

Friends OF HEALTH CHOICE NETWORK

Communities that care

Educational Session Set for June 29 in Marco Island



Health Choice Network will host its 13th Annual Boards of Directors Educational Session in Marco Island from June 29 - July 1. This year's theme is "Our Year of Action" and is open to member organizations, their Boards and executive staff.

The weekend event kicks off with a Network Gathering beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 29. The event takes place at the Marco Island Marriott Resort, 400 South Collier Boulevard. Registration is \$180 for members, \$200 for patrons and \$250 for non-members.

To register for this event, please visit our website: www.hcnetwork.org or call Diana Alejandro, Special Events Coordinator, at (305) 599-1015 Ext. 8080, or via email at devans@hcnetwork.org.

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Message from the CEO

Prestige Health Choice: Created by Our Community, For Our Community

As I promised, 2007 will be our Year of Action. Last year, we defined the future goals of our organization and we now are bringing those goals to life.

Health Choice Network is proud to announce the creation of Prestige Health Choice, LLC, a new provider service network dedicated to serving Medicaid patients in Florida. Owned and controlled by our member community health centers, Prestige is an exciting new provider partnership that includes physicians, hospitals and health centers - all poised to become a dependable new medical home for the underserved of our region.

Building on both our solid grass-roots foundation and the decades of not-for-profit experience at our member centers, Prestige is designed to overcome the difficulties involved in providing care for the disadvantaged. Prestige will focus on our many strengths: commitment to quality service, our innovative technologies and financial expertise. By combining these successful traits within a provider network, Prestige Health Choice will improve the quality of care for thousands of Floridians for years to come.

Prestige will focus on improving access to care by removing financial, cultural, linguistic and geographic barriers that prevent people from getting medical attention. We will measure our success by the health care dollars we are able to return to our communities. Any profits earned by Prestige will be invested in improving access to care and expanding delivery and integrated support.

Many members of our HCN team have put forth a tremendous effort to make Prestige a reality and my heartfelt thanks goes out to the entire team. Stand by for more exciting news as Our Year of Action continues!

Kevin S. Kearns, President and CEO

HCN Welcomes New Members

The Health Choice family continues to grow. Join us in welcoming our new members:

New Horizons Mental Health Center

Dr. Luvernice Croskey, CEO

New Horizons Community Mental Health Center has provided sensitive, culturally appropriate mental health services to children and families since 1974. In 1981, the agency received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to provide specialized services to children, adolescents and their families through New Horizons CMHC Child and Adolescent Services. This program offers screening and assessments, psychiatric and psychological evaluations, counseling, parenting skill training, case management, medication maintenance, school consultations, workshops and referral.

New Horizons CMHC is also involved in community organization and development. It is located at 1469 NW 36th Street, Miami, FL 33142. (305) 635-0366.

Kansas Health Choice Network

Kansas Health Choice Network is comprised of three Community Health Centers – **Flint Hills CHC, GraceMed and the WeCare Project** – serving a total of seven counties across central Kansas. Throughout the regions served by this new Network, patients are below the Federal Poverty Level and the areas are designated as medically underserved for primary care, dental and mental health.

The regions also have a higher than average percentage of residents who are uninsured, minorities, newly arrived immigrants and elderly.



CareNet Begins Recruiting Campaign

Health Choice Network's CareNet is planning a busy summer of promotion and recruitment as the discount plan seeks to boost membership as it approaches its second year anniversary.

"CareNet will be stepping up its marketing and public relations efforts to bring the benefits of the program to the attention of small businesses, students, service employees and families," said Rev. Dr. Ted Greer, Director of Community Programs & Initiatives.

CareNet provides deeply discounted medical services at member center sites in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Membership is \$25 and those enrolled will be charged a flat fee for doctor visits (\$25), laboratory tests (\$5) and some prescription drugs (starting at \$10). Other services will be available at discounts of up to 60 percent.

Congratulations

2007 HCN Employees of the Month

January

Diana Alejandro

February

Judith Urquiola

March

Andrew Sheflin

April

Farren Hurwitz

May

Collette Reece

Senior staff complete Leadership Training

A team of HCN directors recently graduated from a year-long leadership development program led by Dr. David Kopp, CPLP, FPHR, a professor from Barry University. The group met on a regular basis and held a graduation ceremony at the completion of the course.

"We are excited about the commitment from our future and current HCN leaders," said President and CEO Kevin Kearns, "As we continue to grow, we will be relying on this talented team to play a major role."



Standing (L-R) President and CEO Kevin Kearns, Dr. Kopp, Rev. Dr. Ted Greer, Gary Robinson, Jamie Merritte, Andrew Sheflin, Dhana Leal, Alex Romillo. Sitting (L-R) COO Terisa James, Deborah Loer-Martin, Ph.D., Michele Russell, Jackie Gonzalez-Knowles, Nicole Cook, Carolyn Richardson and Karen Meinke.



