A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health care; amending s. 16.59, F.S.; requiring certain collocation and coordination of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs and the Medicaid program integrity program; amending s. 112.3187, F.S.; revising procedures and requirements relating to whistle-blower protection for reporting Medicaid fraud or abuse; creating s. 408.831, F.S.; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to take action against a regulated entity under certain circumstances; reenacting s. 409.8132(4), F.S., to incorporate amendments to ss. 409.902, 409.907, 409.908, and 409.913, F.S., in references thereto; amending s. 409.902, F.S.; requiring consent for release of medical records to the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit as a condition of Medicaid eligibility; amending s. 409.904, F.S.; revising eligibility standards for certain Medicaid optional medical assistance; amending s. 409.9065, F.S.; revising eligibility standards for the pharmaceutical expense assistance program; amending s. 409.907, F.S.; prescribing additional requirements with respect to Medicaid provider enrollment; requiring the agency to deny a provider's application under certain circumstances; providing a finding of important state interest; amending s. 409.908, F.S.;

authorizing the agency to withhold provider reimbursements if certain requirements for cost reporting are not met; amending s. 409.910, F.S.; revising requirements for the distribution of funds recovered from third parties liable for payments for medical care furnished to Medicaid recipients or recovered from overpayments, to provide for distributions to counties and local taxing districts; amending s. 409.9116, F.S.; revising applicability of the disproportionate share/financial assistance program for rural hospitals; amending s. 409.912, F.S.; providing requirements for contracts for Medicaid behavioral health care services; amending s. 409.9122, F.S.; revising procedures relating to assignment of a Medicaid recipient to a managed care plan or MediPass provider; amending s. 409.913, F.S.; requiring the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to annually submit a joint report to the Legislature; defining the term "complaint" with respect to Medicaid fraud or abuse; specifying additional requirements for the Medicaid program integrity program and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit; requiring imposition of sanctions or disincentives, except under certain circumstances; providing additional sanctions and disincentives; providing additional grounds for termination of a provider's participation in the Medicaid program; providing additional requirements for

administrative hearings; providing additional grounds for withholding payments to a provider; authorizing the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to review certain records; amending s. 409.915, F.S.; revising a limitation on the county contribution to Medicaid costs; amending s. 409.920, F.S.; providing additional duties of the Attorney General with respect to Medicaid fraud control; amending s. 624.91, F.S.; revising duties of the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation with respect to annual determination of participation in the Healthy Kids Program; creating s. 624.915, F.S.; prescribing duties of the corporation in establishing local match requirements; amending s. 393.063, F.S.; revising definition of the term "intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled" for purposes of ch. 393, F.S.; amending ss. 400.965 and 400.968, F.S.; providing penalties for violation of pt. XI of ch. 400, F.S., relating to intermediate care facilities for developmentally disabled persons; requiring the agency to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding limitations on certain Medicaid provider reimbursements; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 16.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16.59 Medicaid fraud control.--There is created in the Department of Legal Affairs the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which may investigate all violations of s. 409.920 and any criminal violations discovered during the course of those investigations. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit may refer any criminal violation so uncovered to the appropriate prosecuting authority. Offices of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the offices of the Agency for Health Care Administration Medicaid program integrity program shall, to the extent possible, be colocated. The agency and the Department of Legal Affairs shall conduct joint training and other joint activities designed to increase communication and coordination in recovering overpayments.

Section 2. Subsections (3), (5), and (7) of section 112.3187, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.3187 Adverse action against employee for disclosing information of specified nature prohibited; employee remedy and relief.--

(3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this act, unless otherwise specified, the following words or terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any official, officer, department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision therein; or any public school, community college, or state university.

(b) "Employee" means a person who performs services for, and under the control and direction of, or contracts

with, an agency or independent contractor for wages or other remuneration.

(c) "Adverse personnel action" means the discharge, suspension, transfer, or demotion of any employee or the withholding of bonuses, the reduction in salary or benefits, or any other adverse action taken against an employee within the terms and conditions of employment by an agency or independent contractor.

(d) "Independent contractor" means a person, other than an agency, engaged in any business and who enters into a contract or provider agreement with an agency.

(e) "Gross mismanagement" means a continuous pattern of managerial abuses, wrongful or arbitrary and capricious actions, or fraudulent or criminal conduct which may have a substantial adverse economic impact.

(5) NATURE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED.--The information disclosed under this section must include:

(a) Any violation or suspected violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which creates and presents a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare.

(b) Any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor.

(7) EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS PROTECTED.--This section protects employees and persons who disclose information on their own initiative in a written and signed complaint; who are requested to participate in an investigation, hearing, or

other inquiry conducted by any agency or federal government entity; who refuse to participate in any adverse action prohibited by this section; or who initiate a complaint through the whistle-blower's hotline or the hotline of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs;or employees who file any written complaint to their supervisory officials or employees who submit a complaint to the Chief Inspector General in the Executive Office of the Governor, to the employee designated as agency inspector general under s. 112.3189(1), or to the Florida Commission on Human Relations. The provisions of this section may not be used by a person while he or she is under the care, custody, or control of the state correctional system or, after release from the care, custody, or control of the state correctional system, with respect to circumstances that occurred during any period of incarceration. No remedy or other protection under ss. 112.3187-112.31895 applies to any person who has committed or intentionally participated in committing the violation or suspected violation for which protection under ss. 112.3187-112.31895 is being sought.

Section 3. Section 408.831, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

408.831 Denial of application; suspension or revocation of license, registration, or certificate.--

(1) In addition to any other remedies provided by law, the agency may deny each application or suspend or revoke each license, registration, or certificate of entities regulated or licensed by it:

(a) If the applicant, licensee, registrant, or certificateholder, or, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, if any officer,

director, agent, or managing employee of that business entity or any affiliated person, partner, or shareholder having an ownership interest equal to 5 percent or greater in that business entity, has failed to pay all outstanding fines, liens, or overpayments assessed by final order of the agency or final order of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services unless a repayment plan is approved by the agency; or

(b) For failure to comply with any repayment plan.

(2) For all legal proceedings that may result from a denial, suspension, or revocation under this section, testimony or documentation from the financial entity charged with monitoring such payment shall constitute evidence of the failure to pay an outstanding fine, lien, or overpayment and shall be sufficient grounds for the denial, suspension, or revocation.

(3) This section provides standards of enforcement applicable to all entities licensed or regulated by the Agency for Health Care Administration. This section controls over any conflicting provisions of chapters 39, 381, 383, 390, 391, 393, 394, 395, 400, 408, 468, 483, and 641 or rules adopted pursuant to those chapters.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 409.902, 409.907, 409.908, and 409.913, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (4) of section 409.8132, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

409.8132 Medikids program component.--

(4) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS RELATING TO MEDICAID.--The provisions of ss. 409.902, 409.905, 409.906, 409.907, 409.908, 409.912, 409.9121, 409.9122, 409.9123, 409.9124, 409.9127, 409.9128, 409.913, 409.916, 409.919, 409.920, and 409.9205

apply to the administration of the Medikids program component of the Florida Kidcare program, except that s. 409.9122 applies to Medikids as modified by the provisions of subsection (7).

Section 5. Section 409.902, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.902 Designated single state agency; payment requirements; program title; release of medical records.--The Agency for Health Care Administration is designated as the single state agency authorized to make payments for medical assistance and related services under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. These payments shall be made, subject to any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, only for services included in the program, shall be made only on behalf of eligible individuals, and shall be made only to qualified providers in accordance with federal requirements for Title XIX of the Social Security Act and the provisions of state law. This program of medical assistance is designated the "Medicaid program." The Department of Children and Family Services is responsible for Medicaid eligibility determinations, including, but not limited to, policy, rules, and the agreement with the Social Security Administration for Medicaid eligibility determinations for Supplemental Security Income recipients, as well as the actual determination of eligibility. As a condition of Medicaid eligibility, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Children and Family Services shall ensure that each recipient of Medicaid consents to the release of her or his medical records to the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs.

Section 6. Effective July 1, 2002, subsection (1) of section 409.904, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

409.904 Optional payments for eligible persons.--The agency may make payments for medical assistance and related services on behalf of the following persons who are determined to be eligible subject to the income, assets, and categorical eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

(1) A person who is age 65 or older or is determined to be disabled, whose income is at or below 90 ~~88~~ percent of federal poverty level, and whose assets do not exceed established limitations.

Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 409.904, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

409.904 Optional payments for eligible persons.--The agency may make payments for medical assistance and related services on behalf of the following persons who are determined to be eligible subject to the income, assets, and categorical eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

(2)~~(a) A pregnant woman who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid under s. 409.903(5) except for her level of income and whose assets fall within the limits established by the Department of Children and Family Services for the~~

~~medically needy. A pregnant woman who applies for medically needy eligibility may not be made presumptively eligible.~~

~~(b) A child under age 21 who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid or the Florida Kidcare program except for the family's level of income and whose assets fall within the limits established by the Department of Children and Family Services for the medically needy.~~A family, a pregnant woman, a child under age 18, a person age 65 or over, or a blind or disabled person who would be eligible under any group listed in s. 409.903(1), (2), or (3), except that the income or assets of such family or person exceed established limitations. For a family or person in this group, medical expenses are deductible from income in accordance with federal requirements in order to make a determination of eligibility. Expenses used to meet spend-down liability are not reimbursable by Medicaid. The medically-needy income levels in effect on July 1, 2001, are increased by $270 effective July 1, 2002. A family or person in this group, which group is known as the "medically needy," is eligible to receive the same services as other Medicaid recipients, with the exception of services in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled.

