

# NEFLC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2007

## Healthy Start Coalition's holds Annual Meeting; presents 2007 Philip H. Gilbert Award



Kathy Mankinen reacts to being named the 2007 Philip H. Gilbert Award recipient. Mankinen learned of her selection at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Healthy Start Coalition.

The Philip H. Gilbert Award was presented to Kathy Mankinen on January 18, 2007, at the Healthy Start Coalition Annual Meeting. Mankinen only learned of her selection as her name was called and reacted with a priceless reaction of astonishment. However, she was the only one in attendance who appeared surprised. Mankinen has long been revered by the maternal and child health care community for her dedication to the issue of improving quality care for mothers and babies in the Northeast Florida region.

The Gilbert Award was established in 2006 in memory of Philip H. Gilbert, founding chairman of the Coalition and long-time executive vice president of the Duval County Medical Society. Mr. Gilbert was a tireless advocate on behalf of women, children and families. He contributed countless volunteer hours to Healthy Start and many other groups in the community. The Board convened to also discuss updates on key Coalition projects and programs, as well as the financial audit of 2005-2006.

Committee reports touched on the subject of Contracts and QI and the proposed budget of unallocated 2006-2007 funds. The community advocacy and public policy committee informed the members of the upcoming *Walk in My Shoes* event on February 9, 2007. This is a simulation which will guide community leaders through the process of acquiring health care.

Additionally, a special presentation by Jim Russell, research associate with the Florida Commission on Marriage and the Family, focused on the importance of increasing fathers' involvement in all aspects of a child's life - starting as early as prenatal care.

For more information, please contact Carol Brady at (904) 279-0620, X 140.



## Funding recommended for Domestic Security

Emergency Preparedness staff attended the Annual Domestic Security Funding planning session in January 10-12, 2007. The session is the culmination of several months of planning workshops during which representatives from multiple disciplines and regions representing all of Florida's domestic security partners have been diligently working to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities, and develop appropriate project initiatives to address them.

The purpose of the annual funding session is to produce a consensus-based list of projects for funding from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training grants. This list will become the basis for recommendation to the Domestic Security Oversight Council, and ultimately to the Governor for inclusion in the fiscal year 2007-2008 Legislative Budget Request.

For more information, please contact Pamela Kirchner at 904-279-0885 X 131.

## Affordable Housing Update: Council continues its focus on housing issues

The Northeast Florida Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force met at the conclusion of 2006 to assess the housing crisis that continues to affect Northeast Florida and proceed with future planning. The Task Force voted to pass two resolutions regarding affordable housing issues. The first, Resolution 2007-03 gave support to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform. The second, Resolution 2007-04, supported The Elimination of the cap of the Florida Housing Trust Funds and Supporting Full Funding from the Housing Trust Funds.

In addition, Council executive staff joined Task Force Chair, Karen Stern, in attending the Florida House of Representative's Interim Workgroup on Affordable Housing meeting in Tallahassee on January 10, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to consider results of activities, review proposals collected from around the state and to determine those provisions for future legislation. Stern presented results of Task Force Meetings and communicated the intent of the resolutions which were passed.

For more information, please contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0880.

## NEFRC Collaborates with Duval County Health Department for January/February issue of Public Health Reports

The Duval County Health Department's Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research in collaboration with the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) and University of Florida Department of Pediatrics presented their findings of an economic impact analysis titled "Application of Economic Impact Analysis to a Local Health Agency and its 'Academic Health Department'" in the January/February issue of Public Health Reports, which is a peer-reviewed journal of the U.S. Public Health Service.

This study involved the secondary analysis of publicly available data on health department finances and employment using the REMI model for Northeast Florida, designed to assess economic impacts. The health department's impact on the local community was estimated at over \$100 million with no additional costs to local taxpayers. The study showed that the local community recovers over 100 dollars in economic benefit for every three Duval County tax dollars spent. The academic partnership accounted for approximately 40 percent of the Health Department's impact.

For more information, please contact Walter Bowman at (904) 279-0885 X 168.



## Regional Leadership Academy program focuses on regional transportation issues

In an effort to understand the challenges and opportunities Northeast Florida is facing in regard to transportation, the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy convened on January 10, 2007 at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts in Clay County.

Leaders within the seven-county region discussed many of the major problems and solutions the First Coast is encountering as they assessed the current status as well as the future components of the transportation issues that affect our communities. With rapid population and economic growth the challenges have become interrelated and must be addressed at the regional level.

During the meeting, the Academy looked over diverse solutions, including steps to develop a regional vision to help foster a regional identity. The Program Day included guest speakers, Doug Miller, CEO of England, Thims and Miller; Denise Bunnewith, Executive Director of FCMPO who is also a member of the Class of 2006-07; Michael Blaylock, Executive Director/CEO of JTA and Charlie Baldwin, District Secretary of FDOT District II. In addition, Douglas Callaway, President of Floridians for Better Transportation, delivered the keynote address.

To optimize the experience for class members, and enable them to visualize transportation alternatives, attendees were treated to a bus tour of the region and traveled to Reynolds Industrial Park, where they were shown the first hovercraft

made by ATLAS Hovercraft. ATLAS is positioned to become to largest hovercraft design and manufacturing company in the world. A hovercraft has the unique ability to travel over land or water on a cushion of air. The company would like to enhance the overall existence to public transportation systems.

The day concluded with stimulating conversation that fostered awareness of regional transportation needs and issues.

For more information, please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 X 104.



From left to right: Doug Miller, Denise Bunnewith, Charlie Baldwin and Michael Blaylock make up the panel of transportation experts for the Regional Leadership Academy.

## Wolfson Children's Hospital recieved Healthy Kids Outreach Grant

Wolfson Children's Hospital has contracted with the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition to conduct outreach and marketing activities in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. Special outreach efforts will target two under-enrolled groups: African American children and children ages five through eight. The statewide enrollment target for Healthy Kids/Florida KidCare, Medikids and Children's Medical Service Network is 253,959. As of January 1, 2007, 230,692 children are currently enrolled.

Through partnership efforts with neighborhood churches, low-income apartment complexes, schools, after school programs, health care facilities, etc; an outreach coordinator, two Americorps members, and eight outreach workers will focus on providing Florida KidCare information to approximately 12,000 families through out the region and enrolling an additional 3,000 children in the Title XXI Florida KidCare program.

For more information, please contact Jack Johnson at (904) 279-0855 X 115.

