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Governor Rick Scott's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding Holds Third Meeting at Florida Capitol

- Discussion focuses on transparency, affordability, incentives, and patient outcomes -

Tallahassee, FL – Today, the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding held its third meeting at the Florida state Capitol. The nine-member Commission was tasked by the Governor to review hospital finances in an effort to provide Florida's families with greater transparency around the way that their taxpayer dollars are used at publically funded hospitals. Later this month, the Commission will be kicking off their Spotlight Transparency Tour with stops in Tampa, Jacksonville and Miami to compare the hospitals in those regions and how to make them more transparent and efficient for the taxpayers that support them.

The Commission discussed their initial key findings today to help create more transparency at taxpayer funded institutions, including:

- Nearly 70% of all inpatient hospital stays (by volume) during calendar year 2013 were covered by known government sources.
- Facilities with the least acuity had some of the highest expenses as well as being the least profitable.
- Hospitals with lower occupancy percentages are more likely to be less profitable than hospitals with higher occupancy percentages.
- Facilities that are profitable without Low Income Pool (LIP) funding remain profitable with LIP funds; and facilities that have not been profitable without LIP funding remain unprofitable with LIP funding.
- Hospital profits have trended upward over the past 10 years, with the exception of government-owned hospitals.
- Case Mix Index (a measure of patient complexity/acuity) is an important factor for analysis purposes as a variable to "level the playing field."

Other topics of discussion included the Low Income Pool allocation methodology and quality expectations under Statewide Medicaid Managed Care.

Tom Kuntz, a member of the Florida Board of Governors and Vice Chair of the Commission, noted the need to further discuss the certificate of need program and explore the impact that eliminating the program would have on increasing competition in the state.

Dr. John Armstrong, Florida State Surgeon General, echoed the sentiments of the Commission members on the importance of transparency around healthcare costs and finances, "Throughout



the course of our meetings, themes of revenue sources and communicating with patients continue to remain central priorities.”

“I thought that the ideas exchanged today were very insightful and will be a good foundation for our upcoming spotlight transparency tour,” said Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek. “The Governor’s Commission is doing important work and we hope that Florida’s hospitals will support our efforts by providing input and information that is critical to our success.”

For more information about the Healthcare and Hospital Funding Commission, please visit www.healthandhospitalcommission.com.

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