

# Friends OF THE NETWORK

NEWS FROM  
Health Choice Network  
9064 N.W. 13th Terrace  
Miami, Florida 33172

Communities that care  
[www.hcnetwork.org](http://www.hcnetwork.org)

To our Members, Friends & Patrons:  
*Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday*  
From the Staff and Board of Health Choice Network



## Kevin Kearns Named President & CEO of Health Choice Network

The Board of Directors of Health Choice Network has announced that Kevin Kearns has been appointed the organization's President and Chief Executive Officer. The announcement was made on September 22 by Board Chair Brodes Hartley. Mr. Kearns succeeds founding President and CEO Betsey K. Cooke.

Mr. Kearns has been with HCN since 1996 and was named acting CEO in the Spring of this year. In his previous role, he was Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer/Chief Financial Officer. His duties included serving as CFO/CIO for member centers. Kearns also serves on Governor Bush's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board.

## Betsey Cooke Honored at Jessie Trice Benefit

Betsey K. Cooke, the founding President and CEO of Health Choice Network, received the Connie and Priscilla Mack Cancer Advocacy Award at the Fifth Annual Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit, presented by Former U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

More than a dozen Cancer Heroes were also honored at the event, which seeks to raise funds for projects that prevent and treat cancer within minority and uninsured communities.

**Please turn to Page 2 for more on the Jessie Trice event.**



## New Facility Unveiled at Open House

After several years of preparation and perseverance, Health Choice Network has moved into its new headquarters in west Miami-Dade. To celebrate the milestone, HCN hosted a double open house on September 17, one for employees and their families and another for friends, patrons and members of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

**For more on the Open House, turn to page 2.**



# Open House Celebration

Two exciting open house events marked Health Choice Network's move to its new facility. An employee event featured tours, children's activities, games and a picnic lunch. The first two Employee of the Month awards were also announced: Alex Romillo and Rev. Ted Greer. Later in the afternoon, community health leaders from throughout the nation, as well as local vendors, associates and network members toured the impressive facility. HCN staff from each department explained services and showed off equipment.

There was a presentation of awards to the many individuals who coordinated the move and helped make the new facility a reality. A final highlight was the naming of the Board Room after founding President and CEO Betsey K. Cooke.

## Board Room Named in Honor of Betsey Cooke



*During the Open House and in front of hundreds of guests, HCN Board Chair Brodes Hartley and Vice Chair Lalai Hamric unveil the sign dedicating the Boardroom in founding CEO Betsey Cooke's honor.*



*President and CEO Kevin Kearns, Dick Bohrer, former Director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Community Health Centers Programs and Board Chair Brodes Hartley.*

## Cancer Heroes Honored at 5th Jessie Trice Benefit



*(L-R) Mark Smith (representing Senator Connie Mack), CEO Kevin Kearns (accepting the award for Betsey Cooke) and former Congresswoman Carrie Meek.*

It was a night for heroes as Health Choice Network honored those who have made a difference in the prevention and treatment of cancer within minority and uninsured communities.

Founding President and CEO Betsey K. Cooke received the Connie and Pricilla Mack Cancer Advocacy Award. Other Hero awards included: **Network Members:** Roxana Brehm, *Community Health of South Dade*; Lu Greene, *Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida*; Felicia Hart, *Broward Community and Family Health Center*. **Legislative:** Michael Hansen, *Governor's Office*; Honorable Nan Rich, *Florida Senate*; Honorable Burt Saunders, *Florida Senate*. **Partner Agencies:** Ann May, *American Cancer Society*; Sandy Sears, *Jackson Memorial Hospital*; **Faith-Based Partner:** Rev. Ernest Andrew, *Goulds Coalition*

**Healthy Body, Healthy Soul:** Mark Meiselman, *Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center*; Mary Jo Trepka, M.D., *Florida International University*.



