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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Florida Department of Health Celebrate Falls Prevention Awareness Day, Host Education Events

~ Coordinated nationwide events mark the 10th anniversary of Falls Prevention Awareness Day ~

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs will jointly recognize Falls Prevention Awareness Day on September 22 – the first day of Fall. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. In efforts to increase public awareness and reduce and prevent falls, DOH and DOEA are also partnering with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and the Falls Free® Coalition. The coordinated Ten Years Standing Together to Prevent Falls anniversary celebrations bring together older adults and their loved ones, health and aging professionals, and community leaders in support of falls prevention.

“Falls pose one of the biggest threats to elders in Florida, and there is so much we can do to reduce the risk,” said Elder Affairs Secretary Jeffrey Bragg. “The key to falls prevention is to understand the problem and to acknowledge the steps we can take to keep our seniors safe.”

Across the state, partners are also hosting classes and seminars, performing thousands of falls risk screenings, and educating older adults about evidence-based falls programs. These statewide events will empower older adults to stay active, independent, and safe in their homes and communities. “Falls prevention education can be life-changing, not just for the older adults that participate in these events but for their loved ones and even our community,” said Jasmine Hulin, Falls Prevention Coordinator of Florida Department of Health’s Violence and Injury Prevention Program. “We are proud to support Falls Prevention Awareness Day efforts as part of our year-round commitment to supporting older adults in Florida.”

DOH and DOEA are hosting the following two online webinars – click below to register.

Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM: “How to Prevent Falls for Older Adults & Caregivers”
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8767491811091256067>

Friday, September 29, 2017 at 9:00 AM: “STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, & Injuries) Tool Kit Implementation for Health Care Providers”
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3167920983408592130>

In addition to the DOH and DOEA events, NCOA is celebrating the 10th anniversary of Falls Prevention Awareness Day with a national photo and video contest and a Facebook Live event on September 22. “Falls prevention is a team effort that takes a balance of education, intervention, and community support,” said Kathleen Cameron, Senior Director of NCOA’s National Falls Prevention Resource Center. “This annual coordinated celebration is an opportunity to look at the world around us, be aware of falls hazards, and take action to stay safe from falls.”

To find out more about Falls Prevention Awareness Day, and NOCA's work to prevent falls, visit www.ncoa.org/FallsPrevention.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

About the Violence & Injury Prevention Program

The Florida Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) seeks to prevent and reduce intentional and unintentional injuries and deaths to create a healthy and safe Florida. For more information, call 850-245-4455 or visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/injury-prevention/index.html>.

About the National Council on Aging

The National Council on Aging is a respected national leader and trusted partner to help people aged 60+ meet the challenges of aging. Our mission is to improve the lives of millions of older adults, especially those who are struggling. Through innovative community programs and services, online help, and advocacy, NCOA is partnering with nonprofit organizations, government, and business to improve the health and economic security of 10 million older adults by 2020. Learn more at ncoa.org and @NCOAging.

About the Falls Free® Initiative

Led by the National Council on Aging, the Falls Free® Initiative includes 43 states and 70 national organizations, professional associations, and federal agencies working collaboratively to bring education, awareness, and evidence-based solutions to local communities. Falls Free® seeks to provide hundreds of thousands of older Americans with the resources and education needed to reduce their risk of injury. For more information, visit: www.ncoa.org/FallsFreeInitiative. Use #FPAD17 to join the conversation on social media.

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The Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. For more information, please visit elderaffairs.org