When Natural Disaster Strikes, VITAS Healthcare Is Prepared

BY MAUREEN KNIPS

Florida sustains more direct hits from hurricanes than any other state, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. From 1851 to 2017, the Sunshine State’s hurricane tally is 117, compared with 64 for runner-up Texas.

VITAS® Healthcare, the nation’s leading hospice care provider, was founded in Miami and cares for an average of 8,900 patients every day in 11 locations throughout Florida. Not surprisingly, VITAS South Florida operations are well-prepared for the Atlantic hurricane season impending from June through November.

Hurricane planning is something that VITAS in South Florida focuses on year-round. Every week during our hospice team meetings, we validate that all patients’ disaster-preparedness plans are up-to-date. It is an ongoing process as we remain focused on meeting the needs of our patients, their families and our staff.

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Saltz Michelson: Celebrating 42 Years of Architectural Success in South Florida

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Charles Michelson can fondly remember the day he was hired to work at Saltz Michelson Architects, an architectural firm with offices in Fort Lauderdale and Miami, Florida. It was 1980, just four years after Mark Saltz started the firm, and it was Michelson’s first and only job interview.

The economy was in a recession at the time so there weren’t many jobs. As a result, Michelson decided to stay at the University of Miami to pursue his master’s degree in urban and regional planning. He also worked part-time as a transport in a hospital and worked security for rock concerts.

“When Mark asked why I had no architectural experience during my time in college, I replied that I figured I would be doing this for the rest of my life and saw no reason not to prepare for it,” Michelson said.

In 100 years, Jackson has made an immense contribution to healthcare and to the local community.

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ElderCare Update in South Florida: PACE Expands Into South Miami

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CannabisNewsFlorida.com: Igniting Florida’s Nico Fried Focuses on Medical Cannabis, Children’s Rights

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Computer Solutions Unlimited Providing Security, Compliance

BY LOIS THOMSON

Total regulatory compliance. Confidentiality of personal information. Security. Isn’t that what all companies, particularly medical facilities, are looking for when it comes to their computer systems?

That’s just what Stephen Kuska, President, provides through his firm, Computer Solutions Unlimited (CSU). Kuska said his company started as a managed service provider in 1996, to work with individual clients to provide IT services – mostly for small to medium-size businesses. Often, these SMBs can’t afford or choose not to do the work on their own. To have their needs met, those companies would have to contract with a variety of providers who offer the different types of services – firewalls, anti-virus, software, etc.

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Our new sister publication www.cannabisnewsflorida.com
The Flash Spotted in South Florida …

To say I’ve been up close and personal (at least more than my norm) with a hospital the past couple of weeks is definitely no exaggeration. First Drew had a short stay to wrestle with his uncooperative blood clots; but then just as his first stay was ending Carol got herself admitted. (In the doctor’s words: Go to the hospital, do not pass go, do not collect $200!) for her blood pressure. The good news, their stays only overlapped by 2 days and my Apple watch logged more steps since the day I got it! But then Carol finally got out after a long 7 days, and 3 days later Drew went back in for some further treatment. The vascular department at Delray Medical did a great job and may have even made a bit of progress in Drew’s persistent fight against DVT leg blockages. Kudos and much heartfelt thanks to all!

However, to paraphrase Frank Sinatra’s *My Way*, “Suggestions I’ve a few, but not too many that I can’t mention …”

My first suggestion is perhaps the least crucial (since as Carol likes to point out to our dinner guests on a regular basis – it’s not like it’s their last meal and it has to be amazing!) But food service really shouldn’t be “one size fits all.” And at the very least, grim food served on equally grim trays in the 21st century might need an upgrade. Even pleasant food service employees can’t disguise “Alcatraz” meals.

But our family’s most important suggestion involves Discharge instructions when prescriptions involve opioids. Now we completely understand what our country is going through battling this deadly opioid scourge; however, there are times when it is legally prescribed by a physician for use following a hospital stay (especially as in our case, when it involves extremely painful blood clots.) So as Drew was getting his Discharge instructions, Carol even had the forethought to ask, “What do we do if our normal pharmacy doesn’t have opioids in stock (especially on a Sunday?) At which point, we were informed the pharmacy would then check its other branches to find a location where we could get the medication filled. Well, maybe that’s what used to happen? But nowadays, pharmacies say they aren’t allowed to check on existing opioid inventories at other locations even within the same chain, leaving the caregiver in the untenable position of true pharmacy hopping! I guess, in retrospect, I was lucky I only had to visit 5 different pharmacies to find the needed medication (not to mention a very sympathetic pharmacist) and I was back home in under 3 hours. But it was a frustrating and frightening problem and remains a discharge dilemma – especially for hospitals that do not have the ability to fill RXs prior to actual physical discharge. So my question to all is “How do we fill this gap?” Your thoughts, suggestions, commiserations, are welcome.

And in an attempt to end on a brighter note, despite all Carol’s been through lately she had the presence of mind to order me a “Flash” t-shirt since I’d been doing so much for her and Drew in the last couple of weeks. She said I reminded her of my idol Sheldon in *The Big Bang Theory* in my favorite Halloween episode, dashing from one chore to the next.

Charles Felix

You can reach Charles Felix at Charles@southfloridahospitalnews.com
There are basically 7 different types of life insurance policies. When you combine that with more than 100 companies offering several options, that gives you several hundred different policies to choose from.

So how do you choose?

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3. How long you want to pay for it?
4. Do you want a policy that has the potential to accumulate cash?
5. Do you want the potential growth to come from an interest rate, dividend rate or the stock market?
6. Are you purchasing a cash-value policy for death benefit or to access the cash accumulation for future use?
7. If you purchase a term policy, is convertibility to a cash value policy important to you?
8. If yes, what type of cash value policy do you want to convert it to?
9. If yes, how long do you want the right to convert without any evidence of insurability? Do you know what this means and the implications of this option?
10. Do you know what underwriting classification you received and why?
11. Do you know how the particular insurance company you applied to treats your underwriting issue if you have an issue?
12. Do you know who should be the owner and who should be the beneficiary of the policy?

Loans and withdrawals will reduce death benefits and may impact the amount and frequency of future premium payments. If you take a policy loan or withdrawal, you may incur a significant income tax liability if the policy terminates before the death of the insured. When taking loans or withdrawals, your policy should be carefully monitored annually with your agent or other financial professionals that Guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

If you know the answer to all these questions, you purchased life insurance. If not, someone sold you life insurance. The answers to every question are critical to the ultimate success of your premium investment in life insurance.

For more information, please contact Howard Wolkowitz at HWolkowitz@mycoastalwealth.com or (954) 558-3673.

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The 12th Annual South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association’s 2018 Healthcare Summit is only a few days away! We are ready because we have secured some of the best presenters available to talk about preparing for, and dealing with emergencies. On June 13 we have opening tracks that will deal with the frontline clinician’s role in responding to disasters. Speakers from Broward Health, Orlando, and Houston will be talking about managing manned and natural disasters. Presentations intended to help organizations file post-disaster claims and presentations looking at the role of non-hospital providers in responding to a disaster will also be offered.

In addition, this same evening we will be having a VIP Dinner that is by invitation only, featuring Mr. Robert F. Lasky, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Miami Division, who will be talking about another kind of unexpected emergency, the theft of critical intellectual property.

On Thursday, June 14, the main session opens with presentations by Bev Capasso, President/CEO Broward Health and the Executive President of the Puerto Rico Hospital Association, Jaime Pla-Cortes, who will talk about system responses to manmade and natural disasters. They will be followed by a panel of experts from Houston, Israel, Nevada, and Orlando offering up lessons learned and new best practices.

The rest of the day we will experience presentations looking at communities emergency preparedness, IT’s role in emergency response, ensuring data privacy throughout the event, managing your supply chain, and, last but not least, managing social media in times of crisis.

These are going to be a busy two days and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Registration is easy and we still have some space available for exhibitors and attendees.

All you need to do is either go to one of our registration websites (see our ad on page 36), or, just call the office at (954) 964-1660. Access https://sfhha2018summit.eventbrite.com for individual registration or you can go to https://sfhha2018summitsponsors.eventbrite.com, if you would like to be a sponsor and get some additional marketing exposure.

I’ll see you on June 13 and 14 at the Signature Grand!
South Florida Hospital News

Florida Approves Second Workers’ Comp Rate Decrease in Six Months

For the second time in six months, the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) has approved a rate decrease that will affect all Florida businesses. Insurance commissioner David Altmaier’s statement attributes the 1.8% overall decrease to the recent federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The new rates will take effect for all new and renewal workers’ compensation policies as of June 1, 2018.

The first rate decrease of 9.8% went into effect on January 1, 2018 and was basically approved and based upon claims payments from years prior to 2017, when the Florida Supreme Court made two major rulings that in essence provided greater benefits for injured workers but also removed attorney fee caps that had been in place since 2004. It is widely anticipated that these rulings will have a detrimental effect on the Florida workers’ compensation system in the coming years and that the courts and insurance carriers are already starting to see the results of having to pay more as a result of these changes.

As I have stated in prior articles, the business community welcomes these rate decreases, but they will be short lived and will ultimately make the almost certain rate increases harder to accept. Politicians and others will take full credit for the rate decreases but when the rates ultimately rise, they will blame the insurance companies. What the general public does not know is that the workers’ compensation carriers in Florida are highly regulated and can only raise their rates when instructed to do so by the state. In the meantime, attorneys have no limits on what they can charge.

Some brave leaders will speak up about the true reasons, which include the current Supreme Court rulings and the legal system they protect at the expense of all businesses and individuals who ultimately pay for the insurance. The Florida legislature has yet to address these issues that will rear their ugly heads in the near future.

Tom Murphy is a workers’ compensation and medical malpractice insurance specialist agent with the firm of Danna-Gracey, Inc. in downtown Delray Beach. He can be reached at (561) 276-3553 or (800) 966-2120 or Murphy@dannagracey.com.

Taylor Brown - Living with Scleroderma

“In 2014, my life changed forever,” said 13-year-old Taylor Brown of Lakeland, Florida. That was the year Taylor was diagnosed with en coup de sabre, an unusual form of linear scleroderma. Her mother, TaMetress Reed, had observed symptoms when Taylor was only two years old, but doctors couldn’t explain them.

“I was having headaches, a lot of nose bleeds, joint pain in my knees,” Taylor remembered. All of these symptoms can have multiple causes, which is one reason why scleroderma is difficult to diagnose. Eventually, her pediatrician referred Taylor to a rheumatologist. Taylor not only had to deal with the pain from the scar on her face, she also had to cope with bullying at school.

“At first I cried, and then I blocked out the negativity,” Brown recalled. “I learned that you have to stay strong, and positive, and be healthy.”

Taylor is maintaining her active eighth grade lifestyle as a basketball player at the Rochelle School of the Arts in Lakeland and taking violin lessons. She has also taken action on many fronts against scleroderma. She fundraised through Facebook during Awareness Month [June] to fund research. She reached out to build awareness of scleroderma in her community, including a presentation at her church, Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. And, she’s been learning about her disease. In July 2017, she and her mother attended the Foundation’s National Patient Education Conference.

Taylor is an unstoppable force. This October, she participated in a local fashion show, the Meeting of the Minds fashion designer showcase. Every year the group donates proceeds to a different charity.

“Doctors say that there is no cure,” said Taylor. “I am determined to fight back and stay healthy.”

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E-mail Your Editorial Submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com

Broward Health Expands Women’s and Pediatric Services Across Broward County

Broward Health is set to expand services for South Florida’s women and children this year with two capital improvement projects nearing completion at Broward Health Coral Springs and Salah Foundation Children’s Hospital.

At Broward Health Coral Springs, renovations will be completed in August 2018 on a $64 million expansion project that will offer four floors of healthcare services to provide greater access to quality, patient-centered care for western Broward County’s growing population. The 110,000-square-foot expansion includes labor and delivery, as well as C-section rooms for expectant mothers on the tower’s first floor. 28 private mother/baby post-partum rooms and a new 10-bed NICU on the second floor, 28 private medical/surgical beds on the third floor and shell space for future clinical services on the fourth floor. The tower will increase Broward Health Coral Springs’ bed capacity from 200 to 250.

The Salah Foundation Children’s Hospital at Broward Health Medical Center is nearing the final stages of a $52 million expansion project, with plans to separate the current 70-bed NICU into two separate floors. The Level II NICU, which will feature 36 private rooms, is expected to be completed in October 2018. Once the Level II NICU is completed, the Level III NICU will be renovated and feature 34 beds in an open ward, with an expected completion date of approximately June 2019. The expansion is partially funded by a $517 million tax-exempt bond offering that the North Broward Hospital District successfully sold in November.

E-mail Your Editorial Submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com
Direct Primary Care (DPC) is finally here in Florida. Florida joins the growing trend of states - up to 25 now - who have adopted this "new" payment model. Some of you will recognize it as your old friend capitation but without the HMO. But overall, it will allow for entrepreneurs and innovators to have one more option to create exciting new medical business models.

Statutory Requirements. The bill provisions are rather simple and not very complex. It will create a new Florida statute under the insurance code - section 624.27. What the bill allows is direct contracting between a health care provider and a patient or the employer of the patient. The physician and the patient can contract for a monthly fee arrangement for care services on a scope and frequency the parties agree to. There are some rather simple requirements for this contractual relationship which are meant to avoid confusion or provide disclosures.

Doctors, Chiropractor and ARNPs. All Medical and Osteopathic Doctors, Chiropractors and APRNs can take advantage of this model. They can do these contracts as solo, group or corpo-rate practices of medicine businesses or organizations. Health Clinics which are majority practitioner owned are authorized too.

