

the health advisor

DOH Mission:

To promote & protect the health & safety of all people in Florida.

Mar/Apr 2006

Office of Performance Improvement



Florida Prepares

Florida DOH hosts Pandemic Flu Summit— “Florida Prepares” conveyed message of pandemic influenza readiness

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Secretary M. Rony François M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D. on Feb. 16 led a distinguished panel of guest speakers including Governor Jeb Bush, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, Centers for Disease Control Director Julie Gerberding and others in “Florida Prepares,” informing Floridians about the effects of an eventual pandemic.

Scientists agree that the time is ripe for a pandemic influenza, and if it doesn't come with this year's avian flu H5N1 as expected, then another flu virus will bring pandemic in the near future.

“It is necessary to bring pandemic awareness into Florida communities,” said Secretary François. “It is crucial for Floridians to understand that a pandemic will affect all facets of the community.”

With more than 700 people attending the event at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, the focus remained on the importance of informing and preparing communities, businesses and families. Dr. François challenged everyone to stay informed and involved by reaching out to local elected officials and institutions. The event allowed attendees to voice questions and concerns to the panel and receive answers in return through discussion. Commu-

nication was encouraged at the summit in order to ensure that those in attendance fully understood the importance of the issues presented.

Event speaker Leavitt, speaking from the federal point of view, called Florida's existing pan-flu plan “extraordinary,” and noted that it has been in the making for many years. He stressed that personal involvement and accountability must exist when there's a public health occurrence of this magnitude.

“Preparation is a local matter,” Leavitt continued. “Every entity, from state, county, town, tribe, hospital, school down to every household, should have a plan.” While a vaccine is being developed and in case of future pandemics, Leavitt said, “there will always be a time that we are dependent on old-fashioned, or more properly, basic public health measures.” These measures include surveillance,

reporting, personal health measures and planning for isolation and disruption of usual services.

Families might have to be on their own for several weeks—the term for this is “social distancing”—and would need to stock up on food, medicine and other necessities in advance. See below for a list of items to have on hand.

Disruption of services could include providers such as health care facilities, banks, stores, restaurants, government offices and the postal service.

Reliable, accurate and timely information is—and will be—available at www.pandemicflu.gov. Another source of information is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Hotline: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-6348). This line is available in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Questions can be e-mailed to inquiry@cdc.gov. ■

Keeping abreast of the latest avian influenza information

New developments continually change body of knowledge

Just like the time-worn advice about English language grammar and usage, “the only rule is there's an exception to every rule,” there's new information to consider about the lethal H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

The lead story in the Jan./Feb. 2006 issue of Health Advisor featured a question and answer article about the illness commonly called bird flu. The headline, and the corresponding answer in the article, referred to the worry some may have about their pets contracting the disease. At press time, the Bureau of Epidemiology said there should be no worry.

Very soon after, word was released by the World Health Organization (WHO) that several cats have indeed tested positive for H5N1 in Austria and the German island of Ruegen, in the Baltic Sea. The method of transmission is believed to be through felines eating infected birds. This theory is consistent with a pattern of disease transmission seen in wild cats in Asia. A WHO spokeswoman said experts hope to isolate outbreaks and establish agreements allowing international health authorities to respond quickly, testing viruses and putting in place measures to contain the disease.

As nearly anyone who scans the mass media can attest, information about this developing health issue can change at any time. So that readers of the Florida Department of Health's Health Advisor newsletter can stay apprised of the ever-changing status of avian influenza, the following is a list of resource information:

The Bureau of Epidemiology recommends that individuals contact their local County Health Department for up-to-the minute information. A contact list for Health Departments by county is available at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>. For queries about statistical surveillance of confirmed or suspected cases of avian flu, call the Statistical Surveillance section of the Bureau of Epidemiology at 850/245-4401. Surveillance also has a report that is updated weekly on all strains of influenza at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/epi/htopics/flu/index.htm>

A pan-flu plan for your family—something you can control amid other uncertainties

Think hurricane preparation, then multiply by a month and a half. Officials are recommending residents keep a 40-day supply of food and water on hand, as well as any nonprescription drugs and other necessary health supplies. If that sounds excessive to you, keep in mind what kind of interruptions in availability and delivery of goods and services could occur if one-third of the U.S. population is sick—all at the same time!

