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**Long-term Care Program Officially in Operation in Region 7**

*-Initial outreach begins in Region 11 as letters are mailed to recipients in Miami-Dade and Monroe-*

**Tallahassee, Fla.**— The Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Elder Affairs and partners today celebrated the launch of the Long-term Care (LTC) program in the greater Orlando area, the first portion of Statewide Medicaid Managed Care to be implemented. More than 9,000 recipients were enrolled into Long-term Care plans effective August 1 in Region 7, which includes Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Brevard counties. Implementation will continue by region through March 1, 2014 after which time approximately 90,000 recipients will be enrolled into the LTC program.

“The Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elder Affairs have worked for more than two years to communicate about the Long-term Care program with all audiences, which is why we feel confident about the amount of outreach conducted and hundreds of partnerships created,” said Agency Secretary Liz Dudek. “I personally want to extend my sincerest appreciation to all of the partners, providers and advocates who have assisted us in successfully communicating about this program to recipients. We look forward to a smooth statewide implementation over the next six months.”

“The Department of Elder Affairs has worked diligently with the Agency for Health Care Administration to prepare for this day,” said Secretary Charles T. Corley. “Our highest priority at this time is to ensure that current program recipients are transitioned to the new program without a disruption to services. A smooth implementation of the new program will result in the provision of the highest quality of care to meet the needs of Florida seniors and other adults who require long term care services.”

“We are very pleased to be able to offer the Long-term Care program with its focus on serving Floridians in their home and community, in the least restrictive setting, for as long as possible,” said Medicaid Director Justin Senior. “Our expectation is that consumer satisfaction in this program is going to be very high and we look forward to receiving feedback through our stakeholders, our providers and our recipients.”

Leading up to the program, the State conducted extensive outreach to recipients, providers, stakeholders, associations, advocates and legislators, which included:

- 26 live webinars with 6,100 live participants and more than 42,000 recorded views
- Nearly 60,000 letters mailed to recipients
- More than 680 site visits and 240 in-home visits.

Coinciding with the enrollment of recipients in Region 7, pre-welcome letters are being put in the mail for eligible LTC program recipients in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, which make up Region 11. Recipients in Regions 8 and 9 are actively in the choice counseling process now and will be enrolled to the LTC plan of their choice effective September 1. Additional information about Statewide Medicaid



Managed Care and the Long-term Care program specifically can be found at [www.ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC).

The Agency continues to make new resources available about all facility types regulated by the Agency via the FloridaHealthFinder.gov website, including the new nursing home landing page that was launched this week. The new webpage contains solely nursing homes information, and has improved navigation and functionality of comparing nursing homes based on inspection ratings (1-5 stars) via the Nursing Home Guide. With one click, users can also find which nursing homes are Gold Seal facilities, those that are on the nursing home watch list, or those that have active emergency actions (suspensions or moratoriums) against them.

*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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