



Healthcare Reform & You

The health reform debate, to-date, has been divisive and combative. But the facts are clear: If we allow the status quo to prevail, we are doomed to bankrupt ourselves and future generations. Things must change now in order to ensure that Sarasotans, Floridians and all Americans can

be assured of a stable and secure health care system. Costs are out of control. Access to affordable, quality healthcare is becoming scarcer. Health insurance premiums for residents of Florida have risen 88% since 2000. Undeniably, Americans believe in the right to have choices when it comes to quality, affordable health insurance even if you lose your job, switch jobs, move or get sick. The Sarasota County Democratic Party has assembled a wide range of thought leaders to tackle many of the issues surrounding the healthcare debate. Please join us for one or more of the following programs for a comprehensive review of **how healthcare reform can affect you.**

September 9 ★ Noon – 1:30 pm

IT: A Critical Key to Successful Healthcare Reform

Information Technology & Electronic Records will undoubtedly play critical roles in healthcare reform. But we will also discuss a less familiar term, Informatics, and the emerging role it is playing as well. Specific topics will include the promise and risks of health information technology, what stimulus package funding will likely mean to you and your health care providers, and privacy issues.

John Kontor, M.D.
Director of Clinical Content
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.

Dr. Kontor is the clinical informatics leader for the Bon Secours Health System. He oversees their electronic medical record implementation across 14 hospitals and hundreds of physician practices.

September 16 ★ Noon – 1:30 pm

Balancing Challenges with Responsibilities at Community Hospitals

The competitive landscape in healthcare demands that community health providers, such as Sarasota Memorial Hospital, offer superior care and facilities, demonstrate stewardship of community resources and operate cost effectively, while continuing to develop technological advances. These SMH leaders will address how health care reform may impact the public community hospital and regional referral center.

SMH President and CEO,
Gwen MacKenzie,
CFO David Verinder, and Hospital
Board Member, Teresa Carafelli, RN

The panel will provide perspective into expected changes to the local healthcare scene from the point of view of healthcare provider (nurse), elected community representative, financial manager and business operations manager and chief decisionmaker.

September 23 ★ Noon – 1:30 pm

Health Care Reform Thru the AARP Lens

Healthcare policy impacts everyone. Learn about the AARP's perspective on proposed health care reforms and specific ways seniors may be affected.

Lori Parham, Ph.D.,
State Director AARP-Florida

Before becoming State Director in early 2007, Dr. Parham served as Advocacy Manager for State Affairs and was responsible for policy and legislative advocacy. Her graduate degrees from Florida State University concentrated in Political Economy and Aging.

September 30 ★ Noon – 1:30 pm

Setting the Record Straight: Health Care Reform and Women's Health

Anti-choice groups are using health care reform negotiations to pursue an agenda to prevent women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care. What you should know, how you can help set the record straight and what you can do to protect women's reproductive rights.

Adrienne Kimmell,
Executive Director Florida Association
of Planned Parenthood Affiliates

Adrienne Kimmell leads statewide efforts to advance Planned Parenthood's public policy agenda through legislation, organizing, and electoral work.

Please mark your calendars for a very special healthcare reform program on Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am – Noon at the Sarasota County Democratic Headquarters. **Doctors Jeff Otten** and **Kenneth Edelin** have prepared a fascinating lecture on the topic from the physician perspective. Details will follow.

All lectures will be held at Sarasota County Democratic headquarters, 7358 S. Tamiami Trail in Coral Cove Mall. Please register to attend. Call 330-9400 or email headquarters@sarasotadems.org. Suggested donation: \$10.