Remember, unless there's a mutation of the avian flu virus that allows person-to-person transmission, there's no flu pandemic. But if it does happen, transmission of the virus will spread worldwide over a period of days, not weeks. The time to try to stock up on supplies is not after the pandemic strikes. ■

Source: www.pandemicflu.gov, individual planning section.



What if we're spared a flu pandemic in 2006?

Just as in the case of hurricane supplies, the items to have on hand for an extended stay at home aren't going to go to waste. You'll be able to make use of all these items. That's the beauty of nonperishables!

- nonperishable foods
- medical supplies
- ready-to-eat canned meats
- canned fruits
- canned vegetables and soups
- protein or fruit bars
- soap and water, or alcohol-based hand wash
- dry cereal or granola, peanut butter or nuts
- thermometer
- dried fruit
- anti-diarrheal medication
- crackers
- vitamins
- canned juices, fluids with electrolytes, bottled water
- canned or jarred baby food and formula
- flashlight and batteries
- pet food
- portable radio
- manual can opener
- garbage bags
- tissues
- toilet paper
- disposable diapers



People who participate in ADA-recognized programs are taught self-care skills that will promote better management of a diabetes treatment regimen.

Hernando CHD's Diabetes Education Program merits recognition from American Diabetes Association

The prestigious American Diabetes Association (ADA) education recognition certificate for a quality diabetes self-management education program was awarded Nov. 8, 2005 to the Hernando County Health Department (HCHD). Programs that achieve ADA

recognition offer high-quality education with a staff of knowledgeable professionals. The association's education recognition certificate assures that educational programs meet the national standards for diabetes self-management education programs. HCHD's program is the only one in its area to have received ADA recognition.

People who participate in ADA-recognized programs are taught self-care skills that will promote better management of a diabetes treatment regimen. All approved education programs cover the diabetes disease process: nutritional management; physical activity; medications; monitoring and preventing, detecting and treating acute complications. Risk reduction, goal setting, problem solving and psychological adjustment are also covered. Through appropriate self-management, unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes can be prevented.

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are 20.8 million people (seven percent of the population in the United States) who have diabetes. Locally, 11.4 percent of adults in Hernando County have diabetes compared to a statewide rate of 8.2 percent. Each day approximately 4,110 people are diagnosed with diabetes. Many will first learn that they have diabetes when they are treated for one of its life-threatening complications—heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, blindness and nerve disease and amputation. About 1.5 million new cases of diabetes were diagnosed in people aged 20 years or older in 2005. Diabetes contributed to over 4,000 deaths in Florida in 2004.

Assuring high-quality education for patient self-care is one of the primary goals of the ADA education recognition program. Through the support of the health care team and increased knowledge and awareness of diabetes, the participant can assume a major part of the responsibility of his/her diabetes management. "This ADA recognition gives professionals a national standard by which to measure the quality of the services they provide," commented Sandra Dixon, M.P.H., L.D, R.D., HCHD Nutrition Program Director and Coordinator of the Diabetes Education Program. "And, of course, it helps consumers to identify these quality programs."

For more information on the Hernando County Health Department's diabetes self-management program, call 540-6800 ext. 82028. ■



CMS Ft. Lauderdale office recognized with Heart Award

THE FT. LAUDERDALE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) AREA OFFICE WAS NAMED 2006 HEART AWARD COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. The award was bestowed Feb. 10 by the Children's Consortium, a Broward County agency dedicated to the health and wellness of area children. The Heart Award was established to recognize local businesses, government officials and community organizations that have gone above and beyond in working with children and advocating on their behalf.

