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Better Health Care for all Floridians

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Agency Response to the Health Policy Institute's December Briefs
~Invites researchers to meet in January~

TALLAHASSEE – After a more thorough review of the recent policy briefs issued by the Health Policy Institute, the Agency believes the following items require clarification:

- Brief #1 suggests the Agency has discretion to competitively procure for plans to participate in the new Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) program, when in fact the Florida statute requires competitive procurement.
- Brief #1 infers that the state has limited experience with comprehensive managed long-term care, yet fails to mention the prior experience of the Agency in the administration of the Nursing Home Diversion program (contracting with 17 managed care vendors to serve recipients in 46 counties), the value of the state's extensive experience with capitated managed care (with current enrollment of more than 1 million recipients), or the experience of the Agency in developing the Florida Senior Care program.
- Brief #2 focuses on the program component requiring the state to implement a \$10 premium. The Florida Legislature intended that eligibility for Medicaid include certain personal responsibilities on the part of recipients. In order to achieve full implementation of the SMMC program, the Agency has requested the necessary federal approval to mandate the majority of Medicaid recipients enrolled in managed care plans pay a \$10 per month share of the premium as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. There is no evidence to support Georgetown's assumption that 800,000 Medicaid recipients will lose eligibility as a result of this policy, if implemented. While Georgetown researchers can make assumptions regarding income and expenditures for recipients and their families, we do not believe that they can predict whether or not families will prioritize their budgets to allocate \$10 to the monthly premium.

Florida Medicaid has been continuously open to receiving both positive and negative feedback about the Reform Pilot from any stakeholder, including recipients, providers, advocates and researchers. The Agency would like to publically extend an offer to representatives from Georgetown University, the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund and the Winter Park Health Foundation to meet with Agency leadership and Medicaid personnel while they are in Tallahassee for the release of a subsequent brief in January.

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 40,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at FloridaHealthFinder.gov. For more information, visit AHCA.MyFlorida.com.

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