

Public Health Emergency & Extended Medicaid: *Unwind Issues Impacting Florida Seniors*

May 24, 2022

2022 Florida Elder Justice Conference

Miriam Harmatz,
Advocacy Director & Founder,
Florida Health Justice Project



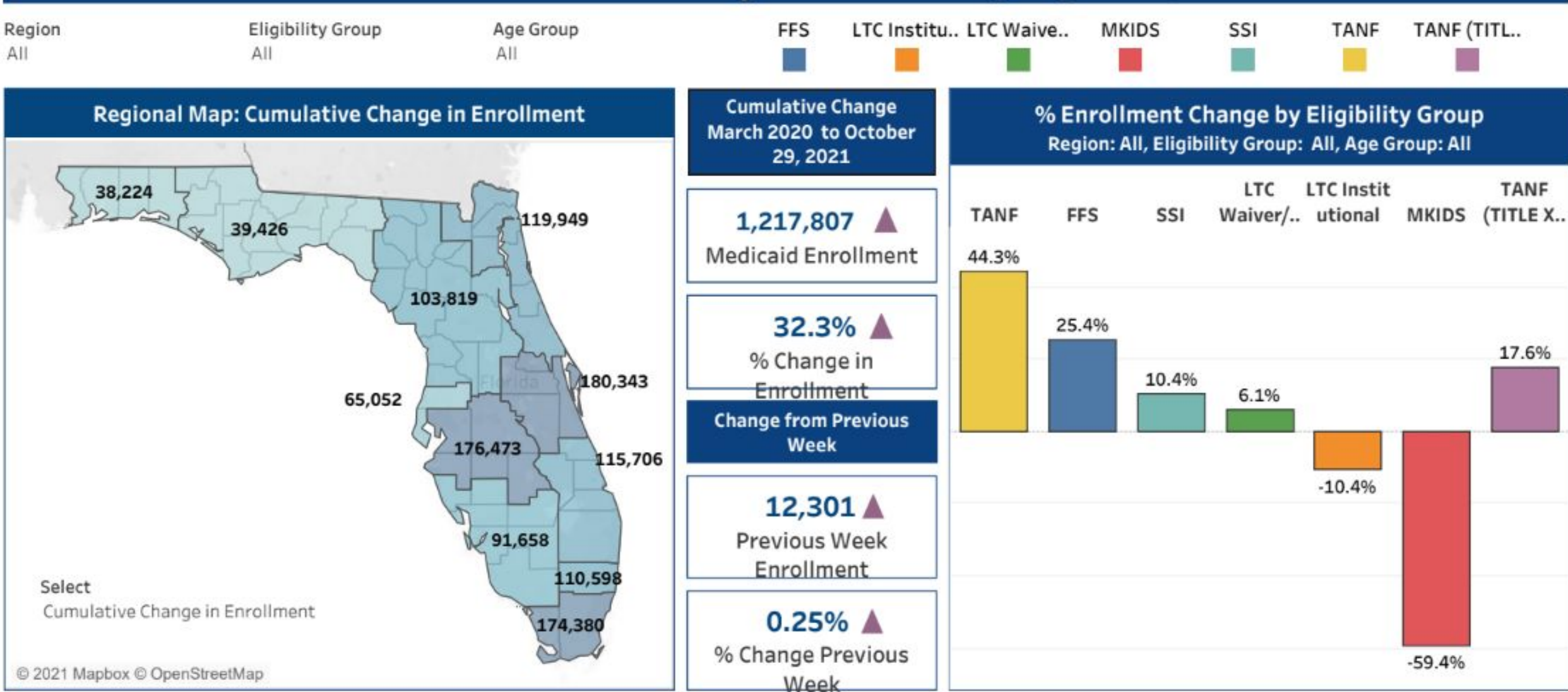
Presentation Overview

- Background on Public Health Emergency (PHE) & extended Medicaid
- Overview of FL's Medicaid program & PHE's impact on enrollment
- Federal Guidance on PHE “unwinding”
- Seniors likely impacted
- DCF actions and notices
- What advocates can do to help clients prepare?