Section 8. Present subsections (8) and (10) of section 409.904, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (9), (10), and (11) are renumbered as subsections (10), (11), and (12), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to said section, to read:

409.904 Optional payments for eligible persons.--The agency may make payments for medical assistance and related services on behalf of the following persons who are determined to be eligible subject to the income, assets, and categorical

eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

(8) An unborn child or a child under 1 year of age who lives in a family that has an income above 150 ~~185~~ percent but not in excess of 200 percent of the ~~most recently published~~ federal poverty level~~, but which is at or below 200 percent of such poverty level~~. Countable income shall be determined in accordance with state and federal regulation. For an unborn child, coverage is dependent upon federal approval of coverage through Title XXI of the Social Security Act.~~In determining the eligibility of such child, an assets test is not required. A child who is eligible for Medicaid under this subsection must be offered the opportunity, subject to federal rules, to be made presumptively eligible.~~

(9) A pregnant woman for the duration of her pregnancy and for the postpartum period as defined in federal law and regulation, who has an income above 150 percent but not in excess of 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Countable income shall be determined in accordance with state and federal regulation. A pregnant woman who applies for eligibility for the Medicaid program shall be offered the opportunity, subject to federal regulations, to be made presumptively eligible. Coverage for a pregnant woman during her pregnancy shall not be available should coverage become available under Title XXI of the Social Security Act as provided in subsection (8).

(11)~~(10)(a)~~ Eligible women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and under age 65, for cancer treatment pursuant to the federal Breast and Cervical

Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000, screened through the Mary Brogan ~~National~~ Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program established under s. 381.93.

~~(b) A woman who has not attained 65 years of age and who has been screened for breast or cervical cancer by a qualified entity under the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program of the Department of Health and needs treatment for breast or cervical cancer and is not otherwise covered under creditable coverage, as defined in s. 2701(c) of the Public Health Service Act. For purposes of this subsection, the term "qualified entity" means a county public health department or other entity that has contracted with the Department of Health to provide breast and cervical cancer screening services paid for under this act. In determining the eligibility of such a woman, an assets test is not required. A presumptive eligibility period begins on the date on which all eligibility criteria appear to be met and ends on the date determination is made with respect to the eligibility of such woman for services under the state plan or, in the case of such a woman who does not file an application, by the last day of the month following the month in which the presumptive eligibility determination is made. A woman is eligible until she gains creditable coverage, until treatment is no longer necessary, or until attainment of 65 years of age.~~

Section 9. Effective July 1, 2002, subsection (2) of section 409.9065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.9065 Pharmaceutical expense assistance.--

(2) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligibility for the program is limited to those individuals who qualify for limited assistance under the Florida Medicaid program as a result of being dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, but

whose limited assistance or Medicare coverage does not include any pharmacy benefit. To the extent that funds are appropriated, specifically eligible are low-income senior citizens who:

(a) Are Florida residents age 65 and over;

(b) Have an income between 90 and 120 percent of the federal poverty level, or an income between 90 and 150 percent of the federal poverty level if the Federal Government raises the Medicaid match to 150 percent of the federal poverty level;

(c) Are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid;

(d) Are not enrolled in a Medicare health maintenance organization that provides a pharmacy benefit; and

(e) Request to be enrolled in the program.

Section 10. Subsections (7) and (9) of section 409.907, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 6 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

409.907 Medicaid provider agreements.--The agency may make payments for medical assistance and related services rendered to Medicaid recipients only to an individual or entity who has a provider agreement in effect with the agency, who is performing services or supplying goods in accordance with federal, state, and local law, and who agrees that no person shall, on the grounds of handicap, race, color, or national origin, or for any other reason, be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the provider receives payment from the agency.

(7) The agency may require, as a condition of participating in the Medicaid program and before entering into the provider agreement, that the provider submit information, in an initial and any required renewal applications,

concerning the professional, business, and personal background of the provider and permit an onsite inspection of the provider's service location by agency staff or other personnel designated by the agency to perform this function. After receipt of the fully completed application of a new provider, the agency shall perform random onsite inspection of the provider's service location to assist in determining the applicant's ability to provide the services that the applicant is proposing to provide for Medicaid reimbursement. The agency is not required to perform an onsite inspection of a provider or program that is licensed by the agency or the Department of Health. As a continuing condition of participation in the Medicaid program, a provider shall immediately notify the agency of any current or pending bankruptcy filing. Before entering into the provider agreement, or as a condition of continuing participation in the Medicaid program, the agency may also require that Medicaid providers reimbursed on a fee-for-services basis or fee schedule basis which is not cost-based, post a surety bond not to exceed $50,000 or the total amount billed by the provider to the program during the current or most recent calendar year, whichever is greater. For new providers, the amount of the surety bond shall be determined by the agency based on the provider's estimate of its first year's billing. If the provider's billing during the first year exceeds the bond amount, the agency may require the provider to acquire an additional bond equal to the actual billing level of the provider. A provider's bond shall not exceed $50,000 if a physician or group of physicians licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 460 has a 50 percent or greater ownership interest in the provider or if the provider is an assisted living facility licensed under

part III of chapter 400. The bonds permitted by this section are in addition to the bonds referenced in s. 400.179(4)(d). If the provider is a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity, the agency may require the provider to submit information concerning the background of that entity and of any principal of the entity, including any partner or shareholder having an ownership interest in the entity equal to 5 percent or greater, and any treating provider who participates in or intends to participate in Medicaid through the entity. The information must include:

(a) Proof of holding a valid license or operating certificate, as applicable, if required by the state or local jurisdiction in which the provider is located or if required by the Federal Government.

(b) Information concerning any prior violation, fine, suspension, termination, or other administrative action taken under the Medicaid laws, rules, or regulations of this state or of any other state or the Federal Government; any prior violation of the laws, rules, or regulations relating to the Medicare program; any prior violation of the rules or regulations of any other public or private insurer; and any prior violation of the laws, rules, or regulations of any regulatory body of this or any other state.

(c) Full and accurate disclosure of any financial or ownership interest that the provider, or any principal, partner, or major shareholder thereof, may hold in any other Medicaid provider or health care related entity or any other entity that is licensed by the state to provide health or residential care and treatment to persons.

(d) If a group provider, identification of all members of the group and attestation that all members of the group are enrolled in or have applied to enroll in the Medicaid program.

(9) Upon receipt of a completed, signed, and dated application, and completion of any necessary background investigation and criminal history record check, the agency must either:

(a) Enroll the applicant as a Medicaid provider no earlier than the effective date of the approval of the provider application. With respect to providers who were recently granted a change of ownership and those who primarily provide emergency medical services transportation or emergency services and care pursuant to s. 401.45 or s. 395.1041, and out-of-state providers, upon approval of the provider application, the effective date of approval is considered to be the date the agency receives the provider application; or

(b) Deny the application if the agency finds that it is in the best interest of the Medicaid program to do so. The agency may consider the factors listed in subsection (10), as well as any other factor that could affect the effective and efficient administration of the program, including, but not limited to, the applicant's demonstrated ability to provide services, conduct business, and operate a financially viable concern;the current availability of medical care, services, or supplies to recipients, taking into account geographic location and reasonable travel time; the number of providers of the same type already enrolled in the same geographic area; and the credentials, experience, success, and patient outcomes of the provider for the services that it is making application to provide in the Medicaid program. The agency shall deny the application if the agency finds that a provider; any officer,

director, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person; or any partner or shareholder having an ownership interest of 5 percent or more in the provider if the provider is a corporation, partnership, or other business entity has failed to pay all outstanding fines or overpayments assessed by final order of the agency or final order of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, unless the provider agrees to a repayment plan that includes withholding Medicaid reimbursement until the amount due is paid in full.

Section 11. The Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 12. Section 409.908, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 7 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

409.908 Reimbursement of Medicaid providers.--Subject to specific appropriations, the agency shall reimburse Medicaid providers, in accordance with state and federal law, according to methodologies set forth in the rules of the agency and in policy manuals and handbooks incorporated by reference therein. These methodologies may include fee schedules, reimbursement methods based on cost reporting, negotiated fees, competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, and other mechanisms the agency considers efficient and effective for purchasing services or goods on behalf of recipients. If a provider is reimbursed based on cost reporting and fails to submit cost reports at the time specified by the agency, the agency may withhold reimbursement to the provider until a cost report is submitted that is acceptable to the agency. Payment for Medicaid compensable services made on behalf of Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations or

directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216. Further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent or limit the agency from adjusting fees, reimbursement rates, lengths of stay, number of visits, or number of services, or making any other adjustments necessary to comply with the availability of moneys and any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, provided the adjustment is consistent with legislative intent.

(1) Reimbursement to hospitals licensed under part I of chapter 395 must be made prospectively or on the basis of negotiation.

(a) Reimbursement for inpatient care is limited as provided for in s. 409.905(5), except for:

1. The raising of rate reimbursement caps, excluding rural hospitals.

2. Recognition of the costs of graduate medical education.

3. Other methodologies recognized in the General Appropriations Act.

4. Hospital inpatient rates shall be reduced by 6 percent effective July 1, 2001, and restored effective April 1, 2002.

During the years funds are transferred from the Department of Health, any reimbursement supported by such funds shall be subject to certification by the Department of Health that the hospital has complied with s. 381.0403. The agency is authorized to receive funds from state entities, including, but not limited to, the Department of Health, local governments, and other local political subdivisions, for the purpose of making special exception payments, including

federal matching funds, through the Medicaid inpatient reimbursement methodologies. Funds received from state entities or local governments for this purpose shall be separately accounted for and shall not be commingled with other state or local funds in any manner. The agency may certify all local governmental funds used as state match under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, to the extent that the identified local health care provider that is otherwise entitled to and is contracted to receive such local funds is the benefactor under the state's Medicaid program as determined under the General Appropriations Act and pursuant to an agreement between the Agency for Health Care Administration and the local governmental entity. The local governmental entity shall use a certification form prescribed by the agency. At a minimum, the certification form shall identify the amount being certified and describe the relationship between the certifying local governmental entity and the local health care provider. The agency shall prepare an annual statement of impact which documents the specific activities undertaken during the previous fiscal year pursuant to this paragraph, to be submitted to the Legislature no later than January 1, annually.

(b) Reimbursement for hospital outpatient care is limited to $1,500 per state fiscal year per recipient, except for:

1. Such care provided to a Medicaid recipient under age 21, in which case the only limitation is medical necessity.

2. Renal dialysis services.

3. Other exceptions made by the agency.

The agency is authorized to receive funds from state entities, including, but not limited to, the Department of Health, the Board of Regents, local governments, and other local political subdivisions, for the purpose of making payments, including federal matching funds, through the Medicaid outpatient reimbursement methodologies. Funds received from state entities and local governments for this purpose shall be separately accounted for and shall not be commingled with other state or local funds in any manner.

