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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upcoming Workshops To Educate About Benefits of Affordable Care Act

11 Workshops Scheduled From September to December Across Palm Beach County

WEST PALM BEACH – August 7, 2015 – A series of workshops is planned across Palm Beach County to educate residents how to enroll in the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace and to gain maximum benefits from the insurance in order to improve their health.

Enroll Palm Beach is a collaborative effort among local partners to inform members of our community – particularly those without health insurance – about the Health Insurance Marketplace and how to navigate through it so they can take advantage of the essential health benefits covered under their plans.

As part of the initiative, there will be 11 “Coverage to Care” workshops in English, Spanish and Creole between September and December at Palm Beach County Library System locations from Boca Raton to Wellington to Jupiter. Those attending will learn how to sign up for the Health Insurance Marketplace, how to set up appointments with primary and specialist physicians, and how to differentiate between wellness and emergency care.

Supported through the **Quantum Foundation** in West Palm Beach, Enroll Palm Beach consists of more than 30 hospitals, foundations, government agencies, nonprofits, and many other partners working together to enroll more people in the **Health Insurance Marketplace**. Among the partners are: **Enroll America**, **Epilepsy Foundation**, **Florida Community Health Center**, **Foundcare Healthcare Center**, **Genesis Community Health**

Center, Health Council of Southeast Florida, Legal Aid of the Palm Beaches, Palm Beach County Library System, and University of Miami – Miller School of Medicine – Med Students.

“We are going to improve health literacy in our community by educating individuals and families on how to use the Health Insurance Marketplace to improve their health through preventive care, prescription drug benefits, and so many other benefits,” said Andrea Stephenson, executive director of Health Council of Southeast Florida.

“Educating the public in a practical and accessible way is obviously essential to the success of these efforts,” said Eric M. Kelly, President of **Quantum Foundation**, which has invested over \$3 million in the past five years to support health care navigation efforts in Palm Beach County.

“This partnership between the experts at the **Health Council of Southeast Florida** and our local library is such a great way to share knowledge about a complex health care system,” Kelly said. “The ultimate goal is to educate and empower people to manage their own health so they can lead fuller, happier lives.”

Mindy Rose, Consumer Health Information Service Librarian II, added the Consumer Health Information Service of the **Palm Beach County Library System** is a partnership with **Enroll Palm Beach**, educating and informing consumers about the Affordable Care Act for a second time.

“The mission of the Consumer Health Information Service is to contribute to the quality of life of Palm Beach County residents by improving their access to health-related information,” Rose said.

The 11 “Coverage to Care” workshops are free and open to the public on the following times, dates, and locations at the Palm Beach County Library System:

Sept. 5: Hagen Ranch Branch, 14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach, 12-2 pm in English and 2-4 pm in Spanish.

Sept. 16: Main Library, 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, 4-6 pm in Spanish and 6-8 pm in English.

Sept. 25: Okeechobee Blvd Branch, 5689 West Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach, 11-1 pm in English and 1-3 pm in Creole.

Oct. 22: West Boynton Branch. 9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach. 2-4 pm in English and 4-6 pm in Creole.

Oct. 23: West Boca Branch. 18685 State Road 7, Boca Raton. 11-1 pm in Spanish and 1-3 pm in English.

Nov. 5: Greenacres Branch. 3750 Jog Road, Greenacres. 2:30-5:30 pm in English and Creole.

Nov. 7: Wellington Branch. 1951 Royal Fern Drive, Wellington. 11-1 pm in English and 1-3 pm in Spanish.

Nov. 20: Jupiter Branch. 705 Military Trail, Jupiter. 2-5:30 pm in English and Spanish.

Dec. 10: Main Library. 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach. 4-6 pm in English and 6-8 in Spanish.

Dec. 11: Glades Road Branch. 20701 95th Avenue South, Boca Raton. 1-3 pm in Spanish and 3-5 pm in English.

Dec. 17: Lantana Branch. 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth. 2-4 pm in English and 4-6 pm in Creole.

For more information, call Health Council of Southeast Florida at (561) 844-4220. Or visit: www.enrollpalmbeach.org

ABOUT HEALTH COUNCIL OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

The Health Council of Southeast Florida is one of eleven local health planning councils serving the state of Florida. We serve the southeast region, specifically Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties. We advocate for optimal access to health care through using our collective knowledge experience and commitment in health planning, research and program development. We strive to improve the health for all residents by promoting access to quality health and human services. Learn more at: www.hcsef.org.