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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Long-term Care Program Takes Effect in Tampa Bay Area**

*-Choice deadlines approach for recipients in three North Florida regions-*

**Tallahassee, Fla.**— The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is rolling out the Long-term Care program on February 1 in the Tampa Bay area, including Hillsborough, Pinellas and the surrounding counties.\* These regions are home to over 19,000 Long-term Care program recipients, which will bring the transition enrollment to date to over 70,000 Floridians.

“Through my recent public meetings about the Long-term Care program and visits to skilled nursing facilities, I was reminded about the success of the program to date and that we must remain committed to completing the implementation of the program with as much vigor as we started it,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “There are still thousands of recipients eligible to receive choice counseling and assistance with their enrollment in the coming weeks and our staff is ready to assist them.”

Looking ahead, the Long-term Care program will be going live in Regions 1, 3 and 4\*\* on March 1. Recipients in these regions should make their plan choice before February 13 in order to have their choice processed prior to the go-live date. They can do so by calling **1-877-711-3662** or visiting **[www.FLMedicaidManagedCare.com](http://www.FLMedicaidManagedCare.com)**. The phone number provided will connect recipients with a choice counselor, who can assist them in making their decision over the phone or make an appointment for a free, in-person choice counseling session.

Those who miss the initial choice period will be auto-assigned to the LTC plan listed in the informational packet that was mailed to them. Regardless of when a recipient makes his or her choice, they will have 90 days after their go-live date to choose a different plan for any reason.

The Agency has dedicated a section of its website to Statewide Medicaid Managed Care and the Long-term Care program. For more information, please visit <http://ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC>.

\* **Regions 5 and 6 include Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties.**

\*\* **Regions 1, 3 and 4 include Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, Volusia, and Walton counties.**

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

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