(c) Hospitals that provide services to a disproportionate share of low-income Medicaid recipients, or that participate in the regional perinatal intensive care center program under chapter 383, or that participate in the statutory teaching hospital disproportionate share program may receive additional reimbursement. The total amount of payment for disproportionate share hospitals shall be fixed by the General Appropriations Act. The computation of these payments must be made in compliance with all federal regulations and the methodologies described in ss. 409.911, 409.9112, and 409.9113.

(d) The agency is authorized to limit inflationary increases for outpatient hospital services as directed by the General Appropriations Act.

(2)(a)1. Reimbursement to nursing homes licensed under part II of chapter 400 and state-owned-and-operated intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled licensed under chapter 393 must be made prospectively.

2. Unless otherwise limited or directed in the General Appropriations Act, reimbursement to hospitals licensed under part I of chapter 395 for the provision of swing-bed nursing home services must be made on the basis of the average

statewide nursing home payment, and reimbursement to a hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 for the provision of skilled nursing services must be made on the basis of the average nursing home payment for those services in the county in which the hospital is located. When a hospital is located in a county that does not have any community nursing homes, reimbursement must be determined by averaging the nursing home payments, in counties that surround the county in which the hospital is located. Reimbursement to hospitals, including Medicaid payment of Medicare copayments, for skilled nursing services shall be limited to 30 days, unless a prior authorization has been obtained from the agency. Medicaid reimbursement may be extended by the agency beyond 30 days, and approval must be based upon verification by the patient's physician that the patient requires short-term rehabilitative and recuperative services only, in which case an extension of no more than 15 days may be approved. Reimbursement to a hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 for the temporary provision of skilled nursing services to nursing home residents who have been displaced as the result of a natural disaster or other emergency may not exceed the average county nursing home payment for those services in the county in which the hospital is located and is limited to the period of time which the agency considers necessary for continued placement of the nursing home residents in the hospital.

(b) Subject to any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, the agency shall establish and implement a Florida Title XIX Long-Term Care Reimbursement Plan (Medicaid) for nursing home care in order to provide care and services in conformance with the

applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and quality and safety standards and to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance have reasonable geographic access to such care.

1. Changes of ownership or of licensed operator do not qualify for increases in reimbursement rates associated with the change of ownership or of licensed operator. The agency shall amend the Title XIX Long Term Care Reimbursement Plan to provide that the initial nursing home reimbursement rates, for the operating, patient care, and MAR components, associated with related and unrelated party changes of ownership or licensed operator filed on or after September 1, 2001, are equivalent to the previous owner's reimbursement rate.

2. The agency shall amend the long-term care reimbursement plan and cost reporting system to create direct care and indirect care subcomponents of the patient care component of the per diem rate. These two subcomponents together shall equal the patient care component of the per diem rate. Separate cost-based ceilings shall be calculated for each patient care subcomponent. The direct care subcomponent of the per diem rate shall be limited by the cost-based class ceiling, and the indirect care subcomponent shall be limited by the lower of the cost-based class ceiling, by the target rate class ceiling, or by the individual provider target. The agency shall adjust the patient care component effective January 1, 2002. The cost to adjust the direct care subcomponent shall be net of the total funds previously allocated for the case mix add-on. The agency shall make the required changes to the nursing home cost reporting forms to implement this requirement effective January 1, 2002.

3. The direct care subcomponent shall include salaries and benefits of direct care staff providing nursing services including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants who deliver care directly to residents in the nursing home facility. This excludes nursing administration, MDS, and care plan coordinators, staff development, and staffing coordinator.

4. All other patient care costs shall be included in the indirect care cost subcomponent of the patient care per diem rate. There shall be no costs directly or indirectly allocated to the direct care subcomponent from a home office or management company.

5. On July 1 of each year, the agency shall report to the Legislature direct and indirect care costs, including average direct and indirect care costs per resident per facility and direct care and indirect care salaries and benefits per category of staff member per facility.

6. Under the plan, interim rate adjustments shall not be granted to reflect increases in the cost of general or professional liability insurance for nursing homes unless the following criteria are met: have at least a 65 percent Medicaid utilization in the most recent cost report submitted to the agency, and the increase in general or professional liability costs to the facility for the most recent policy period affects the total Medicaid per diem by at least 5 percent. This rate adjustment shall not result in the per diem exceeding the class ceiling. This provision shall be implemented to the extent existing appropriations are available.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the reimbursement plan achieve the goal of providing access to health care for nursing home residents who require large amounts of care while encouraging diversion services as an alternative to nursing home care for residents who can be served within the community. The agency shall base the establishment of any maximum rate of payment, whether overall or component, on the available moneys as provided for in the General Appropriations Act. The agency may base the maximum rate of payment on the results of scientifically valid analysis and conclusions derived from objective statistical data pertinent to the particular maximum rate of payment.

(3) Subject to any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, the following Medicaid services and goods may be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis. For each allowable service or goods furnished in accordance with Medicaid rules, policy manuals, handbooks, and state and federal law, the payment shall be the amount billed by the provider, the provider's usual and customary charge, or the maximum allowable fee established by the agency, whichever amount is less, with the exception of those services or goods for which the agency makes payment using a methodology based on capitation rates, average costs, or negotiated fees.

(a) Advanced registered nurse practitioner services.

(b) Birth center services.

(c) Chiropractic services.

(d) Community mental health services.

(e) Dental services, including oral and maxillofacial surgery.

(f) Durable medical equipment.

(g) Hearing services.

(h) Occupational therapy for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(i) Optometric services.

(j) Orthodontic services.

(k) Personal care for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(l) Physical therapy for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(m) Physician assistant services.

(n) Podiatric services.

(o) Portable X-ray services.

(p) Private-duty nursing for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(q) Registered nurse first assistant services.

(r) Respiratory therapy for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(s) Speech therapy for Medicaid recipients under age 21.

(t) Visual services.

(4) Subject to any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, alternative health plans, health maintenance organizations, and prepaid health plans shall be reimbursed a fixed, prepaid amount negotiated, or competitively bid pursuant to s. 287.057, by the agency and prospectively paid to the provider monthly for each Medicaid recipient enrolled. The amount may not exceed the average amount the agency determines it would have paid, based on claims experience, for recipients in the same or similar category of eligibility. The agency shall calculate capitation rates on a regional basis and, beginning September 1, 1995, shall include age-band differentials in such

calculations. Effective July 1, 2001, the cost of exempting statutory teaching hospitals, specialty hospitals, and community hospital education program hospitals from reimbursement ceilings and the cost of special Medicaid payments shall not be included in premiums paid to health maintenance organizations or prepaid health care plans. Each rate semester, the agency shall calculate and publish a Medicaid hospital rate schedule that does not reflect either special Medicaid payments or the elimination of rate reimbursement ceilings, to be used by hospitals and Medicaid health maintenance organizations, in order to determine the Medicaid rate referred to in ss. 409.912(16), 409.9128(5), and 641.513(6).

(5) An ambulatory surgical center shall be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or the Medicare-established allowable amount for the facility.

(6) A provider of early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services to Medicaid recipients who are children under age 21 shall be reimbursed using an all-inclusive rate stipulated in a fee schedule established by the agency. A provider of the visual, dental, and hearing components of such services shall be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the agency.

(7) A provider of family planning services shall be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or an all-inclusive amount per type of visit for physicians and advanced registered nurse practitioners, as established by the agency in a fee schedule.

(8) A provider of home-based or community-based services rendered pursuant to a federally approved waiver

shall be reimbursed based on an established or negotiated rate for each service. These rates shall be established according to an analysis of the expenditure history and prospective budget developed by each contract provider participating in the waiver program, or under any other methodology adopted by the agency and approved by the Federal Government in accordance with the waiver. Effective July 1, 1996, privately owned and operated community-based residential facilities which meet agency requirements and which formerly received Medicaid reimbursement for the optional intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded service may participate in the developmental services waiver as part of a home-and-community-based continuum of care for Medicaid recipients who receive waiver services.

(9) A provider of home health care services or of medical supplies and appliances shall be reimbursed on the basis of competitive bidding or for the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or the agency's established maximum allowable amount, except that, in the case of the rental of durable medical equipment, the total rental payments may not exceed the purchase price of the equipment over its expected useful life or the agency's established maximum allowable amount, whichever amount is less.

(10) A hospice shall be reimbursed through a prospective system for each Medicaid hospice patient at Medicaid rates using the methodology established for hospice reimbursement pursuant to Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act.

(11) A provider of independent laboratory services shall be reimbursed on the basis of competitive bidding or for the least of the amount billed by the provider, the provider's

usual and customary charge, or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the agency.

(12)(a) A physician shall be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the agency.

(b) The agency shall adopt a fee schedule, subject to any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, based on a resource-based relative value scale for pricing Medicaid physician services. Under this fee schedule, physicians shall be paid a dollar amount for each service based on the average resources required to provide the service, including, but not limited to, estimates of average physician time and effort, practice expense, and the costs of professional liability insurance. The fee schedule shall provide increased reimbursement for preventive and primary care services and lowered reimbursement for specialty services by using at least two conversion factors, one for cognitive services and another for procedural services. The fee schedule shall not increase total Medicaid physician expenditures unless moneys are available, and shall be phased in over a 2-year period beginning on July 1, 1994. The Agency for Health Care Administration shall seek the advice of a 16-member advisory panel in formulating and adopting the fee schedule. The panel shall consist of Medicaid physicians licensed under chapters 458 and 459 and shall be composed of 50 percent primary care physicians and 50 percent specialty care physicians.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), reimbursement fees to physicians for providing total obstetrical services to Medicaid recipients, which include prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care, shall be at least $1,500 per delivery for a

pregnant woman with low medical risk and at least $2,000 per delivery for a pregnant woman with high medical risk. However, reimbursement to physicians working in Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Centers designated pursuant to chapter 383, for services to certain pregnant Medicaid recipients with a high medical risk, may be made according to obstetrical care and neonatal care groupings and rates established by the agency. Nurse midwives licensed under part I of chapter 464 or midwives licensed under chapter 467 shall be reimbursed at no less than 80 percent of the low medical risk fee. The agency shall by rule determine, for the purpose of this paragraph, what constitutes a high or low medical risk pregnant woman and shall not pay more based solely on the fact that a caesarean section was performed, rather than a vaginal delivery. The agency shall by rule determine a prorated payment for obstetrical services in cases where only part of the total prenatal, delivery, or postpartum care was performed. The Department of Health shall adopt rules for appropriate insurance coverage for midwives licensed under chapter 467. Prior to the issuance and renewal of an active license, or reactivation of an inactive license for midwives licensed under chapter 467, such licensees shall submit proof of coverage with each application.

