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Blueprint alliance focuses on improving health care for uninsured children

Blueprint for Prosperity's Health Care Strategic Alliance (part of its Quality of Life Foundation) has identified insurance access as one of its priorities in the coming year, as Florida has the second highest percentage of uninsured children (17%) in the U.S.

The Blueprint for Prosperity's Health Care Strategic Alliance has identified a need for local business leaders to become aware of this issue and to encourage elected representatives to put KidCare, Florida's complicated children's health insurance program, on the agenda for the special legislative session in June.

In the KidCare program, children are required to move between different program components based

on age, income and health status (all of which change regularly). Also, different agencies control different components of KidCare, making both accountability and satisfying enrollment requirements very complex. As a result of this complexity, a limited enrollment period, and a lack of promotion, Florida's enrollment in KidCare decreased by 38.5 percent in 2005. The Alliance believes that if Florida reduces the complexity of KidCare and streamlines accountability under one agency while increasing awareness of the program, the needs of families will be better served and quality of life will improve for all Florida residents.

The Duval County Health Department: a committed Blueprint Partner

The Duval County Health Department (DCHD) is one of the largest providers of health care to children in Jacksonville, providing more than 120,000 visits last year alone. It employs more than 800 people, with an annual budget exceeding \$50 million. In addition to primary care, the DCHD provides myriad services to protect the public's health in Duval County, including:

Environmental Protection

- Beach and public swimming pool water sampling and monitoring
- Lead paint abatement
- Septic tank monitoring
- Inspection of food service establishments like schools and child care centers

Disease Control

- Constant surveillance of infectious diseases like tuberculosis and STDs
- STD and HIV/AIDS specialty care, community-based screening and education
- Health care and surveillance of overseas travelers and refugees

Maternal and Child Health

- Home visits, case management and childbirth education to ensure successful pregnancies
- Adolescent pregnancy prevention
- Behavioral health counseling for children and adults
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program to ensure proper nutrition for pregnant women, postpartum mothers and young children

Chronic Disease Prevention

- Breast and cervical cancer screening, case management and education
- Obesity prevention for children and adults
- Tobacco prevention and cessation
- Diabetes screening and connection to medical homes for at-risk residents
- Blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles through education, marketing and grassroots partnerships

Correctional Medicine

- Health care for prisoners in the Duval County Jail

Emergency Preparedness

- Shelters for people with special health care needs during disasters

Health Policy, Data and Community Research

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of local health data to identify priority health issues
- Development of local health policies, including violence prevention

The DCHD is a significant contributor to Jacksonville's local economy as well – a recent study in Public Health Reports (2007) concluded that the DCHD had an economic impact on Duval County of more than \$100 million in 2005.

Founding Partners

- City of Jacksonville
- Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
- WorkSource

New Partners

All Saints Community Care Center
The Jacksonville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

Total of 325 Partners

Blueprint Partner Orientation

Blueprint staff has been conducting orientations to assist Blueprint Partners in understanding the process and developing strategies. The next orientation will be June 14, 1:30 pm at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, 3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville Fla., 32202.

To register for this orientation or to schedule an individual appointment, contact Harlan Stallings at 904.366.6618 or harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.

Cultivating mentoring programs and good mentors in Northeast Florida

The Northeast Florida Mentoring Collaborative (NEFMC), Mentor Jax and Baptist Health are holding a professional development conference for those who wish to explore launching a mentoring program at their church or company, titled "Planting the Seed: Cultivating and Nurturing Mentoring in Northeast Florida." Mentors are also encouraged to attend.

Special guests include Sheriff John Rutherford, Councilman Michael Corrigan, Betty Burney of Duval County Public

School Board, and regional and national experts presenting the most current and relevant information on mentoring, youth and program management. The keynote speaker is Pegine Echevarria, author of *For All of Our Daughters*, a guide on how to mentor young women and girls.

The conference will be held June 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UNF University Center. For more information and to register for the conference, contact Kesler Mentoring Connection at 224-2400.

Assets for Change Forum

The War on Poverty Initiative's forum, "Business Plan Development for Non-Profit Organizations," will provide answers to the following questions:

- What are the key components of a business plan?
- What do reviewers expect a business plan to reveal?
- How do the management and marketing plans impact the business plan?

The event will be held May 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at the War on Poverty office, located in the Gateway Town Center, 5196-A Norwood Ave. For more information and to RSVP to the event, visit www.waronpoverty.org or e-mail klandry@waronpoverty.org.

Hire a student through the "Seeds of Change Summer Jobs Program"

The Mayor's "Seeds of Change Summer Jobs Program" was created to provide Jacksonville's young people with workplace skills and a strong foundation for career building.

The City has developed a partnership with WorkSource, who will match students to your workplace's specific needs. This year's program has been expanded to include students ages 16-21, and training for both students and employers is available from WorkSource and the City of Jacksonville. Finding the right summer employee has been made simple

– just choose one of the steps below:

- Log onto www.worksourcefl.com or call 798-9229 ext. 2206
- Attend the Job Fair on May 30 at Jacksonville University to hire/interview students in person. For more information, contact 630-CITY.

Please consider joining this vital effort. Together, we can make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of our community's young people.

Tackling the rising cost of health care through collaboration

Northeast Florida Regional Health Organization is hosting a two-day "Collaboration Summit" focused on increasing the exchange of regional health information. The summit will bring together health care professionals and organizations to talk about how sharing and using information more effectively can facilitate better decision making, giving rise to better care at lower costs.

The emphasis will be on practical approaches, not just theory, and will include prominent speakers who will discuss

the positive results of regional health initiatives being implemented across the country. Attendees will receive a document describing best practices from organizations that have successfully been involved with these initiatives.

The two-day event will be held June 1 - 2 at the UNF University Center. For more information, or to register for the summit, visit <http://nefrho.eventbrite.com/>.