

Friends OF HEALTH CHOICE NETWORK

Communities that care

Jessie Trice Dinner

UM's Donna Shalala to Give Keynote on Oct. 3

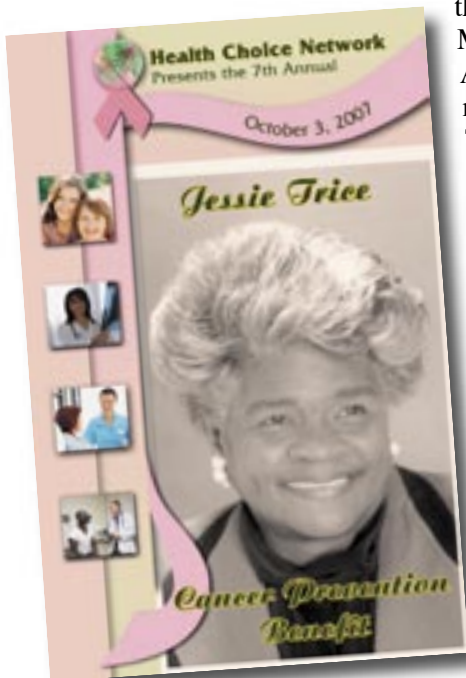


Donna Shalala

Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami, will provide the keynote address at the seventh annual Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit on October 3, 2007 at the Hotel Sofitel Miami. Under the theme of *Partnerships – Making a Difference*, you can join the supporters of Health Choice Network to honor these successful cancer prevention and early treatment programs.

The event will include the presentation of the Connie and Priscilla Mack Cancer Advocacy Award as well as recognition of Cancer Heroes. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. Look for your invitation.

For information, sponsorship opportunities or room reservations, visit our website, www.hcnetwork.org. Room reservation deadline is Sept. 19 (\$139 per night).



President's Message

With Grassroots Advocacy, Everyone Makes a Difference

It seems impossible that the efforts of one person could change the course of the nation's massive health care industry. *But, in fact, everyone has a voice that can make a difference.*

The power of the people or "grassroots advocacy" should never be underestimated. Those of us involved in the ever-changing community health industry know that we need to be just as committed to advocacy as we are to quality clinical care for our patients.

What does that mean? It means we need to develop and recognize the effectiveness of grassroots advocacy just as we recognize the medical and technical skills of our health center staff.

The community health system got its start in the 1960s when thousands of average people made their voices heard – demanding access to quality health care for all Americans.

Today, we must continue to make our voices heard in our local communities, in our state capitols and in Washington, D.C. It is up to us to take action on public policy issues that will impact community health.

Public and private funding sources can never be taken for granted. And while support for our community health system remains strong, it is constantly under threat through legislation and budget cuts. Grassroots advocacy remains the most important voice in the land.

What can you do to help? If all our staff members, Boards of Directors and even our patients would take the time to write a letter, send an email or make a phone call on behalf of community health, it would remind elected officials and bureaucrats of the tremendous benefits our industry provides to society. Please visit the website for the National Association of Community Health Centers and sign up as an advocate, www.nachc.org.

*Remember, your voice **does** make a difference!*

- Kevin S. Kearns, President and CEO

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'Year Of Action' Comes Alive at 2007 Educational Session



Lalai Hamric, CEO of Florida Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, with Board Chair Brodes Hartley, was recognized for 40 years of contributions to community health.

Health Choice Network's 13th Annual Educational Session attracted a record crowd of attendees eager to learn about the Network's new activities in its "Year of Action."

Held for the second year in a row in Marco Island, the session began with a welcome and awards reception on Friday night. Saturday and Sunday featured an array of presentations including HCN's new corporate structure, the new provider service network, Prestige Health Choice, Atlantic Care Network, Infinet Data Solutions and the formation of a Foundation to lead fund raising efforts.



Popular break-out sessions were held on the final day of the retreat. Above, a session of clinical programs and, below, information technology.



The ballroom was filled during the presentations.



Attending the session were representatives from new member Kansas (L-R) Dan Elliott, Michelle Daniel, Dave Sanford, Bill Smith and Denice Curtis.

Farren Hurwitz Named Employee of the Year

Farren Hurwitz of the Implementations Department was named the 2007 Employee of the Year at the recent Educational Session retreat. Farren has pioneered the clinical implementation of HCN's medical and dental software solutions. He also does the project management for the various grants that support implementation of Electronic Health Records/Electronic Oral Health Records. He recently was the Project Lead for the Iowa Nebraska Primary Care Association & In Concert Care (INCC) Project.

Farren has been with HCN for four years and attended Nova Southeastern University, where he played basketball for four years. He was born in upstate New York and has also lived in Dallas. Farren loves to travel and sample exotic foods. He has made a meal of scorpion, ostrich heart, rattle snake and shark fin soup. Yum! He has also bungee jumped off the Great Wall of China and slept in Xian, China in a Tibetan monks village.



