HIGHLIGHTS: Re-Open Florida Task Force
Executive Committee Conference Call on 4/24/2020

General:
- Submit input and suggestions by emailing: reopenfltaskforce@laspbs.state.fl.us
- Compiling all recommendations, must be submitted by Sunday, April 26th
- Work product will be put together by the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget
- CFO Jimmy Patronis stated that Florida has recently received another $1.7B from the CARES Act

Nursing Homes:
- Leading Age led discussion on nursing homes and long-term care facilities (LTC) on how to re-open.
  - Will consider implementing temperature checks, no community dining, compare recommendations with others across the state, and try to implement isolation units for those who test positive.
- Deploying more technology to help resident connect with family and friends in the hopes of preventing the negative emotional and mental health effects of facing isolation.
- Launched in-room dining, telehealth appointments with physicians, as well as in-house fitness.
- Moving forward they want to prioritize PPE to LTC providers due to the very intimate contact with patients, continue widespread testing of residents and staff with rapid results, and additionally want clear guidance and timelines.
- LTCs are currently working with local hospitals to ensure appropriate transfer protocols
- Concern of liability lawsuits that would result from the COVID-19 outbreak and response
- Reported immense financial impact to nursing homes and LTC facilities.

Professional Health Care Services:
- Regarding renewals of licensure, the Surgeon General can reactivate and make sure health care practitioners and health care facilities are getting approved and renewed.
- Telehealth allows for use of out of state practitioners
- Ensure facilities have reviewed policies and procedures for supplies, visitor protocols, staff training, sick leave policies, full knowledge of symptoms, and etc.
- Implement new processes to include physical distancing or curbside waiting, as well as review cleaning and sanitation procedures.
- Specific to dentists –
  - Statistics show 80% are seeing emergencies
  - 90% are seeing less than 10% of their patients
  - Screening patients and staff before procedures
  - Proper use of PPE
  - Rapid testing
  - Possibly implementing curbside waiting
Re-classified as essential frontline provider as they are limited in purchasing PPE
Open to begin performing elective procedures as early as May 4th and no later than May 8th

Office of Insurance Regulation:
- Asked for pharmacists and pharmacies to work on prescription refills
- Insurers need to update business plans and address workers’ compensation
- Working with facilities to broaden access to telehealth – has been expanded to address mental health issues.
- Business interruption insurance excludes pandemics – retroactive payment could be detrimental to the industry. Will possibly be a legislative issue next Session.
  - Concerns on litigation on retroactive payments on pandemics can negatively affect businesses.
- Planning for 2020 Hurricane season to implement virtual systems for claims; important during an outbreak.
- Concerns include long term impacts of COVID19, emerging risks, and long-term health of insurance industry due to litigation.

Banking Industry:
- Online banking has been beneficial, and banks have adjusted well to social distance banking.
- Florida was 3rd in the nation for approved PPP loans, approximately $18B.

Division of Emergency Management (DEM):
- Preparing for Hurricane season
  - Engaging with utility companies in preparation
  - Sheltering will be much harder this season – Emphasized the need for specific guidelines regarding groups of people
- Constantly working on distributing PPE supplies throughout the state

Education:
- Discussed what the future of the upcoming school year might look like, including higher education and early learning.
- Closing the achievement gap caused from in-class learning to distance learning is of priority.
- Must have specific requirements for social distancing protocol

Small Business:
- Discussed a “one-in, one-out” appointment system for businesses such as barbershops.
- Recommending scheduled sanitation times and proper PPE supplies, with detailed guidelines from the state.
- More than 2,400 small businesses have closed their doors, and many will not be coming back.
• Ramp up time may be needed for re-training employees, hiring new employees, and etc.
• Harder hit communities might not be able to open as quickly as others
• Expecting long-term effects to be detrimental and lasting in rural and underserved areas

Reconvening Large Events:
• CEO of Visit Tampa Bay Santiago Corrada highly recommends a phased re-opening, similar to the plan theme parks have suggested.
• Superbowl 2021 is of main concern for Tampa, as well for the rest of the state.

*You can listen to the conference call here: [https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/4-24-20-re-open-florida-task-force/](https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/4-24-20-re-open-florida-task-force/)

*Resources such as agendas and PowerPoint slides can be found here: [https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/](https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/)