

Funding For Community Health Centers Reauthorized

Intense concern and worry over funding is alleviated after Congress passed legislation to fix the health center funding cliff with a two-year extension and \$600 million in additional dollars to further support health center operations and address unmet needs. The news came as a huge comfort to Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) and other community health centers nationwide who had been waiting on reauthorization of funding since October 2017.

The good news didn't stop there. Congress also reauthorized funding for two years for Teaching Health Center GME programs such as the Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Teaching Health Center at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. CHI's teaching health center develops and trains medical residents to address a looming shortage of primary care physicians. The extension of funding for that program helps realign finances by closely linking them to the true cost of training physicians in primary care specialties

"This is a win, win situation for everyone," said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., President and CEO of CHI. "It's a win for the of 83,000 patients that we care for every year. We manage diseases for them, heal their ailments and care for them physically and mentally. This is also a win for our employees who devote themselves to caring for these people and a win for our residents learning to care for a diverse population."

The victory comes just days after an all-out advocacy effort. CHI employees adorned themselves in red to show a passion and urgency for healthcare funding. The National "Red Alert Day," on February 6th prompted CHI staff and people across the



Community Health of South Florida, Inc. staff wore red on Red Alert Day to highlight the need for funding Community Health Centers.

country to post photos on social media and make phone calls and emails to U.S. Congressional and Senate leaders urging them to address the funding cliff facing community health centers nationwide. The health of 27 million Americans was in jeopardy. Those people rely on Community Health Centers to provide high quality, affordable healthcare.

Licensed Mental Health Technician and Coordinator for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement, Celia Mion, wore red pants on Red Alert Day in honor of CHI's mission.

"I really believe in bringing healthcare to all people," said Mion. "We need it not only for people who can't afford it, but also the people who rely on these programs to improve their lives regardless of economics."

Latricia Segura-Branch PharmD, a pharmacist at CHI wore a large red flower in her hair along with fellow pharmacy staff. She knows the dire need and said without support for life-saving medications and medication management services that community health centers provide, patients are in danger.

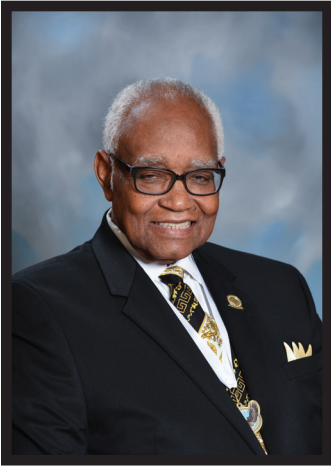
"If there were no pharmacies in community health centers especially 340B pharmacies, patients would go without the proper medications that they need," said Segura-Branch.

According to the National Association for Community Health Centers (NACHC) the extension of funds secures healthcare for 27 million patients by ensuring thousands of sites will be able to keep their doors open.

For those tasked with the job of molding the next generation of doctors, reauthorization of funding for teaching health centers is a big burden relieved from their hearts and minds.

"Traditionally underserved rural and urban areas face the greatest challenges recruiting physicians," said Dr. Saint Anthony Amofah, Chief Academic Officer and Chief Medical Officer. "We are so grateful that the federal government is helping with this investment to grow our own physicians. This goes a long way in addressing key healthcare gaps among some of the most vulnerable people in our communities."

A Message from the President



Mental Health is once again center stage with the tragic Parkland school shooting. South Florida must be committed to providing adequate behavioral health services if we are going to heal and move forward as a community. We have always provided adult and children's behavioral health services at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. But we know even more is needed. That is why we are committed to building a Children's Crisis Center at our main health center 10300 SW 216 St., Miami, FL 33190. This will be a place where children with severe behavioral health issues can come for comprehensive, intensive care. Children who are Baker Acted, who have been abused, neglected or have significant behavioral health issues can get the help that they desperately need.

Currently we have a Crisis Center, however it is only for adults. That means when children arrive for help we have to process and then transfer them. We need to be able to give these kids immediate treatment when in crisis.

You can be part of the solution. Our annual Glen Rice Celebrity Golf Tournament hosted by the CHI Foundation tees off April 27th at Shula's Golf Club at 7601 Miami Lakes Drive, Miami, FL 33014. Become a sponsor or just sign up to play on our website at www.chisouthfl.org. You can also just donate to the cause on the site. If you want to send a check you can call (305)252-4853 for more information.

Together we can accomplish tremendous things. Such is the case with advocacy. Thanks to your efforts to contact our legislators we now have federal funding for another two years. The situation would have been grim across the country if funding had not been reauthorized for community health centers. So, I want to thank you all and I want to thank our legislators in Washington for being strong and pushing through this vital legislation to ensure everyone has access to high quality healthcare.