Insurance or Not? It is significant to realize the reason the statute is needed is because Florida’s Office of Insurance Regulation takes the position DPC is insurance. There was a real regulatory concern that such arrangements need to meet the licensure requirements for a Prepaid Health Clinic. Licensure would require significant capital resources to fund to be held, application and obtaining approval for licensure and engaging in at least annual reporting. All those requirements are avoided by DPC not being classified as insurance.

Taxes … Deductions and Credits. DPC does ask the consumer to pay somewhere between $1,000 to $3,500 a year for payments. Unfortunately for the consumer, payment may not be tax deductible, since the payment will for most people not reach the threshold as an itemized tax deduction (7.5% of adjusted gross income).

Health Savings Accounts. Recognizing the lack of the aggressive (especially for higher income individuals), the holy grail of DPC programs is to have a DPC program as a benefit which is paid out of a health savings account (HSA). Under an HSA, the employer’s or employee’s deposits into the account are untaxed, and when the patient is enrolled for qualified medical expenses, then there is still no income to be taxed upon.

But … as in all things tax, the devil is in the details. The IRS has come up with a very tortured reasoning to prohibit DPC payments being eligible for payment out of an HSA. While the IRS such as labs, radiology tests and some recognizing the payment as “not insurance premium” should be compelling. Given the tidal wave of states adopting this law, the IRS will have to relent on its illogical position.

Exchange Worthy? One of the disadvantages before seeking medical attention.

Although the true causes for the increase in the number of uninsured people around the country is politicized, in our South Florida community we can all agree that the rising number of the uninsured is due to the following:

1. People’s inability to afford the rising premiums of the insurance.

2. The high deductibles associated with accessing primary and preventative healthcare services.

The combination of the above has created this crisis of increased inappropriate use of ERs in our communities and hospitals that are in the frontlines are left to deal with the crisis. In addition to affordability, there is also the inability to access care in a timely fashion which occurs very frequently with underinsured people in our communities.

We are proposing Direct Primary Care (DPC) as part of the solution to this crisis and the need for hospitals and their emergency rooms to coordinate with local DPC practices in their communities. This would immediately create more access to quality healthcare for uninsured individuals and simultaneously providing people in the community 24/7 access to their providers.

To understand some of DPC’s simple innovations will give us the understanding of how it can be considered as part of the solution for the crisis the hospitals in our communities are facing. The simple DPC innovation of providing its members unlimited access to office visits with no copay has created a sense of reassurance and unapologetic ability for patients to have same day or next day appointments with their providers. Chronic diseases are better managed with more timely and effective medical inter-ventions with every visit. This prevents a crisis and ultimately avoids a preventable visit to the emergency room.

Another DPC innovation is the ability to have 24/7 access with enhanced communication with providers and video and chat technology that also creates an opportunity to reduce unnecessary visits to the Emergency Rooms. Patients that are enrolled in a DPC practice are not left alone to negotiate their urgent healthcare needs or concerns and now have the access to get their providers real time opinions even if it is at night or the weekend. With the recent acknowledgment that DPC is not insurance, we are now able to partner seamlessly with insurance companies to achieve High-Value care in our communities.

Health insurance premiums are rising in cost and families are having a more difficult time paying for these plans. Therefore, people select coverage that is less comprehensive. In other words, the smaller your premium, the higher your deductible.

Deductibles are what’s required as the patient’s financial responsibility prior to the health insurance covering a specified percentage or 100% of the healthcare services. The deductibles tend to go up whenever people select coverage that is less comprehensive. In other words, the smaller your premium, the higher your deductible.

Deductibles for the ACA programs are extremely high and are often unbearable for low to middle-income families. Deductibles as high as $6,000 or more beg the question: why carry health insurance at all?

Co-Pay is the payment required for office visits of any kind or ancillary services such as labs, radiology tests and sometimes medications. Patients must pay this amount prior to any services being rendered. Co-Pays are potential barriers to accessing health care. For instance, a person may not be able to afford a $50 co-pay to see their doctor once, let alone multiple times (for example, for repeat visits to get blood pressure under control).

The prices of medications are rising, and insurance companies are shifting the costs toward patients. More and more, patients are having to pay out of pocket for their prescription medications. This is creating a financial burden on individuals and families who rely on daily prescription drugs to manage conditions and illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes or ADD. People are put in the difficult position of deciding whether or not they can afford to buy their medications for that month.

Is there a workaround? A different solution? A better system?

Direct Primary Care (DPC) offers American families a membership-based system in which they receive affordable primary healthcare services. DPC clinics grant patients access to their doctors with no co-pay, use of affordable labs and radiology testing, and medications at lower costs.

DPC does not replace health insurance. It is a companion to it. DPC takes care of basic healthcare at affordable prices, leaving health insurance to cover more specialty services and catastrophic event/necessities.

Coupet Quality Clinic (CQC) operates on the Direct Primary Care medicine model with an Extensivist who provides high level care coordination and is a liaison to many specialist physicians, in order to manage the high-risk patients in our communities and keep them from getting readmitted to the hospital.
Risk Assessment and Internal Audit Considerations in Healthcare

Groundbreaking changes in the healthcare industry have increased the scope and complexity of a healthcare organization’s risks. Risks appear to be around every corner, from legislation and regulatory developments to operational and financial concerns. It is becoming more imperative that an organization go through a robust comprehensive enterprise-wide risk assessment that goes beyond traditional boundaries and reaches more clinical, operational and strategic areas. The results of the risk assessment will be the basis of internal audit plan areas reflecting the priority of risks for a healthcare organization.

2017 Top Healthcare Risk Areas

Based on the 2017 annual survey of Healthcare Chief Audit Executives and Internal Auditors performed by Protiviti partnering with the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors (AHIA), the following were the top healthcare audit plan areas for 2017:

- Information System Controls
- Billing and Collections
- Accounting/Finance
- Financial Repository
- Charge Capture
- Electronic Health Records
- Compliance and Regulatory Monitoring
- Ancillary Services
- Accounts Payable
- Data Information Governance
- HIPAA Compliance
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse
- Clinical Systems

Internal Audit Focus

Internal audit’s traditional focus on transactions and related financial business cycles has been sufficient for healthcare organizations in the volume-driven system in the past. That approach needs to be modified now that healthcare organizations are continuing to move from a reimbursement structure based on claims and production to a system of rewards based on value, including quality, safety, efficiency and appropriateness of care. Under value-based care, a provider can be financially penalized for failing to meet quality standards. Internal audit needs to evolve and consider expanding the use of data analytics as a tool in evaluating risks associated with a value-based healthcare environment.

Conclusion

An internal audit infrastructure based on the use of data analytics will support more efficient and effective coverage of traditional audit areas while allowing more time and resources to assess and address the new and emerging risk areas under value-based reimbursement. This approach will enable internal audit to generate and protect value within a healthcare organization.

For more information, contact Scott J. Mariani, JD, Partner and Healthcare Practice Leader, WithumSmith+Brown, CPAs, at (973) 868-8124 or smariani@withum.com or visit www.withum.com.

What Expenses Are Covered By the Child Support Payment?

Child Support is an amount of money one parent pays to the other that is ordered by the Court. Typically, child support covers or subsidizes a portion of the receiving parent’s mortgage or rent expense, utilities, food and regular monthly expenses. If not specifically stated in an agreement or Court order, then it also may cover the children’s clothing and entertainment expense, a portion of the children’s health insurance premium, field trip costs, school supplies, and grooming.

Some parents elect to enumerate child-related expenses that they will share in addition to the payment of child support. Some examples are: health related expenses, dental and orthodontic expense, vision and mental health costs, school uniforms, school supplies, SAT testing and college application costs, car and insurance costs, private school tuition, extra-curricular activities and any other child expense unique to your family. If a specific expense is not specifically stated as shared between the parents, then the parent incurring the expense may not be entitled to reimbursement from the other parent.

If your child has a disability, severe or chronic health issue or other extraordinary expense, how those expenses are shared should be explicitly stated in any settlement agreement or Court order. These expenses could include physical and occupational therapy, tutoring, chiropractic or other alternative health treatments. If your child will be dependent upon you for support past the age of 18, you will want to specifically seek that designation so child support does not terminate at the age of 18.

If you have questions about child support, and want to discuss those questions with an attorney, call Angela R. Neave, Esquire, at (954) 981-2200 for a free consultation.
When It Comes To Patient Care, What Can Be Learned from Tesla

No matter what you think about plugging your car into an electrical outlet at the end of the day, Tesla is changing the automobile industry in incredible ways. If you have not been to a Tesla dealership, stop by. You will generally find one in a non-traditional spot: inside a mall for example. The approach of their sales people is more like going to an Apple store than a car dealership. No pressure. Completely informative. They are there to answer any questions you may have. If you know anyone who has bought a Tesla, they will generally find one in a non-traditional spot: inside a mall for example. The approach of their sales people is more like going to an Apple store than a car dealership. No pressure. Completely informative. They are there to answer any questions you may have. If you know anyone who has bought a Tesla, their service is even more impressive. Ninety percent of any issues can be diagnosed in your garage. They will send a mobile repair unit and a tech-nician to you and if they can’t fix it, they bring the loaner Tesla to you and haul your vehicle back to their service center. Maybe it’s because they view themselves as a technology company more than a car company, but they are thinking differently and are uniquely compared to their competitors. Quick

gut check, is your organization evolving when it comes to patient care or are you hoping the traditional approach will continue to carry you. It is always good to look outside healthcare to get ideas on how we can improve Companies, like Apple, Chick-fil-A, Amazon, Zappos, Uber and others have completely changed their industries in both customer service and experience. As an industry, healthcare organizations need to evolve as well. Some are having proactive conversations and making some real changes. Patients and their families see and feel the difference. They realize sooner or later there will be a Tesla-type approach in healthcare. It is a choice to either lead the change or be stuck following it.

Jay Juffre is Executive Vice President, ImageFIRST. For more information on ImageFIRST, call 1-800-932-7472 or visit www.imagefirst.com.

Attention: Healthcare Executives

REACH your HIGHEST POTENTIAL!

Competition is fierce and the healthcare environment is constantly changing, which means that job opportunities and expectations are changing too. The South Florida Healthcare Executive Forum (SFHEF), a chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), understands the challenges you face and can equip you with essential resources at every stage of your healthcare management career.

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Cover Story: Computer Solutions Unlimited Providing Security, Compliance

Continued from page 1

solution to take the worry and hassle out of handling all the individual pieces. “Kuska said Computer Solutions has a technology that companies do not need to have a solution to take the worry and hassle out of handling all the individual pieces. “Kuska said Computer Solutions has a technology that companies do not need to

have secure, rather than those that just want to have secure, rather than those that just want to be. “The medical industry has to comply with HIPAA. Our deliverable is basically to manage the equipment for people ends in the medical industry that is totally compliant. We have proven that we can provide them a system that meets all of the regulatory requirements.” That is possible, according to Kuska, because Computer Solutions does all the work in the cloud. “The services we offer are all cloud-based, which means the end-users — doctors, hospitals, clinics and offices — don’t have to provide their own servers, firewalls, etc. We provide all of that, and the reality is that is because the only environment in which we can guarantee that someone is compliant is the one we can control.”

Be it to the medical community in particular, Kuska said it’s the doctors, the end-users, who are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of patient information. The way they guarantee that hospitals and clinics and doctors’ offices are compliant is that they never allow the information to be stored locally. “At the end of the day, people can walk out of the office and if someone comes in and steals all of their equipment, there’s no concern because the equipment doesn’t have any information on it, it’s in our environment — it only exists in the cloud.”

Kuska believes CSU provides a service that no one else does, and they are able to do this through a company called OS33. OS33 maintains the data centers and applications and does all the reporting — all the things clients wish they could do and intend to do, but never quite get around to implementing on their own. He explained that when working with any client that deals in IT, disaster recover-
How Medical Necessity Disputes Cause Hospitals to Leave Revenue on the Table

Proper Documentation Before Claim Denials Is the Only Antidote

BY KAREN MEADOR, MD

Medical necessity disputes are causing hospitals to leave revenue on the table.

Hospitals are already facing increased financial pressures as care moves outside of facility-based models and more of them adjust to value-based reimbursement. Added to that, payers under financial pressure themselves because of rising healthcare costs, are scrutinizing claims through increased medical necessity denials with hospitals.

Providers and health systems denied reimbursement for care by a payer can successfully appeal or ultimately litigate such disputes in many cases. But internal costs, and legal and consultant fees in support of the appeals and litigation process can be costly, and revenue can be degraded during the appeals and litigation process. Providers and health systems can take steps, however, to reduce the frequency of care ending up in dispute—and proper documentation before litigation is key.

Incomplete or ineffective documentation is a frequent cause of denials. It has often been said in healthcare, “If it wasn’t documented, it wasn’t done.” That’s true, but perhaps even more relevant in today’s healthcare world, “if it wasn’t documented, it may be considered medically unnecessary,” resulting in denied payer reimbursements. In fact, CMS could even consider billing for that service to be a false claim. Furthermore, poor documentation provides a weak defense in medical necessity disputes, as well as some of the best in the area.

Our South Florida healthcare leaders are ready to address your complex and unique needs:
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When ongoing documentation education and reviews are done internally, an external team should conduct an annual risk assessment and chart documentation audit. A feedback session should follow, with a detailed and clear plan to correct the identified deficiencies in documentation and to enhance the processes that support good documentation.

Karen Meador is managing director and senior physician executive in The BDO Center for Healthcare Excellence & Innovation. She can be reached at kmeador@bdo.com.
Dr. Christine Koehn joins Palm Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees

Palm Healthcare Foundation Inc. recently welcomed Dr. Christine Koehn to its Board of Trustees. Dr. Koehn currently serves as the Executive Director for the Celia Lipton Farris and Victor W. Farris Foundation, where she oversees regional and national grant-making in the areas of education, health, and arts and culture. She has extensive experience in her field with nearly 20 years in primarily leadership roles, including the oversight of programmatic investment at the United Way of Palm Beach County and the Quantum Foundation, as well as research and program evaluation for the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County.

