

# Health Care for Florida Venice City Commission

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# Health Care for Florida

- Campaign to pass legislation to expand Medicaid in 2021 session
  - LWVFL, Voices for Health, Health Justice Project, Florida Policy Institute, etc.
- Educate and engage community members
- Correct misinformation
- Submit bills in Senate and House

# Eligibility for Florida Medicaid is Limited

- Only low income who are in certain groups
  - Children up to 18 years
  - Pregnant women
  - Seniors
  - Disabled
- Very few other adults 19-64
- Medicare must be 65 years old

# MedEx - Uninsured-Low Income Adults

- Age 19-64 with income < 138 % of Poverty
  - <\$30,000 family = 3
- Florida Pre-Pandemic
  - Almost 900,000

# Who Are the Uninsured?

- Self-employed
- Small business owners and employees
- Hourly workers in hospitality, construction etc.
- Caretakers of children and disabled family members
- Unable to work due to health issues

# We Pay for Health Care We Don't Get!

- In 2011 our federal taxes were raised to pay for expanding Medicaid to adults
- The legislature has failed to act on this opportunity
- Our money is paying for people in other states to get health care!

# Medicaid Expansion – Health Benefits

- Better control of chronic conditions
- Less use of ER and hospital care
- Early treatment for disease like cancer
- Fewer deaths
  - Maternal and newborns
  - Among 55-64 year old
- Behavioral Health
  - Mental Health and addiction services
- Reduces Disparities

# Financial Benefits to Enrollees

- Eliminates burden of medical debt
- Fewer bills going to collections
- Can afford food, clothing, pay rent and utilities
- Better credit
  - Lower interest rates
- Able to
  - Look for and maintain steady work
  - Look for a better job

# Community Benefits

- Insured people will spend money in the local economy
- Promotes entrepreneurship
  - Levels the playing field for small business
  - Protects against “job lock”
- Higher rates of employment among low-income adults in states that expanded Medicaid
- Hospitals have less uncompensated care care
  - Less likely to close
- Counties save tax dollars spent on indigent health care

# Sarasota County

- ~11,000 uninsured who would be eligible (2019)
- 9,266 fewer employed in Nov 2020 than last year
- 19.5% of employed adults 19-64 had no health insurance (pre-pandemic)
- 36% go to ER or urgent care center when they need health care or are sick

# Hospital

- Sarasota Memorial Hospital (2017)
  - Safety net care cost \$101,062,863
  - \$50 million from ad valorem taxes
- Doctors Hospital Sarasota (2019)
  - \$237,095,027 cost of charity and uncompensated care

# Sarasota County – Health Needs Assessment

Top strategic issue - mental health

- Residents report depression, alcohol and drug abuse
- Death rate from liver disease increased by 50% since 2013
- Suicide rate is higher than the State since 2009
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (15/1000 births state 6.2)

# Racial Disparities –Maternal and Child health

- “Clear disparities in infant death which have persisted over time and are significantly worse than the state”
- “Black mothers less likely than white mothers to enter prenatal care in first trimester”
- Black mothers are 4.1 times more likely to have a baby which weights 3.3 pounds

# Cost of Expansion to State

- States pay for a portion of Medicaid costs
  - Regular Medicaid match = 40%
  - Medicaid expansion math = 10%
- MedEx will decrease need for state general revenue
  - Some current enrollees eligible for lower match
  - State support for indigent care eliminated
  - Provider taxes increase

# Cost of Expansion to State

- State matching funds
  - Reduced by ~\$200 million
- Stimulus of 4.1 -4.29 billion federal dollars per year
  - Added to state budget for health care
  - 1.5-1.7 multiplier – increase of \$6-7.27 billion in economic activity in Florida

# Other States

“Medicaid expansion has a substantial effect on Montana’s economy. ....expansion introduced .....**new spending to Montana’s economy** each year. This spending **ripples through Montana’s economy**, generating approximately 5,000 jobs and \$270 million in personal income in each year ....Medicaid expansion appears to improve outcomes for Montanans—**reducing crime, improving health, and lowering debt**. ...the **costs to the state budget are more than offset by the savings created by Medicaid expansion and by the revenues associated with increased economic activity.**”

# Summary

- Enrollees
  - Improved financial status
  - Able to work
  - Money to spend on food, housing, etc.
- Healthier Communities
  - Reduce county expenditures
  - Reduces uncompensated care at hospitals
  - Supports small business and increased employment
- State
  - Reduces state funds for match
  - Federal stimulus

# Support Medicaid Expansion

Improve the health and financial status of residents of Venice

- Pass a resolution in support of Medicaid Expansion
- Press your legislators to support Med Expansion in 2021 session

**HEALTH CARE**

*for*

**FLORIDA**

