

# CHIP Clips

Your source of updates, news,  
and interesting facts relating to  
the Palm Beach County  
Community Health  
Improvement Plan (CHIP)  
**August 2021**



## Top 3 Priority Areas for the Palm Beach County CHIP

- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Active Living and Healthy Lifestyles
- Access to Care and Services

## Did you know?

- FAU's medical school received 6,032 applications for 66 spots. Applications were up 61 percent from last year.
- Twenty-four percent of the incoming class represent racial and ethnic populations underrepresented in medicine, which will help to advance the medical school's mission to enhance diversity in the physician workforce.

SOURCE: [Florida Trend](#)

## Palm Beach County declares state of emergency: requires daily COVID-19 reports from hospitals

With hospitals straining under the unrelenting surge of COVID-19 cases, the Palm Beach County Commission on August 17th unanimously declared a state of emergency and required medical centers to disclose the impact the disease is having on their operations. The reinstatement of the state of emergency, which lapsed in June when the spread of the virus slowed, underscores the grim reality of the toll the disease is taking throughout the county. According to the [Palm Beach Post](#) article, local hospitals must submit daily reports to the county on bed availability. Requiring hospitals to submit daily reports of bed availability would help medical officials know where patients can be taken, said Darcy Davis, CEO of the Health Care District, which operates Lakeside Medical Center. Under the measure the commission approved, all hospitals in the county will be required to submit daily reports, showing how many pediatric and adult beds are available in both their regular and intensive care units. Hospitals also will be required to report how many COVID-19 patients they are treating and how many are on ventilators. The information will help policymakers determine whether additional action is needed to make sure hospitals don't collapse under the crush of COVID-19 cases, County Commissioner Weiss said.

Please see the [Palm Beach County COVID-19](#) page for the latest information, including testing and vaccination sites.

## Florida's Medicaid enrollment projected to top 5 million

One of our three CHIP priorities is Access to Care and Services. According to [Florida Trend](#), by June 2022, more than 5 million Florida residents are expected to be enrolled in Medicaid — the state and federal health program that serves as a safety net for low-income people, according to new estimates by state economists. As Florida continues to wrestle with the COVID-19 pandemic, the economists predict that about 5.04 million people will be covered by Medicaid by the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. Nearly 80 percent of them will be enrolled in some form of a Medicaid managed-care plan. The total is up from an estimated Medicaid enrollment of 4.524 million people for the recently completed 2020-2021 fiscal year.

[To learn more](#)

Did you know?

- The Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) program provides community-based respite services for the special needs of individuals aged 18+ with Alzheimer's disease and related memory disorders. Caregivers are eligible to receive respite and training to assist them in caring for the ADI client.

SOURCE: [AAAPBTC](#)

## Partner Spotlight: Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc.

Established in 1988, the Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization which administers public funds, private grants and donations to provide services to seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers in Planning & Service Area 9, which encompasses Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties. Through each life stage the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging Network provide seniors and adults with disabilities in our communities with programs and services that promote their dignity, independence, health and well-being. For caregivers, they strive to ease the confusion and anxiety of caring for a loved one.

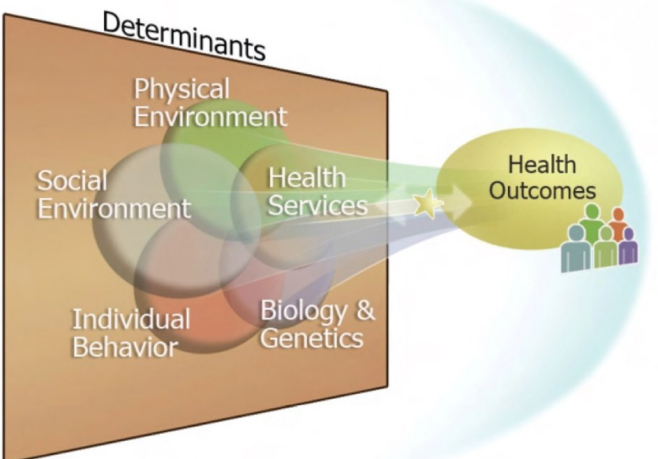
[For more information](#)

### Blue-Green Algae Bloom Alert for Lake Okeechobee

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County recently issued a Health Alert for the presence of harmful blue-green algal toxins in the Lake Okeechobee CLV10A water body. Although the alert has since been lifted, it's important for residents to be aware of this public health issue. Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria that is common in Florida's freshwater environments. A bloom occurs when rapid growth of algae leads to an accumulation of individual cells that discolor water and often produce floating mats that emit unpleasant odors. [To learn more](#)



## CHIP UPDATE



Issues of CHIP Clips are posted at the [DOH-Palm Beach](#) website.

This Fall, the CHIP Council will begin a new Community Health Assessment process, with a new CHA released in early 2022. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Thanks also to the Health Council of Southeast Florida, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, and all of our community partners in implementing our CHIP!

Also, please send Adam your ideas and comments for the newsletter; he's waiting to hear from you!