In addition to her role on Palm Healthcare Foundation’s board, Dr. Koehn’s work focuses on issues related to health care access for the underserved, including oral and behavioral health; community health and well-being, including basic and emergency needs support; academic achievement; out-of-school programming; child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention; and arts and culture.

Dr. Alfred Gitu Named Family Medicine Residency Program Director

Alfred Gitu, M.D., has been named the next program director of The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health. Dr. Gitu has been a faculty member since the program launched in 2012 and has served as associate program director for the past year. Dr. Gitu is board certified in family medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya, and completed a family medicine residency at the Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program in Greenwood, SC.

Tenet Florida Physician Services Welcomes GI Doctor

Afonso Ribeiro, M.D., a gastroenterologist, has opened a Hialeah-based practice with Tenet Florida Physician Services.

Prior to joining TFPS, Dr. Ribeiro was Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami. Dr. Ribeiro was also an Associate Consultant and Instructor of Medicine/Advance Training in Endoscopic Ultrasound in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, MN.

For his education and training, Dr. Ribeiro completed medical school and internal medicine residency at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and an additional internal medicine residency at the University of Miami School of Medicine in Miami. Dr. Ribeiro finished a hepatology fellowship at the University Miami School of Medicine, a gastroenterology fellowship at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and a therapeutic endoscopy fellowship at the University of Toronto, in Toronto, Canada.

JFK Medical Center Appoints New Chief Medical Officer

JFK Medical Center has named Hamid R. Feiz, M.D., MBA, FHM, as its chief medical officer (CMO).

Dr. Feiz received his undergraduate degree from the University of California Northridge, and his medical degree from Universidad Iberoamericana School of Medicine, Dominican Republic. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL, and the University of Florida-Shands Medical Center in Gainesville, FL. He received his MBA in Healthcare Administration at Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Feiz was the Founding Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, Chief, Division of Hospital Medicine (Site Medical Director) for Emcare IPS at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center and Westside Regional Hospital.

Previous appointments include Chief Quality Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer, Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach, Florida; Chief Section of Hospitalist Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Westin, Florida; and Medical Director, Spring Hill Medical Group Primary Care and Urgent Care Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Holy Cross Medical Group Adds Four Physicians

Holy Cross Medical Group has added four new physicians. Lillian M. DeCosimo, M.D., FACOG, joined the OB/GYN team. She was previously in private practice in Fairfax, VA. Dr. DeCosimo completed her OB/GYN residency training at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, and Providence Hospital, also in Washington, DC, where she completed her internship. She graduated cum laude with her medical degree from Universidad Mutual Dominicana in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where she also graduated with an undergraduate degree in premedical sciences.

Jessica Arias Garau, M.D., FAAPMR, joins Holy Cross from Advanced Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Institute in Freehold, NJ, where she worked as a private practice physician for several years. Dr. Arias obtained her pain medicine fellowship at Temple University. Dr. Arias completed her internship and residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. She graduated cum laude with her medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico and received her bachelor’s degree in biology and business at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY.

Semaan (Sam) Georges Kosseifi, M.D., DABSM, was previously on staff at Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Associates, medical director of Baptist Sleep Center and on staff at Baptist MD Anderson Lung Cancer Clinic in Jacksonville. Dr. Kosseifi was a fellow in the pulmonary and critical care division at East Tennessee State University, where he also was an assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at East Tennessee State University. He was chief resident at Johnson City Medical Center in Tennessee.

Erica Wigdor, D.O. joins Holy Cross Medical Group from Broward Health Medical Center where she completed her residency in internal medicine. She practiced at Broward Health’s Internal Medicine Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Wigdor received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Nova Southeastern University and a bachelor’s degree in exercise sciences from Florida State University.

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South Florida Hospital News

June 2018

South Florida Hospital News
Dr. Ida Mazza Joins Tenet Florida Cardiovascular Care in West Palm Beach

Tenet Florida Cardiovascular Care (TFCC) welcomes cardiologist Ida Mazza, M.D., to the TFCC multispecialty physician group. Dr. Mazza completed a fellowship in non-invasive cardiovascular medicine and an internal medicine residency from the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to that, her education and training included an internship as a general practitioner focused on obstetrics, pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery and emergency medicine at the Venezuela Institute of Social Security Hospital in Caracas, Venezuela. Dr. Mazza graduated medical school from Universidad Central De Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela.

Prior to joining TFCC, she worked at Grand View-Lehigh Valley Health Services, Beaumont Cardiology Division, and Grand View Hospital in Sellersville, PA. Dr. Mazza also provided cardiology care at the PA Heart & Vascular Group in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Mazza has been practicing medicine since 1992.

American Heart Association Announces 2018-2019 Go Red For Women South Florida Chair

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is pleased to announce Judy Schaechter, M.D., M.B.A., as the chair of the Greater Miami 2018-2019 Go Red For Women campaign. Dr. Schaechter is the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics for the University of Miami Health System, a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and the George E. Batchelor Endowed Chair in Child Health. She also serves as Chief of Service for Holtz Children’s Hospital for the Jackson Health System.

Dr. Schaechter leads a noted faculty and staff comprised of physicians, scientists, and pediatric specialists across all disciplines, ensuring that children in South Florida and beyond have the opportunity to live full and healthy lives.

Indian River Medical Center Welcomes Urologist R. Carrington Mason, D.O., F.A.C.S.

Dr. R. Carrington Mason recently joined Indian River Medical Center as a board-certified urologist.

Dr. Mason earned his osteopathic degree at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, TX. After completing his osteopathic internship at Dallas-Ft. Worth Medical Center in Grand Prairie, TX, he completed his general surgery residency at Methodist Medical Center in Dallas, TX, and his urological surgery residency at Louisiana State University/Ochsner Foundation Hospital and Clinic in New Orleans, LA.

Before joining the staff at Indian River Medical Center, Dr. Mason served as the Medical Director at Texas Urology Associates.

Palm Beach Surgeon Brings Specialized Cancer Treatments to the Region

Jupiter Medical Specialists, a joint venture multispecialty practice with Envision Physician Services and Jupiter Medical Center, welcomes Shanel Bhagwandin, D.O., M.P.H., to its team. Through his current appointment at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City as the Medical Director for Surgical Oncology Network Development, Dr. Bhagwandin also provides his patients access to clinical trials in South Florida.

Dr. Bhagwandin serves dual appointments at Jupiter Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City and is a member of several professional organizations. He received his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a two-year complex general surgical oncology fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, specializing in surgery for complex gastrointestinal cancers.


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South Florida Hospital News southfloridahospitalnews.com JUNE 2018
Nurses Condemn VA ‘Mission to Privatize’ Act, Urge Senate to Reject Endangering Healthcare for Veterans

National Nurses United urged Senate members to reject S. 2372, the VA Mission Act which they called a major step towards the privatization of veterans health care which could endanger the health of millions of U.S. service veterans. The Senate is expected to vote as soon as Wednesday on its version of the bill that passed the House last week.

“Marketed as a means to expand some benefits for veterans, this bill masks a long desired corporate, far right goal of accelerating the dismantling and privatization of our Veterans Administration program at the expense of countless veterans who have served our nation,” said NNU Co-President Jean Ross, RN. NNU represents 11,000 VA RNs among its 130,000 members.

S. 2372 gives the Veterans Administration Secretary the authority to privatize and dismantle broad swaths of the VA system. It also creates a commission, appointed solely by the President bypassing Congress, which would have the ability to close VA medical centers and clinics.

“It would be more honest and transparent to call this bill the Mission to Privatize Act and stop the pretense it has any other real goal,” said Ross. “If Congress members want to expand benefits for our veterans, they should enact that legislation as a stand alone measure, not as political cover for a hastening a program of privatization,” NNU strongly supports efforts to expand benefits, as well as to fully fund VA health services, she said.

“Despite all the attacks on our precious VA system, the reality is the VA medical system is far better equipped to provide the clinical and cultural expertise needed especially by our wounded veterans,” said Ross.

That includes “critical treatment of severe war related injuries, such as traumatic brain and spinal chord injuries, PTSD, and mental health problems. We urge our elected leaders not to abandon our veterans who need this specialized care.,” Ross said.

In a letter to Senators today, Ross and NNU Co-President Deborah Burger cited a recent RAND Corporation study Commissioned by the VA, which found that the VA medical system is working as well or better than non-VA care. On average, VA hospitals performed the same or “significantly better” than non-VA hospitals on almost all patient, mortality and effectiveness measures, researchers found.

For outpatients, VA facilities performed better than commercial and Medicaid HMOs; and better or similar to Medicare HMOs. Additionally, S. 2372 allows for primary care to be given over to private health care providers, which nurses say jeopardizes patient care for our nation’s veterans.

“Our registered nurses that provide VA care know that primary care is the heart and soul of the VA. Farming out primary care to other providers will be a major step to dismantling the VA entirely, opening the door to privatize services that have historically been provided at the VA, and undermining one of the other strengths of the VA system—the integration of care,” wrote Burger and Ross, RN in the letter.

Private healthcare is also far more expensive than the cost effective VA system. Ross noted. It is expected that the bill would open the door to higher out of pocket costs for veterans at a time many are already struggling with higher housing costs and other economic troubles, especially those trying to reintegrate into society.

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Cover Story: Jackson Health System Celebrates 100 Years

Continued from page 1

impact on history with some medical firsts and accomplishments, including: 
• 1955: New treatment for cleft lip
• 1965: New burn cure
• 1985: New treatment for HIV
• 1989: Development of the Miami Pouch to help women with bladder cancer enjoy a better quality of life
• 1994: First intestinal transplant in Florida
• 2002: Implanted a donor heart in a patient without removing original heart
• 2006: Removed failing heart of a patient for 10 hours by connecting a left and right ventricular assist device to the aorta
• 2008: Used internal warming method to prevent hypothermia during burn surgery
• 2008: Built a custom artificial heart for 14-year-old patient who lived another 118 years
• 2010: Removed a tennis-ball-sized tumor while patient was still in her mother’s womb
• 2014: Doctors performed Florida’s first three-way kidney transplant
• 2016: Successfully performed transplant surgery on two siblings, five years apart, giving them a total of 15 new organs

While there have been a significant amount of changes over the past century, Jackson’s dedication to meeting the health and wellness needs of the community has remained the same.

“Our mission is to provide the best quality health care to all Miami-Dade residents regardless of their ability to pay,” Migoya said. “Jackson continues to offer access to all kinds of health care and wellness and we want to be there for everyone.”

Jackson provides about $600 million a year in charity care. What also makes Jackson different from other public hospitals across the nation is that it’s also an academic center. In fact, it is not only one of the three largest public hospitals in the country, but also one of the top three largest academic hospitals nationwide.

“We have 1,100 residents and fellows which we train each year thanks to our 60-year partnership with the University of Miami,” says Migoya. “In the last 20 years, over 70 percent of the doctors trained here at Jackson have remained within a 50-mile radius of our health system, which is a testament to the great community in which we reside.”

Since its founding, Jackson has since expanded to six hospitals, multiple primary care clinics and specialty care centers, two long-term care nursing facilities, corrections health clinics, and a network of behavioral health facilities and urgent care centers.

Migoya acknowledges that these are challenging times for not just Jackson, but many healthcare facilities.

“For the last several years, state and federal governments have been looking to reduce the cost of healthcare,” he says. “As part of our vision, we will continue to work on how to build the brand and how to get paying patients to come in to help us so we’re not just relying on public support.”

Migoya says Jackson now receives about $105 million less in public support than it did five years ago. And that trend will continue, notes Migoya.

“As the dependency on public support goes away, we have to replace that with patient revenue,” he says. “Since we have great quality doctors and medical services, we’re an attractive place for many paying patients. For that reason, we can bring in more patient revenue that can help offset all of the challenges we have from a public support standpoint.”

Looking ahead, Migoya says to expect to see more of the Jackson brand throughout Miami-Dade County. He points out the difficulty of navigating traffic in Miami-Dade which may hinder the ability and willingness of potential patients to seek medical care anywhere more than five miles from them.

“You’ll see better equipment and technology, more outpatient facilities, another acute hospital in addition to the three we have now, and you’ll see the Jackson brand move closer to more communities,” he says. “What will not change is the fact that Jackson plans to continue to be the acute hospital it needs to be for serious illnesses anywhere in South Florida.”

For more information on Jackson Health System, visit www.jacksonhealth.org. To learn more about its centennial celebration, visit www.centuryofmiracles.org.
Let’s Connect: SFHEF Spotlight

SFHEF Spotlight June 2018

BY KENNETH WONG

The South Florida Healthcare Executive Forum (SFHEF) is the local chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). SFHEF’s mission is to improve healthcare delivery by providing members with access to educational, networking, and career development activities.

I was first introduced to SFHEF and ACHE in 2014, when I was invited to serve on a panel to discuss the importance of patient segmentation in healthcare marketing. Since then, I have remained a strong supporter of SFHEF’s mission and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2018, tasked with planning the educational events for the chapter. This exciting role allows me to highlight “hot topics” in healthcare, recruit experts to address those topics, and share that knowledge with our members. As someone who loves learning and connecting people, I truly enjoy this responsibility and am grateful for this opportunity.

Regardless of our individual roles and organizations in healthcare, our collective mission should be keeping people healthy. Sharing knowledge and best practices is a great way to help accomplish that mission! If you have ideas for programs, please reach out #EducateEngageInspire!