(d) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and if necessary to meet the requirements for grants and donations for the special Medicaid payments authorized in the 2001-2002 General Appropriations Act, the agency may make special Medicaid payments to qualified Medicaid providers designated by the agency, notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, and may use intergovernmental

transfers from state entities to serve as the state share of such payments.

(13) Medicare premiums for persons eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid coverage shall be paid at the rates established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. For Medicare services rendered to Medicaid-eligible persons, Medicaid shall pay Medicare deductibles and coinsurance as follows:

(a) Medicaid shall make no payment toward deductibles and coinsurance for any service that is not covered by Medicaid.

(b) Medicaid's financial obligation for deductibles and coinsurance payments shall be based on Medicare allowable fees, not on a provider's billed charges.

(c) Medicaid will pay no portion of Medicare deductibles and coinsurance when payment that Medicare has made for the service equals or exceeds what Medicaid would have paid if it had been the sole payor. The combined payment of Medicare and Medicaid shall not exceed the amount Medicaid would have paid had it been the sole payor. The Legislature finds that there has been confusion regarding the reimbursement for services rendered to dually eligible Medicare beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Legislature clarifies that it has always been the intent of the Legislature before and after 1991 that, in reimbursing in accordance with fees established by Title XVIII for premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for Medicare services rendered by physicians to Medicaid eligible persons, physicians be reimbursed at the lesser of the amount billed by the physician or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the Agency for Health Care Administration, as is permitted by federal law. It has

never been the intent of the Legislature with regard to such services rendered by physicians that Medicaid be required to provide any payment for deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments for Medicare cost sharing, or any expenses incurred relating thereto, in excess of the payment amount provided for under the State Medicaid plan for such service. This payment methodology is applicable even in those situations in which the payment for Medicare cost sharing for a qualified Medicare beneficiary with respect to an item or service is reduced or eliminated. This expression of the Legislature is in clarification of existing law and shall apply to payment for, and with respect to provider agreements with respect to, items or services furnished on or after the effective date of this act. This paragraph applies to payment by Medicaid for items and services furnished before the effective date of this act if such payment is the subject of a lawsuit that is based on the provisions of this section, and that is pending as of, or is initiated after, the effective date of this act.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(c):

1. Medicaid payments for Nursing Home Medicare part A coinsurance shall be the lesser of the Medicare coinsurance amount or the Medicaid nursing home per diem rate.

2. Medicaid shall pay all deductibles and coinsurance for Medicare-eligible recipients receiving freestanding end stage renal dialysis center services.

3. Medicaid payments for general hospital inpatient services shall be limited to the Medicare deductible per spell of illness. Medicaid shall make no payment toward coinsurance for Medicare general hospital inpatient services.

4. Medicaid shall pay all deductibles and coinsurance for Medicare emergency transportation services provided by ambulances licensed pursuant to chapter 401.

(14) A provider of prescribed drugs shall be reimbursed the least of the amount billed by the provider, the provider's usual and customary charge, or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the agency, plus a dispensing fee. The agency is directed to implement a variable dispensing fee for payments for prescribed medicines while ensuring continued access for Medicaid recipients. The variable dispensing fee may be based upon, but not limited to, either or both the volume of prescriptions dispensed by a specific pharmacy provider, the volume of prescriptions dispensed to an individual recipient, and dispensing of preferred-drug-list products. The agency shall increase the pharmacy dispensing fee authorized by statute and in the annual General Appropriations Act by $0.50 for the dispensing of a Medicaid preferred-drug-list product and reduce the pharmacy dispensing fee by $0.50 for the dispensing of a Medicaid product that is not included on the preferred-drug list. The agency is authorized to limit reimbursement for prescribed medicine in order to comply with any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, which may include implementing a prospective or concurrent utilization review program.

(15) A provider of primary care case management services rendered pursuant to a federally approved waiver shall be reimbursed by payment of a fixed, prepaid monthly sum for each Medicaid recipient enrolled with the provider.

(16) A provider of rural health clinic services and federally qualified health center services shall be reimbursed

a rate per visit based on total reasonable costs of the clinic, as determined by the agency in accordance with federal regulations.

(17) A provider of targeted case management services shall be reimbursed pursuant to an established fee, except where the Federal Government requires a public provider be reimbursed on the basis of average actual costs.

(18) Unless otherwise provided for in the General Appropriations Act, a provider of transportation services shall be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider or the Medicaid maximum allowable fee established by the agency, except when the agency has entered into a direct contract with the provider, or with a community transportation coordinator, for the provision of an all-inclusive service, or when services are provided pursuant to an agreement negotiated between the agency and the provider. The agency, as provided for in s. 427.0135, shall purchase transportation services through the community coordinated transportation system, if available, unless the agency determines a more cost-effective method for Medicaid clients. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit or preclude the agency from contracting for services using a prepaid capitation rate or from establishing maximum fee schedules, individualized reimbursement policies by provider type, negotiated fees, prior authorization, competitive bidding, increased use of mass transit, or any other mechanism that the agency considers efficient and effective for the purchase of services on behalf of Medicaid clients, including implementing a transportation eligibility process. The agency shall not be required to contract with any community transportation coordinator or transportation operator that has been determined by the

agency, the Department of Legal Affairs Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, or any other state or federal agency to have engaged in any abusive or fraudulent billing activities. The agency is authorized to competitively procure transportation services or make other changes necessary to secure approval of federal waivers needed to permit federal financing of Medicaid transportation services at the service matching rate rather than the administrative matching rate.

(19) County health department services may be reimbursed a rate per visit based on total reasonable costs of the clinic, as determined by the agency in accordance with federal regulations under the authority of 42 C.F.R. s. 431.615.

(20) A renal dialysis facility that provides dialysis services under s. 409.906(9) must be reimbursed the lesser of the amount billed by the provider, the provider's usual and customary charge, or the maximum allowable fee established by the agency, whichever amount is less.

(21) The agency shall reimburse school districts which certify the state match pursuant to ss. 236.0812 and 409.9071 for the federal portion of the school district's allowable costs to deliver the services, based on the reimbursement schedule. The school district shall determine the costs for delivering services as authorized in ss. 236.0812 and 409.9071 for which the state match will be certified. Reimbursement of school-based providers is contingent on such providers being enrolled as Medicaid providers and meeting the qualifications contained in 42 C.F.R. s. 440.110, unless otherwise waived by the federal Health Care Financing Administration. Speech therapy providers who are certified through the Department of Education pursuant to rule 6A-4.0176, Florida Administrative

Code, are eligible for reimbursement for services that are provided on school premises. Any employee of the school district who has been fingerprinted and has received a criminal background check in accordance with Department of Education rules and guidelines shall be exempt from any agency requirements relating to criminal background checks.

(22) The agency shall request and implement Medicaid waivers from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to advance and treat a portion of the Medicaid nursing home per diem as capital for creating and operating a risk-retention group for self-insurance purposes, consistent with federal and state laws and rules.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 409.910, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.910 Responsibility for payments on behalf of Medicaid-eligible persons when other parties are liable.--

(7) The agency shall recover the full amount of all medical assistance provided by Medicaid on behalf of the recipient to the full extent of third-party benefits.

(b) Upon receipt of any recovery or other collection pursuant to this section, s. 409.913, or s. 409.920, the agency shall distribute the amount collected as follows:

1. To itself and to any county that has responsibility for certain items of care and service as mandated in s. 409.915, amounts ~~an amount~~ equal to a pro rata distribution of the county's contribution and the state's ~~state~~ respective Medicaid expenditures for the recipient plus any incentive payment made in accordance with paragraph (14)(a). However, if a county has been billed for its participation but has not paid the amount due, the agency shall offset that amount and notify the county of the amount of the offset. If the county

has divided its financial responsibility between the county and a special taxing district or authority as contemplated in s. 409.915(6), the county must proportionately divide any refund or offset in accordance with the proration that it has established.

2. To the Federal Government, the federal share of the state Medicaid expenditures minus any incentive payment made in accordance with paragraph (14)(a) and federal law, and minus any other amount permitted by federal law to be deducted.

3. To the recipient, after deducting any known amounts owed to the agency for any related medical assistance or to health care providers, any remaining amount. This amount shall be treated as income or resources in determining eligibility for Medicaid.

The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any proceeds received by the state, or any agency thereof, pursuant to a final order, judgment, or settlement agreement, in any matter in which the state asserts claims brought on its own behalf, and not as a subrogee of a recipient, or under other theories of liability. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any proceeds received by the state, or an agency thereof, pursuant to a final order, judgment, or settlement agreement, in any matter in which the state asserted both claims as a subrogee and additional claims, except as to those sums specifically identified in the final order, judgment, or settlement agreement as reimbursements to the recipient as expenditures for the named recipient on the subrogation claim.

Section 14. Subsection (7) of section 409.9116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.9116 Disproportionate share/financial assistance program for rural hospitals.--In addition to the payments made under s. 409.911, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall administer a federally matched disproportionate share program and a state-funded financial assistance program for statutory rural hospitals. The agency shall make disproportionate share payments to statutory rural hospitals that qualify for such payments and financial assistance payments to statutory rural hospitals that do not qualify for disproportionate share payments. The disproportionate share program payments shall be limited by and conform with federal requirements. Funds shall be distributed quarterly in each fiscal year for which an appropriation is made. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 409.915, counties are exempt from contributing toward the cost of this special reimbursement for hospitals serving a disproportionate share of low-income patients.