Our voices are powerful. I learned that from a young age. I remember as a student in Tallahassee being instrumental in the bus boycott movement. Today we see this again. Our young people are passionate, they are articulate and they are committed to abiding by their words, "Never Again." This country must never again see another school shooting and we need to stand by our children and advocate for their safety and their mental health. I ask each of you.... What have you done to make sure our reality becomes "Never Again?"

Earnestly,

Brodes H. Hartley Jr.

President/CEO



SWING WITH THE PROS AT THE GLEN RICE CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

April 27th 2018

Shula's Golf Club

7601 Miami Lakes Dr., Miami FL 33014

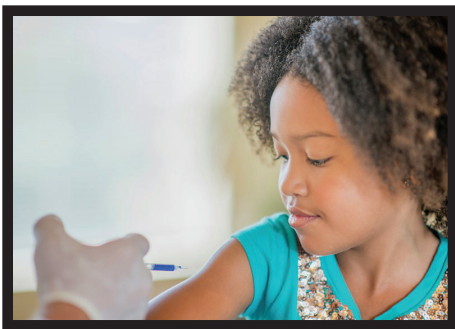
**To play and for sponsorship levels
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Deadly Flu Season Still Strong

Even though flu season should be trailing off for the nation, Doctors are still monitoring the issue very closely throughout the country and especially here in South Florida. The nation's season typically peaks by February. However, this has been one of the worst seasons in the last ten years with nearly 100 children dying from the illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, flu season in sunny Florida has been known to linger and last year-round.

Safety precautions are common sense. Yet CHI's Chief of Pediatrics, Dr. Tanya Roman, said it's important to keep reminding people to do some key things.

"Hand washing is very important if you are in close contact," said Dr. Roman. "Try to isolate someone from other people if they have the flu because it is contagious especially high risk people like younger kids or people with underlying medical conditions."



News of severe reactions, hospitalizations and even schools shutting down due to widespread outbreaks has frightened many parents. Leaving some to wonder what the best course of action should be if their child gets sick. Should you take him or her to the doctor or to the Emergency Room? "Contact your doctor's office to get guidance based on current symp-



toms," explains Dr. Roman. "Every case is different. So, it's important when they are concerned to seek out their doctor."

Typical flu symptoms are fever, body aches, headaches, generalized weakness, coughing, and upper respiratory symptoms.

Dr. Roman said in some cases the medication Tamiflu can help if it is started within 48 hours of the flu symptom onset. Pharmacies around South Florida have been running out of the medication. However, CHI's pharmacy has been able to maintain significant stock.

Doctors say a person with the flu can be infectious for 7 days. That is why it is critical to follow the physician's advice for when someone can go back to work or school.

Even if you have already had the flu, Dr. Roman said you should still get vaccinated.

"There are a lot of questions about the effectiveness of this year's flu vaccine because there have been reports that it is only 30 percent effective," said Dr. Roman. "Even in good seasons the vaccine can be 40-50 percent effective. It is never

going to be 100 percent. So, 30 percent is better than 0 percent!"

CHI has established flu vaccine clinics on weekends at three of its health centers. The Doris Ison Health Center will host flu vaccine clinics on Saturdays and Sundays from 4pm to 8pm. The Tavernier and Marathon Health Centers will do it every Saturday from 10am to 12pm. The cost is just \$35 and anyone 18 years and older can walk in and get the shot.

Dr. Roman said children need to make an appointment to see their pediatrician to ensure the best course of action for the vaccine.



CHI Promotes New Chief Of Staff

Kim James is promoted to Chief of Staff at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI). The move comes nearly 10 years after she first joined the organization as a Clerk III.

“It feels good. It feels like the hard work is finally starting to pay off,” said James “Never give up on your goals even when hard times hit.”

James recently graduated from Florida International University with a MBA in healthcare administration. She accomplished this while working full time as Executive Secretary to the Chief Medical Officer and Student/Clinical Programs Coordinator. All this, in addition to her duties as a mother of three.

“Mrs. James is an outstanding addition to the executive staff,” said Brodes H. Hartley Jr. “She has been



Kim James is the new Chief of Staff at CHI

a dedicated employee who has been very successful in a variety of roles for us. I am confident she will excel as the Chief of Staff.”

James succeeds Natalie Windsor who retired from the position at the start of 2018 to travel and spend more time with family.

James said she has been learning all that she can about her new position and is eager to get to the point that she is a great resource for all the staff. She is also looking at growing the duties of the Chief of Staff.

“Eventually I’d like to evolve the position to include more managerial responsibilities in terms of providing continuity and clarity to administrative support staff at CHI, and ensuring these staff members understand what an important and valuable role they play in the success of the organization,” said James.



WE LOVE OUR DOCTORS

HAPPY DOCTORS DAY

March 30 2018

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