For the start of 2018, SFHEF has offered 7.5 face-to-face ACHE credits through five educational programs, reaching a combined audience of nearly three hundred individuals. I wish to express my gratitude to the moderators, panelists, and host facilities that donate their time and resources to making these events such a success. Please visit www.sfhef.org to find out about future educational programs.

For more than a decade, I have had the privilege of working with all of the stakeholders within healthcare, from patients and the community to physicians and the C-suite, to improve outcomes and access to care. Formal roles have included health system strategic planning, business development, marketing, physician and community relations, as well as medical device and pharmaceutical market development for Fortune 500 companies. This diverse background has given me a unique skill set and valuable insights into a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, especially in South Florida. With your help, I look forward to building on this experience and having a more substantial impact on SFHEF’s mission.

Please join the many South Florida healthcare professionals by connecting to the South Florida Healthcare Executive Forum for your professional development and continuing education.

Until next time, I’m Kenneth Wong. #Let’s Connect!

Kenneth Wong can be reached at kcw954@yahoo.com. For more information about SFHEF, visit www.sfhef.org.

Salute to Nursing

Hialeah Hospital

Susan Ann Hinkson, RN, MSN

Susan Ann Hinkson has been a nurse with Tenet since 2001. Susan started off as a labor and delivery nurse at Palmetto General Hospital, and then became the hospital educator. She transferred to sister facility, Hialeah Hospital, in 2011 as the director of education. Susan recently developed a program for medical students called the Interprofessional Education Initiative. This program provides an approach to the introduction to the role of nursing practice while facilitating collaboration as it relates to the physician’s role. This program is one of the first of its kind, and is being submitted for publication. Her passions include paddle boarding and cycling.

Plaza Health Network Administrator Receives ACHCA’s Eli Pic Facility Leadership Award

The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) honored Barry Preter, administrator of Plaza Health Network’s Arch Plaza Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in North Miami, FL with the 2018 Eli Pic Facility Leadership Award.

Based on the premise that facility excellence reflects leadership excellence, this award recognizes the administrator of record who provided such leadership for the full 2017 calendar year. Eligibility for this award is based on three years of skilled nursing facility (SNF) survey data, including health, fire safety, and complaint surveys, as well as top quartile performance on designated quality measures. The criteria also include an 85% or greater facility occupancy and a three-year avoidance of a Special Focus Facility status. This prestigious award is made possible with the support of ABILITY® Network Inc.

This year, 1,717 facilities met the selection criteria. Fewer than 11% of facilities nationwide qualify. Three hundred and 51 administrators in 45 states were awarded the facility leadership award nationally.

“I am honored to have been recognized by ACHCA for my work at Arch Plaza,” said Preter. “But the credit really goes to the amazing team we have in place who all work seamlessly together which ultimately translates to the high-quality care we provide our patients.”

Under Preter’s leadership, Arch Plaza has implemented various programs and initiatives that have enhanced care and quality of life that patients and residents receive. Arch Plaza is the first Plaza Health Network center to launch an advanced respiratory care program that provides treatment, rehabilitation, and education to patients with complex respiratory conditions. Their innovative telemedicine program allows physicians to diagnose medical conditions in real time, reducing the need for hospital re-admissions. In addition, Arch Plaza is part of a network of nursing facilities that can accept and treat complex patients such as those with transplant or ventricular issues. This all results in award-winning care as Arch Plaza is recognized by Providigm with an Advanced Quality Assurance & Performance (QAPI) Accreditation. Only 54 centers throughout Florida -- and seven in South Florida - received this advanced level of accreditation.

“All of us at Plaza Health Network are extremely proud of Barry and his accomplishments,” said Elaine Bloom, president and CEO of Plaza Health Network. “It is because of our skilled leadership team that our network of centers operate at their optimal level.”

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PACE, a wholly owned affiliate of Miami Jewish Health, provides care for low-income seniors who are at-risk of being placed in nursing homes. The program includes everything from daycare and hot meals to exercise and recreation.

Other services include nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition counseling, prescription drugs, dentistry, optometry, and speech therapy.

Qualifying requirements are specific. Seniors must:
• Be 55 years or older
• Live in a PACE service area
• Be certified as clinically eligible for nursing home care
• Be able to safely live in the community with receipt of PACE program services

“Elderly doesn’t get you in,” Bauer explained. “You’ve got to be frail.”

The program provides up to two weeks respite care and offers transportation to and from the center.

“Everyone is nice, nice, nice,” Reyes said grinning.

“The PACE model is (designed) to keep the elderly out in the community as much as possible and prevent that nursing home placement,” Montenegro explained.

For information about PACE eligibility, call Stephanie De La Piedra, intake specialist, at (305) 704-7666, ext. 66908.

Living With Dementia Takes Teamwork

Florida has the nation’s second-highest number of residents with Alzheimer’s disease. In response, private organizations are stepping up with innovative ways to support patients and caregivers.

Among the new approaches is the ReServe® Dementia Care Coach Program. ReServe South Florida engages retired workers age 50 and up, known as ReServists, to help government and social service agencies advance their missions and fill critical staffing needs. Many Dementia Care Program coaches are transitioning from successful careers in health care and bring a wealth of empathy and experience to the job.

ReServists who serve as dementia care coaches undergo 30 hours of training, including hands-on training at Miami Jewish Health, to provide affordable care for individuals with dementia, their families and caregivers.

“Most people don’t know how to adjust to their new role when their loved one is diagnosed with dementia. This program is addressing a societal need that will only grow in scale,” said Marc Agronin, M.D., a board-certified adult and geriatric psychiatrist and vice president for Behavioral Health and Clinical Research at Miami Jewish Health.

Besides assisting individuals and caregivers, the Dementia Care Coach Program provides guidance to physicians, nurses, social workers and geriatric care managers. The coach’s role is to educate paid and non-paid caregivers about the stages of dementia, help manage expectations, offer advice, set goals, and provide connections to resources.

Coaches also provide company and empathy to individuals with dementia, as listeners and companions.

Dr. Agronin, clinical advisor to the program, is the author of “The Dementia Caregiver: A Guide to Caring for Someone with Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Neurocognitive Disorders,” a reference used by the coaches.

Besides training with Dr. Agronin, coaches spend time at the Miami Jewish Health Empathicare unit with Christyne Koppski, LCSW, MSW, to learn about the benefits of music for residents. The Empathicare curriculum devised by Dr. Agronin teaches coaches to actively engage with dementia patients rather than passively monitor them.

These coaches work with individuals and families to alleviate fear and help bridge the gap of where the person with dementia is and where they probably are going to end up. They help families understand there are a lot of things that can be done to help their loved one cope in a very easy, friendly way,” said ReServe South Director Doreen LoCicero.

LoCicero, who cares for parents with dementia, said ReServe’s decision to open the program in South Florida was a natural fit.

“It’s really needed, when you consider that Florida has the nation’s highest percentage of people age 60 to 80 and older. We have people in their 60s who are caring for the geriatricians and parents whose children are living elsewhere, with no caregivers,” she said.

The Dementia Care Coach Program was initiated four years ago by the Long Island Transport, national director in New York for ReServe, a subsidiary of Fedcap.

“Laura connected with Kerry Mills, who wrote the book ‘I Care.’ Kerry trains people all over the country in nursing homes on the specific way people with Alzheimer’s should be handled,” LoCicero said.

Miguel Hernandez, M.D., ReServe South’s Dementia Care Program coordinator, participates in the initial evaluation of an individual with dementia, as well as the first meeting with family members, to help them prepare for what’s ahead.

The ultimate goal is for dementia care coaches to be an asset to the community, especially low-income areas that lack other resources. We want people to know we are affordable, and we want ReServe to become a household name,” Dr. Hernandez said.

For outreach to families, ReServe partners with the Alzheimer’s Association, Easterseals and the Alliance for Aging. The coaches also reach out to assisted living facilities and skilled nursing homes.

The hourly rate to hire a coach is $18, and LoCicero said the organization is applying for grants to help supplement the cost for low-income families.

Information about ReServe’s Dementia Care Coach Program can be found at www.reserveinc.org.
An Aging Population Will Require More Resources for Caregivers

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2017 National Population Projections, by 2035, older adults will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history. Here in South Florida, it is estimated that nearly one in four people will be at least 65 years old by 2040.

As we age, we are living longer: the Social Security Administration projects that men and women reaching 65 this year, can live until the respective ages of 84 and 86. One out of every four will live past 90 and one in 10 will celebrate a 95th birthday.

The aging population will affect health care in the increasingly important role of caregiver. In a paper entitled “What is the Physician’s Responsibility to a Patient’s Family Caregiver?” published with his co-author Mark J. Yaffe, M.D., in the May 2014 issue of AMA Journal of Ethics, Dr. David Barnard noted five systemic factors contributing to the increase in adult family caregivers, which I have paraphrased below:

1. The shift toward outpatient care and deinstitutionalization;
2. Economic pressures for early hospital discharge;
3. Reliance on hospitalists who are less likely to be familiar with the home situation to which they will discharge a patient;
4. The patchwork of fragmented social programs for home care;
5. The low-pay, high-turnover nature of home health care which diminishes the likelihood of a stable home health care workforce.

To which I would add a sixth factor: the projected shortage of home health care aides and personal care aides in a field which will need to add 1.2 million workers between 2016 and 2026, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From scheduling appointments and household chores to performing wound care and managing medical machinery, adult caregivers are becoming an increasingly common component of a patient’s care team. Caregivers themselves often risk their own physical, emotional and financial health. ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families take the hardest hits as savings are exhausted and they may have to pass up promotions or leave jobs that they cannot provide the flexibility needed.

The economic costs are substantial:
• The average caregiver dedicates 29 hours per week to caregiving activities;
• Caregivers miss, on average, 10 days of work each year to handle care responsibilities;
• These missed days represent a staggering $38.2 billion dollar productivity loss to the American workplace annually.

The South Florida Institute on Aging (SoFIA) is the only provider of volunteer caregiving services in Broward County and we see firsthand that demand for local caregiving services is outpacing the supply of volunteers. We also know that the supply of caregivers is lessening, namely because of our aging region, lack of younger family residents and larger geographic separation.

With the support of regional and national partners, SoFIA develops innovative ideas and services to support South Florida’s aging community and serve as a national model. Last summer, we brought together business and community leaders to identify the top issues facing caregivers which led to the creation of the Caregiver Coalition of South Florida, a grassroots effort whose membership includes AARP, Broward Health, Humana and Vitas Healthcare, among others.

On June 22, SoFIA and the Caregiver Coalition of South Florida will host the second annual Caregiver Symposium at the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University. Moderated by CBS WFOR reporter and anchor Rick Folbaum, the symposium will focus on improving the quality of life for caregivers and offer educational lectures, networking opportunities and breakout sessions covering such issues as technology, caregiving and policy. Award-winning journalist and author Chris Farrell is the featured guest speaker and Senator Nan Rich will be one of the participants.

While policy makers debate the effect of rising oceans, we must all prepare to understand and prepare for what we know is a certain to come: a silver tsunami headed our way.

Peter Kaldes is the President and CEO of the South Florida Institute on Aging, a “Think & Act Tank” focused on economic and social research, policy and programs to support South Florida’s aging community. He may be reached at pkaldes@thesofia.org and (954) 484-7117.

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University of Miami’s Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples provides cutting-edge care in a LEED Gold certified facility designed by Gresham, Smith and Partners.

St. Mary’s Medical Center Unveils Newly Redesigned Clinical Laboratory

St. Mary’s Medical Center recently held a ribbon cutting to present its new clinical laboratory. The $5 million dollar project offers full lab service including microbiology, hematology, chemistry, blood banking and pathology. The lab will be staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week with a team performing all bacteriology services for all the Tenet hospitals in Palm Beach County.

(i-r) Katelyn Tetreault, Pathology Transcriptionist; Sam Moussa, Lab Supervisor; Daniela Rodriguez, Office Supervisor; Julie Poor, MicrobiologyTechnologist; Elba Vidal, Histology/Cytology Supervisor; Dr. Juan Ramos-Canseco; Dr. Chad Sanborn; Dr. David Abis, Dr. Ali Malek; Joy Goodman, Director of Lab; Michelle Cartwright, CFO; Gabrielle Fintel-Hade, CEO; Patti Patrick, CSO; Dr. Olayemi Osuyemi; David O’Brien, COO.

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E-mail your submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com
Celebrating 42 years in practice!

From our beginning in 1976 to today, we have grown in size. Each year, we strive for improvement and innovation, making sure we stay true to our values. SMA Architecture continues to improve the community, providing successful and innovative solutions that align with our clients’ priorities, promoting quality designs and best practices.

CONNECT WITH US:
WEB: www.saltzmichelson.com
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Saltz Michelson Architects
Holy Cross Hospital recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate a donation of $500,000 from the Haller Foundation, bestowed by Linda Haller, to renovate the hospital’s intensive rehabilitation unit (IRU) with state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

The non-profit hospital's new Linda and Henry Haller Physical Therapy Center, located within the hospital's 48-bed, in-patient IRU, provides rehabilitation for individuals recovering from serious conditions that affect their daily functioning and independence, such as stroke, brain dysfunction, neurological impairments including Parkinson's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), spinal cord dysfunction, amputation, orthopedic disorders, cardiac and pulmonary disorders, and trauma, among other disabling impairments.