(7) This section applies only to hospitals that were defined as statutory rural hospitals, or their successor-in-interest hospital, prior to July 1, 1999 ~~1998~~. Any additional hospital that is defined as a statutory rural hospital, or its successor-in-interest hospital, on or after July 1, 1999 ~~1998~~, is not eligible for programs under this section unless additional funds are appropriated each fiscal year specifically to the rural hospital disproportionate share and financial assistance programs in an amount necessary to prevent any hospital, or its successor-in-interest hospital, eligible for the programs prior to July 1, 1999 ~~1998~~, from incurring a reduction in payments because of the eligibility of an additional hospital to participate in the programs. A hospital, or its successor-in-interest hospital, which

received funds pursuant to this section before July 1, 1999 ~~1998~~, and which qualifies under s. 395.602(2)(e), shall be included in the programs under this section and is not required to seek additional appropriations under this subsection.

Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 409.912, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.912 Cost-effective purchasing of health care.--The agency shall purchase goods and services for Medicaid recipients in the most cost-effective manner consistent with the delivery of quality medical care. The agency shall maximize the use of prepaid per capita and prepaid aggregate fixed-sum basis services when appropriate and other alternative service delivery and reimbursement methodologies, including competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, designed to facilitate the cost-effective purchase of a case-managed continuum of care. The agency shall also require providers to minimize the exposure of recipients to the need for acute inpatient, custodial, and other institutional care and the inappropriate or unnecessary use of high-cost services. The agency may establish prior authorization requirements for certain populations of Medicaid beneficiaries, certain drug classes, or particular drugs to prevent fraud, abuse, overuse, and possible dangerous drug interactions. The Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee shall make recommendations to the agency on drugs for which prior authorization is required. The agency shall inform the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee of its decisions regarding drugs subject to prior authorization.

(3) The agency may contract with:

(b) An entity that is providing comprehensive behavioral health care services to certain Medicaid recipients through a capitated, prepaid arrangement pursuant to the federal waiver provided for by s. 409.905(5). Such an entity must be licensed under chapter 624, chapter 636, or chapter 641 and must possess the clinical systems and operational competence to manage risk and provide comprehensive behavioral health care to Medicaid recipients. As used in this paragraph, the term "comprehensive behavioral health care services" means covered mental health and substance abuse treatment services that are available to Medicaid recipients. The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services shall approve provisions of procurements related to children in the department's care or custody prior to enrolling such children in a prepaid behavioral health plan. Any contract awarded under this paragraph must be competitively procured. In developing the behavioral health care prepaid plan procurement document, the agency shall ensure that the procurement document requires the contractor to develop and implement a plan to ensure compliance with s. 394.4574 related to services provided to residents of licensed assisted living facilities that hold a limited mental health license. The agency must ensure that Medicaid recipients have available the choice of at least two managed care plans for their behavioral health care services. To ensure unimpaired access to behavioral health care services by Medicaid recipients, all contracts issued pursuant to this paragraph shall require 80 percent of the capitation paid to the managed care plan, including health maintenance organizations, to be expended for the provision of behavioral health care services. In the event the managed care plan expends less than 80 percent of the capitation paid

pursuant to this paragraph for the provision of behavioral health care services, the difference shall be returned to the agency. The agency shall provide the managed care plan with a certification letter indicating the amount of capitation paid during each calendar year for the provision of behavioral health care services pursuant to this section.The agency may reimburse for substance-abuse-treatment services on a fee-for-service basis until the agency finds that adequate funds are available for capitated, prepaid arrangements.

1. By January 1, 2001, the agency shall modify the contracts with the entities providing comprehensive inpatient and outpatient mental health care services to Medicaid recipients in Hillsborough, Highlands, Hardee, Manatee, and Polk Counties, to include substance-abuse-treatment services.

2. By December 31, 2001, the agency shall contract with entities providing comprehensive behavioral health care services to Medicaid recipients through capitated, prepaid arrangements in Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Escambia, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, and Walton Counties. The agency may contract with entities providing comprehensive behavioral health care services to Medicaid recipients through capitated, prepaid arrangements in Alachua County. The agency may determine if Sarasota County shall be included as a separate catchment area or included in any other agency geographic area.

3. Children residing in a Department of Juvenile Justice residential program approved as a Medicaid behavioral health overlay services provider shall not be included in a behavioral health care prepaid health plan pursuant to this paragraph.

4. In converting to a prepaid system of delivery, the agency shall in its procurement document require an entity providing comprehensive behavioral health care services to prevent the displacement of indigent care patients by enrollees in the Medicaid prepaid health plan providing behavioral health care services from facilities receiving state funding to provide indigent behavioral health care, to facilities licensed under chapter 395 which do not receive state funding for indigent behavioral health care, or reimburse the unsubsidized facility for the cost of behavioral health care provided to the displaced indigent care patient.

5. Traditional community mental health providers under contract with the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to part IV of chapter 394 and inpatient mental health providers licensed pursuant to chapter 395 must be offered an opportunity to accept or decline a contract to participate in any provider network for prepaid behavioral health services.

(13)

(b) The responsibility of the agency under this subsection shall include the development of capabilities to identify actual and optimal practice patterns; patient and provider educational initiatives; methods for determining patient compliance with prescribed treatments; fraud, waste, and abuse prevention and detection programs; and beneficiary case management programs.

1. The practice pattern identification program shall evaluate practitioner prescribing patterns based on national and regional practice guidelines, comparing practitioners to their peer groups. The agency and its Drug Utilization Review Board shall consult with a panel of practicing health care professionals consisting of the following: the Speaker of the

House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each appoint three physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; and the Governor shall appoint two pharmacists licensed under chapter 465 and one dentist licensed under chapter 466 who is an oral surgeon. Terms of the panel members shall expire at the discretion of the appointing official. The panel shall begin its work by August 1, 1999, regardless of the number of appointments made by that date. The advisory panel shall be responsible for evaluating treatment guidelines and recommending ways to incorporate their use in the practice pattern identification program. Practitioners who are prescribing inappropriately or inefficiently, as determined by the agency, may have their prescribing of certain drugs subject to prior authorization.

2. The agency shall also develop educational interventions designed to promote the proper use of medications by providers and beneficiaries.

3. The agency shall implement a pharmacy fraud, waste, and abuse initiative that may include a surety bond or letter of credit requirement for participating pharmacies, enhanced provider auditing practices, the use of additional fraud and abuse software, recipient management programs for beneficiaries inappropriately using their benefits, and other steps that will eliminate provider and recipient fraud, waste, and abuse. The initiative shall address enforcement efforts to reduce the number and use of counterfeit prescriptions.

4. By September 30, 2002, the agency shall contract with an entity in the state to implement a wireless handheld clinical pharmacology drug information database for high-prescribing practitioners, as determined by the agency. The initiative shall be designed to enhance the agency's

efforts to reduce fraud, abuse, and errors in the prescription drug benefit program and to otherwise further the intent of this paragraph.

5.~~4.~~ The agency may apply for any federal waivers needed to implement this paragraph.

Section 16. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 409.9122, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 11 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

409.9122 Mandatory Medicaid managed care enrollment; programs and procedures.--

(2)

(f) When a Medicaid recipient does not choose a managed care plan or MediPass provider, the agency shall assign the Medicaid recipient to a managed care plan or MediPass provider. Medicaid recipients who are subject to mandatory assignment but who fail to make a choice shall be assigned to managed care plans or provider service networks until a proportional ~~an equal~~ enrollment of 45 ~~50~~ percent in MediPass and 55 ~~50~~ percent in managed care plans is achieved. Once the 45/55 proportional ~~equal~~ enrollment is achieved, the assignments shall be divided in order to maintain an equal enrollment in MediPass and managed care plans. Thereafter, assignment of Medicaid recipients who fail to make a choice shall be based proportionally on the preferences of recipients who have made a choice in the previous period. Such proportions shall be revised at least quarterly to reflect an update of the preferences of Medicaid recipients. The agency shall also disproportionately assign Medicaid-eligible children in families who are required to but have failed to make a choice of managed care plan or MediPass for their child and who are to be assigned to the MediPass program to

children's networks as described in s. 409.912(3)(g) and where available. The disproportionate assignment of children to children's networks shall be made until the agency has determined that the children's networks have sufficient numbers to be economically operated. For purposes of this paragraph, when referring to assignment, the term "managed care plans" includes exclusive provider organizations, provider service networks, minority physician networks, and pediatric emergency department diversion programs authorized by this chapter or the General Appropriations Act. When making assignments, the agency shall take into account the following criteria:

1. A managed care plan has sufficient network capacity to meet the need of members.

2. The managed care plan or MediPass has previously enrolled the recipient as a member, or one of the managed care plan's primary care providers or MediPass providers has previously provided health care to the recipient.

3. The agency has knowledge that the member has previously expressed a preference for a particular managed care plan or MediPass provider as indicated by Medicaid fee-for-service claims data, but has failed to make a choice.

4. The managed care plan's or MediPass primary care providers are geographically accessible to the recipient's residence.

Section 17. Section 409.913, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 12 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

409.913 Oversight of the integrity of the Medicaid program.--The agency shall operate a program to oversee the activities of Florida Medicaid recipients, and providers and

their representatives, to ensure that fraudulent and abusive behavior and neglect of recipients occur to the minimum extent possible, and to recover overpayments and impose sanctions as appropriate. Beginning January 1, 2003, and each year thereafter, the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs shall submit a joint report to the Legislature documenting the effectiveness of the state's efforts to control Medicaid fraud and abuse and to recover Medicaid overpayments during the previous fiscal year. The report must describe the number of cases opened and investigated each year; the sources of the cases opened; the disposition of the cases closed each year; the amount of overpayments alleged in preliminary and final audit letters; the number and amount of fines or penalties imposed; any reductions in overpayment amounts negotiated in settlement agreements or by other means; the amount of final agency determinations of overpayments; the amount deducted from federal claiming as a result of overpayments; the amount of overpayments recovered each year; the amount of cost of investigation recovered each year; the average length of time to collect from the time the case was opened until the overpayment is paid in full; the amount determined as uncollectible and the portion of the uncollectible amount subsequently reclaimed from the Federal Government; the number of providers, by type, that are terminated from participation in the Medicaid program as a result of fraud and abuse; and all costs associated with discovering and prosecuting cases of Medicaid overpayments and making recoveries in such cases. The report must also document actions taken to prevent overpayments and the number of providers prevented from enrolling in or reenrolling in the Medicaid program as a

result of documented Medicaid fraud and abuse and must recommend changes necessary to prevent or recover overpayments. For the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the agency shall prepare a report that contains as much of this information as is available to it.

