



RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

*Better Health Care for all Floridians*

ELIZABETH DUDEK  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 26, 2013

**Contact:** AHCA Communications Office  
[AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com), 850-412-3623

## **SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: *WTVT Fox Tampa* Mischaracterizes Chapters PACE Closure**

- Current slots in the Hillsborough PACE program remained fully funded in the state's budget and were not vetoed.
- All recipients are being offered the choice of which new plan they want to transition into. All plans offer the same services and supports as Chapters did so recipients can remain in their home or community-based setting.

**Claim:** "...Governor Scott has cut that [PACE] program."

**Fact:** The Governor did not veto any existing PACE slots.

**Claim:** "she can't [continue with what she has]"

**Fact:** Every recipient who currently received services from Chapters PACE will be able to access the same, if not more, services when transitioned to the new plan.

**Claim:** "Governor Scott cut \$1.3 million from the PACE program in Hillsborough County."

**Fact:** Current slots in the Hillsborough PACE program remained fully funded in the state's budget and were not vetoed.

**Claim:** "They [recipients] just got the letter warning them that their help is running out."

**Fact:** All recipients will be able to transition to a program of services, and the State will ensure there are no disruptions in their home or community-based services and supports. Quoting from the letter sent to recipients from Chapters PACE: "...we will do all we can to assist each transitioning senior to ensure they experience as little disruption in their healthcare and daily routines as possible. Importantly, each of your current PACE services will continue until August 31<sup>st</sup> or until you have selected and are receiving your new method of Medicare and/or Medicaid services."

**Claim:** "Unfortunately, some of our participants may end up in a nursing home," said Chapters Health System COO Andrew Lutton.

**Fact:** No recipient will end up in a skilled nursing facility unless that is the recipient's choice for where they want to receive services. All recipients are being offered the choice of which new plan they want to transition into. All plans offer the same services and supports as Chapters did so recipients can remain in their home or community-based setting.

**Claim:** "Governor Scott cut funding for three PACE programs in Florida."

**Fact:** The Governor did not cut any existing PACE funding in Florida. Conversely, funding for PACE programs statewide increased from \$26,578,951 in fiscal year 2012-13 to \$30,402,775 in 2013-14.



**Claim:** “The PACE program [told recipients] and the state they will work to find help a solution as well. They’re not sure exactly what that solution might be.”

**Fact:** The State has attempted to contact every recipient currently being served by Chapters PACE in Hillsborough County. Efforts continue to connect with every affected recipient to help successfully transition them to the solution that ensures they will remain their home or community-based setting to receive their services and supports.

*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](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

###