



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HONORED  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Primary Care Program Selected One of 24  
2010 Model Practice Award Winners*

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will honor the Pinellas County Health Department at its 2010 annual conference on July 14-16 for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need.

Pinellas County's Primary Care Program, called the *Medical Home Model initiative*, is a collaboration with Pinellas County Government. It is one of 24 public health programs developed by a local health department selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award.

The Primary Care *Medical Home Model* initiative is a place for uninsured Pinellas County residents to get primary, non-emergency health care even after regular business hours. Once a patient establishes a "medical home" in one of the partner agencies, he or she receives care without going to an emergency room as a last resort for issues that preventive care can manage. Patients learn to care for medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes through prevention and education.

"Our health professionals care about their patients and we are honored that NACCHO recognized this program as a Model Practice Award winner," said Pinellas County Health Department Director Claude M. Dharamraj, M.D., MPH, FAAP. "What makes this program very innovative is that Pinellas County Health and Human Services Department is our partner and Pinellas County Government funds the initiative."

(more)



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Each innovative project receiving the award was reviewed by a committee of peers (other local health department professionals) and selected from a group of 93 applications. Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practice Awards program has honored initiatives – including programs, resources, and tools – that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns.

Pinellas County's *Medical Home Model* initiative is now part of NACCHO's online, searchable database of successful public health practices. Areas range from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness.

This award puts the Pinellas County Health Department into special company—a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward-thinking, proactive attitude toward protecting and promoting the health of communities across the nation.

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department's services, go to [www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com). For more information about the NACCHO Model Practice Awards, go to [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).

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