



Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Chairman, Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: May 25, 2011

Subject: Hospital Governance Taskforce Final Report, May 12, 2011

After reviewing the Hospital Governance Taskforce (HGT) Final Report, dated May 12, 2011, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) would like to express its concern regarding the governance model, as proposed.

On May 2, 2011, at the request of the Chairman of the HGT, the OIG provided comments and recommendations to the Taskforce. At that time, the OIG recommended that if the Taskforce should propose a change to the governing structure, such as to a private not-for-profit, but yet still require public subsidies, then there should be provisions for continued oversight by the OIG.

The OIG shares its concern that the proposed model does not consider or recommend the continued oversight by the OIG. Instead, the report recommends a narrowly crafted Public Health Advisory Committee that would “ensure accountability on the use of unique public funds and to ensure that the safety net mission is being met.” The OIG is unsure what authority or power an “advisory” committee would have in assuring accountability and transparency for using hundreds of millions of dollars in public subsidies.

Consequently, especially considering the past history of the Jackson Health System (JHS), it is recommended that if the BCC adopts the proposed governance structure and is inclined to have the OIG continue providing independent oversight of JHS, it include appropriate language in any enabling legislation.

Cc: Juan C. Zapata, Chairman and Members, Hospital Governance Taskforce
Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts
Alina Tejeda Hudak, County Manager
R. A. Cuevas, County Attorney
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor