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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AHCA Announces Panel Members of the Pediatric Cardiology Technical Advisory Panel**

*Panel will establish standards for pediatric cardiac procedures*

**TALLAHASSEE, FLA.** – Today, the Agency for Health Care Administration announced the cardiology specialists and cardiac surgeons who will serve on the new Pediatric Cardiology Technical Advisory Panel (Panel). The Panel will fulfill the responsibilities outlined in [Chapter 2017-151](#), Laws of Florida, signed by Governor Scott earlier this year. The Panel will develop procedures and standards for measuring the quality and outcomes of pediatric cardiac surgery programs in the state and make recommendations to the Agency on specific regulatory guidelines. Panel members include representatives from each of the state's ten existing pediatric cardiology surgery programs, as nominated by the Chief Executive Officers of those hospitals, and three additional at-large members appointed by the Agency's Secretary Justin Senior.

The Panel members are:

**William Blanchard, MD** – Retired. Formerly Sacred Heart and Nemours Children's Clinic - Pensacola

**Mark Bleiweis, MD** – University of Florida Health Shands Hospital - Gainesville

**Eric Ceithaml, MD** – Wolfson Children's Hospital - Jacksonville

**Eric Eason, MD** - Golisano Children's Hospital SWFL – Fort Myers

**Kristine Gulesreian, MD** – Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami

**Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD** – Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital – St. Petersburg

**Stephen Langley, MD** – St. Joseph's Children's Hospital - Tampa

**Jorge McCormack, MD MBA** – Mednax Medical Group / Pediatric Cardiology Associates – St. Petersburg

**David Nykanen, MD** – Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children - Orlando

**Frank Pigula, MD** – Florida Hospital for Children - Orlando

**Eliot Rosenkranz, MD** – University of Miami Holtz Children's Hospital - Miami

**Frank Scholl, MD** – Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital - Hollywood

**Peter Wearden, MD** – Nemours Children's Hospital – Orlando

The Panel will convene in the fall and meet as needed to form their recommendations. The Agency has launched a dedicated webpage at: [www.ahca.myflorida.com/SCHS/PCTAP](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com/SCHS/PCTAP) to make available information about the Panel's work, member appointments, and meeting information. Under Florida's Sunshine Laws, all Panel meetings will be open to the public. Members of the public may also send questions and information to the Panel through the website.

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*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 49,000 health care facilities and 43 health plans, 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 \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*