



# THE COASTER

## A Message from Our Executive Director

- by Barbara H. Jacobowitz

In Florida, the Diabetes Advisory Council (DAC) is a governor-appointed group that advises the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) on emerging diabetes issues impacting care, treatment and quality of life. The DAC makes recommendations to improve state policy and legislation efforts, as well as to influence the strategic planning of the Florida Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

Working in tandem with the DAC, the Florida Alliance for Diabetes Prevention and Care is a statewide partnership that promotes diabetes prevention, education and care issues. The Alliance's Executive Committee has a leadership role in accomplishing objectives that complement the goals of the DAC and the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

In early 2007, I was elected to the Alliance's Leadership Council and in May of 2007, was elected to fill the DAC Liaison Position. At the Alliance's Annual Educational Meeting on May 24, 2007, I presented a brief speech on the difficulties of getting help for a child with Type I diabetes.

Working with the Palm Healthcare Foundation, I will continue to support the Mollie Wilmot Children's Center within the Palm Healthcare Pavilion that is being built on the campus of St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, which will include the Diabetes Prevention, Education, Management and Research Center. This Center will be developed and managed by the Community Wellness Center Program of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University in collaboration with the Gregory School of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. The Diabetes Center will be staffed by certified diabetes educators, nutritionists, outreach workers, researchers and pharmacists. It is anticipated that this program will be open late 2007 or early 2008.

## Resource Update

The United Way of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast offers comprehensive information, referral services, and crisis intervention for the following counties in Florida: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie. The services are available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.



(Continued on page 3)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Resource Update	1
Utilization Data	2
St. Lucie County HIV/AIDS	3

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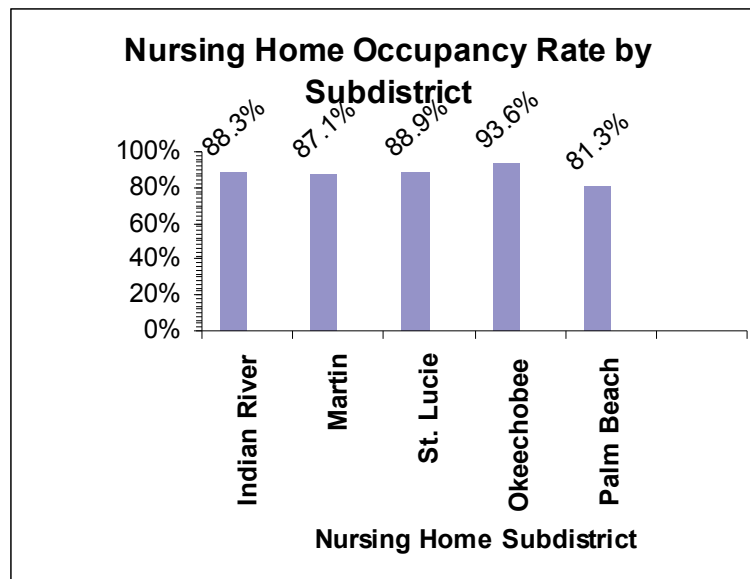
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## Nursing Home Utilization Data

TCHC is required by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to collect monthly utilization data from licensed hospitals and nursing home facilities for District 9. This data is compiled on a quarterly basis and forwarded to AHCA. The data is also sent to annual data subscribers (hospitals, nursing homes, and consultants) that use the information for market analysis and to identify trends. For more information on utilization data or to become a subscriber of the data, please contact Louis Kolber at (561) 844-4220 ext. 36 or at [lkolber@tchealthcouncil.org](mailto:lkolber@tchealthcouncil.org).



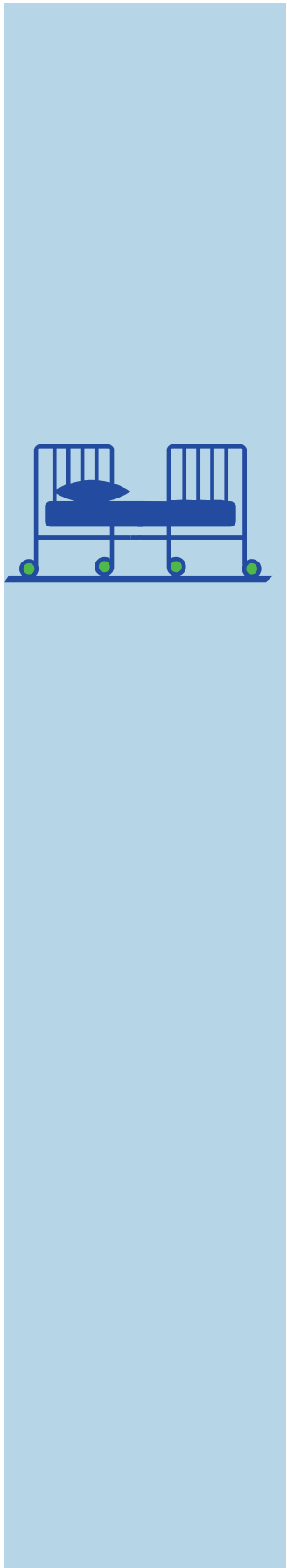
\*Data range from July 2006 through January 2007.