PHE's Protections for Medicaid

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (March 2020)
 - States receive 6.2% increase in federal Medicaid matching funds if they do the following:
 - No new eligibility or enrollment requirements/restrictions
 - No increase in premiums
 - No cost-sharing for treatment/testing for COVID-19
- **No disenrollment during emergency declaration**

Florida Medicaid – Enrollment: March 20, 2020 – October 29, 2021



March 3, 2022 Federal guidance on the “unwinding” continuous coverage

States must comply with 42 C.F.R section 435.916

- Attempt a redetermination without contacting beneficiary.
 - If not possible, provide minimum of 30 days to provide information needed for verification.
- Prior to finding ineligible, must consider all bases for eligibility
- If terminated due to failure to provide verification, must reinstate if individual submits renewal form within 90 days.
- If decision to end coverage, must provide minimum of 10 days advance written notice, including information on fair hearing rights
 - If the beneficiary appeals before the termination date, coverage must continue pending a final hearing decision and the state can recoup if decision is adverse—but stay tuned.

Policy Transmittal

2022 Automated Renewal of Medicaid Only Assistance Groups

- Groups with stable income limited to Social Security or SSI (912,945 assistance groups and 645,884 individuals)
 - MSPs
 - Major SSI-related Medicaid groups
 - Hospice
 - Institutional care
 - Medicaid for Aged or Disabled (MEDS AD)
 - HCBS (Waiver Programs)

Seniors Most Likely Impacted After PHE Ends MEDS-AD

- Aged and disabled who became eligible for Medicare since March 2020
 - Background
 - Example
 - What will happen?
 - Medicare Savings Programs
 - How to prepare

Other Impacted Seniors, cont.

- Medically Needy: People who met share of cost at least once since March 2020.
 - Background
 - Example
 - What will happen?
 - [Medically Needy](#)
 - [Medicare Savings Programs](#)
 - How to prepare

Other Impacted Seniors, continued

- Caregivers (e.g. grandparents) whose income goes up or who are no longer taking care of a minor child
 - [Background /issue](#) -over income
 - [Background/issue](#)–minor child
 - What will happen/how to prepare
- LTC Waiver enrollees
 - Background/issue
 - What will happen/how to prepare

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Notices

Dear Mom Mom

Continuation Letter

The following is information about your eligibility.

Medicaid

Your application for Medicaid dated May 26, 2021 is **approved**. You are eligible for the months listed below:

Name	Jul, 2021
	Ongoing
Mom Mom	Eligible
Dad Dad	Eligible

We have reviewed your Medicaid eligibility and determined you are no longer eligible for Medicaid coverage. To make sure you have Medicaid coverage during the COVID-19 Pandemic Health Emergency we will keep your Medicaid coverage open until the end of the month the federal government determines the emergency is over. You must continue to report any changes in your household circumstances while you remain open so we can redetermine their eligibility based on the most up-to-date information once the health emergency ends.

Other DCF Notices

Pre-PHE Notices will be used when "unwind" begins:

- [Notice of Eligibility Renewal](#)
- [Pending notice](#)
- [Termination notice](#)

Issues:

- Language: focus on "renewal" not "application":
- Interim Contact form: only for subset of SSI
- Overpayment question: *stay tuned*

Potential Problems?

- Insufficient consumer support
- Call center capacity
- Consumers without internet
- Tech issues with online accounts
- Resetting passwords
- Terminations triggered by returned mail
- Changes in the Community Partners program

Navigator Contacts



90 Works

- Cory Brown, cbrown@90works.org, 855-909-6757



Big Bend Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

- Calandra Portalatin, cportalatin@bigbendahec.org, 850-544-1670
- Allison Wiman, awiman@bigbendahec.org, 850-321-7204
- Tracy Melin, tmelin@bigbendahec.org, 850-224-1177



Epilepsy Florida

- Islara Souto, isouto@epilepsyfl.org, 305-496-1243
- Karen Egozi, kegozi@epilepsyfl.org, 305-670-4949
- Judy Clauser, jclauser@epilepsyfl.org, 305-670-4849
- Mario Negron, mnegron@epilepsyfl.org, 954-744-0044



Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida

- Joyce case, joyce_case@hpcnef.org, 904-762-8600
- Cary Quinones, cary_quinones@hpcnef.org, 904-762-5774



Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

- Mokina Castro, mokinacastro@hpcwf.org, 866-547-2793



Primary Care Access Network (PCAN, Covering Central Florida)

