

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

April 4 – April 8, 2011

Jackson Health System (JHS)

According to an analysis by the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida (which represents the state's teaching and government hospitals), hospitals in Miami-Dade and Broward counties stand to lose approximately \$470 million under proposed cuts by the Florida Senate to the state Medicaid and Medically Needy programs. Under the House proposal, the cuts would be in the range of \$98 million. Jackson Health System would be the most severely impacted by the cuts, with a possible loss of \$177.5 million under the senate plan and \$42.2 million in the House. The Senate version proposes a 10 percent cut in Medicaid rates and deep cuts in the Medically Needy program, which supports transplant patients and others. The House bill proposes a 7 percent cut to Medicaid rates and leaves the Medically Needy Program intact.

Nongovernmental hospitals will also experience serious cuts. Baptist Health South Florida, a non profit, which owns five hospitals, could face a reduction of \$10 million to \$41 million, and the fiscal impact to the University of Miami is estimated in the range of \$3 million to \$16 million according to the Alliance study.

Miami

The City of Miami has begun a challenge to the 2010 Census count that estimated the city's population at fewer than 400,000. If successful, the City could net tens of millions of dollars. City leaders and experts contend that the actual number of Miami residents is above 500,000, and blame the low count on the significant under reporting of undocumented immigrants. Additionally, reporting problems arose with census trackers unable to get past security guards at many of the new condominiums in Brickell, Downtown and Midtown Miami. Mayor Regalado also noted that many new families that arrived from Haiti after the earthquake were not considered. Outside experts have estimated that the undercount could cause a funding shortage to Miami of an estimated \$20 million in federal dollars for services such as affordable housing and policing.

To challenge the Census count, the city is looking to the Social Compact, a Washington D.C. based nonprofit that helps encourage private investment in inner cities. In 2008, the City of Miami worked with the Social Compact and successfully challenged annual population estimates issued by the U.S. Census Bureau; as a result, the Bureau increased the city's population by more than 80,000 residents, for a total of 424,000.

Regalado is being joined in his efforts by his daughter, Miami-Dade School Board Member, Raquel Regalado. According to Ms. Regalado, Miami Dade Public Schools has 53 schools within the city and stands to be shortchanged by millions of dollars in federal funding for low-income students if the official population isn't increased. This is especially troublesome to the school system given the drastic cuts in the state budget.

Miami Springs

On Tuesday, April 5, the City of Miami Springs elected Zavier Garcia as their new mayor. Garcia replaces outgoing Mayor Billy Bain, whose term limits prevented him from running again.

The election results for the city council seats are as follows (All incumbents were reelected): Group 1 incumbent Bob Best (Unopposed); Group 2 incumbent Dan Espino defeated Helen Lawrence; Group 3 incumbent George Lob defeated Mel Johnson; and Group 4 incumbent Jennifer Ator defeated Grace Bain (wife of Mayor Bain).

All council members will begin two-year terms and will be sworn in on Monday, April 11, 2011.

Miami Shores

Miami Shores' village elections are set to take place on April 12, 2011, in which seven candidates are vying for four council seats. The candidates include: incumbent council members Robert H. Davis, 41, president and CEO of a manufacturing company; Prospero G. Herrera II, 49, director of support services at Miami Dade College; and Stephen Loffredo, 58, lawyer in private practice. The other candidates include: Jim McCoy, 47, a former Shores mayor and commercial real estate broker; Angela Alvero, 45, managing partner of a law firm; Robert Swan, 60, retired Miami-Dade police captain; and Jesse Walters, 55, "stay-at-home father."

Candidates all run against each other and the four top vote recipients win the seats. The current mayor and fifth council member, Al Davis, is serving a term that expires in 2013.

North Miami Beach

Eighteen candidates have filed to fill the mayor and council seats for the scheduled election on May 3, 2011. The candidates are as follows: Group 1, incumbent Mayor Myron Rosner will face former North Miami Beach councilman Kenneth DeFillipo and George Vallejo; Group 2, incumbent Councilman Phillippe Derosé will face retired aerospace engineer Michael Joseph Casey; Group 3, incumbent Councilwoman Phyllis

Smith will face Mario Apollon and Hillel Hellinger; Group 4, incumbent Councilwoman Beth Spiegel will face Hans Mardy and Muriel Kemp; Group 5, incumbent Councilman Frantz Pierre will face Ketley Joachim; Group 6, incumbent Barbara Kramer will face Thomas Pinder and Group 7, incumbent Councilman McKenzie Fleurimond will face Margaret Love and Marlen Martell.

Pinecrest

In support of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Village of Pinecrest will vote on the following proposed resolution on Tuesday, April 12th:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 281 AND SENATE BILL 880; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

One of the key issues for the School Board is HB 281 and SB 880. Both proposed bills would require taxpayers who appeal the market value of their property to pay a portion of the tax liability while their appeal is being addressed.

University of Miami

After receiving a \$20 million donation by a local investment firm, the university's plan for a new 119,000 square foot student activities center is underway. According to UM President Donna Shalala, the gift came from the Fairholme Foundation; the charitable arm of Miami based Fairholme Capital Management.

The new student center will augment, not replace the existing Whitten University Center, which opened in 1965. The older building will be renovated and expanded to include new amenities and accommodate a larger number of students.

Miami-Dade County Days

This year, Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee took place on Wednesday, April 6 - Thursday, April 7, 2011. The two day event provides an opportunity for members of Miami-Dade County's public and private sectors to advocate for their issues of interest, as well as, celebrate our community during the Florida Legislative Session.

Among those municipalities represented were the following: Cutler Bay, Doral, El Portal, Golden Beach, Hialeah Gardens, Homestead, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, Miami Lakes, Opa-Locka, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, South Miami, Virginia Gardens and West Miami.

Every year Miami-Dade County Days hosts an “awards luncheon” to pay tribute to those who have made special contributions to the community through their service. This year two awards were given to local officials, including the following:

The *Russ Marchner “Outstanding Municipal Official Service”* Award recipient was Councilman Michael Blynn, City of North Miami; and the *Helen Miller “I’m Blessed” Award* recipient was Thelma Gibson (In August, 1997, Gibson was appointed Miami's interim City Commissioner. In 1984, she founded the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Dade County)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elections:

The following municipal election are scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2011:

Aventura Special Election (amending the charter / term limits); Coral Gables Biennial Election; and Miami Shores Council Election.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:

Miami developer and lobbyist Rodney Barreto announced his resignation from his appointed post to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Mr. Barreto served 10 years on the Commission, seven of which, he served as chairman. Barreto was named to the position in 2001 by former Governor Jeb Bush and reappointed by former Governor Charlie Crist. The resignation will take effect June 1, two months before his term would expire, which would allow him to work on behalf of the agency with the legislature and to elect a new chairman.

Miami-Dade County League of Cities:

Save the date:

What: MDCLC Board of Directors Meeting

Where: 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant located at 1395 NW 57th Avenue,

When: Thursday, April 14, 2011

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