(1) For the purposes of this section, the term:

(a) "Abuse" means:

1. Provider practices that are inconsistent with generally accepted business or medical practices and that result in an unnecessary cost to the Medicaid program or in reimbursement for goods or services that are not medically necessary or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health care.

2. Recipient practices that result in unnecessary cost to the Medicaid program.

(b) "Complaint" means an allegation that fraud, abuse, or an overpayment has occurred.

(c)~~(b)~~ "Fraud" means an intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception results in unauthorized benefit to herself or himself or another person. The term includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

(d)~~(c)~~ "Medical necessity" or "medically necessary" means any goods or services necessary to palliate the effects of a terminal condition, or to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate, or preclude deterioration of a condition that threatens life, causes pain or suffering, or results in illness or infirmity, which goods or services are provided in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice. For purposes of determining Medicaid reimbursement, the agency is the final arbiter of medical necessity.

Determinations of medical necessity must be made by a licensed physician employed by or under contract with the agency and must be based upon information available at the time the goods or services are provided.

(e)~~(d)~~ "Overpayment" includes any amount that is not authorized to be paid by the Medicaid program whether paid as a result of inaccurate or improper cost reporting, improper claiming, unacceptable practices, fraud, abuse, or mistake.

(f)~~(e)~~ "Person" means any natural person, corporation, partnership, association, clinic, group, or other entity, whether or not such person is enrolled in the Medicaid program or is a provider of health care.

(2) The agency shall conduct, or cause to be conducted by contract or otherwise, reviews, investigations, analyses, audits, or any combination thereof, to determine possible fraud, abuse, overpayment, or recipient neglect in the Medicaid program and shall report the findings of any overpayments in audit reports as appropriate.

(3) The agency may conduct, or may contract for, prepayment review of provider claims to ensure cost-effective purchasing, billing, and provision of care to Medicaid recipients. Such prepayment reviews may be conducted as determined appropriate by the agency, without any suspicion or allegation of fraud, abuse, or neglect.

(4) Any suspected criminal violation identified by the agency must be referred to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Office of the Attorney General for investigation. The agency and the Attorney General shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, which must include, but need not be limited to, a protocol for regularly sharing information and coordinating casework. The protocol must establish a

procedure for the referral by the agency of cases involving suspected Medicaid fraud to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for investigation, and the return to the agency of those cases where investigation determines that administrative action by the agency is appropriate. Offices of the Medicaid program integrity program and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs shall, to the extent possible, be colocated. The agency and the Department of Legal Affairs shall periodically conduct joint training and other joint activities designed to increase communication and coordination in recovering overpayments.

(5) A Medicaid provider is subject to having goods and services that are paid for by the Medicaid program reviewed by an appropriate peer-review organization designated by the agency. The written findings of the applicable peer-review organization are admissible in any court or administrative proceeding as evidence of medical necessity or the lack thereof.

(6) Any notice required to be given to a provider under this section is presumed to be sufficient notice if sent to the address last shown on the provider enrollment file. It is the responsibility of the provider to furnish and keep the agency informed of the provider's current address. United States Postal Service proof of mailing or certified or registered mailing of such notice to the provider at the address shown on the provider enrollment file constitutes sufficient proof of notice. Any notice required to be given to the agency by this section must be sent to the agency at an address designated by rule.

(7) When presenting a claim for payment under the Medicaid program, a provider has an affirmative duty to

supervise the provision of, and be responsible for, goods and services claimed to have been provided, to supervise and be responsible for preparation and submission of the claim, and to present a claim that is true and accurate and that is for goods and services that:

(a) Have actually been furnished to the recipient by the provider prior to submitting the claim.

(b) Are Medicaid-covered goods or services that are medically necessary.

(c) Are of a quality comparable to those furnished to the general public by the provider's peers.

(d) Have not been billed in whole or in part to a recipient or a recipient's responsible party, except for such copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles as are authorized by the agency.

(e) Are provided in accord with applicable provisions of all Medicaid rules, regulations, handbooks, and policies and in accordance with federal, state, and local law.

(f) Are documented by records made at the time the goods or services were provided, demonstrating the medical necessity for the goods or services rendered. Medicaid goods or services are excessive or not medically necessary unless both the medical basis and the specific need for them are fully and properly documented in the recipient's medical record.

(8) A Medicaid provider shall retain medical, professional, financial, and business records pertaining to services and goods furnished to a Medicaid recipient and billed to Medicaid for a period of 5 years after the date of furnishing such services or goods. The agency may investigate, review, or analyze such records, which must be made available

during normal business hours. However, 24-hour notice must be provided if patient treatment would be disrupted. The provider is responsible for furnishing to the agency, and keeping the agency informed of the location of, the provider's Medicaid-related records. The authority of the agency to obtain Medicaid-related records from a provider is neither curtailed nor limited during a period of litigation between the agency and the provider.

(9) Payments for the services of billing agents or persons participating in the preparation of a Medicaid claim shall not be based on amounts for which they bill nor based on the amount a provider receives from the Medicaid program.

(10) The agency may require repayment for inappropriate, medically unnecessary, or excessive goods or services from the person furnishing them, the person under whose supervision they were furnished, or the person causing them to be furnished.

(11) The complaint and all information obtained pursuant to an investigation of a Medicaid provider, or the authorized representative or agent of a provider, relating to an allegation of fraud, abuse, or neglect are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1):

(a) Until the agency takes final agency action with respect to the provider and requires repayment of any overpayment, or imposes an administrative sanction;

(b) Until the Attorney General refers the case for criminal prosecution;

(c) Until 10 days after the complaint is determined without merit; or

(d) At all times if the complaint or information is otherwise protected by law.

(12) The agency may terminate participation of a Medicaid provider in the Medicaid program and may seek civil remedies or impose other administrative sanctions against a Medicaid provider, if the provider has been:

(a) Convicted of a criminal offense related to the delivery of any health care goods or services, including the performance of management or administrative functions relating to the delivery of health care goods or services;

(b) Convicted of a criminal offense under federal law or the law of any state relating to the practice of the provider's profession; or

(c) Found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have neglected or physically abused a patient in connection with the delivery of health care goods or services.

(13) If the provider has been suspended or terminated from participation in the Medicaid program or the Medicare program by the Federal Government or any state, the agency must immediately suspend or terminate, as appropriate, the provider's participation in the Florida Medicaid program for a period no less than that imposed by the Federal Government or any other state, and may not enroll such provider in the Florida Medicaid program while such foreign suspension or termination remains in effect. This sanction is in addition to all other remedies provided by law.

(14) The agency may seek any remedy provided by law, including, but not limited to, the remedies provided in subsections (12) and (15) and s. 812.035, if:

(a) The provider's license has not been renewed, or has been revoked, suspended, or terminated, for cause, by the licensing agency of any state;

(b) The provider has failed to make available or has refused access to Medicaid-related records to an auditor, investigator, or other authorized employee or agent of the agency, the Attorney General, a state attorney, or the Federal Government;

(c) The provider has not furnished or has failed to make available such Medicaid-related records as the agency has found necessary to determine whether Medicaid payments are or were due and the amounts thereof;

(d) The provider has failed to maintain medical records made at the time of service, or prior to service if prior authorization is required, demonstrating the necessity and appropriateness of the goods or services rendered;

(e) The provider is not in compliance with provisions of Medicaid provider publications that have been adopted by reference as rules in the Florida Administrative Code; with provisions of state or federal laws, rules, or regulations; with provisions of the provider agreement between the agency and the provider; or with certifications found on claim forms or on transmittal forms for electronically submitted claims that are submitted by the provider or authorized representative, as such provisions apply to the Medicaid program;

(f) The provider or person who ordered or prescribed the care, services, or supplies has furnished, or ordered the furnishing of, goods or services to a recipient which are inappropriate, unnecessary, excessive, or harmful to the recipient or are of inferior quality;

(g) The provider has demonstrated a pattern of failure to provide goods or services that are medically necessary;

(h) The provider or an authorized representative of the provider, or a person who ordered or prescribed the goods or services, has submitted or caused to be submitted false or a pattern of erroneous Medicaid claims that have resulted in overpayments to a provider or that exceed those to which the provider was entitled under the Medicaid program;

(i) The provider or an authorized representative of the provider, or a person who has ordered or prescribed the goods or services, has submitted or caused to be submitted a Medicaid provider enrollment application, a request for prior authorization for Medicaid services, a drug exception request, or a Medicaid cost report that contains materially false or incorrect information;

(j) The provider or an authorized representative of the provider has collected from or billed a recipient or a recipient's responsible party improperly for amounts that should not have been so collected or billed by reason of the provider's billing the Medicaid program for the same service;

(k) The provider or an authorized representative of the provider has included in a cost report costs that are not allowable under a Florida Title XIX reimbursement plan, after the provider or authorized representative had been advised in an audit exit conference or audit report that the costs were not allowable;

(l) The provider is charged by information or indictment with fraudulent billing practices. The sanction applied for this reason is limited to suspension of the provider's participation in the Medicaid program for the duration of the indictment unless the provider is found guilty pursuant to the information or indictment;

(m) The provider or a person who has ordered, or prescribed the goods or services is found liable for negligent practice resulting in death or injury to the provider's patient;

(n) The provider fails to demonstrate that it had available during a specific audit or review period sufficient quantities of goods, or sufficient time in the case of services, to support the provider's billings to the Medicaid program;

(o) The provider has failed to comply with the notice and reporting requirements of s. 409.907; ~~or~~

(p) The agency has received reliable information of patient abuse or neglect or of any act prohibited by s. 409.920;~~.~~

(q) The provider has failed to comply with an agreed-upon repayment schedule; or

(r) The provider has failed to timely file such Medicaid cost reports as the agency considers necessary to set or adjust payment rates.

(15) The agency shall ~~may~~ impose any of the following sanctions or disincentives on a provider or a person for any of the acts described in subsection (14):

(a) Suspension for a specific period of time of not more than 1 year.

