



*Crowne Consulting Group*

## *Press Release*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **WORKSITE HEALTH CENTER POSITIONS CITY GOVERNMENT TO CUT COSTS WHILE INCREASING EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY** *Crowne Consulting Group helps City of Ocala mitigate risks to reduce healthcare costs*

Sept. 27, 2011 (Ocoee, Fla.) – [Crowne Consulting Group, Inc.](#), an employee benefits consulting firm specializing in onsite health and wellness centers in Florida, reports that an onsite health center has helped the [City of Ocala](#) gain control of its healthcare costs.

The Crowne Consulting Group collaborates with Tennessee-based [CareHere, LLC](#) to operate 23 centers throughout Florida. Third-party operators ensure that employee medical services remain confidential and HIPAA compliant.

Prior to hiring Crowne and CareHere to operate its health center in April 2009, the City of Ocala faced annual premium increases of 15-27 percent. The city's total healthcare spend has now leveled out to approximately 3.7 percent yearly increases, thus, defying the nation's average 12 percent annual rise in health costs.

"We've been able to save tax payer dollars and flatten the cost trend by assessing risks early and having a healthier, more productive workforce," said Jared Sorensen, director of HR and risk management for the city. "There is also ease in getting to the clinic, and the staff provides friendly, quick, efficient care."

Approximately 90 percent of the city's 880 eligible employees utilized the free clinic in the last year for services including primary care, screenings, chronic disease management, X-rays, wellness programs, and occupational services. Employees pay zero copays and no deductibles.

"There are free generic prescriptions available onsite to meet employee's needs without them having to wait in line somewhere else," said Sorensen.

Buying prescriptions at wholesale costs helped the city, which is self-funded, cut its prescription costs 15 percent since opening the onsite center.

Employees also have access to free health risk assessments, which include lab work and an evaluation of health factors including cholesterol, blood sugar, liver function, and blood pressure.

"Assessments, wellness initiatives, exercise coaches, dieticians, and smoking cessation programs inspire healthy lifestyles and help us avoid higher cost claims," said Sorensen. "As for risk management, the clinic is also our first line of contact for workers' compensation claims."

#### **About Crowne Consulting Group, Inc:**

Crowne Consulting Group, Inc., founded in 1986, consults and provides administrative oversight services for onsite health and wellness centers to employers and is a related company with The Crowne Group, an employee benefits consulting firm, specializing in employer solutions and personal lines of insurance. Crowne's experts have a cumulative 100 years of experience in serving public sector employers such as school boards, city and county government, as well as private organizations. The firm's mission is to bring innovative solutions that meet the fiscal responsibility of employers and maximizes investments. Solutions for consumer-driven plans include health reimbursement arrangements, self-funded plans, onsite health and wellness centers, as well as risk management and human resources consulting.

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