

**PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners DATE: 1/4/08 FILE: CS08-031

THRU: Daniel R. Johnson SUBJECT: We Care of Pasco Program
Assistant County Administrator Joint Effort with the Pasco County
for Public Services Health Department

FROM: Adelaida D. Reyes REFERENCES: All Commission Districts
Community Services Director

It is recommended that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

The Honorable Mike Fasano, State Senator, and Dr. David R. Johnson, Health Department Director, wish to initiate a health initiative, the We Care of Pasco Program, to recruit medical specialists and medical facilities willing to volunteer their time and or services to care for the uninsured indigent residents who do not have resources to pay for their medical care. Although there are many physician specialists willing to donate their time and services, many do not do so due to liability concerns. Consequently, those who have participated have an undue burden placed upon them because of the shortage in the total number of physicians who would otherwise participate. With more volunteer physicians and facilities assisting in such a program, the frequency of participation can be lessened. To achieve this goal, the Health Department, in addition to enlisting doctors and medical facilities to work for the We Care of Pasco Program, will provide State Sovereign Immunity protection for the volunteer providers.

The program will be a joint effort between Pasco County Health Department, Pasco County Human Services Division, Good Samaritan Clinic, Premier Community Healthcare Group, Inc., the CARES clinic, local hospitals, and physicians. Pasco County Human Services will conduct income eligibility for the program and will schedule medical appointments for citizens to see the specialists. The contribution of the Human Services Division will be limited manpower and auxiliary services contingent upon funding availability.

One of the key elements to the success of this type of project is to have the guidance of community leaders and community based medical providers. The project therefore will create an Advisory Board for the We Care of Pasco Program. Commissioner Ann Hildebrand has agreed to be a member of this Board. In addition, the following agencies have agreed to participate on the Board:

Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco	Melissa Fahy, Director
CARES Senior Health Clinic	Bill Aycrigg, President/CEO
Premier Community Healthcare Group, Inc.	Dr. Marlene Hart, Medical Director
Pasco County Health Department	Dr. David R. Johnson, Health Dept. Director
Pasco County School Board	David Chamberlin, LCSW, Social Serv. Super.
Community Hospital	Kathryn Gillette, CEO
Bayonet Point Regional Medical Center	Steve Rector, CEO
Morton Plant Northbay Hospital	John Couris, CEO
The Harbor Behavioral Healthcare Institute	Doug Leonardo, CEO
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills	John Harding, CEO
Pasco Medical Society	Dr. Haravu Lokesh, President
Pasco Regional Medical Center	Stan Holmes, CEO
West Pasco Ministerial Association	Reverend Dan Campbell
East Pasco Ministerial Association	Reverend Kevin Morris

Other agencies may be added as needed.

ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS:

1. The Board of County Commissioners has the option of approving the We Care of Pasco Program joint effort with the Pasco County Health Department allowing Human Services involvement in this project.

2. The Board of County Commissioners has the option of disapproving the joint effort of the We Care of Pasco Program with the Pasco County Health Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUNDING:

The Community Services Department/Human Services Division recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve Alternative No. 1 as stated above.

There is no additional funding required with this Board action. All resources to be utilized by the Human Services Division for manpower and or auxiliary services are contained within the Human Services 2008 budget.

ADR/car

cc: Dr. David R. Johnson, Health Department Director
Royetta Runyon, Human Services Manager

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR

DATE: _____

BY: _____