(b) Termination for a specific period of time of from more than 1 year to 20 years.

(c) Imposition of a fine of up to $5,000 for each violation. Each day that an ongoing violation continues, such as refusing to furnish Medicaid-related records or refusing access to records, is considered, for the purposes of this section, to be a separate violation. Each instance of

improper billing of a Medicaid recipient; each instance of including an unallowable cost on a hospital or nursing home Medicaid cost report after the provider or authorized representative has been advised in an audit exit conference or previous audit report of the cost unallowability; each instance of furnishing a Medicaid recipient goods or professional services that are inappropriate or of inferior quality as determined by competent peer judgment; each instance of knowingly submitting a materially false or erroneous Medicaid provider enrollment application, request for prior authorization for Medicaid services, drug exception request, or cost report; each instance of inappropriate prescribing of drugs for a Medicaid recipient as determined by competent peer judgment; and each false or erroneous Medicaid claim leading to an overpayment to a provider is considered, for the purposes of this section, to be a separate violation.

(d) Immediate suspension, if the agency has received information of patient abuse or neglect or of any act prohibited by s. 409.920. Upon suspension, the agency must issue an immediate final order under s. 120.569(2)(n).

(e) A fine, not to exceed $10,000, for a violation of paragraph (14)(i).

(f) Imposition of liens against provider assets, including, but not limited to, financial assets and real property, not to exceed the amount of fines or recoveries sought, upon entry of an order determining that such moneys are due or recoverable.

(g) Prepayment reviews of claims for a specified period of time.

(h) Comprehensive followup reviews of providers every 6 months to ensure that they are billing Medicaid correctly.

(i) Corrective action plans that would remain in effect for providers for up to 3 years and that would be monitored by the agency every 6 months while in effect.

(j)~~(g)~~ Other remedies as permitted by law to effect the recovery of a fine or overpayment.

The Secretary of Health Care Administration may make a determination that imposition of a sanction or disincentive is not in the best interest of the Medicaid program, in which case a sanction or disincentive shall not be imposed.

(16) In determining the appropriate administrative sanction to be applied, or the duration of any suspension or termination, the agency shall consider:

(a) The seriousness and extent of the violation or violations.

(b) Any prior history of violations by the provider relating to the delivery of health care programs which resulted in either a criminal conviction or in administrative sanction or penalty.

(c) Evidence of continued violation within the provider's management control of Medicaid statutes, rules, regulations, or policies after written notification to the provider of improper practice or instance of violation.

(d) The effect, if any, on the quality of medical care provided to Medicaid recipients as a result of the acts of the provider.

(e) Any action by a licensing agency respecting the provider in any state in which the provider operates or has operated.

(f) The apparent impact on access by recipients to Medicaid services if the provider is suspended or terminated, in the best judgment of the agency.

The agency shall document the basis for all sanctioning actions and recommendations.

(17) The agency may take action to sanction, suspend, or terminate a particular provider working for a group provider, and may suspend or terminate Medicaid participation at a specific location, rather than or in addition to taking action against an entire group.

(18) The agency shall establish a process for conducting followup reviews of a sampling of providers who have a history of overpayment under the Medicaid program. This process must consider the magnitude of previous fraud or abuse and the potential effect of continued fraud or abuse on Medicaid costs.

(19) In making a determination of overpayment to a provider, the agency must use accepted and valid auditing, accounting, analytical, statistical, or peer-review methods, or combinations thereof. Appropriate statistical methods may include, but are not limited to, sampling and extension to the population, parametric and nonparametric statistics, tests of hypotheses, and other generally accepted statistical methods. Appropriate analytical methods may include, but are not limited to, reviews to determine variances between the quantities of products that a provider had on hand and available to be purveyed to Medicaid recipients during the review period and the quantities of the same products paid for by the Medicaid program for the same period, taking into appropriate consideration sales of the same products to

non-Medicaid customers during the same period. In meeting its burden of proof in any administrative or court proceeding, the agency may introduce the results of such statistical methods as evidence of overpayment.

(20) When making a determination that an overpayment has occurred, the agency shall prepare and issue an audit report to the provider showing the calculation of overpayments.

(21) The audit report, supported by agency work papers, showing an overpayment to a provider constitutes evidence of the overpayment. A provider may not present or elicit testimony, either on direct examination or cross-examination in any court or administrative proceeding, regarding the purchase or acquisition by any means of drugs, goods, or supplies; sales or divestment by any means of drugs, goods, or supplies; or inventory of drugs, goods, or supplies, unless such acquisition, sales, divestment, or inventory is documented by written invoices, written inventory records, or other competent written documentary evidence maintained in the normal course of the provider's business. Notwithstanding the applicable rules of discovery, all documentation that will be offered as evidence at an administrative hearing on a Medicaid overpayment must be exchanged by all parties at least 14 days before the administrative hearing or must be excluded from consideration.

(22)(a) In an audit or investigation of a violation committed by a provider which is conducted pursuant to this section, the agency is entitled to recover all investigative, legal, and expert witness costs if the agency's findings were not contested by the provider or, if contested, the agency ultimately prevailed.

(b) The agency has the burden of documenting the costs, which include salaries and employee benefits and out-of-pocket expenses. The amount of costs that may be recovered must be reasonable in relation to the seriousness of the violation and must be set taking into consideration the financial resources, earning ability, and needs of the provider, who has the burden of demonstrating such factors.

(c) The provider may pay the costs over a period to be determined by the agency if the agency determines that an extreme hardship would result to the provider from immediate full payment. Any default in payment of costs may be collected by any means authorized by law.

(23) If the agency imposes an administrative sanction under this section upon any provider or other person who is regulated by another state entity, the agency shall notify that other entity of the imposition of the sanction. Such notification must include the provider's or person's name and license number and the specific reasons for sanction.

(24)(a) The agency may withhold Medicaid payments, in whole or in part, to a provider upon receipt of reliable evidence that the circumstances giving rise to the need for a withholding of payments involve fraud, willful misrepresentation, or abuse under the Medicaid program, or a crime committed while rendering goods or services to Medicaid recipients, pending completion of legal proceedings. If it is determined that fraud, willful misrepresentation, abuse, or a crime did not occur, the payments withheld must be paid to the provider within 14 days after such determination with interest at the rate of 10 percent a year. Any money withheld in accordance with this paragraph shall be placed in a suspended

account, readily accessible to the agency, so that any payment ultimately due the provider shall be made within 14 days.

(b) Overpayments owed to the agency bear interest at the rate of 10 percent per year from the date of determination of the overpayment by the agency, and payment arrangements must be made at the conclusion of legal proceedings. A provider who does not enter into or adhere to an agreed-upon repayment schedule may be terminated by the agency for nonpayment or partial payment.

(c) The agency, upon entry of a final agency order, a judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or a stipulation or settlement, may collect the moneys owed by all means allowable by law, including, but not limited to, notifying any fiscal intermediary of Medicare benefits that the state has a superior right of payment. Upon receipt of such written notification, the Medicare fiscal intermediary shall remit to the state the sum claimed.

(25) The agency may impose administrative sanctions against a Medicaid recipient, or the agency may seek any other remedy provided by law, including, but not limited to, the remedies provided in s. 812.035, if the agency finds that a recipient has engaged in solicitation in violation of s. 409.920 or that the recipient has otherwise abused the Medicaid program.

(26) When the Agency for Health Care Administration has made a probable cause determination and alleged that an overpayment to a Medicaid provider has occurred, the agency, after notice to the provider, may:

(a) Withhold, and continue to withhold during the pendency of an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120, any medical assistance reimbursement payments until such time

as the overpayment is recovered, unless within 30 days after receiving notice thereof the provider:

1. Makes repayment in full; or

2. Establishes a repayment plan that is satisfactory to the Agency for Health Care Administration.

(b) Withhold, and continue to withhold during the pendency of an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120, medical assistance reimbursement payments if the terms of a repayment plan are not adhered to by the provider.

~~If a provider requests an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120, such hearing must be conducted within 90 days following receipt by the provider of the final audit report, absent exceptionally good cause shown as determined by the administrative law judge or hearing officer. Upon issuance of a final order, the balance outstanding of the amount determined to constitute the overpayment shall become due. Any withholding of payments by the Agency for Health Care Administration pursuant to this section shall be limited so that the monthly medical assistance payment is not reduced by more than 10 percent.~~

(27) Venue for all Medicaid program integrity overpayment cases shall lie in Leon County, at the discretion of the agency.

(28) Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs may review a provider's non-Medicaid-related records in order to determine the total output of a provider's practice to reconcile quantities of goods or services billed to Medicaid against quantities of goods or services used in the provider's total practice.

(29) The agency may terminate a provider's participation in the Medicaid program if the provider fails to reimburse an overpayment that has been determined by final order within 35 days after the date of the final order, unless the provider and the agency have entered into a repayment agreement. If the final order is overturned on appeal, the provider shall be reinstated.

(30) If a provider requests an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120, such hearing must be conducted within 90 days following assignment of an administrative law judge, absent exceptionally good cause shown as determined by the administrative law judge or hearing officer. Upon issuance of a final order, the outstanding balance of the amount determined to constitute the overpayment shall become due. If a provider fails to make payments in full, fails to enter into a satisfactory repayment plan, or fails to comply with the terms of a repayment plan or settlement agreement, the agency may withhold all medical assistance reimbursement payments until the amount due is paid in full.

(31) Duly authorized agents and employees of the agency and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs shall have the power to inspect, at all reasonable hours and upon proper notice, the records of any pharmacy, wholesale establishment, or manufacturer, or any other place in the state in which drugs and medical supplies are manufactured, packed, packaged, made, stored, sold, or kept for sale, for the purpose of verifying the amount of drugs and medical supplies ordered, delivered, or purchased by a provider.

Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 409.915, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.915 County contributions to Medicaid.--Although the state is responsible for the full portion of the state share of the matching funds required for the Medicaid program, in order to acquire a certain portion of these funds, the state shall charge the counties for certain items of care and service as provided in this section.

(2) A county's participation must be 35 percent of the total cost, or the applicable discounted cost paid by the state for Medicaid recipients enrolled in health maintenance organizations or prepaid health plans, of providing the items listed in subsection (1), except that the payments for items listed in paragraph (1)(b) may not exceed$140~~$55~~ per month per person.