- Anne Packham, annepackham2@gmail.com, 407-489-2752
- Rebecca Sayago, rebeccasayago@outlook.com, 407-836-7178



Suwannee River Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

- Sarah Catalanatto, Sarahc@srahec.org, 352-256-7080
- Desiree Salter, dsalter@srahec.org, 386-230-9400



Family Healthcare Foundation

- Michelle Ray, michelle@familyhealthcarefdn.org, 813-777-9901
- Katie Turner, Katie@familyhealthcarefdn.org, 813-995-7005



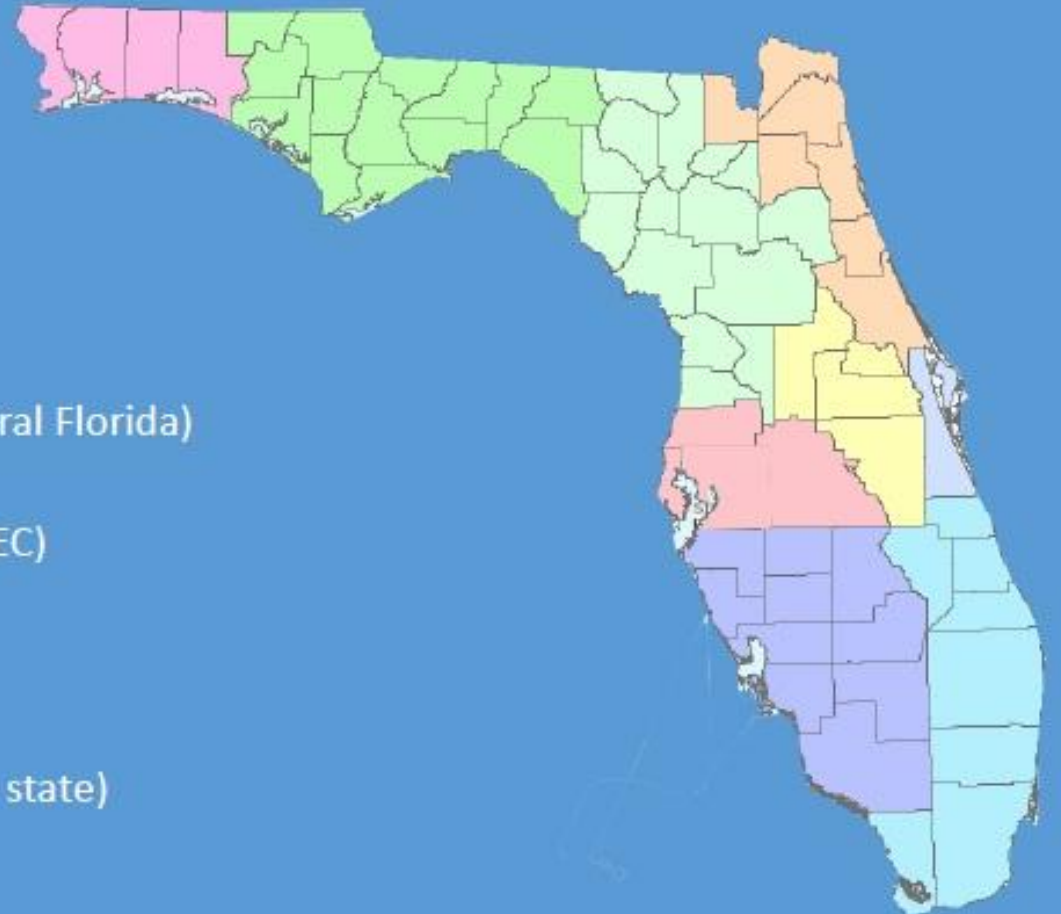
University of South Florida navigators (covers whole state)

- Jodi Ray, jray@usf.edu, 813-974-3143
- Sabrina Watson, sabrinawatson@usf.edu



United Way of Brevard

- Keith Heinley, kheinly@uwbrevard.org, 321-635-8885
- M Bonilla, mbonilla@uwbrevard.org, 321-631-2740



Q & A

For more information or questions, please check our regularly updated PHE page in FHJP's website.

<https://www.floridahealthjustice.org/public-health-emergency.html>

Feel free to contact:

Miriam Harmatz; Harmatz@floridahealthjustice.org

Katy DeBriere; debriere@floridahealthjustice.org