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## Specialty Focus

Volume I Issue 30

July 24, 2012

*Practice specific news, analysis and commentary for Florida's Medical Specialists*

*From the publisher of FHIweekly & FloridaHealthIndustry.com*

**Issue No.**

### Healthcare Roundup

Healthcare M&A takes post-reform spotlight

Fierce Healthcare

Weak Euro Batters Stryker's Q2 Earnings

Fierce Medical Devices

Walgreens, Express Scripts Resolve Dispute

Kaiser Health News

WellCare to Acquire Select Arcadian Medicare Advantage Plan Assets in Arizona

Yahoo Finance News

Leach named head of Lakeside Medical Center

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County has appointed Thomas J. Leach administrator of Lakeside Medical Center.

SFBJ

### Critical Conversations in Healthcare

The South Florida Business Journal recently hosted a healthcare panel



discussion featuring some of the biggest names in the local healthcare community.

Included on the panel were:

- Jerry Fedele: President and CEO Boca Raton Regional Hospital
- Brian E. Keeley: President and CEO Baptist Health South Florida
- **Jeffrey B. Kramer: CPA, Partner Goldstein Schechter Koch**
- Lee F. Lasris: Founding Partner Florida Health Law Center
- Penny Shaffer: Market President, Florida Blue & immediate Past Chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- Mike Segal: Partner Broad and Cassel
- Dr. Fernando Valverde: CEO Florida International University College of Medicine Health Care Network
- Dr. Steven G. Ullmann: Director of Programs University of Miami Center for Health Sector Management

Not surprisingly the discussion focused on the future of healthcare delivery in the post SCOTUS ACA decision world. Refreshingly the conversation focused on the policy issues and challenges without overt political partisanship.

Editor's Note: To save space, initials of panelists are used throughout.

**JF** pointed out that there is profound pressure on the

Now that SCOTUS has ruled on the ACA, what will small employers do with regard to health benefits?

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Focus

health industry regardless of the ACA. He stated that end of life care is a critical issue left unaddressed by the new health law. Mr. Fedele predicts "intense" consolidation of providers and insurers.

**BK** foresees a market-driven solution to the cost crisis, not an ACA solution. His organization is focusing on four things to prepare for the future:

1. Physician Integration (i.e. aligning incentives)
2. Huge Investment in IT
3. Commitment to Family Medicine
4. Wellness and Prevention Initiatives

**JK** observed that small groups struggle to cope with the rapid pace of change. He cited as examples EHR adoption, myriad rules and regulations as well as payment reform. Since solos and small groups can't afford the expertise necessary to affect necessary changes within their practices, they look to be employed or combine to form larger groups.

**LL** sees contraction in the healthcare marketplace as well as increased use of physician extenders (nurse practitioners and physician assistants) and changes in physician compensation programs to control cost.

**PS** asserted that true healthcare reform would address access, quality and cost. She laments that the ACA deals with access pretty well but is deficient in solving the quality and cost issues.

**MS** emphasized that Fee-for-Service is a thing of the past and solo docs are out of business. He stated that ACO's are emergent, a "sea-change". Mr. Segal also pointed out that the ACA is only part of the massive transformation going on in the health industry currently.

**FV** expressed a profound concern for an imminent physician shortage. He predicts that ARNP's and PA's will assume a huge role in primary care with physicians migrating to the specialties.

**SU** foresees increased demand for well educated and trained practice and facility administrators. He warned that Medicare's survival relies on reimbursement cuts that may be draconian.

## Expansion of Medicaid Faces Uncertain Future

While the Supreme Court of the United States has in large part resolved questions regarding the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, participants in the health care industry should prepare for ongoing uncertainty in the manner and degree to which states will participate in the expansion of

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Medicaid.

The Supreme Court concluded that the "stick" provision was unduly coercive, amounting to no real choice at all, and therefore is unconstitutional. Per the Supreme Court's decision, the federal government cannot "penalize States that choose not to participate in that new program by taking away their existing Medicaid funding."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Source: MWE.com

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