Miami Beach Community Health Center Day

It was *Miami Beach Community Health Center Day* in the City of Miami Beach on April 11, 2007 as the Mayor and Commissioners of the City presented a proclamation to Chief Executive Officer Kathryn Abbate at the City Commission meeting. The recognition marks Miami Beach Community Health Center's 30th anniversary providing quality, affordable health care and support services to the Miami Beach community.



Director of Executive Services Lorraine Valinote, EVP Corporate Compliance Diego Martinez, EVP Medical Affairs Mark L. Rabinowitz, M.D., CEO Kathryn Abbate (with proclamation), EVP Human Resources Angie Aguila, EVP Patient Services Sorangely Menjivar, EVP Project Management Orlando Taquechel and Board Chair Paula O'Neill.

CHI is now Community Health of South Florida

As of May 1, 2007, Community Health of South Dade, known as CHI, is now officially Community Health of South Florida.

The organization's 430 employees attended a one-day retreat earlier this year at the Phicol Williams Community Center in Homestead. The group listened to an entertaining presentation from motivational speaker James Westrick and were given the opportunity to ask questions of President & CEO Col. Brodes Hartley as well as sign up for wellness activities.

CHI's Employee Spotlight recently shined on Ultrasound Tech Milagro Arquez. She is a native of Cuba and graduated from Miami-Dade College in 2003. Milagro likes to shop, listen to music and spend time with her family and 12 year old son, Eric.



Milagro Arquez

Utah, New Mexico Updates

New Mexico CEO Appointed Secretary of Health

Alfredo Vigil, M.D., CEO of El Centro Family Health, has been appointed by Governor Bill Richardson as Secretary of Health for the state of New Mexico. He will begin June 11. "I am confident that with Dr. Vigil's extensive clinical and leadership experience coupled with his intimate knowledge of health care delivery in New Mexico, we will reinvigorate our public health policies and services," Governor Richardson said.

Dr. Vigil is an active board member of the New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians and Voices for Children. He is also a clinical associate professor at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Previously Governor Richardson appointed Dr. Vigil to the Medical Board as well as the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee. Congratulations to Dr. Vigil on this prestigious appointment. In other news:

- The New Mexico Department of Health has requested New Mexico HCN to submit a proposal to provide a billing system for 30 school-based health centers operated by New Mexico HCN.

- Health Centers of Northern New Mexico has changed its name and is now El Centro Family Health.

- A very successful Medical Manager training session was also recently held in Albuquerque for the New Mexico HCN.

- Utah Health Choice Network is working closely with HCN to apply for an electronic health record grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Agape Adds Integrated Services, Expands Outpatient Services



Agape Network, a new member of the HCN family, recently added the integrated services (Chief Financial Officer/Chief Information Officer) functions to its Network member services.

Agape Network is also expanding its Outpatient Services to include a special four-hour intense Psychosocial Day Treatment Program. Agape outpatient care provides substance abuse counseling and mental health counseling and treatment to adults, children and families.

In addition to its Outpatient programs, Agape operates a residential program at a seven-acre site with a 100-bed capacity. It currently houses over 70 women and mothers with their small children for up to six months. Agape also provides an aftercare program and a South Florida Jail Ministry.



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Bakari Burns Receives Scholarship

Congratulations to **Bakari Burns**, CEO of Health Care for the Homeless in Orlando. He was recently named the recipient of the 2007 Martin Bell Scholarship to pursue a Masters in Business Administration at Rollins College's Crummer School of Business. He will start classes in August.

HCN Families Enjoy Spring Picnic

On a picture-perfect spring day, HCN families gathered along the beach on Key Biscayne for an afternoon picnic. The fun included games, gifts, swimming, a bounce house for the kids and a hotly-contested flag-football game and plenty of good food.



Children bend over backward for limbo and get ready for a tug-of-war.

Kevin Kearns is Honored With Prestigious Betsey K. Cooke Award

President and CEO Kevin S. Kearns has been honored by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) with the 2007 Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. This national award is presented to individuals who went above and beyond in their efforts to insure that their Members of Congress actively supported Health Centers or to establish and expand grassroots advocacy efforts at their health center or in their state last year.

"Kevin Kearns has been a passionate advocate on behalf of health centers," said Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of NACHC.

Kearns was one of ten individuals presented with the NACHC Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award at the 32nd Annual NACHC Policy and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C., an event attended by over 2000 health center leaders from around the country.

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
Miami Beach Community Health Center
New Mexico Health Choice Network
Premier Community HealthCare Group
Tampa Community Health Center
Utah Health Choice Network

Patrons

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