



Mayor's Initiative on Aging:

to life!

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**Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez launches
“Mayor’s Initiative on Aging: To Life!” with program
on Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits**

An awareness campaign and year-long series of events geared to improve senior health, fitness, and safety with the first event focusing on education on prescription drug benefits.

MIAMI, Fla. (January 27, 2006) – During the course of 2006, a series of monthly health and fitness education and promotion events are being held by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, along with many partner organizations. The launch event at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium was focused on providing information on the Medicare Prescription Drug benefits that began on January 1, 2006.

The launch event, co-sponsored by the Medicare Rx Access Network of Florida was geared toward helping seniors become aware of the resources available to them in choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan. Speakers included Miami-Dade County Mayor, Carlos Alvarez, Yanira Cruz, M.P.H., President, CEO of the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), United States Assistant Secretary for Aging, Josefina Carbonell, Carole Green, Secretary, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Dr. Rene Rodriguez, InterAmerican College of Physicians and Surgeons and Guillermo Benites, Univision-23 Anchor. Education and enrollment materials on Medicare Part D were distributed in English, Spanish and Creole. In addition to materials being available at the event, they are also available at any Miami-Dade County Library Branch.

The “Mayor’s Initiative on Aging: To Life!” events are free to all participating seniors and will include an array of activities open to community-wide participation. In addition to the January focus on prescription drug coverage, future events will include health, safety and nutrition



education, disease prevention and management, free screenings, interactive fitness activities and distribution of information on programs and services available throughout the area.

The Medicare Rx Access Network of Florida is one of the 50 state programs of the national Medicare Rx Education Network. The effort was created to share resources, coordinate activities and disseminate information to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers about the new Medicare Part D drug coverage. Here in Florida, more than 150 patient advocacy and other organizations are partners in the network that are dedicated to working together to create awareness and understanding of the new prescription drug benefit .

Mayor Alvarez chose to dedicate January as “Medicare Rx Access Network Month” because of the extreme importance of this effort to help Miami-Dade County citizens by providing them this information during the month of January and throughout the year. “We cannot leave our seniors without the critical information they need to make the right choice in their prescription drug coverage so that they can save money and most importantly have a better quality of life,” says Mayor Alvarez.

“This network and its efforts will be a big help toward our goal of reaching seniors and people with a disability where they live, work, pray and play,” said Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The Medicare Rx Access Network of Florida provides information and assistance with outreach and enrollment for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. By sharing information with each other about member organizations’ independent efforts, collaborating on activities, and identifying ways to work together, the network aims to eliminate duplication of efforts and maximize the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The network does not engage in legislative activities or take positions on pending legislative or administrative policies related to the Part D benefit and its implementation.

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