## CON Update

Pursuant to Chapter 408.033, Florida Statutes, TCHC supported the Certificate of Need (CON) process under Agency for Health Care Administration through data collection and reporting. As requested, public hearings were set and site visits to expiring CON projects were accomplished.

One widely attended public hearing this year was in the Port St. Lucie Town of Tradition. Martin Memorial Hospital requested permission to build a satellite hospital on the grounds of Tradition and, after seven attempts, the Agency for Healthcare Administration has approved the project.

According to Martin Memorial Health Systems (MMHS), the new hospital will be owned and operated by MMHS. MMHS has been providing care to area residents since 1939, and is comprised of two hospitals, three MediCenters, and numerous other centers and clinics. The system is a not-for-profit, community-based health care organization that offers preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer care, wellness and rehabilitation services, and much more. The services provide care for residents throughout the Treasure Coast, including Stuart, Jensen Beach, Hobe Sound, Palm City and Port St. Lucie. Martin Memorial Health Systems has been named one of the top 100 health systems in the country five times. For more information on Martin Memorial Health Systems, visit <http://www.mmhs.com/content/PSL/AboutTheNewHospital.htm>.



## Reducing the Burden of HIV / AIDS in St. Lucie

In response to the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS among Blacks, the Florida Department of Health published *Silence is Death, The Crisis of HIV/AIDS in Florida's Black Communities*. The report identified St. Lucie County as one of twenty counties in Florida with the highest rates of PLWH/A among all races in general as well as among Blacks, Whites, and Hispanics. Of greatest concern is the fact that Blacks in St. Lucie County have the highest rate of HIV/AIDS of any racial or ethnic group in Florida at 2,858.7 per 100,000 population. In comparison, the rate for Whites in St. Lucie County is 142.7 and among Hispanics is 232.5 per 100,000.

Through a contract between the St. Lucie County Department of Health (SLCHD) and the Treasure Coast Health Council, TCHC has conducted a comprehensive study looking at HIV prevention, education and treatment services currently available and how outcomes can be improved for the SLCHD. This study included:

1. A patient origin and utilization and payor mix review focusing on past and current trends for the four most impacted facilities utilized for acute care and emergency services.
2. A consensus of current HIV prevention plans developed by reviewing all current HIV prevention documents, DOH epidemiological reports and all other identified pertinent data.
3. A presentation summarizing the findings for the St. Lucie County Health Department staff and other interested parties. TCHC facilitated a discussion that will lead to an Implementation Plan with goals, objectives and tasks. With the approval of the St. Lucie County Health Department Director, tasks with measurable process and outcome indicators will be developed along agreed-upon timeframes.

The next presentation to the SLCHD will be in September.

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## Resources con't

In addition to providing information and referral services, 211Palm Beach/Treasure Coast also collects and maintains information on community health and human services and makes this information available via its hotlines, helplines, printed directories, and on the web. Services are provided at no cost to anyone regardless of race, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

To access the online database, go to <http://www.211palmbeach.org> or call 2-1-1.



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**We're on the Web!!**

[www.tchealthcouncil.org](http://www.tchealthcouncil.org)

*Proudly Serving Indian  
River, Martin, Okeechobee,  
Palm Beach and St. Lucie  
Counties*

## Interested in being on the Board of Directors?

TCHC currently has three vacancies on the Board of Directors as follows: one position for a Palm Beach County Provider, and a Consumer or Purchaser from both St. Lucie County and Indian River County. If you would like to apply for one of these vacancies, please contact Barbara Jacobowitz at (561) 844-4220 ext. 25 or at [bjacobowitz@tchealthcouncil.org](mailto:bjacobowitz@tchealthcouncil.org).

Members of the Board of Directors are appointed for a two year term by their respective county commissioners and the appointees must be representatives of health care providers, health care purchasers or non-governmental health care consumers.

If you are interested in attending a Board Meeting, please contact Adrienne Peach at (561) 844-4220 ext. 18 or at [apeach@tchealthcouncil.org](mailto:apeach@tchealthcouncil.org) to verify time and location. Board meetings are open to the public and held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:00pm, unless a quorum is not available.

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