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**SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT:
SaintPetersBlog perpetuates misinformation, misunderstanding about the
provision of dental services**

SaintPetersBlog post following Thursday's media conference call about children's dental services stressed erroneous information about the current provision of services and the plan for service delivery within the context of the Managed Medical Assistance program, which was created by the Florida Legislature and is scheduled to rollout in mid-2014.

CLAIM: "We know that the program works. To go backwards now, it would be borderline a crime."

FACT: The managed care plans in Reform achieved some of the state's best quality scores in recent years, outperforming fee-for-service and a statewide prepaid plan. It is also important to note that the Legislature created the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program and deliberately included dental as a covered service.

CLAIM: "What AHCA wants to do is like robbing Little Peter to give to Uncle Paul."

FACT: Children's dental services are required to be provided according to Medicaid law, regardless of a plan's decision or ability to also offer adult dental services. Resources are not being moved from children to pay for adults; dental services for children are required to be provided.

Florida Statute requires plans selected to participate in the Managed Medical Assistance program to provide children enrolled in their plan with all dental services currently available to Medicaid recipients through the prepaid dental program. Plans offering adult dental benefits as an expanded benefit are expected to do this utilizing savings achieved through managed care while maintaining all contract standards for children's dental services.

CLAIM: "Buried within the Agency for Health Care Administration's move toward Statewide Medicaid Managed Care is a small, seemingly positive sound bite in which health plans will begin administering children's and adult dental benefits... What this means is the elimination of a tremendously successful program, the Prepaid Dental Health Plan (PDHP)."

FACT: The best dental quality scores have been achieved by an integrated managed care model (offering medical, behavioral and dental benefits) in Reform counties, which served as the baseline model for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program. PDHP does NOT cover adult dental benefits, but in Managed Medical Assistance, adult benefits estimated at more than \$100 million over five years were negotiated at no cost to taxpayers.



CLAIM: "...health plans are not equipped to administer dental services."

FACT: Most health plans delegate many of their functions to subcontractors, including dental services, to qualified dental benefit administrators, which include the Agency's currently contracted prepaid dental health plans.

CLAIM: "The likelihood, according to dental advocates, is that health plans will either absorb the dollars and spread them thin across other types of care, or will take a middleman's cut and subcontract children's dental back out to prepaid plans."

FACT: The Agency negotiated robust access and quality measures related to dental services, with associated liquidated damages and sanctions for plans that do not meet their contractual obligations. Plans offering adult dental benefits as an expanded benefit are expected to do this by utilizing savings achieved through managed care while maintaining all contract standards for children's dental services. All health plans have medical loss ratio requirements under the Managed Medical Assistance program.

CLAIM: "Experiences from other states suggest that dental carve-out programs are the most cost-efficient and outcome-driven method of delivering children's dental care."

FACT: In Florida specifically, the managed care plans in Reform achieved some of the state's best quality scores in recent years, outperforming fee-for-service and a statewide prepaid plan.

CLAIM: "AHCA ...took memos down from the agency website that were full of positive stats."

FACT: All press materials are still available on the Agency's website at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Executive/Communications/Press_Releases/archive/2013.shtml. These materials are background about the provision of Medicaid-covered dental services for children in both Reform and PDHP.

CLAIM: "For their part, AHCA suggests that keeping the prepaid plans alive while expanding managed care on time would be 'a logistical impossibility.'"

FACT: Completing the necessary reprocurement, reprogramming, system changes, allowing the required choice period to recipients and obtaining the necessary federal authority to alter the provision of dental services outside of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program would in fact be a logistical impossibility to complete without significant delay to the implementation schedule, which is aligned with existing Florida law, and it would result in tremendous additional cost to the state.

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. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook](#) (AHCAFlorida), [Twitter](#) (@AHCA_FL) and [YouTube](#) (/AHCAFlorida).

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