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**School District of Palm Beach County Selects Health Dialog to Provide Care Management Services**

*More than 40,000 Employees, Retirees, and Dependents Will Have Access to Whole Person Support*

The School District of Palm Beach County has selected Health Dialog Services to provide care management services to more than 40,000 teachers, administrators, retirees, and dependents. The school district's "HealthyLiving-Lessons for Life" program will offer access to Health Dialog's whole person care management program, which includes Health Coaching and related support across a broad spectrum of healthcare needs.

"HealthyLiving-Lessons for Life" will engage individuals and will encourage them to become more actively involved in the management of their health. Health Dialog Health Coaches will support individuals telephonically in understanding the total picture of their health as well as the risks, benefits, and outcomes of various treatment options, so they can gain the skills and self-reliance necessary to partner effectively with their physicians. Topics covered through the program include chronic conditions, significant medical decisions, and healthy living needs such as support for smoking cessation, obesity, and stress. In addition to telephonic support, individuals will also have access to award-winning educational resources in print, audio, and video formats.

"We are very excited to offer this program to the school district participants" said Dianne Howard, Director of Risk & Benefits Management, School District of Palm Beach County. "By educating and motivating ourselves and each other to

modify behavior and actively participate in our healthcare, we hope to serve as positive role models for the children we serve.”

The School District of Palm Beach County is the eleventh largest school district in the United States and fifth largest in Florida. It encompasses an area larger than some states. It has 185 schools with 21,707 employees serving 168,540 students in K–12 education. For more information about Palm Beach Country School District, please visit their website <http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/>.

### **Orange County Schools**

Orange County's (the county) local employment base has diversified moderately with increases in the business and professional services, health care, and education fields. This has somewhat reduced the county's susceptibility to downturns in the tourism industry due to the presence of Walt Disney World, the largest employer. The 2007 unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.8% and the April 2008 rate increased to 4.3% from 3.4% a year earlier, signalling some weakness in the economy. Income levels are slightly below the state and national figures, reflecting the large proportion of lower paying service sector jobs that cater to the tourism market. County TAV has grown an average of 12.9% annually over the past five fiscal years, including strong 17.2% growth in fiscal 2008. Fiscal 2009 TAV growth is a more modest but still healthy 4.8% (June 1 estimate), which includes the effects of Florida's Amendment One.

The school board's financial operations are sound. Fiscal 2007 ended with a \$20.7 million general fund surplus, bringing the unreserved general fund balance to 10.6% of spending (\$135.9 million), a strong level for a Florida school district rated by Fitch. Fitch believes that the school board's reserve levels position it well to manage revenue pressures associated with a softening economy, reflected in weak county sales tax data, and state funding reductions led by the broader housing market downturn. State funding cuts totalled approximately \$22.4 million in fiscal 2008; however, the district expects to end the fiscal year with breakeven financial operations. Further state aid reductions in fiscal 2009 currently total about \$33 million. During the fiscal 2009 budget process, officials prudently prepared approximately \$70 million of district-wide spending cuts in anticipation of revenue declines.

The school board's overall debt levels are moderate at \$3,626 per capita or 3.6% of TAV. Excluding approximately \$2.7 billion of overlapping debt of the county and underlying municipalities, much of it for the county's convention center which is supported by tourist-generated taxes, direct debt ratios are low at \$1,125 per capita or 1.1% of TAV. Debt amortization is below average, with 32.1% of principal retired over 10 years, and increased COP payments in future fiscal years could increase leverage on the capital outlay millage. However, the school board's debt burden should remain manageable due to its practice of extensive pay-as-you-go funding of capital projects. The fiscal years 2008 – 2012 CIP identifies \$2.5 billion of capital investments, including the

construction of 15 new schools. Approximately 19% of the CIP is funded with additional COP proceeds; pay-as-you-go sources contribute the remainder. Slowing economic growth is reflected in declining impact fee revenues, which may hinder growth-related capital plans. However, modestly declining enrollment figures compliment this trend. The school board does not plan to pre-fund its moderate \$132.8 million OPEB liability through the use of a trust.