

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OpusCare of South Florida and the FHPCA Team Up to Explore Attitudes about Hospice in Hispanic Community

Miami, FL OpusCare of South Florida, a nonprofit Hospice and Palliative Care organization serving the Miami Dade county community since 1991, has been announced as the recipient of Florida Hospice and Palliative Care Association's (FHPCA) research support grant. This research project will seek to understand the key factors that influence end-of-life decisions in the Hispanic community including beliefs and cultural tendencies, insurance utilization, and referral rates by healthcare professionals.

We are very excited and grateful to the Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association and the FHPCA Research & Development Committee, for awarding OpusCare of South Florida a grant on our Research Application. The research topic will be "Hospice Education and Early Utilization Among Hispanics."

This study will take place in the Fall/Winter of 2017 with the results reported to the FHPCA by October 2017, January and April 2018. The outcomes of this research will be a great benefit for achieving a better understanding among Hispanics of the criteria for program qualification, services provided, developing educational tools and understanding the expectations of patients and families concerning palliative and hospice care services.

The results of the year-long research project will be included in a final report made available by July 2018.

"Again, we thank the Association for incentivizing the research among our affiliates and for the innovative ways of approaching education and community outreach within the communities we serve." Stated Dr. Ismael Roque-Velasco, President & Chief Executive Officer of OpusCare of South Florida.

Hispanics make up 23% of the population in Florida – with Miami-Dade and Broward counties as the epicenter of this community. The participation rate for this culture in hospice care has been historically low. OpusCare plans to identify the factors that lead to general underutilization and hesitancy toward hospice care by Hispanics, with the hopes of better meeting the needs of Hispanic patients and becoming a trusted partner in the community.

"We are proud to award this research grant to OpusCare of South Florida," said Paul Ledford, President & CEO of Florida Hospice and Palliative Care Association. "The changing demographics of the state present an opportunity for our hospice programs to provide compassionate and palliative care to patients from different walks of life. FHPCA is excited to invest in OpusCare's research project and help change the perception of hospice care in the Hispanic community.

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About OpusCare of South Florida:

OpusCare of South Florida is a nonprofit organization serving the Miami Dade county community since 1991. They are dedicated to providing patients and their families excellence in palliative care and support services when faced with a terminal illness. OpusCare provides a customized individual program where “Dignity Care” is their number one priority.

About Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association:

Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association (FHPCA) is a not-for-profit, IRS Section 501(c)(3) organization representing hospice patients and families, hospice professionals and hospice providers. FHPCA strives to assure excellence in, and expand access to, hospice and palliative care, and advocates for the needs of those in the final stages of life.