*Florida Senator Nan Rich and Board Chair Brodes Hartley.*



*Host Sponsors from Emdeon are Matt Townley (L) and Teri Cross.*



*Members of Jessie Trice's family were recognized.*

# CareNet Discount Plan Gets Rolling

Health Choice Network and five of its member centers recently launched CareNet, a new medical card discount plan aimed at the more than 500,000 uninsured in Miami-Dade County. The kickoff event was held at Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center.

CareNet will provide deeply discounted medical services at 16 health center sites throughout Miami-Dade for anyone who cannot afford health insurance because of income, health status, age or residency. CareNet will be targeting small businesses, hourly wage-earners, students, service employees, the self-employed and families. Membership is \$25 per month.

Once enrolled, members will be charged a flat fee for primary doctor and dentist visits (\$25), laboratory tests (\$5) and some prescription drugs (starting at \$10). Other services will be available at discounts of up to 60 percent.

“With the hundreds of thousands of medically uninsured in our region, CareNet is an affordable solution to



*Unveiling a giant Carenet discount medical card are (L-R) Dr. Caleb Davis, Annie Neasman, Kathryn Abbate and Col. Brodes H. Hartley.*

the growing cost of health care,” said Brodes H. Hartley, President of the HCN Board of Directors and CEO of Community Health of South Dade, Inc.

## Technology Takes Center Stage at Boards of Directors Retreat

Health Choice Network’s member staffs, along with the health and business leaders from the community, attended the 11th Annual Board of Directors Retreat and Educational Session in Delray Beach. Under the banner of *Informational Technology - Improving Clinical Outcomes and Reshaping Medicaid*, attendees enjoyed a weekend that featured nationally-recognized speakers and panel discussions.

Keynote speaker Dennis Williams, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Also making presentations were Michael Heekin, Chair of the Governor’s Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board in Tallahassee and Andrew Behrman, President and CEO of the Florida Association of Community Health Centers.

In addition to the educational sessions, there also was recognition awards for HCN patrons and supporting businesses and organizations.



*HCN Medical Director St. Anthony Amofah, M.D. and keynote speaker Dennis Williams, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).*





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

## Around the Network

### *Florida DOT Awards Grant To Economic Opportunity*

The Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (EOFHC) recently received a \$60,000 grant award from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The funds will be used to purchase a new wheelchair accessible van to improve transportation services to elderly and disabled residents in Miami-Dade County. EOFHC will coordinate the purchase of the vehicle through the FDOT's Vehicle Procurement Program administered in partnership with the University of South Florida, College of Engineering Center for Urban Transportation Research

### Senior Immunization Program Underway at Member Centers

Member Centers of Health Choice Network again offered free influenza vaccinations for uninsured seniors this fall. The Senior Immunization Program (SIP), now in its third year, is sponsored through a partnership between Health Foundation of South Florida and HCN. The immunizations were offered beginning in October.

For the nearest clinic location and schedule, call the Project hotline at 1-866-NO-TO-FLU (1-866-668-6358).

### Camillus Creates Consumer Advisory Board

Camillus Health Concern has created a consumer advisory board (CAB) to give homeless patients a forum for providing input and voicing concerns. It is comprised entirely of persons who are homeless who receive services through Camillus.

The CAB assists with the Center's consumer satisfaction survey and their participation has increased the number of respondents. Also, CAB members assist in

educating patients with issues such as understanding how to reach your doctor after hours and what to do in case of an emergency.

"We review new program changes with them and they are our consumer voice in the community," said Alina Perez-Stable, Director of Camillus Health Concern. She added that patients provide input to CAB members and they have established a code of ethics.

#### Member Centers

Broward Community and Family Health Centers  
Camillus Health Concern  
Citrus Health Network  
Community Health Centers of Pinellas  
Community Health of South Dade  
Economic Opportunity Family Health Center  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida  
Health Care Center for the Homeless  
Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center  
Miami Beach Community Health Center

New Mexico Health Choice Network  
Premier Community Healthcare Group  
Tampa Community Health Centers  
Utah Health Choice Network

#### Patrons

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