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Better Health Care for all Floridians

ELIZABETH DUDEK SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## January Monthly Actions: Agency Took Licensure Action against Five Providers, 16 Additional Providers Terminated from the Medicaid Program

**Tallahassee, Fla.**–The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) issued final orders to five providers for failure to meet licensure requirements during the month of January. The Agency issued two final orders to deny a license renewal application, two to revoke an existing license and one that resulted in the provider surrendering the license. Some of these providers were enrolled in the Medicaid program; however, the Agency has terminated or is in the process of terminating their participation in the program.

In addition to the final order actions, the Agency issued two emergency orders in January. An immediate moratorium on admissions was issued for Willow Manor Retirement Living, an assisted living facility in Broward County, and Community Convalescent Center, a nursing home in Hillsborough County.

"We will continue to hold providers accountable and act swiftly when laws are broken," said Secretary Liz Dudek. "Raising the visibility of these actions serve to remind providers that we take our role to protect the public seriously. We cannot and will not allow providers to endanger residents or waste taxpayer dollars."

Sixteen additional providers were issued final orders terminating them from participation in the Medicaid program in January. These terminations resulted from sanctions imposed for reasons including pleading guilty to conspiracy to solicit and receive kickbacks; pleading guilty to neglect of elderly or disabled adult; conviction of a criminal offense related to health care goods and services; exclusion from participation in the Medicare, State of Florida Medicaid and all Federal healthcare programs; failure to reimburse the Agency; and failure to furnish records. These providers also have been reported to the federal government for placement on the federal exclusion list, which prohibits them from participating in Medicaid and Medicare nationwide.

Name	County	Provider Type	Licensure Action
Bay Area Sleep Associates, LLC	Hillsborough	Health Care Clinic	License Revocation
Community Convalescent Center	Hillsborough	Nursing Home	Moratorium on Admissions
Gentle Home Care Services	Palm Beach	Homemaker and Companion Services	Denied Renewal
Intraquel Premier ALF	Miami-Dade	Assisted Living Facility	License Revocation
Lifecare Solutions	Palm Beach	Home Health Agency	License Surrendered
Ray of Hope	Lake	Assisted Living Facility	Denied Renewal
Willow Manor Retirement Living	Broward	Assisted Living Facility	Moratorium on Admissions

The chart below displays the Agency's January licensure actions:



Name	County	Provider Type
Benchmark Companion Services, Inc.	Seminole	Home and Community-Based Services
Elijah Nera, Jr.	Duval	Home and Community-Based Services
God is First ALF, Inc.	Miami-Dade	Assistive Care Services
God is First ALF, Inc.	Miami-Dade	Home and Community-Based Services
Joyce Daughtrey	Liberty	Assistive Care Services
Metro Med Rehab Center, Inc.	Miami-Dade	Therapist
Pauline Black	Broward	Assistive Care Services
People's Connexion, Inc.	Orange	Home and Community-Based Services
Presgar Imaging of Rockledge, LLC	Brevard	Physician
Ramiro J. Abaunza	Miami-Dade	Physician
Rang, Inc.	Pinellas	Pharmacy
Renita Ivey	Suwannee	Home and Community-Based Services
Rosalind Walker	Levy	Home and Community-Based Services
Selwyn Byer, LLC	Miami-Dade	Home and Community-Based Services
Serenity Way Assisted Living	Palm Beach	Assistive Care Services
Tacare Home Health Agency, Inc.	Miami-Dade	Home and Community-Based Services

The chart below displays the Agency's January Medicaid final order termination actions:

Additional information about the actions and final orders can be found by querying the Public Records Search page at

<u>http://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/dm\_web/(S(jtrn15fukcfknvhds5vtad1s))/default.aspx</u>. Emergency orders, including moratoriums on admissions and suspensions, can also be found on the Public Records Search page by searching the name of the facility.

In addition, the *Nursing Home Watch List* identifies nursing homes that are operating under bankruptcy protection or met the criteria for a conditional status during the past 30 months. To download a list of facilities on the Nursing Home Watch list visit <a href="http://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/nhcguide/FacilitySearch.aspx">http://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/nhcguide/FacilitySearch.aspx</a>.

The Agency encourages consumers, advocates and anyone who may have a concern or observes a problem in any health care facility or with any provider regulated by the Agency to file a complaint by calling the Agency's consumer complaint line at 1-888-419-3456 or by reporting online at <a href="http://ahca.myflorida.com/Contact/call\_center.shtml">http://ahca.myflorida.com/Contact/call\_center.shtml</a>.

Tips about suspected fraud can be reported by calling the Attorney General's Fraud Hotline at 1-866-966-7226 or the Agency's Consumer Call Center at 1-888-419-3456. Anyone can report fraud online by visiting the Agency's Web site at

https://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/InspectorGeneral/fraud\_complaintform.aspx.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov.