




October 17, 2017

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
AND
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Commissioner Betsy VanderLey, District 1 

SUBJECT: Request for Commissioner's Report re: PCAN/OCMC Services for Hurricane Maria Evacuees

Please allow this to serve as an official request for a Commissioner's Report to discuss Orange County's Primary Care Access Network (PCAN) services to individuals displaced by Hurricane Maria. Due to the time-sensitive nature of this critical issue, I am respectfully requesting this report to be scheduled as soon as possible.

I recently met with representatives from Shepherd's Hope and Grace Medical Home, and in light of the influx of Hurricane Irma refugees to Central Florida; I would like to open a discussion regarding the residency requirement for providing Orange County Medical Clinic (OCMC) services. Shepherd's Hope and Grace Medical Home, the two largest free and charitable clinics in Orange County, collectively last year provided primary and secondary specialty care medical services to approximately 18,200 uninsured men, women and children. Year to date, for 2017, both organizations are trending to exceed their capacity numbers from 2016 as 1-4 individuals in Orange County remains uninsured with approximately 30,000 of them being children.

I anticipate that most of the PCAN health care service providers and community organizations are seeing similar trends. As a result of the humanitarian crisis caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico it is expected that an estimated 100,000 evacuees will be directly impacting Central Florida within the next two to three months. These individuals and families will be arriving with immediate basic needs related to housing, education, employment and healthcare. Consistent with Mayor Jacobs' approach of ensuring Orange County policies do not adversely impact the immediate need of this population, I would ask that we begin a dialogue of removing any obstacles to adequate healthcare.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

CC: Ajit Lalchandani, County Administrator
George Ralls, MD, Deputy County Administrator
Cheryl Gillespie, Agenda Development Office Supervisor

COMMISSIONER BETSY VANDERLEY, DISTRICT 1

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