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Better Health Care for all Floridians

ELIZABETH DUDEK SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2013

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Agency Unveils New Assisted Living Facility Resource on FloridaHealthFinder.gov –New webpage announced on the heels of "Innovations in Quality" Award recognition–

Tallahassee, Fla.— Linking directly from the award-winning <u>www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov</u> website, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today unveiled a new webpage devoted to assisted living facilities (ALF). Through the new page, consumers can quickly and efficiently search for ALFs in their area or Agency records on sanctions or emergency actions, learn about the different types of ALFs, or file a complaint, among other valuable resources.

The launch of the new webpage epitomizes the Agency's recent "Innovations in Quality" Award from the Florida Health Care Coalition, who recognized FloridaHealthFinder.gov as an informative website for consumers, researchers and healthcare professionals.

"The new ALF webpage demonstrates the Agency's commitment to supporting public information and I am honored that the Florida Health Care Coalition recognized our valuable consumer tool," said Secretary Liz Dudek. "The Agency is taking the first steps outlined in proposed legislation that will increase transparency through the amount and type of ALF information that is provided to the public, and strengthen our regulatory and enforcement authority."

"The Agency for Health Care Administration has worked tirelessly to make this website an important tool for Floridians," said Dr. Karen van Caulil, Coalition President. "Studies have shown that public reporting of provider performance data is a key element that promotes enhanced patient care and consumer choice."

The creation of the ALF-specific webpage aligns with additional consumer protection and information provisions that are being advanced in proposed legislation. Proposed committee substitute for House Bill 1319, sponsored by Representative Eddy Gonzalez, passed its first committee stop yesterday and is awaiting agenda in its next committee—Health Care Appropriations. The companion legislation, Senate Bill 646 advanced by the Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee, is awaiting agenda in its second of two committee stops.

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 40,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at <u>www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov</u>.

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