



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER AHCA ADMINISTRATOR NAMED DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU CHIEF

~Ms. Darcy Abbott to lead DOH chronic disease prevention efforts ~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today announced the selection of Ms. Darcy Abbott as Chief of the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention. She assumed her new role Feb. 15, 2013. Ms. Abbott has more than 30 years of experience in public health and social work and most recently spent more than 10 years with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration's Bureau of Medicaid Services.

In her new role, Ms. Abbott will provide oversight and direction for statewide chronic disease prevention and health promotion activities, and will guide the work of the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Comprehensive Cancer Program, Disability and Health Program, Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Programs.

"Ms. Abbott brings a valuable history of practical expertise to this role," said Deputy Secretary for Health Dr. Dennis Cookro. "We are confident in Ms. Abbott's ability to continue the Department's work in chronic disease prevention, which is critical for the health and safety of Floridians."

Ms. Abbott has been a Florida Licensed Clinical Social Worker for more than 20 years. She has a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Rochester Institute of Technology, in Rochester N.Y. She also has a Master of Social Work degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Penn.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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