The new rehabilitation equipment at the Linda and Henry Haller Physical Therapy Center includes:

- **The ZeroG® Gait and Balance System**, which protects patients from falls while providing dynamic body-weight support as patients practice walking, balance tasks, sit-to-stand maneuvers and climbing stairs.
- **LiteGait®,** a gait training device that simultaneously controls weight bearing, posture, and balance over a treadmill or over ground.
- **A standing frame**, which provides alternative positioning to sitting in a wheelchair by supporting patients in the standing position. Standing frames offer several physical and/or psychological benefits for patients, ranging from maintaining bone density to preventing muscle atrophy and pressure ulcers caused by prolonged sitting.
- **The SaeboVR**, a virtual rehabilitation system focused on activities of daily living. The platform is designed to engage patients in both physical and cognitive challenges involving daily functional activities. In addition to interacting with meaningful everyday tasks, the SaeboVR uses a virtual assistant that appears on the screen to educate and facilitate performance by providing real-time feedback.
Anderson-Moore Construction Corporation Building on a Foundation of Trust, Experience and Integrity

Anderson-Moore Construction Corp. (AMC) knows that every relationship and every project is built on the foundation of trust, experience, and integrity. We are more than a construction source or contractor—we are construction partners vested in making every project perfect, in answering every question, in providing the best solutions and 24/7 service. Whether we build from the ground up or build-out, we know how to get it done on time and on budget.

AMC has been building relationships—and commercial spaces—since 2000. We are a full service construction company based in Palm Beach County with operations extending throughout South Florida featuring a diverse portfolio of projects that span the commercial, retail, country club, hospitality, and the specialty healthcare sectors. We are proactive, professionals that value producing single-source solutions for commercially oriented construction. Our work is performed with an emphasis on professionalism and quality, coupled with our commitment to exceptional customer service. This style of leadership has helped us develop a high level of trust and dedication from our clients. As a result, 80% of our projects come from existing clients and direct referrals.

Our strength lies in the diversity of our team's experience and exceptional professionalism which afforded us the opportunity to complete our projects on schedule and within budget. AMC's strong commitment to integrity, dependability, and loyalty is exemplified through our professional dealings, as well as, our interpersonal relationships. The result is a savvy, motivated, dependable team which owner and president, Christopher C. Harris, feels is the best in the business.

For information about AMC, visit www.amcbuild.com.

AMC Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Family Health & Ambulatory Surgery Center located in Coral Springs, Florida. Currently under construction, the $30 million, tilt-wall, AHCA project includes a first-floor open imaging center, diagnostic and clinical services on the second floor, and a surgery center on the third floor. AMC is honored to be working alongside developer Rendina Healthcare Real Estate on the effort. The 73,194-square-foot facility is scheduled for completion this summer.

OPENING FALL 2018

Located in Miami, Kendall Lakes Health and Rehabilitation Center offers service without boundary or compromise, tailored to our patients’ needs. Exceptional therapy and nursing staff provide innovative programs and quality care. We feature state-of-the-art therapy gyms and lounge areas throughout our community, and a culinary team that crafts creative, flavorful and nutritious meals.

AMENITIES & SERVICES

- Private transitional and residential suites
- Movie cinema
- Resort-like common and dining areas
- Bistro and outdoor dining services
- Mobility garden featuring tranquil water features
- Complimentary WiFi and cable television
- Smoke-free campus
- Specialized orthopedic, cardiac and stroke rehabilitation programs
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Outpatient rehabilitation services
- IV therapy, total parenteral nutrition (TPN) and tracheotomy care
- Dental, podiatry, optometry and audiology care
- Transportation services

For more information, visit greystonehealth.com
Cover Story: Saltz Michelson: Celebrating 42 Years of Architectural Success

Continued from page 1

son to rush right into it,” recalls Michelson.

That got a hearty laugh from Saltz and the two hit it right off. They discovered they shared similar work ethics and back-
grounds. Michelson was immediately hired and gradually rose in the ranks as the firm grew. He became a junior partner in 1990 and finally named president of the firm in 2017.

Today, Michelson says that he enjoys working in a job that allows him to be cre-
avtive and artistic every day while respond-
ing to community needs.

“I can physically see and touch the final product of my work,” he says. “I see people admire it from a distance or be success-
ful within the facility while using it effi-
ciently to obtain the intended results. It’s also wonderful to be in a profession and be
engaged with talented people and people
with a vision. Architecture is a very fulfill-
ing profession.”

As a local architectural firm, Saltz
Michelson Architects create projects which it believes improve the human
experience in the community. With 26 employees and 7 registered architects, the
firm works on a variety of project types from healthcare to shopping centers and
everything in between except custom homes. Its work include social architectur-
al projects, government projects, addiction recovery centers, schools, offices and
emergency operations centers.

“Our projects have a reputation for quality and value,” says Michelson.
The success of the firm for the last 42 years and its future success is by virtue of
its drive for quality, creativity, and a pas-
sion for its work and the people it meets.

“We compete successfully with our national peers, have been published in
national magazines and always strive to
improve,” says Michelson. “People who
work with us understand they have an
advocate and partner in each and every
project.”

Saltz Michelson’s key strategy is sim-
ple—to perform hard work, have passion
for its projects, provide a quality product, and be responsible.

“In addition, for our government proj-
ects, we strive to understand and respond
to the process complexities of working on
government projects,” says Michelson.

“No matter what, we remember we are in
a service business and become engaged with the people we work with and for. We
find success through collaboration; we lis-
ten and problem seek before we can prob-
lem solve and design.”

When asked what distinguishes his firm
from the competition, Michelson says it’s
the people.

“Our people are our greatest asset and
what makes us unique,” he says. “Our per-
sonalities and experience come out in
every project we work on. By being our-
selves, we are our most creative, dedicated,
proactive, and try to lead instead of follow.
We try to be our client’s trusted adviser,
not only a hired architect.”

Staying abreast of industry issues is also
critical for the firm. In fact, Michelson
recently became the 28th board certified
healthcare architect in Florida and the
only working AHCA architect in South
Florida. It’s a credential that he is proud to
have achieved and knowledge that he is
keen to share with his clients. In addition,
he is involved with the local AIA and says
that he enjoys mentoring and working with
the community’s future architects.

Saltz Michelson has worked on a num-er of local healthcare projects including:
• Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital
• Memorial Hospital Rehabilitation
Institute
• Multiple oncology centers, surgery
centers, urgent care and clinic projects and
many medical offices

“Every healthcare project is important
and notable,” says Michelson. “Our firm
has immense pride in designing the facili-
ties that improve the application of health-
care to the people of South Florida in cre-
avtive and high performing buildings. It’s wonderful to work on projects that
respond to such an important community
need.”

Looking ahead, Michelson notes that
the firm’s future is strong and it has multi-
ple shareholders and leaders with similar
visions.

“As a firm, we are always looking
toward the future, ensuring we are techno-
logically current and are constantly learn-
ing about new products and business
trends so that we remain a relevant force in
South Florida architecture,” he says. “We
embrace our new generation of people and
the different perspectives they bring to the
firm with a unique perspective upon life
and business. Even in retirement, Mark
Saltz is still engaged with the firm and
continues to be a mentor to all of us. Yes,
our future is bright.”

For more information on Saltz Michelson
Architects, visit www.saltzmichelson.com.

Julianne Diaz-Tallon Joins OHL

Julianne Diaz-Tallon joins OHL NA as Vice President of Business Development and brings more than 20 years of government and higher education experience combined. Prior to joining OHL North America Julianne served as Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Miami, and Associate Director for Housing for Florida International University and other roles within Miami-Dade County. During her career, Juliane has been responsible for creating business relationships by building strategies between clients and key personnel to support strategic objectives which include driving cost-effectiveness, creating speed-to-market plans and delivery on excellent client services. “Juliane brings a unique perspective to the construction industry through her experience working for the City and County,” said Bernardo Perez, President. “We are excited for the opportunity to work with Julianne as OHL continues to grow, while pursuing interesting new projects.”

The ground-breaking of the new The Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie was held on March 20, 2018. The one-story, 135,000 SF building will offer 120 beds and provide skilled nursing care to approximately 60 residents with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Construction on the 28.5-acre site will last 24 months. The nursing home evolved throughout the design and planning process to meet the highest design standards. The nursing home is named after Medal of Honor recipient Ardie R. Copas, who died at the age of 19 during the Vietnam War. The ground-breaking ceremony was attended by Governor Rick Scott, Shyrell Copas-Herrera, daughter of Ardie R. Copas, and OHL’s Tom Jakubisin, Alain Gonzalez, Rich Roberts, Bernardo Perez, Monica Arbuz, David Woodford, and Tom Ennis (left to right).
Greystone Healthcare Management, an industry-leading healthcare management company, announces the opening of its newest skilled nursing facility in Kendall this fall. The innovative center will feature an array of medical services as well as specialized orthopedic, cardiac and stroke rehabilitation programs.

Located at 5280 S.W. 157th Avenue in Miami, the new resort-style facility promises to offer the most effective, state-of-the-art care in a healing environment designed to promote health and wellness.

Greystone Healthcare Management manages 28 facilities throughout Florida. The Kendall location will represent the fourth health and rehabilitation center in South Florida.

“As in all our centers, the goal is to facilitate rapid recovery and to restore the quality of life to patients and residents,” said Kimberly Pero, regional vice president, South Florida Region, Greystone Healthcare Management. “Kendall Lakes was designed with this mission in mind, and experience tells us that in addition to the outstanding quality of care, an exceptional environment plays a significant role in renewing a sense of well-being and restoring hope.”

The Kendall Lakes Health and Rehabilitation Center will consist of 150 beds in 64 private transitional suites and 44 residential suites occupying more than 96,000 square feet. The lush tropical courtyard will feature an occupational therapy mobility garden, with tranquil water structures and foliage that will create a unique setting allowing patients and residents to benefit from the wonderful elements of a healthcare resort.

Within the spacious facility are two leading edge rehabilitation gyms along with a therapy gym, as well as a movie cinema. Dining and common areas are resort-like, bistro and outdoor dining services will be available. All the amenities, inside and out, reflect the philosophy that relaxation and healing substantially add to the quality of life.

In addition, the Kendall campus is smoke-free, so patients, residents and visitors will always have the opportunity to breathe fresh air.

Greystone’s Kendall Lakes Health and Rehabilitation Center was designed by Architectural Concepts, Inc., out of Largo, Florida, one of the foremost design companies focused on assisted living facilities, senior communities and skilled nursing facilities. Every detail that can aid in the recovery of patients, and provide for an excellent quality of life for residents was considered.

“We are looking forward to opening in this vibrant and important neighborhood, and serving the needs of the Kendall-area community,” said Pero. “The new facility is unmatched in the vicinity and we know patients and residents in the region will benefit tremendously from our services.”

Once opened, the Kendall campus will have a staff of approximately 250 medical professionals and administrators.

For more information, contact Jessica Maglione at (813) 557-5643.
Construction projects, especially renovations, are a routine occurrence in today’s healthcare facilities. Despite how commonplace construction projects are, it is vital for the entire construction team to be cognizant of the responsibility they hold with patient lives. Construction activities have the potential to increase hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) due to contaminated dust and dirt particles that can easily travel through various means. A 2014 article published by The New England Journal of Medicine, cited the results of a national survey that concluded an estimated 722,000 cases of HAIs occurred in U.S. acute care hospitals. Additionally, about 75,000 patients with HAIs died during their hospitalizations. Although only a portion of those cases were directly linked to construction activities, it is the obligation of the construction team to implement every measure possible to reduce risks. For example, improper measures of infection control by the general contractor can lead to the dispersal of microorganisms such as Aspergillus fumigatus, a common type of mold, which can result in dire consequences for immunosuppressed patients.

Prior to commencing a project, the team should conduct an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) to determine the potential risks based on the surrounding patient population and based on the nature of the scope of work. Although it’s common to create temporary partitions to separate the work area from the active facility, it’s preferable to utilize specialty panels that eliminate the disruptive process of creating traditional temporary partitions. In addition, these specialty panels offer one-hour rated fire protection. Regardless of the separation of work activities, it may be necessary to take additional precautionary measures by using negative air machines within the work area. These machines create a negative pressure environment by constantly flowing air into the machine and thereby preventing airborne contaminants from escaping the workspace through any leaks or openings. The performance of these machines is logged by the general contractor daily to make sure that the pressure differential is correct.

When you consider the life-altering consequences that construction activities can have on patients, it is imperative to select a general contractor who has proven experience constructing within sensitive healthcare environments. Properly sealing air vents, maintaining negative pressure, using disposable coveralls and walk-off mats, are examples of the measures that an experienced contractor will take to prevent infections and patient discomfort.

Nataly Guevara is the Business Development Manager at Thornton Construction Company, a general contractor specializing in healthcare construction. For more information, please contact nguevara@thornton-inc.com.
Disaster ... Hurricane Preparedness ... Emergency Medicine ... Disaster... Hurricane Prep

HURRICANES PREPAREDNESS: BE READY FOR THE IRREGULAR

Memories are still fresh as meteorologists expertly warn of another above-average hurricane season less than a year after Hurricane Irma left devastation all over Florida.

Mariners Hospital and Fishermen’s Community Hospital in the Florida Keys in Monroe County, a vulnerable area, were under a mandatory evacuation order from the governor during this storm. For the first time in our 30-year history, Baptist Health South Florida stopped service at those hospitals. Combined, those hospitals are responsible for an area with a population of 78,000.

Experience with Hurricane Andrew and subsequent storms has made us certain about one thing: mastery of basic emergency preparedness enables us to act with confidence when faced with the unknown. It’s our duty as healthcare providers to ensure top-notch medical services around the clock, no matter the forecast.

Hurricane Irma tested our resources and plans, and I’m proud that we came through for our patients, employees and their families.

After the mandatory evacuation order to accommodate patients from the two Keys hospitals, we immediately organized rooms at our Miami-Dade hospitals and created an emergency plan to reopen both hospitals this summer until we can fully rebuild Fishermen’s. At the second hospital, Mariners Hospital in Tavernier, we transported a team of clinical and environmental staff in the days following the storm to get the hospital open on Sept. 12 to treat walk-ins with storm-related injuries. Three days later, the hospital was up and running, able to treat all emergencies.

