



Public Policy Institute of Marion County 2007-2008 Annual Report

Inside the Institute

Karen Rodgers, Executive Director

The **Public Policy Institute of Marion County** has facilitated many successes throughout the past year. Following a six-month study process, the **2008 Study: The Structure of Local Government: What is Best for the Future of Marion County?** will be released to the community in September 2008. Key study recommendations identify best practices for structuring, funding and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of local government.

In September 2007, the **2007 Access to Health Care Study** was released to the community. Major study recommendations outline a plan of action to address the gap between the need for health care and the availability of services, disparities related to primary care and specialty care, the need for additional health care professionals and transparency of patient medical records. The Access to Health Care Planning Organization, a citizen advocacy group, has been established to oversee the implementation of study recommendations.

Last fall, the institute initiated a funding campaign to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization through public, private and corporate sponsorship. While current membership revenue reflects growing support for the organization, additional funding is needed to ensure future sustainability. In an effort to meet funding needs, strengthen community partnerships and encourage citizen involvement in the vision and mission of the organization, the campaign will continue throughout the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

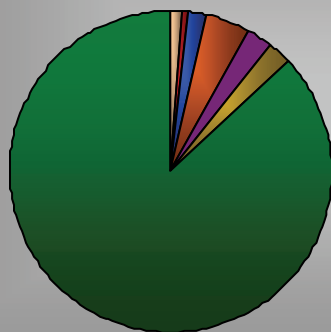
Taking Care of Our Own: 2007-2008 PPI Seminar Series

To provide leadership in identifying recommendations for an improved community, PPI hosted a community conversation last year on the health and well-being of the community. The first session of the seminar series entitled **Taking Care of Our Own: Planning for Future Human Services Needs in Marion County** was held in October 2007 and provided an overview of human services funding needs in Marion County. Keynote speaker and founder of the 4Generations Institute Jack Levine highlighted national, state and local trends associated with human services needs. Seminar panelist presentations included WellFlorida Council Inc., Marion County Children's Alliance, Marion County Senior Services, and the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County. The second session, held in April 2008, entitled **Taking Care of Our Own: Helping Our Vulnerable Children** provided presentations from various perspectives of the public and private sector with a specific focus on identified gaps and needs for providing services to benefit children and families in Marion County. Panelist presentations included **The Magnitude of the Problem**, William D'Aiuto, Circuit 5 Administrator, Department of Children and Families; **The Current System: An Overview**, the Honorable Sue Robbins, Administrative Judge – Family Law Division, Circuit 5 and Cyndi Schuler, President/CEO, Kids Central Inc.; and **The Impact of Society on Levels of Community Participation**, Mark Imes, President/CEO, Independent National Bank.



2007-2008 Funding Campaign Revenue: \$51,750

2007-2008 Membership Revenue: \$ 7,775



- Student
- Individual
- Family
- Supporting
- Steward
- Patron
- Sustaining
- Funding Campaign

Vision

To provide leadership in developing and implementing short-term and long-term solutions for an improved community.

Mission Statement

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF MARION COUNTY



Sustaining the Future of the Public Policy Institute

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County was established to provide leadership in identifying recommendations for an improved community. In a continued effort to encourage effective public dialogue, the institute needs you to remain an active member. Please take the time to renew your membership and to invite new leadership to join the PPI. Your contribution is important for the future of the Institute.

Thank you for your support.

2009 PPI Study Topic Survey

To ensure that Public Policy Institute studies are representative of community concern, each spring PPI conducts a survey of area leaders and organizations and the public at large to seek suggestions for issues to consider. Survey participants provided an answer to the following question: **What is the most critical issue facing Marion County?** The **2009 PPI Study Topic Survey** results are available on the PPI web site. Survey outcomes will be considered by the PPI Board of Directors. The 2009 study topic will be announced in the fall

A Year in Review: Events

2007 Fall Seminar:
Taking Care of Our Own
*Planning for Future Human Services Needs
in Marion County*
October 16, 2007

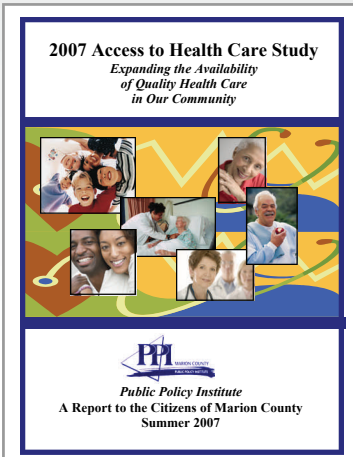
2008 Spring Seminar:
Taking Care of Our Own
Helping Our Vulnerable Children
April 14, 2008



A Year in Review: Studies

2007 Access to Health Care Study:
*Expanding the Availability
of Quality Health Care
in Our Community*

2008 Structure of Local Government Study:
*What is Best for the Future
of Marion County?*



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available online at*
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