The Children's Medical Services Network provides a managed system of care for children with special health care needs. Included are those children under age 21 whose serious or chronic physical, mental or developmental conditions require extensive preventative and maintenance attention.

"Our field offices are committed to the health and well-being of children with special health care needs throughout Florida," said Joseph J. Chiaro, M.D., deputy secretary of the CMS Program. "Receiving this award is a reminder of our mission, and encourages us to continue our important work in all areas across Florida." ■

CMS wins SHRUG poster contest

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) RECEIVED THE FIRST PRIZE AND BEST OF SHOW AWARD FOR ITS POSTER, "CMS CLIENTS AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS BY FLORIDA COUNTY" at the November Geographic Information Systems Conference, Seven Hills Regional User Group (SHRUG). Dr. Jeannette Sanders' poster depicted the ways in which Geographic Information Systems are used to enhance delivery of health care services to CMS patients. ■



DOH Social Workers Honored During National Social Work Month


The March observance of National Social Work Month proved a valuable platform to honor many outstanding public health social workers in Florida.

Every day, over a half a million professional social workers bring hope, help and opportunity for success into people's lives. Many of these highly trained and experienced professionals are working right here within the Florida Department of Health. They can be found in such programs as Maternal and Child Health, Children's Medical Services, Abstinence Education, School Health, HIV/AIDS, Early Steps and the Child Protection Team, performing a variety of functions ranging from direct service provision to population-based public health planning and program administration.

The social work profession was founded on a set of core principles that still guide its unique purpose and perspective today. For more than 100 years, social workers have helped millions of people challenge their circumstances and change their lives and pushed institutions to value and support families in need.

DOH conducted a March 23 teleconference for social workers, "Issues in Family Violence for Social Workers in Health Settings." The speaker was Dr. Martha Coulter, a social worker and professor of community and family health at the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida. The workshop provided an overview of various issues related to prevention, assessment and intervention into family violence. The topics included attention to child maltreatment, partner abuse, children exposed to violence, sibling abuse and elder abuse. Special attention was given to issues related to pregnancy and abuse of the disabled.

In celebration of National Social Work Month, a new section was added to the Public Health Social Work Web page called "Social Work Salutes." Administrators, supervisors and colleagues were invited to submit for posting words of praise and recognition for the outstanding work of their social work staff. Visit www.doh.state.fl.us/family/socialwork/salutes.html to see examples of the social worker tributes submitted. These comments underscore the critically important role of social workers within the public health team. ■



Eye exams for diabetics: goal met ahead of schedule

The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP) is pleased to announce that for calendar year 2003–2004, Florida met the Healthy People 2010 Goal 5-13: Increase the percent of people with diabetes who had a dilated eye examination during the past year. Exams increased 11 percent (8 percentage points) from about 67 percent for 1994 and 1996 data combined, to about 75 percent for 2003 and 2004 combined.

A dilated eye exam, performed annually by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, is the only way to tell if the eyes are being affected by diabetic retinopathy, a general term for all disorders of the retina caused by diabetes. This disease is a leading cause of blindness in American adults. In some cases, the disease may progress to an advanced level before the patient notices symptoms. That is why regular eye examinations for people with diabetes are so important. The exam can catch the disease early, thus preventing vision loss or blindness.

The state of Florida is indebted to the many professionals whose work was vital in meeting this goal: all health care providers, diabetes educators and others who facilitate care and promote diabetes self-management. When diabetes is well managed, the risks of complications such as vision loss are decreased.

The DPCP conducts activities to increase access to diabetes self-management education. For additional information on diabetes, please contact the program at (850) 245-4330, Suncom 205-4330, or visit the Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dcp/index.html>. ■

Orange CHD staffers present minority program info at APHA Conference



Venise Jackson and Sean Webb

VENISE JACKSON AND SEAN WEBB FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S (OCHD) OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH ATTENDED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION'S 133RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER. They braved the cold weather in Philadelphia and shared updates and findings from their programs.