In addition, our four Miami-Dade hospitals with maternity wards housed 200 pregnant women at 36 weeks or more in their term. It was important they come to the hospital because ambulances don’t run when winds are high. In all, 18 babies were born in the days surrounding the storm.

For the first time, we accommodated national and local media at our hospitals. It proved to be the quickest means to get important community messages out to the rest of the city, state and nation.

Six months ahead of this hurricane season, we are once again ready for whatever comes our way. Supplies are stockpiled. Generators are triple-checked. Annual disaster drills complete. Here are simple lessons that have helped us through difficult times.

Organize

The Department of Emergency Preparedness at Baptist Health was established after Hurricane Andrew, and it is the central point for care coordination for our 10 hospitals and 50 outpatient centers. From there we collate all information, set plans in motion and initiate our messaging to the public.

Practice, practice, practice

Our emergency plan goes beyond natural disasters to include man-made disasters, such as bioterrorism. Rigorous drills and training are important to ensure everyone knows their role in an emergency.

Employee focus

Our people are our focus always, not just during emergencies and their dedication makes the difference in how our system weathered the storm. Let your employees know how much you value them and their expertise. Provide expectations before, during and after the emergency so they can prepare personally and professionally.

Engage physicians in emergency planning

Develop a plan for having the appropriate medical staff members on site before, during and after a storm or disaster. During Irma, we did 14 surgeries at one of our hospitals.

Develop partnerships

Know where you will evacuate patients if your building isn’t hurricane proof. Seek assistance from hospitals at least 75 miles away. Coordinate with your community’s disaster response departments. Retain suppliers and distributors to deliver emergency supplies.

BO BOULENGER is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Baptist Health South Florida. In addition, he serves as area commander of the Baptist Health Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Program.

GULFSTREAM PETROLEUM SERVICES ‘EVOLVING’ WITH HEALTH CARE

Mark Watson believes that, just as the health care industry is constantly evolving with new medications and new methods of patient treatment, the same type of “evolution” is occurring in his methods of patient treatment, the same health care industry is constantly evolving.

He explained the comparison to the health care industry by saying that while hospitals’ demands for stand-by power have continued to increase over the years, the need went to a whole new level when Hurricane Irma hit Florida last September. Previously, Watson said, sufficient power during a storm might simply have been enough to make sure a certain number of safety lights remained on and, if the building had elevators, make sure the elevators operated.

However, Watson pointed to an incident that happened during last year’s storm that may have raised the bar.

“There was a nursing home/rehabilitation center in Hollywood that lost power. A lot of people passed away in the facility. I’m sure there were different causes, but a lot of it seems to have been linked to the loss of power. Changes were made to the regulations, so you kind of presume that those changes were made because of something that was revealed in the investigation. And you can trace a lot of it back to the loss of power — to make sure those types of facilities had the capability to provide an increased amount of their own stand-by power for an increased amount of time.”

Now, Watson said, rather than just having enough power for emergency lighting, a facility basically needs enough to be able to run the whole operation as it normally does, including with air conditioning. Unfortunately, hurricane season in South Florida occurs at the hottest time of the year. “If you lose power and don’t have air conditioning, it’s one thing for healthy people to say, ‘Oh it’s a little hot but we can fan ourselves or we can go outside.’ But if you’re bed-ridden or you’re elderly or your health is already compromised, that lack of air conditioning can lead to more medical problems.”

However, Watson was quick to emphasize, “This is not my area of expertise, and I try to stay away from telling customers what their obligations are, because everybody falls into a different category. What’s important is that they know what their obligations are, and then I can help them meet those requirements. When they say ‘I need this amount of fuel for 12 weeks, how much amount of time,’ then we can design and install those systems for them.”

GPS is able to meet the needs of clients of all sizes. “We’ve done work for patient care and for things from the single facility to large hospital groups, for nursing home groups that own multiple facilities. We’ve even done work for health care provider clinics. In today’s world, especially in a health care facility, a lot of things are temperature controlled, whether it’s medications that must be refrigerated, or just a temperature-controlled issue with humidity in the room.”

He said having backup generators has become critical even though it’s not always a life-safety issue. In a doctor’s office, for example, it’s not life or death if the power goes out, but a lot of damage could be done to medications or electronic records or physical records. “People have just found it to be too inconvenient to have a backup system.”

Because of such issues, GPS has been busy since Hurricane Irma, but Watson has been able to handle the additional work, having already done four installations, and having worked with other facilities that have been looking into doing some upgrading. He said the important thing to remember is that there is a lead time, because all fuel tanks — based on the needs and preferences of the customer — are built to order. “You don’t go into Home Depot and get one off the shelf. The time between when you place the order and when that tank will be ready for delivery can run eight to 12 weeks, depending on the size of the tank. So even if you have the most ambitious of goals to get something done, it can only be done so fast. I think the goal is to get everybody pro-active and have them get started.”

For more information, call (305) 281-7240 or visit www.GPSfuel.com.

BY LOIS THOMSON

Mark Watson believes that, just as the health care industry is constantly evolving with new medications and new methods of patient treatment, the same type of “evolution” is occurring in his line of work, particularly when it comes to health care.

Watson is president of Gulfstream Petroleum Services (GPS), which has been in business since 2005 and handles everything associated with fuel tanks, including installation, removal, servicing, repairing, and cleaning.

Within days, our medical personnel were working out of a field hospital in Fishermen’s parking lot, surrounded by swamped boats and other debris. Today, the field hospital continues to provide care and will soon be replaced with an interim modular hospital this summer until we can fully rebuild Fishermen’s.

Six months ahead of this hurricane season, we are once again ready for whatever comes our way. Supplies are stockpiled. Generators are triple-checked. Annual disaster drills complete. Here are simple lessons that have helped us through difficult times.

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Bo Boulenger is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Baptist Health South Florida. In addition, he serves as area commander of the Baptist Health Disaster/ Emergency Preparedness Program.

BY BO BOULENGER

Gulfstream Petroleum Services ‘Evolving’ with Health Care

Disaster ... Hurricane Preparedness ... Emergency Medicine ... Disaster... Hurricane Prep
Catholic Health Services Hurricane Ready –
Always ON

Last year Hurricane Irma ripped through South Florida and not only devastated property but also caused power outages that took the lives of several residents in a nursing home in Hollywood, FL. These tragic losses created rapid response from Tallahassee. Following the deaths, Governor Scott issued emergency rules mandating generators at nursing homes and assisted facilities. Nursing homes would be mandated to have equipment that can control indoor temperatures for 96 hours after an outage and maintain an ambient temperature of no more than 81 degrees. As a proactive corporate initiative, months prior to the Governor’s mandate, Catholic Health Services had been on the path to equip all medical campuses, including nursing homes, rehabilitation hospitals and assisted living facilities with generators to provide full facility power.

Moving quickly, management at Catholic Health Services engaged architecture and engineering firms to design custom systems and plans, build required infrastructure, order, fabricate, deliver and install commercial grade, customized generators. Much of the ground work was completed before the end of 2017 and at this time the project has fulfilled the 100% coverage requirement. Although there were numerous logistic and regulatory challenges to be met, all of our medical campuses will be fully operational and compliant with the Governor’s rules ahead of this year’s hurricane season.

The leadership and staff of all Catholic Health Services facilities, make it the utmost priority to establish a safe and comfortable environment for all patients, residents and clients, above and beyond the standard industry life safety requirements.

“We have taken every precaution to ensure that our skilled nursing, rehabilitation hospitals and assisted living facilities remain safe and operational during and after a storm. Our priority is to ensure the comfort and peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Catholic Health Services is ready to provide Always ON protection at our four medical campuses for any emergency and hurricane season.” said Joe Catania, CEO, Catholic Health Services.

Cover Story: When Natural Disaster Strikes,
VITAS Healthcare Is Prepared

Continued from page 1

Communication is Key

As a standard practice, all VITAS patients in South Florida are assigned an emergency priority level on admission. Emergency preparedness education is provided to patients, family and staff, and a care plan is developed for each patient.

When the possibility of a South Florida disaster looms, an emergency plan is activated. The core component of this plan is communication. The senior managers of impacted South Florida facilities come together to prepare. Continual phone and text communication among the VITAS leaders ensures that all aspects of disaster planning are covered.

A VITAS “disaster commander” is appointed, who directs staff to speak with patients and families, assess patient needs and makes any necessary changes to emergency preparedness plans. To facilitate communication when the disaster plan has been activated, the disaster commander oversees a detailed patient log, which may include evacuation steps and making sure patients have sufficient supplies to outlast the disaster.

When a South Florida disaster warning is issued, channels of communication are established between local VITAS leadership, senior management and leaders of corporate departments. Throughout the South Florida event, decisions are made based on information from federal and local agencies.

When field staff are unable to safely use roads, VITAS highly trained Telecare® staff monitor patients by phone.

Additionally, the VITAS digital communications team updates its phone systems and online resources to keep South Florida patients, families and employees informed.

Once the disaster has passed, recovery efforts are quickly implemented. Since VITAS is nationwide, team members across the country have the capability to lend support to its South Florida locations as needed.

At VITAS, we take care of each other

While assuring patient safety, VITAS also checks on its employees. Those who have sustained damage, need supplies or are otherwise impacted by the disaster receive help. Those available for emergency assignments find out where they are most needed. As quickly as possible, VITAS returns to its regular, fully staffed routine.

During Hurricane Irma in 2017, VITAS provided affected staff with monetary assistance for food, gas and other necessary supplies, while co-workers opened their homes, brought hot food and helped in every way possible.

Why choose VITAS for your South Florida patients?

As recently as 2017, when massive hurricanes Harvey and Irma impacted the Sunshine State, VITAS demonstrated its ability to deliver compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care during a most trying natural disaster. VITAS has reliably served the South Florida region for 40 years and remains dedicated to its patients and their families.

Maureen Knips is Vice President of Operations at VITAS Healthcare in Broward County. For more information about hospice care or your end-of-life care options, call VITAS Healthcare at (866) 759-6695 or visit VITAS.com.

VITAS Healthcare employees from South Florida were glad to receive food, gas and other supplies after Hurricane Irma.
Valve replacement procedures. For such patients, a tricuspid valve-in-valve implantation can be planned in an effort to help.

Tricuspid regurgitation is a heart condition that affects millions of Americans. Many require surgical tricuspid valve replacement. Surgically placed valves can deteriorate and malfunction over time. For many such patients, performing repeat open-heart surgery to replace the defective valve can pose a high risk of complications. For such patients, there is now a new treatment option which allows a structural heart specialist to implant a new heart valve through a blood vessel in the leg, and within the old valve space. Some of these patients develop heart failure and are at high risk for repeated open-heart surgery. For such patients, a tricuspid valve-in-valve implantation can be planned in an effort to help.

“This procedure brings a safe and effective transcatheter therapy to patients who wouldn’t be an ideal candidate for repeat open-heart surgery,” said Dianne Goldenberg, chief executive officer at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. “I am pleased our hospital continues to bring cutting edge technology to patients who need valve replacement procedures.”

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine’s Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery is one of eight otolaryngology training programs in the U.S. to receive the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant (T32) for interdisciplinary research training in otolaryngology.

This new and highly competitive program is designed to provide otolaryngology residents one additional year of hands-on training as research fellows focused on the study of different research projects related to hearing and communication disorders, disorders of taste and smell, and other important pathologies affecting the upper aerodigestive tract, including head and neck cancers and disorders of swallowing.

Each resident will train with a group of carefully matched faculty mentors who will design individually tailored programs that encompass a base curriculum and specialized training in one of the focus areas. This approach is designed to enable trainees to mature into independent investigators who can be clinically productive while also making contributions to the practice and science of ear, nose and throat disorders.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center advances its cardiac program as the first hospital in South Florida to offer tricuspid valve in valve implantation for tricuspid regurgitation.

The ViewRay MRIdian Linac is the world’s first and only FDA-cleared MR image-guided radiation therapy system. It provides a unique combination of continuous magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and simultaneous radiation delivery for the treatment of cancer. MRI improves tumor visibility by clearly defining the targeted tumor from the surrounding soft tissue and other critical organs. The ability to see both the tumor and surrounding organs constantly throughout radiation delivery allows physicians to personalize treatment based on changes in the shape or location of the tumor and surrounding tissues using on-table adaptive therapy. As a result, physicians can quickly respond to subtle anatomical changes observed on a daily basis and reshape the dose to better match the current contours of the tumor.
Acevedo Consulting Appoints New COO

Acevedo Consulting Inc. has announced the appointment of Christopher Acevedo as its new COO. Acevedo is a healthcare industry veteran with over 15 years of expertise in combining the unique perspective of avoiding physician risk and liability with opportunities for optimizing reimbursement. He has returned to AIIC after serving for 6 years as Vice President of Physician Operations for the nation’s largest privately held hospice as well as the Chief Operating Officer of the largest multi-state provider of palliative care services in the United States. In his new COO role, he is responsible for day-to-day operations and the strategic growth of the firm’s palliative care client base. Christopher previously served as a Senior Consultant and HIPAA Specialist with Acevedo Consulting Incorporated for 10 years.

Good Samaritan Medical Center Appoints New Director of Cardiovascular and Interventional Services

Good Samaritan Medical Center congratulates Dora-Jean Charles on her new position as director of cardiovascular and interventional services. Prior to her arrival at Good Samaritan Medical Center, Charles was the clinical manager of the Catheterization, EP Lab, and Hybrid OR at sister hospital, Delray Medical Center. There she developed and oversaw the continuum of care for cardiovascular services including the Structural Heart Program and all hybrid procedures. Charles received her Associate Degree in Nursing from Keiser University in West Palm Beach and her Bachelor's Degree from South University.

