



DATE: August 9, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT: Kimberly Maroe, Public Information Manager

PHONE: 954-357-8053

MEDIA CONTACT: Scott Medvin, Public Information Officer

PHONE: 954-357-6015

## **Broward County Vice Mayor Lois Wexler Given “Community Health Award” by the Florida Health Care Coalition**

Broward County Vice Mayor Lois Wexler will be honored by the Florida Health Care Coalition (FHCC) when they present her with their prestigious Community Health Award at the Second Annual South Florida Conference on August 15, 2007 at Signature Grand in Davie (6900 State Road 84.) The award will be presented during the conference’s luncheon at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Throughout her public service career, Vice Mayor Wexler has championed a number of programs and services that safeguard the health of children and senior citizens in Broward County.

“Health care is a critical issue. I am dedicated to advancing programs and services that not only enhance the health of our residents, but also ensure health care services for those in need,” said Vice Mayor Wexler. “To be recognized for these efforts by the Florida Health Care Coalition is an honor.”

Her accomplishments include the 2007 Elder Services Summit, which was an overwhelming success, with more than 300 people in attendance to discuss issues facing Broward County’s senior population.

Vice Mayor Wexler introduced a prescription drug discount card, now available to all Broward County residents who have no health insurance or are underinsured for prescription drugs. Card holders can save up to 15 percent on most prescription drugs.

Partnering with the FHCC, Vice Mayor Wexler promoted the Paul O’Neill Pledge or “POP” program in Broward County. The “POP” program warned consumers about the dangers of illegible drug prescriptions written by doctors and misinterpreted when filled by pharmacists. It encouraged consumers to accept only prescriptions that they could read.

The Vice Mayor also brought the “Communities for a Lifetime” Initiative to Broward County. The program was created by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, and emphasizes the need for senior citizens to age in place with dignity, security and purpose.

Vice Mayor Wexler currently serves as a member of the Children’s Services Board and is a member of the Aging Alliance whose purpose is to develop solutions to effectively address the multiple needs of older adults who live in Broward County.

She was given the “Champions for Children” award at the 2007 Youth Services Summit and was named the 2007 Elected Official of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-Broward County Chapter.

“We are pleased to honor Vice Mayor Wexler for her service to the community, promotion of quality health care and her strong support of the ongoing efforts of the Florida Health Care Coalition,” said Becky Cherney, CEO/President of the FHCC.

This year’s conference has the theme of Empowering Healthcare: A Look at Consumer, Purchaser and Provider Roles and will feature an extensive exhibit hall and a number of speakers. For more information on the conference or to register, visit the Florida Health Care Coalition’s web site at [www.flhcc.com](http://www.flhcc.com).

# # #