Section 19. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 409.920, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.920 Medicaid provider fraud.--

(7) The Attorney General shall conduct a statewide program of Medicaid fraud control. To accomplish this purpose, the Attorney General shall:

(a) Investigate the possible criminal violation of any applicable state law pertaining to fraud in the administration of the Medicaid program, in the provision of medical assistance, or in the activities of providers of health care under the Medicaid program.

(b) Investigate the alleged abuse or neglect of patients in health care facilities receiving payments under the Medicaid program, in coordination with the agency.

(c) Investigate the alleged misappropriation of patients' private funds in health care facilities receiving payments under the Medicaid program.

(d) Refer to the Office of Statewide Prosecution or the appropriate state attorney all violations indicating a substantial potential for criminal prosecution.

(e) Refer to the agency all suspected abusive activities not of a criminal or fraudulent nature.

~~(f) Refer to the agency for collection each instance of overpayment to a provider of health care under the Medicaid program which is discovered during the course of an investigation.~~

(f)~~(g)~~ Safeguard the privacy rights of all individuals and provide safeguards to prevent the use of patient medical records for any reason beyond the scope of a specific investigation for fraud or abuse, or both, without the patient's written consent.

(g) Publicize to state employees and the public the ability of persons to bring suit under the provisions of the Florida False Claims Act and the potential for the persons bringing a civil action under the Florida False Claims Act to obtain a monetary award.

(8) In carrying out the duties and responsibilities under this section ~~subsection~~, the Attorney General may:

(a) Enter upon the premises of any health care provider, excluding a physician, participating in the Medicaid program to examine all accounts and records that may, in any manner, be relevant in determining the existence of fraud in the Medicaid program, to investigate alleged abuse or neglect of patients, or to investigate alleged misappropriation of patients' private funds. A participating physician is required to make available any accounts or records that may, in any manner, be relevant in determining the existence of fraud in the Medicaid program. The accounts or records of a

non-Medicaid patient may not be reviewed by, or turned over to, the Attorney General without the patient's written consent.

(b) Subpoena witnesses or materials, including medical records relating to Medicaid recipients, within or outside the state and, through any duly designated employee, administer oaths and affirmations and collect evidence for possible use in either civil or criminal judicial proceedings.

(c) Request and receive the assistance of any state attorney or law enforcement agency in the investigation and prosecution of any violation of this section.

(d) Seek any civil remedy provided by law, including, but not limited to, the remedies provided in ss. 68.081-68.092, s. 812.035, and this chapter.

(e) Refer to the agency for collection each instance of overpayment to a provider of health care under the Medicaid program which is discovered during the course of an investigation.

Section 20. Effective July 1, 2002, subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 624.91, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 20 of chapter 2001-377, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

624.91 The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act.--

(1) SHORT TITLE.--Sections 624.91-624.915 ~~This section~~ may be cited as the "William G. 'Doc' Myers Healthy Kids Corporation Act."

(4) CORPORATION AUTHORIZATION, DUTIES, POWERS.--

(b) The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation shall phase in a program to:

1. Organize school children groups to facilitate the provision of comprehensive health insurance coverage to children;

2. Arrange for the collection of any family, local contributions, or employer payment or premium, in an amount to be determined by the board of directors, to provide for payment of premiums for comprehensive insurance coverage and for the actual or estimated administrative expenses;

3. Establish the administrative and accounting procedures for the operation of the corporation;

4. Establish, with consultation from appropriate professional organizations, standards for preventive health services and providers and comprehensive insurance benefits appropriate to children; provided that such standards for rural areas shall not limit primary care providers to board-certified pediatricians;

5. Establish eligibility criteria which children must meet in order to participate in the program;

6. Establish procedures under which applicants to and participants in the program may have grievances reviewed by an impartial body and reported to the board of directors of the corporation;

7. Establish participation criteria and, if appropriate, contract with an authorized insurer, health maintenance organization, or insurance administrator to provide administrative services to the corporation;

8. Establish enrollment criteria which shall include penalties or waiting periods of not fewer than 60 days for reinstatement of coverage upon voluntary cancellation for nonpayment of family premiums;

9. If a space is available, establish a special open enrollment period of 30 days' duration for any child who is enrolled in Medicaid or Medikids if such child loses Medicaid or Medikids eligibility and becomes eligible for the Florida Healthy Kids program;

10. Contract with authorized insurers or any provider of health care services, meeting standards established by the corporation, for the provision of comprehensive insurance coverage to participants. Such standards shall include criteria under which the corporation may contract with more than one provider of health care services in program sites. Health plans shall be selected through a competitive bid process. The selection of health plans shall be based primarily on quality criteria established by the board. The health plan selection criteria and scoring system, and the scoring results, shall be available upon request for inspection after the bids have been awarded;

11. Develop and implement a plan to publicize the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the eligibility requirements of the program, and the procedures for enrollment in the program and to maintain public awareness of the corporation and the program;

12. Secure staff necessary to properly administer the corporation. Staff costs shall be funded from state and local matching funds and such other private or public funds as become available. The board of directors shall determine the number of staff members necessary to administer the corporation;

13. As appropriate, enter into contracts with local school boards or other agencies to provide onsite information,

enrollment, and other services necessary to the operation of the corporation;

14. Provide a report on an annual basis to the Governor, Insurance Commissioner, Commissioner of Education, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

15. Annually determine the local match requirements for each county under the formulas and procedure provided in s. 624.915 ~~Each fiscal year, establish a maximum number of participants by county, on a statewide basis, who may enroll in the program without the benefit of local matching funds. Thereafter, the corporation may establish local matching requirements for supplemental participation in the program. The corporation may vary local matching requirements and enrollment by county depending on factors which may influence the generation of local match, including, but not limited to, population density, per capita income, existing local tax effort, and other factors. The corporation also may accept in-kind match in lieu of cash for the local match requirement to the extent allowed by Title XXI of the Social Security Act~~; and

16. Establish eligibility criteria, premium and cost-sharing requirements, and benefit packages which conform to the provisions of the Florida Kidcare program, as created in ss. 409.810-409.820.~~; and~~

~~17. Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph 15. to the contrary, establish a local matching requirement of $0.00 for the Title XXI program in each county of the state for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. This subparagraph shall take~~

~~effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2001. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2002.~~

Section 21. Section 624.915, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

624.915 Local match requirement.--

(1) By May 1 of each year, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation established in s. 624.91 shall determine the local match requirement for each county and provide written notification to each county of the amount to be remitted to the corporation for the following fiscal year.

(a) The corporation shall first annually establish a nonmatch enrollment allocation per county which does not require any local matching funds. For the purpose of determining the nonmatch enrollment allocation, each county shall be assigned to one of three tiers based on the county's population of children, using the most recently released federal census data. Enrollment slots shall be allocated to each tier; however, no county shall receive fewer than 500 slots. Enrollment slots shall not be reserved for any particular county, and unused slots may be redistributed by the corporation to accommodate increased enrollment in other counties.

(b) The corporation shall then determine the county's local match percentage rate. For the purpose of determining the local match percentage rate, each county shall be assigned to one of three tiers based on the county's economic census in the year of the most recently released federal census data. The local match percentage rate for the lowest tier shall be greater than zero but not more than 5 percent, and it shall be no greater than 15 percent for the highest tier.

(c) The corporation shall then calculate the local match requirement for each county as the total annual consideration paid by the corporation for the county's total enrollee insurance premiums for the prior fiscal year, less the value of the premiums for the county's nonmatch enrollment for the same year, multiplied by the county's local match percentage rate. The resulting local match requirement for each county shall not be less than zero nor more than the county paid in fiscal year 2000-2001.

(2) A county that disputes its tier assignment may file a written grievance with the corporation for review by the corporation's board of directors. The board's decision shall be final and not subject to further review.

(3) The corporation's board of directors shall determine the timing and method for payment of the required local match to the corporation. For purposes of meeting the local match requirement, at least 90 percent of the county's local match requirement must be eligible to match federal Title XXI funds. Local matching funds must be in the form of cash. In-kind contributions will not be accepted for purposes of compliance with a county's local match requirement.

Section 22. Subsection (28) of section 393.063, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

393.063 Definitions.--For the purposes of this chapter:

(28) "Intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled" or "ICF/DD" means a ~~state-owned-and-operated~~ residential facility licensed and certified in accordance with state law, and certified by the Federal Government pursuant to the Social Security Act, as a provider of Medicaid services to persons who are

developmentally disabled ~~mentally retarded or who have related conditions~~. The capacity of such a facility shall not be more than 120 clients.

Section 23. Section 400.965, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.965 Action by agency against licensee; grounds.--

(1) Any of the following conditions constitute grounds for action by the agency against a licensee:

(a) A misrepresentation of a material fact in the application;

(b) The commission of an intentional or negligent act materially affecting the health or safety of residents of the facility;

(c) A violation of any provision of this part or rules adopted under this part; or

(d) The commission of any act constituting a ground upon which application for a license may be denied.

(2) If the agency has a reasonable belief that any of such conditions exists, it shall:

(a) In the case of an applicant for original licensure, deny the application.

(b) In the case of an applicant for relicensure or a current licensee, take administrative action as provided in s. 400.968 or s. 400.969 or injunctive action as authorized by s. 400.963.

(c) In the case of a facility operating without a license, take injunctive action as authorized in s. 400.963.

Section 24. Subsection (4) of section 400.968, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 400.969, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

400.969 Violation of part; penalties.--

(1)~~(4)(a)~~ Except as provided in s. 400.967(3), a violation of any provision of this part ~~section~~ or rules adopted by the agency under this part ~~section~~ is punishable by payment of an administrative or civil penalty not to exceed $5,000.

(2)~~(b)~~ A violation of this part ~~section~~ or of rules adopted under this part ~~section~~ is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate offense.

Section 25. By January 1, 2003, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall make recommendations to the Legislature as to limits in the amount of home office management and administrative fees which should be allowable for reimbursement for Medicaid providers whose rates are set on a cost-reimbursement basis.

Section 26. Except as otherwise provided herein, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.