

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

January 10 - 14, 2011

Jackson Health System's (JHS)

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011, Jackson Health System's (JHS) governing board asked its executives to find alternatives for dealing with its declining reserves. Marcos Lapciuc, treasure of the Public Health Trust (PHT), noted that that the current cash situation is worse than ever. Chief Financial Officer Mark Knight indicated that JHS had 17 days cash in hand in December and is projected to decline to 15.4 days in January and 14.2 days in February. Lapciuc spoke about the possibility of asking Miami-Dade County (MDC) for a cash advance. MDC executives asked if JHS had plans to cut expenses, given that MDC's departments have cut 3 percent from its budgets in order to address its economic shortfalls. PHT members indicated that plans were being discussed with its consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers and MedAssests to improve JHS's finances. JHS's first two months of the fiscal year showed losses of \$13.5 million. Should the rate of loss remain unchanged, the hospital stands to lose \$81 million for the year.

The PHT also discussed and voted to form a new non for profit to take over Foundation Health Services (FHS) and its employees. FHS handles JHS's international marketing but will not be rehired after its contract expires later this month. The decision comes after the Office of the inspector General reported findings of wasteful spending, which prompted Miami-Dade County to order JHS to no longer seek the services of FHS.

In other business:

JHS has contracted Ron Book and Akerman Senterfitt at \$136,000 each for their state lobbying services.

Quick Leonard Kieffer, the Chicago firm handling the executive search for a new chief executive has been awarded \$450,000 for its services over the next three years.

Miami

In the midst of public conflict between Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and Police Chief Miguel Exposito, the city's new administration has issued a rule banning most Miami employees from direct communication with reporters without approval. City Manager Tony Crapp Jr., informed city employees that only selected members of his administration and the office of communications are authorized to respond to news-

media requests. The new policy still allows the police and fire departments to speak to reporters directly, in order to address public safety issues. Under the new rules, employees allowed to speak to reporters are Crapp and his deputy and assistants; the police and fire spokespeople; City Attorney Julie Bru and City Clerk Priscilla Thompson.

Miami Beach

State representative Erik Fresen has sponsored a bill to let Broward and Miami-Dade County's help fund a \$225 million renovation of the Miami Dolphins' stadium and improvements to the Miami Beach Convention Center in the process. The bill would permit Broward to spend hotel taxes across county lines to improve the stadium, and would also allow Miami-Dade to increase its hotel tax from 6 to 7 percent and split the extra tax money evenly between the stadium and the convention center.

The Dolphins' proposed renovation includes a partial roof for the stadium, high tech screens and lighting, and approximately 3,000 new premium seats. According to the representative, the main objective behind the bill is to help fund improvements to the Miami Beach Convention Center, which the hotel industry has been seeking for years. However, due to concerns expressed by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau and the City of Miami Beach, the bill has not yet gained full local support.

Hialeah

On Monday, January 10, 2011, Hialeah Mayor Julio Robaina began his campaign to run for county mayor. To date, Robaina, a two-term Hialeah mayor (Republican), is the only sitting elected official to announce his run. Former state representative Marcelo Llorente, also a Republican, has filed to run in 2012 and has raised over \$240,000 since 2009. Lazaro Gonzalez, a Coral Gables retiree, involved in a previous recall attempt of the county mayor, has also filed to run.

Robaina indicated that his mayoral platform would include job creation, prohibiting outside income for county elected officials and making the office of the inspector general fully independent of the county. Robaina also said that he would support term limits for all elected officials.

Florida Power and Light (FPL)

Safety and security concerns at the Turkey Point nuclear power plant have been prevalent in recent years. Some of the exposed problems have included security guards asleep at the job, a contractor drilling a hole in a pipe and a senior operator quitting at midnight over concerns about restarting a reactor too quickly. However, on

Monday, January 10, 2011, FPL executives told federal regulators that a two-year effort to improve safety is making considerable progress. FPL requested a public meeting, held in Palm Beach Gardens, with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to publicize their described, top-to-bottom safety overhaul. Some of the changes include, more management oversight, more safety meetings, improved monitoring, clearer and enhanced communication, rewards to employees for following safety protocol and wider efforts to encourage employees and contractors to report safety concerns.

Len Wert, the NRC's director of the division of reactor programs, said that FPL has made strides at both Turkey Point, and St. Lucie County power plants. Wert acknowledged that measuring the success of their efforts proved difficult but was supported by NRC inspectors and expert teams. It was reported that last year, FPL surveyed power plant workers and found that 89 percent of them were satisfied that their concerns had been addressed and 74 percent indicated that their concerns had been resolved. Additionally, turnover at Turkey Point was reported at a seven-year low, according to an administrator of the plant, a sign of improved morale and working conditions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Save the Date:

What: Miami-Dade League of Cities 57th Annual Installation Gala

Where: Doral Golf & Spa

When: Saturday evening, February 19, 2011

(Invitation to follow)