

1 Section 1. Section 381.0402, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 381.0402 Area health education center network.--The
4 department, in cooperation with ~~the state approved~~ medical
5 schools located in this state which form the area health
6 education center network in this state, shall maintain and
7 evaluate ~~organize~~ an area health education center network
8 focused based on earlier medically indigent demonstration
9 projects and shall evaluate the impact of each network on
10 improving access to health services by persons who are
11 medically underserved. The network shall serve as ~~be~~ a
12 catalyst for the primary care training of health professionals
13 by increasing through increased opportunities for training in
14 medically underserved areas, increasing access to primary care
15 services, providing health workforce recruitment, enhancing
16 the quality of health care, and addressing current and
17 emerging public health issues.

18 (1) The department shall contract with the medical
19 schools to assist in funding the ~~an~~ area health education
20 center network, which links the provision of primary care
21 services to medically underserved populations, and which
22 provides for low income persons with the education of:

23 (a) Medical students, interns, and residents. The
24 network shall:

25 ~~(a) Be coordinated with and under contract with the~~
26 ~~state approved medical schools, which shall be responsible for~~
27 ~~the clinical training and supervision.~~

28 1.(b) Divide the state into service areas within the
29 network for ~~with each state approved medical school~~
30 coordinating the recruitment ~~recruiting~~, training, and
31 retention of medical students within its assigned area.

1 ~~(c) Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate~~
2 ~~medical supervision.~~

3 2.(d) Use current community resources, such as county
4 health departments, federally funded community or migrant
5 health primary care centers, and ~~or~~ other primary health care
6 providers, as ~~community based~~ sites for training medical
7 students, interns, and residents.

8 3. Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
9 medical supervision.

10 (b) Students in the health care professions. The
11 network shall:

12 1. Facilitate the recruitment, training, and retention
13 of students in the health care professions within service
14 areas.

15 2. Use community resources, such as county health
16 departments, federally funded community or migrant health
17 centers, and other primary health care providers, as sites for
18 training students in the health care professions.

19 3. Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
20 supervision.

21 (c) Health care providers serving medically
22 underserved populations. The network shall:

23 1. Assist providers in medically underserved areas and
24 other safety net providers in remaining current in their
25 fields through a variety of community resource initiatives.

26 2. Strengthen the health care safety net in this state
27 by enhancing services and increasing access to care in
28 medically underserved areas.

29 3. Provide other services, such as library and
30 information resources, continuing professional education,
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1 technical assistance, and other support services, for
2 providers who serve in medically underserved areas.

3 (2) The department shall establish criteria and
4 procedures for quality assurance, performance evaluations,
5 periodic audits, and other appropriate safeguards for the
6 network.

7 (3) The department shall make every effort to assure
8 that the network does ~~participating medical schools do~~ not
9 discriminate among enrollees with respect to age, race, sex,
10 or health status. However, the network ~~such schools~~ may target
11 high-risk medically needy population groups.

12 (4) The department may use no more than 5 percent of
13 the annual appropriation for administering and evaluating the
14 network.

15 Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section
16 381.0405, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 381.0405 Office of Rural Health.--

18 (4) COORDINATION.--The office shall:

19 (f) Assume responsibility for state coordination of
20 ~~the Rural Hospital Transition Grant Program, the Essential~~
21 ~~Access Community Hospital Program, and other federal rural~~
22 hospital and rural health care grant programs.

23 Section 3. Section 381.0409, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 381.0409 Coordination with federal health professional
26 recruitment and placement programs.--The department may
27 coordinate with the Federal Government to designate areas of
28 health professional shortages and medically underserved areas,
29 to recommend foreign physicians for visa waivers, to document
30 health professionals working in the public interest, and to
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1 place health care professionals in medically underserved areas
2 using federally funded recruitment-incentive programs.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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6 SENATE SUMMARY

7 Requires the Department of Health to cooperate with
8 specified medical schools in maintaining and evaluating
9 the area health education center network. Expands the
10 purposes of the network. Requires that the department
11 contract with the named medical schools to provide funds
12 to the network. Provides that the persons to be served by
13 the network are "medically underserved populations"
14 rather than "low-income people." Provides that the center
15 assist in linking the provision of primary care services
16 to medically underserved populations with the education
17 of students in the health care professions and of health
18 care providers serving medically underserved populations,
19 as well as that of medical students, interns, and
20 residents. (See bill for details.)
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