera Beach Health Center	804-7900
C.L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade)	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center	274-3100
West Palm Beach Health Center (pediatrics)	514-5300

Easy Chicken Burritos

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 can black beans, drained
1 c. Mojo marinade
2 Tbl. Olive oil
1 – 1 ½ c. salsa (or Rotel)
Mahatma Spanish Rice
Shredded Cheddar
Sour Cream
Large flour tortillas

To prepare chicken: Clean and prepare chicken as necessary. Marinate chicken for 20 minutes in Mojo. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake chicken in the marinade for 20-30 minutes or until no longer pink. Remove chicken from marinade and shred or dice.

To prepare burrito mix: Heat olive oil over low- medium heat. Add chicken, black beans and salsa. Sautee mixture about 15 minutes.

Serve on warm flour tortillas with cheddar cheese and sour cream. You can add Spanish rice to the burritos or have as a side.



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