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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2012

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OKALOOSA COUNTY UNVEILS THE COMMUNITY MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- Provided through a partnership of the Okaloosa County Health Department
and Sharing & Caring, Inc of Okaloosa County -

OKALOOSA COUNTY – The Okaloosa County Health Department, in partnership with Sharing & Caring, Inc of Okaloosa County, is proud to announce the launch of the Community Medication Assistance Program (CMAP). CMAP helps people navigate the complex process of accessing medications through pharmaceutical companies' compassionate medication programs. CMAP staff members help people determine if they meet the income guidelines to qualify for prescription assistance and facilitate completing and submitting the correct forms to request medications to fill a valid prescription. Ultimately, CMAP assists people (who do not have prescription drug coverage) get prescription medicines at no or very low cost.

“The CMAP partnership will provide medication access to persons in our community who are otherwise unable to get them, improving community health outcomes,” said Dr. Venita Morell, Okaloosa County Health Department Medical Director.

CMAP came to fruition as a result of the Homeless Community Deliberation Summit/Series (organized by the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce). These meetings included community members and representatives from several local businesses. The focus is to end homelessness in Okaloosa one life at a time. Out of these meetings, a significant community health care need was identified that impacted more than just the homeless – but also the underinsured and uninsured residents, so that they can access lifesaving prescription medication. Many physicians graciously volunteer their time to see underinsured and uninsured residents, but many times the patient is unable to get the medication the doctor has ordered. As a result, the CMAP partnership set sail to serve all Okaloosa residents.

Three Sharing & Caring, Inc sites became program offices for the CMAP in January 2012, ensuring access to help in applying for medication assistance for Okaloosa residents in the north, central, and south end of the county. This program is funded by the Agency for Health Care Administration's Low Income Pool (LIP) funds, awarded to the Okaloosa County Health Department. By partnering with Sharing & Caring, Inc, a well-established community resource, and leveraging their proven success in assisting our local residents with securing medication and other basic human needs, the health department wants to expand access to lifesaving medications to all residents – not just the patients of the health department.

To learn more about CMAP, please visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com/CMAP. For information on the Homeless Committee Deliberation Series/Summit, HOMES (Housing Okaloosans Makes Economic Sense), or the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber, please visit www.fwbchamber.org.

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