St. Mary’s Medical Center and the Palm Beach Children’s Hospital Appoint New Chief Operating Officer

St. Mary’s Medical Center and the Palm Beach Children’s Hospital welcome David O’Brien, MSN, MHA, RN, as their new chief operating officer. He brings fifteen years of experience working in healthcare, with more than a decade in a leadership position. O’Brien has held a variety of executive operational and nursing leadership positions throughout his career. Most recently he served as the chief operating officer of Hilton Head Hospital and chief nursing officer of Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Coral Gables Hospital. O’Brien earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Health Administration from the University of Phoenix in Arizona. He is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Emergency Nurses Association.

Broward College Names Greg Haile as New President

The Board of Trustees has named Gregory Adam Haile, Esq to become the seventh president of Broward College. Haile is expected to assume office in July of 2018.

The Trustees voted unanimously for the appointment citing Haile’s knowledge of the community, successful work with the College and passion for education as convincing factors. Chair of the Broward College Board of Trustees John Benz said, “While the Board has always had great confidence in Mr. Haile, this vigorous public process confirmed that on an open competitive field against some of the best college leaders in the country, Mr. Haile was both the best qualified and the best fit for Broward College. It was clear from the diverse opinions that we received from the community, business leaders, faculty, administrators and staff that Mr. Haile is the right person to ensure a continuation of the positive student-focused trajectory established by President Armstrong, and to assure the continuation and growth of our strong partnerships here at home, statewide and globally.” Since 2011, Haile has been at the forefront of Broward College as its general counsel and vice president for public policy and government affairs. As the College’s first in-house chief legal counsel and longest-serving executive to report directly to the College’s president, he oversees the College’s compliance and regulatory affairs as well as the broad-ranging legal issues impacting the landscape of higher education. Haile also develops and prioritizes the College’s policy agenda, oversees all local, state, and federal government affairs and co-leads community engagement efforts. In his new role as president of Broward College, a priority will be to lead the College in the successful implementation of its current strategic plan and future objectives.

St. Mary’s Medical Center and The Palm Beach Children’s Hospital Promote Michelle Cartwright as Chief Financial Officer

St. Mary’s Medical Center and The Palm Beach Children’s Hospital welcome Michelle Cartwright, CPA, as their new chief financial officer. With over 10 years of financial healthcare experience in areas of general and operational accounting, Cartwright will be responsible for overseeing the financial operations for the 460-bed acute care hospital and its departments.

Cartwright has developed her entire career as a financial professional at St. Mary’s Medical Center. She started at the hospital as a senior accountant and was then promoted to the role of assistant controller. More recently, she served as controller for St. Mary’s and Palm Beach Children’s Hospital.

Cartwright received her Bachelor’s Degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University and went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Accounting from Nova Southeastern University.

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Mark B. Elhilow Joins Palm Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees

Palm Healthcare Foundation Inc. recently welcomed Mark B. Elhilow, CPA/PFS, to its Board of Trustees. Elhilow has been actively engaged in the practice of investment management, family office, estate planning and public accounting for more than 25 years. Elhilow is a co-founder and the managing principal of Blue Ocean Capital. He is also a managing member of Elhilow, Smith and Company, a certified public accounting firm in West Palm Beach. Prior to his roles with these two companies, Elhilow was a principal with Nowlen, Holt & Miner, PA.

West Boca Medical Center Appoints New Director of Maternity Services

In keeping with its tradition of excellence in maternity care, West Boca Medical Center selects Nina Jack, R.N., as its new director of maternity services. She will oversee labor and delivery, maternal-fetal and antepartum units, nursery and postpartum staff, ensure that the obstetrics department continues to meet the highest standards in patient experience and develop and implement quality improvement initiatives.

Nina worked in labor and delivery for Baptist Health systems for the past nine years before coming to West Boca Medical Center. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Homerton College in Cambridge, England and then earned her Nursing degree from Chamberlain College of Nursing.

West Boca Medical Center Appoints New Director of Emergency Services

West Boca Medical Center promotes Tracey Brown, R.N., as its new director of emergency services. In her new role, Brown will be responsible for managing the clinical nursing staff and administrative planning for emergency services.

Prior to her appointment to director of emergency, Tracey served as assistant director of the emergency department at West Boca. As assistant director, her responsibilities included overseeing and managing the staff for the satellite emergency department in Coconut Creek. Tracey received her Bachelor’s degree from Jacksonville University, before earning her Master’s degree from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, AL.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Names New Chief Executive Officer

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center appoints Trey Abshier to the position of chief executive officer.

Prior to his appointment to Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, Trey was the chief executive officer at Florida Medical Center (FMC). Prior to his time at Florida Medical Center, Trey was the chief operating officer at Delray Medical Center. Abshier earned a master’s degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and a bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Development from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

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With offices in South Florida and across the U.S., we stand ready to deliver fresh insights and help you prosper in this ever-changing healthcare environment. For more information, visit bdo.com or contact Angelo Pirozzi, apirozzi@bdo.com.

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The Scleroderma Foundation provides support and education to individuals affected by Scleroderma, while funding innovative research into the cause and cure of the disease. Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma walks are the primary fundraising tool of the Scleroderma Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) charity; all donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Visit www.scleroderma.org for more information.

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Pitch Perfect PR & Media Strategies is a full service, bilingual (English and Spanish) marketing, public relations and communications South Florida firm dedicated to helping businesses in health care managing. With over fifteen years of corporate branding experience with a focus on results, Pitch Perfect understands the unique intricacies of health care marketing and communications. Services can include advertising, marketing plans and strategies, public relations, media buys, social media content development, digital strategies, graphic design, copy writing, website content, blog creation, crisis management and overall brand growth. For more information, visit the website pitchperfectprmiami.com, call 766-270-9909 or email Joannas@pitchperfectprmiami.com.

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HEALTHCARE LAW
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The Health Care District of Palm Beach County recently marked the centennial of the Edward J. Healey Rehabilitation and Nursing Center with a ceremony. More than 50 community leaders, county and city officials, current and former staff, and residents attended the celebration at the 120-bed facility in Riviera Beach which is owned and operated by the Health Care District. The Healey Center, a U.S. News 2017-18 and 2016-2017 Best Nursing Homes recipient, opened at its current site five years ago. The facility relocated from West Palm Beach where the formerly named “Palm Beach County Home” and “Poor Farm” had served the community since 1918.

“The legacy of the Healey Center dates back to the birth of this county and the mission to serve those in need continues to this day,” said Darcy J. Davis, CEO of the Healthcare District of Palm Beach County in her remarks. “The Health Care District is proud to recognize our skilled nursing home for reaching this historic milestone.”

The Healey Center serves eligible Palm Beach County residents with traumatic injuries or debilitating illnesses. Unlike a typical nursing home, the average age of the residents at the Healey Center is 55 years old. Residents often arrive at the Healey Center unable to walk or talk. The Healey Center’s professional staff delivers occupational, physical, and speech therapy that successfully returns residents to their highest optimal capabilities and gives long-term residents a second chance at quality of life.

The University of Miami Ear Institute recently hosted board members and staff of the American Tinnitus Association (ATA). The purpose of the tour was to educate members of the ATA on the advances in the prevention and treatment of tinnitus by examining the best practices in place at an academic medical center. The UHealth Miami Ear Institute is one of the busiest centers of its kind in the United States and is an internally recognized center for research in all forms of hearing loss and vestibular balance. The ATA is the nation’s foremost and trusted organization committed to finding cures for tinnitus and hyperacusis. The tour helped to promote the synergy between the ATA and UHealth dedicated medical professionals and researchers who work with and within the tinnitus community.

Sun Valley Certification Clinic

At Sun Valley Certification Clinic, we’ve turned the once grueling task of getting a medical marijuana card into a clinical and professional experience. We are an all-inclusive certification clinic strictly dedicated to the needs of cannabis patients. From education to full assistance with the state application, our clinic provides our patients with the highest standards of care. We are delighted to now be serving the Fort Lauderdale area! Call us at 954-900-9788 or visit us at svmmjcc.com

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Sunspire Health, leaders in the field of Addiction Treatment, is an accredited nationwide network of addiction treatment facilities that offer personalized treatment plans for people of all walks of life, meeting them where they are and guiding them through recovery. All levels of care are offered. Sunspire Health works with most insurance companies. For more info; call Sandra Lafler at (561) 506-2344; for 24/7 admission counselors, call (561) 237-1615

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Cleveland Clinic Florida Nurse Honored with DAISY Award

Cleveland Clinic Florida nurse Alicia Maxwell, R.N., has been recognized with the DAISY Award for her exceptional and compassionate clinical nursing skills. “Alicia and her team of nurses consistently deliver an unparalleled patient experience through their clinical expertise and patient-centered care,” said Kerry Major, M.S.N., R.N., Chief Nursing Officer at Cleveland Clinic Florida. “Cleveland Clinic nurses are recognized as exceptional role models in the nursing community, and we are proud to have them on our team.”

Maxwell, a medical-surgical nurse with Cleveland Clinic Florida since 2014, was nominated by a patient for providing her with an exceptional recovery experience after undergoing a major surgery.

Broward Health Coral Springs Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center Recognized with National Awards for Excellence in Wound Healing

The Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center at Broward Health Coral Springs (BHCS) has been recognized for the seventh consecutive year with the Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Center of Distinction award, but only 427 achieved the honor.

BHCS’ Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center achieved patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent and a healing rate of at least 91 percent within 30 median days to heal, which were honored with the Center of Excellence Award. BHCS also received Healogics’ Center of Distinction Award for the ninth consecutive year. To achieve the award, the Center achieved outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including patient satisfaction higher than 92 percent, and a minimum wound healing rate of at least 91 percent within 30 median days to heal. There were 635 Centers eligible for the Center of Distinction award, but only 427 achieved the honor.

Broad and Cassel Health Law Practice Receives Top Honors in Florida from Chambers USA 2018

For the eighth consecutive year, the Health Law Practice Group at Florida-based law firm Broad and Cassel LLP has once again received top honors within Florida by prominent legal guide Chambers USA: A Guide to America’s Leading Business Lawyers. The firm’s practice group was one of just two receiving a Band One ranking in the state, the highest ranking awarded by Chambers USA.

All told, the firm’s nationally recognized group saw the ranking of six individual attorneys, more than any other firm in the state, in addition to the group’s collective Band One ranking. Ranked attorneys include Managing Partner Gabriel L. Imperato, Partner Michael J. Bittman, Partner Lester J. Perleng, Partner Stephanie A. Russo, Partner Mike Segal, and Of Counsel Stephen H. Siegel. Imperato also received national recognition in health care, ranking among the best in the country for his work in health care regulatory and litigation. Additionally, Chambers USA honored 10 attorneys from across the state with a Band One ranking for health care experience and reputation in Florida. Broad and Cassel had three attorneys receive that ranking, Imperato, Perleng and Segal, more than any other law firm in the state.

Good Samaritan Medical CenterNames Daisy Award Winner

Good Samaritan Medical Center Congratulates the 2018 first quarter DAISY Award recipient, Dena Wright. Dena is a nurse in the Oncology Department, and displays an extraordinary compassion to all of her patients and their families. She is known for going above and beyond to help her patients and put a smile on their faces.

Memorial Earns Straight “A”S … Again

Five hospitals within the Memorial Healthcare System each earned an “A” grade in a national ranking of safety at general, acute-care hospitals. It’s the second consecutive period all the Memorial facilities reviewed received the highest possible ranking in the “Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade,” a respected source that includes data from more than 2,300 hospitals. The facilities — Memorial Regional Hospital, Memorial Hospital West, Memorial Regional Hospital South, Memorial Hospital Pembroke, and Memorial Hospital Miramar — were each given a composite score of “A” based on 27 different, nationally-reported patient safety measures that indicate how well hospitals protect patients from preventable errors, injuries and infections. Among hospitals within 100 miles of Hollywood, just 10 earned “A” grades in the Spring 2018 rankings, with Memorials five facilities accounting for half that total. Additionally, Memorial Hospital Miramar is among an elite group of only 49 hospitals in the United States to earn Leapfrog’s top grade in every rating period since 2012.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Receives an “A” for Patient Safety in Spring 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

By achieving an “A” Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center receives recognition as one of the safest hospitals in the United States. “Hospitals like this that earn an A have demonstrated their commitment to their patients and their community,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “I congratulate Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center for its safety excellence, and look forward to the day when all hospitals will match this standard.”

Cleveland Clinic Florida Again Achieves Pathway to Excellence® Designation

Cleveland Clinic Florida has been re-designated a Pathway to Excellence® organization by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), one of the highest honors in the nursing profession. Achieving this designation is indicative of the organization’s commitment to creating a positive nursing practice environment which has led to a high level of professional satisfaction among nurses at Cleveland Clinic Florida.
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Receives Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center earns the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the second straight year. Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

West Boca Medical Center Receives Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

West Boca Medical Center earns the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring heart failure patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines founded in the latest scientific evidence. The goal is speeding recovery and reducing hospital readmissions for heart failure patients.

St. Mary’s Medical Center Honors West Palm Beach Fire Rescue 8 for Call of the Quarter

St. Mary’s Medical Center recently awarded their Call of the Quarter to West Palm Beach Fire Rescue 8 for their quick thinking during a recent call. An elderly man had fallen in his garage, hitting his head on his car. After arriving to his home and doing their initial assessment, first responders noticed he was developing a facial droop: a telltale sign of a stroke. Rather than call him as a traditional trauma alert, he was instead coded as a stroke alert and transported to the Comprehensive Stroke Center at St. Mary’s. Thanks to this quick-thinking, Dr. Ali Malek, medical director of the stroke center, and the stroke team were able to administer timely care that helped save the patient’s life.