Jackson presented information on a newly developed community model used to address the dental health care needs of at-risk, uninsured youth in a low income community in Orange County. The Healthy Smiles Project, which is grant funded by the Closing the Gap state initiative, partners with Orange County Public Schools, the OCHD Mobile Dental Unit and local community agencies to provide oral health education and limited preventive dental care for students who

meet grant criteria. Preventive dental care includes cleanings, hygiene instruction and dental sealants through the school-based mobile sealant program.

Webb also presented information on the Making Positive Choices Program, which helps college students make healthier decisions regarding risky behaviors. The program teaches college students about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and family planning.

The Office of Minority Health continues to lead the way to healthier communities by providing technical assistance to community-based organizations, coordinating health programs for minority populations, developing partnerships and participating in ongoing research in order to eliminate health disparities among ethnic and racial populations in Orange County. For more information about these programs, contact the OCHD's Office of Minority Health at (407) 858-1400. ■



Track your training with Trak-It

PALM BEACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (CHD) UPDATED FIVE YEARS OF TRAINING RECORDS FOR ALL OF ITS 800 PLUS EMPLOYEES. ESCAMBIA CHD ENTERED RECORDS FOR ALL 400 EMPLOYEES IN LESS THAN ONE AFTERNOON. Duval CHD is delivering new employee orientation online and Medical Quality Assurance has been using it since July 2004 to support its Sterling Quality Initiative. What is it that has been creating all of this activity? Implementation of the Department of Health's online learning management system, that's what!

As part of the department's continuing quality and performance management process, many county health departments and central office divisions and bureaus have been using Trak-It to record their employees' training. Whether your unit is using Sterling, Balanced Scorecard or any other management process, tracking training is a critical first step in assessing your workforce competency. New Employee Orientation, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Information Security, HIPAA, National Incident Management System (IS-700), Incident Command System (I-100, -200, -300, -400), OSHA, Medical Records, Outlook and Health Clinic Management System training are but a few of the many training sessions that are entered into Trak-It.

If you are looking for a tool to monitor your employees' training, set up online courses, evaluate employee profiles, or you're just seeking a more flexible alternative to Training Opportunities, Trak-It may be the answer. Trak-It is available at no cost to any DOH unit that is interested in tracking training using an online reportable database. The Office of Performance Improvement supports, maintains, trains and assists with the implementation of Trak-It. If you are interested in implementing Trak-It or just finding out more about our learning management system, please call or e-mail Armando Oliva at (850) 245-4007, SunCom 205-4007, or Armando_Oliva@doh.state.fl.us. You also may check out the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Office of Performance Improvement Web site, at http://dohiws/Divisions/Perf_Improvement/Preparedness/trak-it.htm.

For those who are considering using Trak-It to support their Sterling initiative, please take a look at the MQA Web site to see an excellent example: <http://dohiws/Divisions/MQA/opportunities.htm>. ■

If you are looking for a tool to monitor your employees' training, set up online courses, evaluate employee profiles, or you're just seeking a more flexible alternative to Training Opportunities, Trak-It may be the answer.



Quest for Quality

The Balanced Scorecard—a useful tool for action

The balanced scorecard is a management system (not only a measurement system) that enables organizations to clarify their vision and strategy and translate them into action. The balanced scorecard transforms strategic planning from an exercise into the nerve center of an organization.

The balanced scorecard builds on some key management concepts such as customer-defined quality, continuous improvement, employee empowerment and, primarily, measurement-based management and feedback. Much of the scorecard is simple, common sense: getting agreement on strategy, strengths and weaknesses; measuring essential data; and focusing not just on financial or health outcomes, but also on the issues that will affect those outcomes in the future. A balanced scorecard is a central list of numbers, which show each key part of an organization's success—such as financial, people, operations, suppliers, customers and support systems.

For larger organizations, a balanced scorecard is first installed at the top, where commitment is most vital to success. It is then cascaded throughout the organization, to focus division goals with the overall department goals.

