



Health Care Regulation Policy Committee

**Tuesday, October 6, 2009
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM
116 Knott Building**

MEETING PACKET

**Larry Cretul
Speaker**

**Nick Thompson
Chair**



House of Representatives

Health Care Regulation Policy Committee

A G E N D A

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- I. Opening Remarks by the Chairman**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Closing Remarks by the Chairman**
- IV. Adjournment**

Holly Benson, J.D.
Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration

Governor Charlie Crist appointed Holly Benson as Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration in February of 2008. He asked her to lead the Agency charged with working for better health care for all Floridians and outlined a bold agenda of finding more affordable insurance for uninsured Floridians and of reducing the regulatory burden placed on health care providers.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary of the Agency, Secretary Benson served as Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation where she and her team worked to improve customer service and to reduce the regulatory burden placed on Florida's businesses and professionals. The Department is responsible for licensing over 1 million Floridians..

Prior to joining Governor Crist's administration, Secretary Benson served the people of Pensacola and Gulf Breeze for six years as their representative in the Florida House. During her tenure in the House, Secretary Benson earned a reputation for successfully tackling tough issues. As Chair of the Select Committee on Article V, she led the successful reorganization of the state procurement system. As Chair of the Committee on State Administration, she updated the state's procurement code. In addition, as Chair of the Health and Families Council she addressed the tough health care access issues that touch the lives of all Floridians.

Secretary Benson is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Florida College of Law. She practiced municipal bond law with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. from 1996 to her appointment as Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation in 2007.

In addition to her service as Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration, she serves on the Florida Council of 100, the Board of Directors for the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science and the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. is Florida's first State Surgeon General and the first woman and Cuban American to serve as head of the Department of Health (DOH). Governor Crist has charged the Surgeon General to act as the state's leading advocate for wellness and disease prevention.

Dr. Viamonte Ros' primary responsibility is to oversee DOH--Florida's largest single clinical enterprise and one of the nation's most comprehensive and complex public health care delivery systems. Approximately 20,000 employees serve in all 67 counties with more than 300 clinical delivery sites. She is committed to making the health care system more user-friendly, promoting healthy habits among Florida's youth, preparing the state for natural and man-made disasters, reducing health disparities, and leading Floridians to better health by example.

In 2007 and 2008, during her first eighteen months in office, the Surgeon General visited all 67 County Health Departments to learn firsthand about the daily operations of Florida's public health services. Her 3 P's Tour—a campaign to raise awareness of prevention, preparedness and personal responsibility—focused on three areas of health that every individual has the power to control and change. Dr. Viamonte Ros toured facilities, met staff and community partners, previewed cutting-edge telemedicine technology, and attended special events such as groundbreakings and health fairs.

Dr. Viamonte Ros is a member of several health advisory groups focused on the health of our state's children, including the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, the Governor's Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Under the Surgeon General's leadership, the Department established three Professional Healthcare Workforce Ad Hoc Advisory Committees to address the growing challenges of health care access for Floridians. The Health Practitioner, Nursing and Oral Healthcare Committees have been evaluating the complex range of health workforce concerns, including public policy, education, regulation and evaluation.

Dr. Viamonte Ros' family fled Cuba in 1960. Having grown up in a family of refugees, she understands the struggles of many Floridians to achieve a higher quality of life. In 1983, the Surgeon General earned her medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine, graduating with several awards and honors. In 2005, Dr. Viamonte Ros received her Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, where she was the recipient of the Gareth Green Award for Excellence in Public Health, the highest student award.

Dr. Viamonte Ros came to DOH from Armor Correctional Health Services, where she oversaw the clinical operations of Florida's eight largest jail systems, as well as three correctional facilities in Virginia. She has also volunteered with programs such as the Camillus House Homeless Initiative in Miami, the Health through Walls Organization in the Caribbean, and the Brookside Community Health Center in Massachusetts. Throughout her entire career, she has been a strong advocate for disadvantaged individuals and minority communities.

She has written several articles concerning HIV care, nursing, mental health and radiology and has received honorary doctorate degrees from Nova Southeastern University and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.