Pictured (l-r) Cristy Cook, Asst. Nurse Manager, ER; Dr. Juan Ramos-Canseco; Assistant Chief Jim Gribble; Sandy Ripper-Brown, ARNP Neuroscience Services; EMS Chief John Meskied; R-8 crew Brian Lashley; Lt. Linton Ellison; Kevin Kerrigan; Battalion Chief Gary Dolins; Battalion Chief Danny Collazo; Natasha Molina, ARNP, Neuroscience Services; Rob Moreland, EMS Trauma Liaison; Dr. Munee Hassan; and Dr. Ali Malek.

Delray Medical Center Receives Healthgrades 2018 Patient Safety Excellence Award

Delray Medical Center is a recipient of the Healthgrades 2018 Patient Safety Excellence Award™, a designation recognizing superior performance of hospitals that have prevented the occurrence of serious, potentially avoidable complications for patients during hospital stays. The distinction places Delray Medical Center among the top 10 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety data for its excellent performance as evaluated by Healthgrades.

Jupiter Medical Center Receives National Award for Stroke Rehabilitation

Jupiter Medical Center announced that it has once again received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

Jupiter Medical Center’s Stroke Rehabilitation program focuses on helping patients relearn skills lost due to stroke in order to achieve the highest level of independence and improve their quality of life. The team employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining the advice and expertise of multiple physicians simultaneously, to individualize treatment based on the unique needs of each patient.

“ This recognition acknowledges our ongoing commitment to delivering the highest quality care for our community,” said Don McKenna, president and chief executive officer of Jupiter Medical Center. “Additionally, it validates our plans to establish a new comprehensive stroke center, which will give us the ability to provide advanced treatment for strokes and other complex neurological challenges.”
As a company in the cannabis industry in Florida, would your operation be able to withstand the loss of any cannabis and cash in the event of a break-in or robbery? Most likely not.

Whether you operate a medicinal marijuana dispensary or grow operation, security is paramount. In fact, most cannabis regulations in states where its use is legal require that growers, storage facilities, and dispensaries have advanced video security systems on their premises. Florida's state regulations regarding medical marijuana are written as follows:

To ensure the safety and security of premises where the cultivation, processing, storing, or dispensing of marijuana occurs, and to maintain adequate controls against the diversion, theft, and loss of marijuana or marijuana delivery devices, a medical marijuana treatment center shall:

1. Maintain a fully operational security alarm system that secures all entry points and perimeter windows and is equipped with motion detectors; pressure switches; and duress, panic, and hold-up alarms; and
2. Maintain a video surveillance system that records continuously 24 hours a day and meets the following criteria:
   (I) Cameras are fixed in a place that allows for the clear identification of persons and activities in controlled areas of the premises. Controlled areas include grow rooms, processing rooms, storage rooms, disposal rooms or areas, and point-of-sale rooms.
   (II) Cameras are fixed in entrances and exits to the premises, which shall record from both indoor and outdoor, or ingress and egress, vantage points.
   (III) Recorded images must clearly and accurately display the time and date.
   (IV) Retain video surveillance recordings for at least 45 days or longer upon the request of a law enforcement agency.

"With so many regulations in the marijuana industry in Florida, keeping up to date on the security regulations and staying in compliance can be quite the challenge," says Jeremy Stewart, VP of Global Marketing for Swann Communications.

Since the industry is mainly a cash business appealing to thieves, Stewart notes that both growers and sellers have to safeguard their product and at the same time protect their profits from theft.

"Security concerns are common in the cannabis industry as more states begin to legalize either recreational or medical marijuana," adds Jeremy Stewart. "It's a product that is moving away from the black market so naturally there is some cause for concern."

From its more than 30 years of experience providing security solutions for homes and businesses, Swann Communications has the tools and strategies to help with your cannabis security needs, according to Stewart.

"We recognized that there was demand for sophisticated security needs in this market," he says. "We have the expertise that those in the cannabis industry need and we offer a variety of affordable and compliant security solutions."

The security company, founded by David Swann in his family home in Melbourne, Australia, has a presence in over 40 countries on 6 continents with offices in the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and China. Swann pioneered the category of Do-it-Yourself security. In its years of operation the company has helped hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses and communities feel safer.

Swann offers a variety of security solutions to help protect, and stay connected to, your property. Most of its security systems have 4 to 16 channel options, suitable for large properties and businesses, and provide remote viewing, enabling you to view security footage remotely either from a computer, your smartphone or tablet. Nearly all of its security cameras have night vision, are IP66 or IP67 weather rated so it’s suitable for the outdoors.

One of the most exciting developments Swann has introduced to security this year is a positive for the cannabis industry. Most Swann systems launched this year will feature True Detect™ heat and motion sensing technology, meaning they can detect people and cars, avoiding false triggers from wind, leaves and rain. Once triggered, today's cameras can send you a push notification on your Smartphone and commence recording. It saves you unnecessary worry and lets you know what's happening almost instantly, meaning you can record more of the incidents and activity you care about.

No matter your needs, Stewart notes that Swann will design and develop a security system that not only protects your inventory but also ensures compliance with Florida state law.

"As with all of the security solutions that we offer to our customers, early detection and prevention of potential loss is our primary objective," he says. "If you have the proper security system and protocols in place, it will help prevent losses and keep your product safe and protected giving you peace of mind."

For more information, visit www.swann.com.
Igniting Florida’s Nikki Fried Focuses on Medical Cannabis, Children’s Rights

BY VANESSA ORR

When Nicole “Nikki” Fried opened her full-service government consulting firm, Igniting Florida LLC, in 2016, her goal was to make a difference in Tallahassee and Broward County. With clients now including San Felasco Nurseries, Florida’s Children First and the Broward County School Board, she is quickly earning a reputation for doing just that.

While her clients are diverse, she says one thing unifies them. “It’s all about compassion,” she explained. “It’s about taking care of people who sometimes can’t take care of themselves or who need extra assistance, like Parkinson’s patients who need access to medical marijuana, or special needs children who should have attorneys representing their interests in court. While I work in different silos, I bring the same passion to each client, trying to provide a better life for them.”

A graduate of the University of Florida with a BA in political science, a master’s in political campaigning and a law degree from the university’s Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Fried was previously employed at Colodny Fass, where she says she “cut her teeth” on all things Tallahassee. “After gaining San Felasco Nurseries as a client, I realized that they needed my undivided attention,” she explained of her decision to start her own firm to help serve state, local and federal officials and the industry.

According to Fried, there are a number of issues that require attention. “Next year, I see big changes coming on the national level, including states’ rights, protecting medical marijuana, and regulations concerning financial institutions,” she said. “Within the state, I see changes in the regulatory framework—the loosening of some rules, and the expansion of ‘allowed’ conditions as a way to deal with the opioid crisis—to give more patients the option to use medical marijuana as opposed to addictive drugs pushed by pharmaceutical companies.”

In addition to her role in the medical marijuana industry, Fried has also earned a reputation for championing children’s rights. She works with Florida’s Children First, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing the rights of children, especially those in foster care. In this role, she helped to accomplish the passage of HB 361, which provides $4.5 million in appropriations to ensure Florida’s special needs dependent children have access to lawyers.

“I consider this one of my greatest accomplishments,” said Fried. “We’ve now got attorneys speaking on behalf of our children, not just for the state or the parents or guardians.

“What I do with medical marijuana, and foster kids, and the school system—a lot comes down to education,” she added. “I’m frustrated with the partisan mindset that just doesn’t seem to want to work together, we can make lives better for all people. I wake up every day with the passion to each client, trying to provide a better life for them.”

For more information about Igniting Florida LLC, visit www.IgnitingFlorida.com or call (954) 734-3799.
The Florida ban preventing medical marijuana patients from smoking cannabis was snuffed out.

On May 25, Leon County Circuit Court Judge Karen Gievers ruled that the state’s ban on smokable cannabis violates the state constitution.

In her 22-page ruling, Judge Gievers wrote, “Qualifying patients have the right to use the form of medical marijuana for treatment of their debilitating medical conditions as recommended by their certified physicians, including the use of smokable marijuana in private places.”

She added that the state law banning medical marijuana from being smoked is “invalid and unenforceable,” and said that it was in conflict with the constitutional amendment voters approved in 2016 that permits qualified patients legally to use cannabis.

According to a statement by the Florida’s Department of Health, it has already appealed the ruling which imposes an automatic stay. David Galetta, a spokesperson for the department, said in a statement to the Associated Press that this ruling “goes against what the legislature outlined when they wrote and approved the law to implement the constitutional amendment that was approved.”

Medical marijuana advocates across the state praised the ruling as a victory for Floridian patients. Ben Pollara, head of the nonprofit medical marijuana advocacy group For Floridian patients, called the ruling a big win for medical marijuana advocates.

In related cannabis news, businesses looking to enter Florida’s pot industry recently warned state health officials at a hearing about the many flaws a proposed rule increasing the number of medical marijuana operators.

The proposed rule was released last month and set in motion the application process for four highly sought-after medical marijuana licenses. The state has already issued licenses to 13 operators but has yet to begin accepting applications for the four new licenses. The law requires one of the new licenses to be given to an African-American farmer who was involved in federal litigation about discriminatory lending practices.

The law also requires state health officials to give preference for up to two licenses to applicants who “own one or more facilities that are, or were, used for the canning, concentrating, or otherwise processing of citrus fruit or citrus molasses and will use or convert the facility or facilities for the processing of marijuana.”

The citrus preference cited is now one of several marijuana-related court challenges pending. During the public testimony on May 24, most of the complaints were about this citrus-related language in the proposed rule. The Department of Health’s attorney Seann Frazier said the proposed regulation substituted the word “property” for “facilities,” which adds vagueness and could possibly broaden the language in the statute which is something the agency is not allowed to do.

In addition, the proposed rule gives the two highest-scoring applicants eligible for the citrus preference an extra 35 points, in addition to a total of 1,150 possible points available to all applicants. Some of the applicants expressed a desire to give more weight to the citrus preference.

Other attendees at the hearing voiced their displeasure about the page limits imposed in the proposed rule which could prevent applicants from providing information, such as how many dispensaries they plan to open.

After the hearing, the public has a week to submit comments on the proposed rule and 10 days to file administrative challenges. If there are no challenges, the Office of Medical Marijuana Use could begin accepting applications by mid-July.

The second medical marijuana case that court will be hearing after Judge Gievers ruled in April that a Tampa man, Joe Redner, is entitled under state law to possess, grow and use medical marijuana for juicing purposes.

Redner was prescribed juicing treatments from his physician in order to prevent his stage 4 lung cancer, now in remission, from recurring.

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PLA of SFL Graduates Second Class

The Physician Leadership Academy of South Florida (PLA), under the auspices of the Palm Beach County Medical Society (PBCMS) and held in collaboration with the Broward County Medical Association (BCMA) and Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) held its 2018 graduation on Saturday, May 21.

Prior to the graduation ceremony Leadership Projects were presented on the following topics: Understanding the Business of Medicine, Maximizing Physician Income, Developing Awareness of and Appreciation for the DC Medical Association by Its Members and Nonmembers Which Will Help It Increase Both Its Visibility and Its Membership, Promoting the Roles of Physicians as Healers, Leaders and Partners Which Will Create Newfound Quality and Safety for Our Patients and Our Communities, Increasing Physician Education on Payment Models and Developing Innovative Membership Engagement Opportunities.

Eighteen physicians from the three counties graduated from the PLA. Along with the guests of family members, colleagues and friends were Ralph Nobo, M.D., and Ronald Giffler, M.D. The PLA is funded by a grant from The Physicians Foundation and has been endorsed by the Florida Medical Association, which also provided CMEs to all attendees.

E-mail Your Calendar Submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com

DATEBOOK

June 6
BARC Ribbon Cutting
Saltz Michelson Architects will host the Broward Addiction Recovery Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 325 SW 28th Street, Fort Lauderdale.

June 13-14
SFHHA Healthcare Summit: Emergency Management Response
The South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association will present its Annual Healthcare Summit June 13-14 at the Signature Grand, Davie, FL. For general registration, visit https://sfhha2018summit.eventbrite.com. Contact info@sfhha.com for more information.

June 15
Free Autism Screening
Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southwest Florida, will offer a free autism spectrum disorder screening for toddlers 18 months to five years of age on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile on June 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Health Center, 2256 Heitman Street, Fort Myers. To schedule a screening, call (239) 343-0838.

June 21
South Florida Healthcare Networking Group Meeting
You are invited to the monthly meeting of the South Florida Healthcare Networking Group (SFHNG) hosted by Wellington Regional Medical Center on Thursday, June 21 from 7:45 to 10 a.m. Call (561) 368-6990 or download the reservation form at the website www.southfloridahospitalnews.com.

June 29-July 1
Primary Care Focus Symposium
The 17th Annual Primary Care Focus Symposium will be held June 29 - July 1 at Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo. For more information, visit the website http://PrimaryCareFocus.BaptistHealth.net.

A Special Thank You to the May 2018 Host of the South Florida Healthcare Networking Group

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Admissions to Kindred Hospitals may be recommended by physicians, acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, managed care providers, case management companies or by the patient’s family. In all cases family tours are encouraged.

E-mail Your Calendar Submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com
Emergency Management & Response

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2018 12th Annual SFHHA Healthcare Summit

Featured Speakers:
Beverly Capasso,
CEO, Broward Health
Jaime Pla-Cortes,
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

Overview:
The 12th Annual Healthcare Summit of the South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association, with the backdrop of events in 2017, and now 2018, will showcase the impacts of emergency management readiness across all lines of business operations for healthcare providers.

Member: $110 (for both days)
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