Once a scorecard is created, it should become a part of your business' daily life; it should be embedded into a company's operations as a standard decision-making tool. The scorecard makes the results of changes measurable. If it is updated regularly, the scorecard can give warnings of problems ahead, or signal opportunities. It can, and should, also be used as the focus of continuous improvement.

If you are interested in learning more about the balanced scorecard, contact the Office of Performance Improvement at 850-245-4007 or SunCom 205-4007. ■

Sources:
<http://www.balancedscorecard.org/basics/bscl.html>

ToolPack Consulting

Quest for Quality is a regular feature in Health Advisor. Quest will help translate the Sterling Criteria for Organizational Excellence into everyday strategies that we can use. If you would like to see certain topics addressed in future editions, contact Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey, with the Office of Performance Improvement, via e-mail or by calling Suncom 205-4007.

People in Public Health

Board of Medicine selects Dr. Alexa Canady for Chair's Award

THE FLORIDA BOARD OF MEDICINE HAS CHOSEN ALEXA I. CANADY, M.D., AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CHAIR'S RECOGNITION AWARD. Past Chair Gaston Acosta-Rua, M.D. established the award to recognize and commend physicians who exemplify public service and outstanding contributions to the medical profession.

Laurie K. Davies, M.D., chair of the Florida Board of Medicine, said, "By presenting this award, the board is able to recognize Dr. Canady for her dedication and commitment to the areas of pediatric neurosurgery and mentoring."

Canady, the first African-American female neurosurgeon in the United States, is a pediatric neurosurgeon at Sacred Heart Medical Group in Pensacola. She is also an attending physician at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Canady is the author of countless scientific presentations and has won numerous awards, including the American Medical Women's Association President's Award and the Heroes for Health Award. ■

CMS division director elected vice president of American Professional Society on Abuse of Children

FLORIDA DOH CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR MICHAEL L. HANEY PH.D., NCC, CCISM, LMHC, HAS BEEN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN (APSAC).

Haney serves as the division director for the Children's Medical Services (CMS) Division of Prevention and Intervention. In this capacity, he supervises a variety of programs that help to keep Florida's children safe, including child protection teams and sexual abuse treatment programs, telehealth and telemedicine, poison control centers and other child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives.

"It is both an honor and privilege to serve as APSAC's vice president," said Haney. "APSAC is dedicated to increasing public awareness of child abuse and supporting preventative efforts through national collaboration with the goal of abolishing child abuse and neglect in our country."

Haney's professional career includes more than 20 years of serving children who have been abused or neglected as well as those with mental health issues. He has been published in several journals, including *The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, and is a member of numerous professional organizations, such as the Florida Mental Health Counselor's Association, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators. He joined the Florida Department of Health in 1998.

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) is a nonprofit national organization focused on meeting the needs of professionals engaged in all aspects of services for maltreated children and their families. APSAC's mission is to improve the ability of professionals to respond to children and families affected by abuse and violence. For information about APSAC, visit the Web site at <http://apsac.fmhi.usf.edu/>. ■

New Year brings new Deputy Secretary for Administration

ROBERT EADIE MUST HAVE MADE A BIG NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THIS YEAR: HE STARTED WORK AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF 2006. As deputy director, Eadie supervises the divisions of Medical Quality Assurance, Administration, Information Technology, Disability Determination; and the offices of Correctional Medical Authority; Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; and Performance Improvement. "Bob has had a long and successful career in both the public and private sectors and brings a wealth of experience to this position," said DOH Secretary M. Rony François. "Both the department and the people we serve will benefit from his expertise in public health administration."

Eadie is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and received his juris doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He has more than 30 years of legal and public health experience, serving as legal counsel to the Nashville City Government and division vice president of an international insurance brokerage firm. Most recently, Eadie served as deputy director of the Metro Public Health Department, in Nashville, Tenn., where his duties included management and operation, policy development and legal services. ■



Florida gets new state epidemiologist

NEW STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST JOHN PHILIP MIDDAGH, M.D. TRADED ALASKA'S FROZEN TUNDRA FOR THE SUNNY CLIMES OF FLORIDA IN JANUARY, WHEN HE ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST.