Flanking the 2007 Employee of the Year Farren Hurwitz are HCN Board Chairman Brodes Hartley and President and CEO Kevin Kearns.



U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek Joins in National Health Center Week

Two Health Choice Network members celebrated National Health Center Week by hosting U.S. Representative Kendrick B. Meek (D-FL) on the same day. Economic Opportunity Family Health Center's Jessie Trice Center for Community Health and Broward Community & Family Health Center in Hollywood both received visits from Rep. Meek, who put the spotlight on the importance of community health for minorities and underserved neighborhoods.



The second week of August is designated to recognizing the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless and public housing health centers.

U.S. Rep. Kendrick B. Meek represents the 17th Congressional District of Florida which includes parts of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. He is the only Floridian on the House Committee on Ways and Means, including the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support.

Longtime EOFHC Medical Director Retires

Fatima Zafar, M.D., the Medical Director of Economic Opportunity Family Health Center for 40 years, is retiring with a distinguished legacy of dedicated service to her patients and to community health. The EOFHC family recently honored Dr. Zafar's career at a retirement celebration.



HRSA Administrator Visits Healthcare for the Homeless

Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, recently visited Health Care Center for the Homeless (HCCH) in Orlando, a member of Health Choice Network. Dr. Duke made the trip to present a \$1.1 million check to HCCH CEO Bakari Burns and to recognize the Center for the unique services provided to the fragile population of homeless in the Central Florida area. The federal funds will be used to increase the level of primary medical, dental and vision care as well as outpatient behavioral health counseling to homeless populations in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties.



Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator of HRSA presents a \$1.1 million check to Bakari Burns, CEO of Health Care Center for the Homeless.



CHI to Take the Helm of CareNet

At the June Educational Session, the HCN Board of Directors approved the transfer of CareNet from Health Choice Network to Community Health of South Florida. Now in its third year, the discount medical card program provides uninsured employees, students and families with an affordable health care option.

CHI will continue to focus on increasing membership levels in CareNet through the general public and businesses throughout south Florida.

CareNet offers deeply discounted medical services at designated community health centers for \$25 per month per person and \$30 per family. Prescription drugs and laboratory tests are also offered at discounts of up to 60 percent.

For more information, call (800) 217-5005 or visit www.mycarenet.com.

CHI Nutritionist Helps Patients Shed Pounds

In 2005, Elaudia Morales was told by her primary care physician to visit Community Health of South Florida's on-staff nutritionist because of her obesity. Ms Morales made an appointment with Gloria Fuller, RD, LD/N. Ms. Fuller discussed Elaudia's diet history, reviewed the food pyramid, the importance of meal timing, portion control and exercise. Every month Elaudia had a follow up appointment. Since her initial visit, Elaudia has lost 100 pounds and has lowered her body mass index by 16 percent. "I'm so happy that I've changed my lifestyle. Thanks to good nutrition and help from CHI, I feel so much better," says Elaudia.



Elaudia Morales



9064 N.W. 13th Terrace
Miami, FL 33172
(305) 599-1015
www.hcnetwork.org



Two Centers Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Miami Beach Community Health Center (30 years) and Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (40 years) both recently celebrated milestone anniversaries and both cited their tradition of dedicated health care service to thousands of Miami-Dade County residents.

Miami Beach Community Health Center also held an open house at its newest medical site: The Center for Haitian Studies, Health and Human Services (CHS) at 8260 N.E. 2nd Avenue in Miami. The open house coincided with National Community Health Center Week. The new site will offer a range of medical specialties including pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, pharmacy, laboratory, internal medicine and immune support programs.

Kevin Kearns Receives Jessie Trice Outstanding Leadership Award

Health Choice Network President and CEO Kevin Kearns was recently named the 2007 recipient of the Jessie Trice Outstanding Leadership Award.

“It was a great honor to receive this prestigious award, named for someone who has had a tremendous impact on my life,” Mr. Kearns said.

The award is presented to an individual who exemplifies the visionary health care leadership in the tradition of Jessie Trice on the local, regional, state or national level. Mr. Kearns was honored for challenging the status quo to create new programs and services amid the changing health care environment for the medically underserved.

Member Centers

Agape Network
Bayview Center for Mental Health
Borinquen Health Care Center
Broward Community and Family Health Center
Camillus Health Concern
Citrus Health Network
Community Health Centers of Pinellas
Community Health of South Florida
Economic Opportunity Family Health Center
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida
Family Medical and Dental Centers
Health Care Center for the Homeless
Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center
Institute for Child and Family Health

Kansas Health Choice Network
Miami Beach Community Health Center
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center
New Mexico Health Choice Network
Premier Community HealthCare Group
Tampa Family Health Centers
Utah Health Choice Network

Patrons

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Amerigroup
Sage Software Healthcare Division
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center