

E-News This Week **March 25, 2013**

Florida legislators are at work in Tallahassee determining the budget that best meets our state needs. House Speaker Will Weatherford recently commented that one of their funding goals was to “Strengthen Florida’s safety net by increasing funding to serve our most vulnerable populations such as elderly, disabled, and citizens in need of mental health and substance abuse treatment.” While it is still left to the appropriation committees to develop the details, we find this leadership direction heartening.

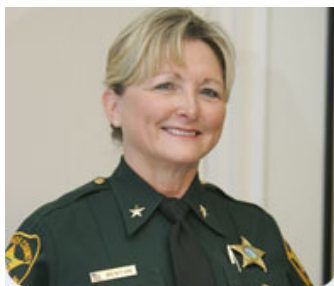
We are also keeping a watchful eye on developments related to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion. Senator Negrón has just released SPB 7038 - a bill that includes his proposed alternative to Medicaid expansion. His proposal would take the place of Medicaid expansion called for under the Affordable Care Act and would extend coverage to the uninsured in households with an income at or below 138% of the federal poverty level. In Florida that applies to around 1 million of the states’ lowest income working adults who have no health insurance. As laid out in the bill, “Healthy Florida” would be operated by the Florida Healthy Kids Corp., a non-profit that now provides coverage on a sliding scale to about 300,000 children across the state. To become law it requires approval of the House and Senate and Governor Rick Scott (who already indicated his support). But, to be implemented it would need federal funds and that requires approval from the US Department of Health and Human Services. HHS is willing to listen to what Florida wants and has communicated that it stands ready to work with states to explore options that “improve care and lower costs”. State economists have estimated the state could receive about \$51 billion in federal funds over 10 years while having to pay out only about \$3.5 billion in state funds to cover those 1 million people.

Finally, the issue of Sequestration will surely impact in some way Florida services. Sequestration is the automatic federal level funding cuts to domestic and defense spending based on the previously agreed Congressional deficit reduction plan. We have sent our contractors information as to which current programs might be impacted (those funded with federal funds include substance abuse and mental health block grants as well as housing support to name a few). Estimates on impacts to funding range from 5% to 9% at this time. All our current contracted providers are able to advise if their current programs will be subject to possible funding reductions and the impacts to the communities they serve. Please feel free to contact them directly with questions.

We continue our E-Meet of Board Membership this issue by profiling Sheriff Susan Benton. The complete Board Membership is on our website under a tab at the top of our home page. All Board Member profiles are housed there and you can also navigate to read the minutes of previous board meetings.

As always this week’s E-News features timely information on special events that recognize people and issues we are passionate about. Here’s hoping your week goes well!

Sheriff Susan Benton is a CFBHN Board Member



Sheriff Susan Benton

[E-Meet Susan](#)

Sheriff Benton, a 5th generation Floridian, was born and raised in Miami-Dade County. Following in the footsteps of her great grandfather who served as Chief of Police in St Augustine, Florida in the early 1920’s, Sheriff Benton has served with distinction in law enforcement for more than 30 years. She has “served in the trenches” shoulder-to-shoulder with her fellow deputies and has risen through the ranks by gaining the respect and trust of her colleagues, superiors, agency members, and community. Sheriff Benton has two grown children and three grandchildren. Sheriff Benton is Catholic and very active in her community and with her family. She holds a BA in Justice

Administration from St. Thomas University, MPA from Troy State, is a Certified Public Manager through Florida State University, and has completed the FBI National Academy Law Enforcement Executive Development course. She has been an instructor in Public Administration at Barry University, for the Office of the Attorney General, and for the Florida Departments of Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement. She has received numerous honors and recognition for her affiliations and community service. She is the current President of the Florida Sheriff’s Association Board of Directors and has recently been appointed to the National Sheriff’s Association Board of Directors.

Suicide Prevention Tools Webinar March 28

[Saving lives is the focus of this free event from 1:00 to 2:30 pm EDT](#)

Up to 45% of individuals who die by suicide have visited their primary care physician within a month of their death; additional research suggests that up to 67% of those who attempt suicide receive medical attention as a result of their attempt. Given these statistics, primary care practices have enormous potential to prevent suicides and connect people to needed specialty care. The target audience for this event is safety net providers, and the objectives are to share information on suicide prevention trainings and resources available for primary care and clinical staff. There will be recommendations on how to implement at least one office protocol and how to access local resources for people at risk of suicide. This webinar will also share lessons from how one Community Health Center implemented suicide prevention protocols in their agency. Sponsored by the National Council for Community Behavioral Health, SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions, and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, there will be an expert panel of presenters for this event. Register today at: www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/webinars

Coastal Behavioral Healthcare Introduces New President/CEO Jack Minge

[His appointment was effective March 11](#)

One of the key players in development of Coastal's new Strategic Plan, Jack brings more than 25 years' experience to this position through his comprehensive executive leadership of large, multi-faceted behavioral health and substance abuse organizations, as well as extensive knowledge and experience in the regulatory, legislative, and funding aspects of behavioral healthcare and substance abuse treatment services. For more information you can contact Karen Ver Heist, Director of Development, at kverheist@coastalbh.org or 941.927.8900.

Mandatory Reporter Training Announced

[April 9, 10 & 11 in Tampa at Stetson University Tampa Law Center](#)

Mary Lee's House, a Child Protection and Advocacy Center, is partnering with the City of Tampa and the Department of Children & Families to present six half-day trainings. Participants will learn what is required when reporting child/adult abuse and neglect. There is no cost to attend and registration is on a first-come first served basis. Go to <http://www.maryleeshouse.org/documents/Mandatory-Reporter-Training-Flyer.pdf> to register.

CFBHN Staff Appointed to Polk State College Student Advisory Board

[Doris Nardelli, Manager of Business Development & Marketing, joins Business Board at College](#)

The Board meets twice yearly and is comprised of business and health leaders from the community. They are tasked with providing feedback and insight as to the development of programs that best fit students' needs. Polk State College recently became a four year higher education institution and currently awards a variety of degrees. It was recently reported that Polk State College has an economic impact of \$481.8 million on Polk County, and that impact is expected to continue to grow.

Suncoast Center Brings Social Services Aid to Tarpon Springs

[Center helps families deal with a variety of struggles](#)

All matter of issues are addressed from mental health and substance abuse to child abuse and trauma. The center is funded through the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board and private donations, and was able to open in Tarpon Springs because of donated space by the Tarpon Springs Housing Authority. The new office is actually a refurbished apartment at 545 E Harrison St. The space with bright green walls and a staff of seven smiley counselors seems ideal for an organization that specializes in helping families. It is adjacent to the building that houses Cops n' Kids, another Housing Authority partnership that provides after-school and summer programs for low-income children. You can contact Suncoast Center for more information on this location at 727.388.1220.

CFBHN Announces Open Positions

[Human Resources Director Jennifer Syedin says link is on website to apply](#)

A number of professional career positions have been posted to the CFBHN website including Director of Informational Technology, Senior Quality Manager, Program Manager/Trainer, Utilization Manager and Prevention Program Manager. If you or someone you know might be interested in these positions go online to www.cfbhn.org to see more information and apply. CFBHN is a great place to work! Come join the team.

Prepared for Immediate Release:

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