

## Members of the Legislature

### Orange County's Integrated Safety Net System

Spanning all ages and providing a wide array of medical and social services, Orange County Government has demonstrated a long history and commitment to its most vulnerable populations. As the legislature identifies the direction that it will be taking in reforming the Florida Medicaid program, we ask that you consider the following:

1. Innovation Approaches: Spanning more than a decade, Orange County's Primary Care Access Network (PCAN) has been lauded for its innovative and sustainable public/private partnership. Our twenty-two (22) member partnership includes; County Government, three hospital systems, County Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) agencies, volunteer faith-based agencies, behavioral/substance abuse providers and other safety net agencies. PCAN provides primary, specialty and tertiary medical services to over 75,000 uninsured. **PCAN seeks to be an active partner in Medicaid Reform as our hospitals, FQHC's and behavioral health providers ' are currently contracted with public and private insurance carriers to include; Medicaid, Medicare, Managed Care and a Provider Services Network (PSN).**
2. Capacity verses Access: It is expected that the state managed care delivery system will be implemented and AHCA reports that there is capacity in Orange County to shift the population from Medicaid into Managed Care and to also increase enrollment in plans. However, there is a significant difference between capacity and access in Orange County. For example, there are limited numbers of primary and specialty care providers willing to accept these patients as reimbursements are low. As a result, patients are required to travel out of county for medical care. **Thus, we desire comprehensive plan designs and adequate reimbursements to providers and hospitals to ensure that patients have access to "local" providers for primary, specialty and hospitals.**
3. Wrap Around Services: Fiscally conservative, Orange County understands the need to deliver efficient and cost effective services. We stress the importance of promoting preventative services when the cost is at a minimum thus reducing higher cost when services are delayed. We focus our efforts on wrap around services. **In the child serving communities, there is a longstanding request to make access to services consistent with needs of children and families. In doing so there very likely could be cost savings in providing more early prevention and early intervention with children with behavioral healthcare needs. There is a suggestion among providers in the behavioral healthcare arena to add to the Medicaid handbook three codes, for 1) Wraparound services, 2) mobile crisis response, and 3) peer support.**
4. Orange County Funding: Orange County considers the needs of our citizens and the availability of community resources as we sustain cost effective programs while balancing mandated funding requirements. Although, Orange County does not have a dedicated health care tax we have successfully leveraged local matches to draw additional federal dollars that have been used to increase access to care for our uninsured. We also contribute annually to the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) via the Low Income Pool (LIP) and strive to maintain this support for the coming years. Florida's counties are currently mandated to fund Medicaid HCRA, Inpatient and Nursing Homes. The costs to Orange County have escalated 67% over the last 5 years; predominately due to Medicaid Inpatient expenses. **As the share of the state budget continues to grow in relationship to federal health care reform we ask that the legislature consider potential impacts on the county's budgets.**