



Contact: Julie Graham, MPH
Phone: (561) 844-4220 x15
Email: jgraham@hcsef.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) Launches Patient Navigation Initiative in Palm Beach County

(PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL) June, 2012, The Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF), is preparing to launch a new initiative “Patient Navigation: Transforming the Community’s Experience” with funding received from The Quantum Foundation, Inc. The initiative will aim to strengthen and enhance the eligibility system for health and human services, in Palm Beach County, resulting in improved access to care for residents of the County.

“Patient Navigation: Transforming the Community’s Experience” was developed in response to the need growing and substantial need for resources to help residents navigate the various aspects of the health and humans services available in the County. Currently, there are many organizations and workers, often referred to as ‘patient navigators, promotores, eligibility workers, etc.’ who work to address this need however, there is little consistency in the knowledge bases of these individuals and the work that they do.

This initiative will coordinate a group of individuals who do eligibility work in the county and create a forum for professional development, training, collaboration and sharing of ideas, and promotion in consistencies in processes. The program will work to complement and integrate the soon-to-be-launched common eligibility system (One E-app) in the county by assuring that those using the system have the knowledge, tools and resources to support their work, both with the One-E app and with the many other aspect of their roles and duties involved with helping patients and clients navigate the system. In addition to knowledge and practice improvements, the initiative will encourage and bolster communication and collaboration among organizations.

HCSEF is one of eleven local health planning council in Florida and covers the five-county region of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast. Much of HCSEF’s work focus on improving access to care, reducing health disparities and advocating on behalf of vulnerable and underserved populations.

HCSEF will begin identifying and recruit organizations and individuals to participate in the initiative. Please contact Julie Graham, Project Director, jgraham@hcsef.org or 561-844-4220 x15 for more information about the initiative and to learn how you can participate.

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Quantum Foundation is celebrating 15 years of making grants in Palm Beach County. The foundation works to increase health care access, improve science and health education and enhance the health care workforce. Our vision is to make Palm Beach County a place where everyone has the opportunity to live healthy lives, regardless of their income, education or background.