South Florida Regional Extension Center Makes Strides in EHR Adoption

More than 800 healthcare providers have joined the South Florida Regional Extension Center (SFREC) and started the process of achieving meaningful use through Electronic Health Record adoption.

The SFREC has added five more counties from its initial three (Miami Dade, Broward and Monroe) for a total of eight. The new counties are Palm Beach, Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River. Services are free of charge to the SFREC’s priority physicians, including family doctors, pediatricians, OB/GYNs and those caring for underserved and minority communities. The overall goal of the SFREC is to assist 2,500 providers in the EHR adoption process and achieve meaningful use.

Meaningful use is defined as demonstrating the use of electronic health records to improve the quality and efficiency of health care. For example, medical providers must send, receive and confirm a percentage of their prescription medication orders and lab tests through their EHR system. Providers who join the South Florida REC will be guided and assisted through the process of registering for financial incentives, receiving an office readiness assessment, choosing a certified vendor, implementing a system, training and support and achieving meaningful use.

The SFREC has completed a process of selecting qualified vendors to provide discounted hardware and software to the providers who have joined.

For more information, call 305.471.8710 or visit www.southfloridarec.org.

CEO MESSAGE

Building New Foundations For Future Growth

The more work, time and effort that is invested into projects, the more satisfying it is when it finally becomes a reality. In that respect, 2010 was a very satisfying year for Health Choice Network, partners and participants. Programs and initiatives that have been in the planning stages for years were launched and promise to be the source of future growth for our organization. During the past year, we saw the South Florida Regional Extension Center become a reality after a broad coalition of health organizations came together and encouraged nearly 2,500 providers to endorse the project. Now the South Florida REC is busily signing up health care providers and starting them on the path to meaningful use (see story at left).

After several years of planning and strategizing, Health Choice Network, Inc. and Health Choice Network Florida were formed to better serve the needs of center participants and networks in regions across the U.S. as well as those within Florida. Look for more information as these new entities are formally announced. For now, join me in congratulating the new Board of Directors for HCN, Inc., listed below. The talents and energy of this group will guide this new organization.

We are looking forward to a great year!

HCN INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brodes Hartley, Jr., Chair
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The Health Choice Network's 10th Anniversary Gala was truly a perfect ten with nearly 400 attendees and more than $190,000 raised to support activities such as the Jessie Trice Health Promotion Program. The special evening at the Doral Resort featured a cocktail reception, dinner, Health Care Heroes honorees, an update from the Network and a keynote address from Florida Senator Joe Negron, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This year's Health Care Hero honorees were Florida Representative David Rivera and Lillian Rivera, Administrator of the Miami-Dade County Health Department. Retired U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek spoke about the importance of the Jessie Trice Health Promotion Program and CEO Kevin Kearns introduced keynote speaker Senator Joe Negron. Key sponsors of the event were Sage, Magellan Health Services and Quest Diagnostics. Next year's benefit is scheduled for September 21, 2011.

School-based Health Expands, Reaches More Students

Our successful collaborative, Health Connect in Our Schools (HCiOS), continues to make new strides with programs and initiatives to improve school-based care to those children who need it most. A HCiOS team member is the only health care professional many children see during the year. Along with our partners—The Children’s Trust, the Miami Dade County Health Department and Miami Dade County Public Schools—HCiOS has provided services to more than 55,000 students in 79 Miami Dade County Public Schools as of January 2011. The students received primary care, exams, screenings and immunizations. HCiOS continues to leverage the latest health information technology tools to capture, aggregate and report data from its health suites.

Centers Go Live With Intergy

Three South Florida Centers, Community Health of South Florida, Citrus Health Network and Institute for Child and Family Health, recently went live on Sage Intergy.

The Department of Health and Human Services has certified the Intergy product for meaningful use as defined by the Office of the National Coordinator. This means that a health care provider using Intergy can achieve measurable outcomes in patient engagement, care coordination, and efficiency. Sage Intergy was also selected as one of the preferred vendors by the South Florida Regional Extension Center.
Miami Beach Community Health Center has opened a new health facility across the bay in North Miami. The state-of-the-art facility will serve patients in the northeast Miami Dade County region. MBCHC was also named Non-Profit Business of the Year by the Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce. MBCHC CEO Kathryn Abbate was elected to the Chamber’s Board.

Rosalyn Frazier, CEO of Broward Community and Family Health Center, was selected to participate in the prestigious UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program in Los Angeles. She completed the program over the summer.

Claudio Perez, CEO of Agape Network received an Honorary doctorate degree from Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary and also participated in the Harvard Business School CEO Executive Education Program, focusing on non-profit leadership.

The Pasco Economic Development Council presented Premier Community HealthCare Group (PCHG) with a “Special Contribution Award” at the 24th Annual Industry Appreciation Banquet. PCHG also celebrated the opening of their new Administrative Offices in Dade City, FL with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during National Health Center Week.

Brodes Hartley, Jr., CEO of Community Health of South Florida, was the subject of a cover story in Community Newspapers regarding his 30-year career and efforts to increase access to health care.

Nine South Florida HCN-member centers will participate in a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Center of Excellence grant from the Health Foundation of South Florida. The $100,000 grant will support the expansion of the medical home model of coordinated care, a promising health system alternative to the current model.

Choptank Community Health System recently dedicated the new J. Wayne Howard administration building, named after CCHS’s recently retired CEO. The new facility will allow CCHS to expand its service to a fourth county on the Eastern shore of Maryland.

Providence Community Health Center plans on breaking ground in 2011 on a new 40,000-square-foot clinic that will be the cornerstone of a medical-retail complex in upper South Providence, Rhode Island. The project, which includes the refurbishment of two historic buildings on the 3.5 acre site, will be a boost for the neighborhood which is economically depressed and suffers from high unemployment, according to CEO Merrill R. Thomas.

Steve Shattls, CEO for Valley Health, was named a 2010 Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). Each year, NACHC recognizes recipients who exemplify extraordinary achievement in promoting community health centers in Washington, D.C. The award is named for Betsey Cooke, founding CEO of Health Choice Network.
Prestige Gives Back to the Communities It Serves

Prestige Health Choice, a provider service network owned by HCN and its centers, is known for its high quality patient care programs. It also has a reputation for community support in the neighborhoods it serves. From health fairs to back to school activities to local sporting events, Prestige often has a presence at large and small gatherings in the seven counties it serves.

“Providing support to our communities is an essential part of the Prestige mission,” said President Paul Rothman. “Our commitment is not only to our members and providers, but to give back to the neighborhoods where they live and work.”

Prestige President Paul Rothman talks with City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado during a health fair at Borinquen Health Care Center.