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Governor Rick Scott’s Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding Continues Spotlight Transparency Tour in Miami

MIAMI, Fla. – Today, the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding met at Miami Dade College to continue its statewide “Spotlight Transparency Tour,” to increase transparency and accountability in Florida’s taxpayer-funded healthcare industry. The Commission has travelled across the state to hear from local hospital executives and collect data on patient quality of care being provided at taxpayer-financed institutions.

Governor Scott said, “By having various stakeholders and hospital executives present data, the Commission is shedding new light on the return on investment that taxpayers receive from publically funded hospitals. Last week, AHCA sent a letter to hospitals and insurance companies requesting information on their contractual agreements to ensure their rates comply with the law. AHCA will take quick action where it is found that plans entered into contracts with hospitals at higher rates than the 120 percent allowed under state law.”

The meeting opened with presentations from two local hospital executives: Mr. Carlos Migoya, President and CEO of Jackson Health System and Mr. Steven D. Sonenreich, President and CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center. The two hospital administrators discussed current operations and ways that they use supplemental funding from the state to measure quality and strive for better patient outcomes.

The following table represents key performance metrics provided by the two hospitals:

Quality Metric	Jackson Health System	Mount Sinai Medical Center
Potentially Preventable Readmission Rate (PPR) * – This rate measures the percentage of readmissions that are potentially preventable depending on the quality of care.	6.57%	6.55%
Serious Complications Rate – This measures the frequency of Medicare patients who are admitted with one medical problem and develop a serious injury or infection during the course of their treatment. An index of one (1) is considered average.	1.47	1

Hospital Consumer of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Five Star Patient Satisfaction Survey – Patients are asked to rate their experience on a scale of one to five stars, with five being the best patient experience possible.

1 stars

2 stars

Emergency Room Wait Time – This measures the average time it takes to see a qualified medical professional and receive a diagnostic evaluation.

82 minutes

27 minutes

Moving forward, the Commission will continue to collect and analyze performance metrics in order to develop a frame of reference for the current level of healthcare quality around the state.

The health insurance market was another topic of discussion with presentations from two guest speakers: Mr. Eric Johnson, the Director of Life and Health Product Review at the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, and Mr. David Pollack, President of Molina Healthcare of Florida, Inc.

Mr. Johnson began by providing an overview of the current regulatory measures in place to strengthen consumer protections and promote transparency from health plans operating in Florida. He was followed by Mr. Pollack’s presentation covering Molina Healthcare’s model of value-based purchasing and emphasis on maintaining a high quality, comprehensive provider network.

“We have made great progress in pulling back the curtains of the healthcare funding landscape here in Florida,” said Carlos Beruff, Chair of the Commission. “We have learned a lot about existing incentives, current best practices, and opportunities for improvement with respect to the utilization of taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, we will continue to explore other areas of Florida’s healthcare system in pursuit of greater transparency for consumers around the state.”

“On behalf of the Commission, I want to sincerely thank all of our presenters for joining us here today and taking up this important opportunity to tell their organization’s story to Florida’s taxpayers,” said Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek. “The Commission’s work is ongoing and those contributors who appeared here today are an essential part of gathering all of the information we need to fully understand the healthcare funding landscape in Florida and ensure it is clear and transparent to the Florida taxpayer.”

“We thank the six hospitals who have participated in the spotlight transparency tour in Miami, Jacksonville, and Tampa,” said Florida State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. “These Commission meetings have identified opportunities for greater health care value through integrated care, comparative outcomes, and service efficiency.”

The Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding will continue to meet regularly over the coming months across the state. Members have suggested additional topics of interest for future meetings, which include the impact of Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) and the history of Certificate of Need (CON) programs both in Florida and around the country. For more information about the Commission, please visit www.healthandhospitalcommission.com.

The Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding was formed by Governor Rick Scott to investigate the role of taxpayer funding for hospitals, insurers, and healthcare providers in Florida. The Commission is comprised of nine members and two Co-Executive Directors. For more information about the Commission and its activities, please visit <http://www.healthandhospitalcommission.com>.

**Out of 23,328 inpatient admissions, Jackson Health System had 1,800 instances where a patient could have avoided being readmitted to the hospital within 15 days if better quality of care had been delivered. Out of 15,074 inpatient admissions, Mount Sinai Medical Center had 1,104 instances where a patient could have avoided being readmitted to the hospital within 15 days if better quality of care had been delivered.*

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