"I am happy to announce the selection of Dr. Middaugh as our new state epidemiologist," said DOH Secretary M. Rony François. "I am certain that his expertise and well-rounded background will be an asset to the department and I am looking forward to working closely with him and his staff."

Middaugh was most recently the medical epidemiologist for the Department of Health and Social Services for the state of Alaska. He has an extensive background in health and service including impressive accolades from associations

and organizations across the country. Some of these awards include the Meritorious Health Service Award from the Alaska Public Health Association, Alaska Physician of the Year Award and a nomination for the Charles C. Shepard Science Award of the Centers for Disease Control.

As Florida's state epidemiologist, Dr. Middaugh is responsible for providing medical and epidemiological guidance and consultation to the Department of Health's leadership team, county health departments, medical professionals and the general public. He responds to requests for epidemic assistance within the state of Florida, directs special epidemiological surveys and studies, and responds to media inquiries. ■

Floridians well represented in CDC's inaugural leadership program

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, A DIVISION OF THE CENTER FOR DISEASE

CONTROL, RECOGNIZES A CRUCIAL NEED FOR A STRENGTHENED LEADERSHIP CAPACITY WITH THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH. This segment of the public health spectrum affects the lives of every American on a daily basis, and has contributed to increased life expectancy during the past century. Leaders in this field must effectively anticipate, recognize and respond to environmental health threats.

To enhance the leadership and problem-solving skills of those working in the field, the CDC created the Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI). Of the 31 professionals in the inaugural class, four were from Florida. And two more Floridians are in the institute's second group.

Doug Sims, Tim Mayer, Wade Sparkman and Lisa Conti graduated this February, and Bob Washam and Ron Freeman are currently participating. The EPHLI is a one-year program of onsite and remote training events and a problem-solving project. ■



the advisor

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Please send stories & information for the next issue by e-mail to Leslie Knight in the Office of Performance Improvement.

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King and Rose



Andriole and Giaimo

Two Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine officials recognized by FOMA

FLORIDA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA KING AND FLORIDA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE CHAIRMAN JAMES ANDRIOLE, D.O., WERE HONORED IN MARCH BY THE FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (FOMA) FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT AND SERVICE WITHIN THE OSTEOPATHIC PROFESSION.

King received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award—the highest honor presented to an individual by FOMA—in recognition of her commitment to the delivery of quality health care to Florida's residents and visitors. She has worked in health care regulation for more than nine years. Currently, she is executive director for not only the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine, but also the Boards of Massage Therapy, Acupuncture, Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology and the Council of Midwifery. The award was presented by FOMA past president Joel Rose, D.O.

Andriole received the 2006 Presidential Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication to the osteopathic profession, for having made a difference in the success of the profession and for his diligent work toward ensuring access to quality healthcare for all the citizens of Florida.

FOMA President Joseph Giaimo, D.O., selected Andriole for this prestigious award due to his commitment to the osteopathic profession. He has been a member of FOMA for 10 years and was first appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000. He currently serves as president and CEO of Disability Consultants USA, Inc., and also participates in medical review and evaluation services for the State of Florida, Disability Determinations/SSA.

The two received their awards at the 103rd Annual FOMA Convention in Ft. Lauderdale.

The Board of Osteopathic Medicine protects the health and safety of Florida's residents and visitors by establishing requirements for licensure and through diligent discipline of practitioners who violate practice acts defined by Chapters 120, 456 and 459, Florida Statutes and Rule 64B-15, Florida Administrative Code. The legislative intent of the practice act is to ensure that every licensee practicing in the state of Florida meets minimum requirements for safe practice. The board's responsibility is to ensure that licensees who fall below minimum competency or who otherwise present a danger to the public are disciplined or prohibited from practicing in the state. The board also establishes and monitors continuing education of licensees to ensure their knowledge and skills remain current. ■