

2017 SPRING NEWSLETTER

BRHPC

Connecting Education, Research, Technology & Service with Community Need.

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT

See if you can qualify for 2017 health coverage (Pg.4)

SAFE STREETS SUMMIT

Complete Street Community Award acknowledges BRHPC (Pg.7)

CHILDCARE PROVIDER MAP

Learn how you can access this new feature online (Pg.17)

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President and CEO**

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Letter From CEO



Spring is an active time of the year for legislative activities both in the Florida Legislature and the U.S. Congress. The replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been tabled (for now) due to a lack of support by the Democrats and some Republicans in the US House of Representatives. The proposed bill (the American Health Care Act) was projected to eliminate health insurance for 24 million Americans and reduce subsidies/tax credits especially for older and lower income individuals.

Congress' replacement bill was also an attempt to dramatically change the Medicaid program. It transitioned federal Medicaid funding to a per-capita cap basis by 2020 which limits the growth of Medicaid by the states as demand or costs increase. Capped

funding would also be very risky for Florida Medicaid providers. Given that Florida Medicaid rates, which are in the bottom quarter as compared to other states, would be locked into current levels, which may result in further cuts over time. For hospitals that serve a large number of both Medicaid and uninsured patients, this is particularly problematic. I am sure this is not the last attempt to replace the ACA – stay tuned!

On the state legislative front, it is expected that there will be a 10% cut in the low income pool (LIP) and disproportionate share hospital (DSH) funds with approximately \$547 million to be distributed to participating Florida safety net hospitals. It appears that Broward Hospitals should be receiving most of their approx. \$128 million in LIP and most of their \$17 million in DSH.

Letter From CEO

BRHPC is continuing to improve the process of enrolling children to School Readiness & Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs. We are pleased to announce the new interactive, parent-friendly, for VPK or School Readiness families to find a participating child care provider near their home or job. Go to Browardchildcare.org for more information.

I am honored to announce that BRHPC won the Publix Community Choice Award at this years 2-1-1 Broward 7th Annual Community Care Plan Non-Profit Awards. A big congratulations to all nominees and winners at this event.



Follow the BRHPC Health Blog for daily news, tips, and updates!

www.BRHPC.org/health-blog

Affordable Care Act Navigator Program (ACA)

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council's ACA Navigators Program and its partners wrapped up the 2016-2017 ACA open enrollment season with 2,047 consumers assisted with an application and 766 enrolling in a plan.

The program is now in the Special Enrollment Period (SEP), a time when consumers can select a plan only if they experience a life changing event. Life changing events include having or adopting a child, getting married, losing other qualifying health coverage (coverage from a job, Medicaid/CHIP, COBRA, etc), and moving to a new location that offers different plan issuers. There are other situations for which an individual can qualify for the Special Enrollment Period, a certified Navigator is available to assist with the application process and/or answer any additional questions you may have. Please call 954-561-9681 for more information.

Navigator Spotlight

Kazim graduated from Dillard High School Technology Magnet Program and currently attends Broward College pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. His goal is to further his education with a Master of Accounting at Florida International University.

Kazim joined the BRHPC team in 2014 as a Certified Application Counselor (CAC). In this role, he provided application assistance through the Health Insurance Marketplace (HIM) for the uninsured and returning enrollees. He was later promoted to lead CAC. With skills in outreach and education, Kazim transitioned to the Navigator program in 2015, where he would continue promoting access to health insurance by providing health insurance literacy, coverage to care education and HIM application assistance to the uninsured, newly insured and returning enrollees. In the next five years, Kazim wishes to utilize the skills and experiences he has gained at BRHPC as a CPA with his own accounting firm.



Affordable Care Act Navigator Program (ACA) Continued

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a special enrollment period (SEP)?

A period in which an individual can enroll in or switch health plans outside of the open enrollment period.

2. Can anyone enroll during SEP?

No, a SEP is triggered by specific life events such as getting married, having or adopting a child, losing qualifying health coverage, gaining eligible immigration status or citizenship, an error with your application and more. A certified Navigator can help you determine if you will qualify.

3. How long do I have to take action after a life changing event happens to me?

Usually within 60 days of the event. Take action as soon as you can, but call us today at 954-561-9681, and we can help you.

4. Can my whole family apply if I am granted a SEP?

Generally, the SEP applies to the entire family even if only one person has a triggering event.

5. What if I don't have a Health Insurance Marketplace account already?

You may still be able to shop for a plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Losing other health coverage, having a baby or getting married are some of the triggers that will allow you to enroll with a brand new account. Call us to learn more about additional criteria for enrollment eligibility at (954) 561-9681.

6. What if I already selected a plan in the Marketplace and just need to update my personal information, can I do that without messing up my current coverage?

You can update your address, income, legal status information and more without affecting your coverage. Note: Changes to your income may affect your tax credit amount.

Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP)

Ryan White Part A Services

Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. (BRHPC), provides insurance support services to qualified Ryan White Part A-clients. The program provides insurance premium assistance for pre-approved Marketplace plans as well as copay and deductible assistance.

HICP services during open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Ryan White Part A Clients

Open Enrollment for ACA began November 1, 2016 and ended January 31, 2017. Clients enrolled in Ryan White Part A and who met program criteria were enrolled into a health insurance policy of their choice.

During open enrollment, clients were able to choose from over 20 health insurance plans that cover medical appointments, pharmacy, laboratory, and other comprehensive health services.

Clients currently enrolled in an approved ACA plan and clients who recently enrolled may have co-payments, co-insurance, deductible and financial assistance through HICP at Broward Regional Health Planning Council. This program has assisted many lower income clients by maintaining their health insurance coverage.

For more information call

954-566-1417 x 1275 or 1220

954-561-9681 x 1275 or 1220

Transforming Our Community's Health (TOUCH)

Safe Streets Summit

The Safe Streets Summit is South Florida's premier Complete Streets education event and is aimed at giving people the training and skills needed to implement Complete Streets in their communities. Transportation planners, elected officials, Complete Streets advocates and community members all gathered for the 4th Annual Safe Streets Summit to elevate their efforts on how to design safe transportation facilities for all modes of transportation including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists of all ages and abilities. Starting with 2017's Summit, this conference became a collaborative effort between Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organizations emphasizing the connectedness of Florida's three most populated counties.



Local Complete Streets individual and community county champions from each county were honored with the Safe Streets Award. This award affords an opportunity to highlight jurisdictions that have led BRHPC, a recipient of the 2017 Safe Streets Award, for their leadership role in Broward County's Complete Streets project. Through intensive partnership, funding, and leadership, BRHPC assured that the Broward Complete Streets Guidelines had the needed support for creation and adoption in July 2012. The agency continues to convene dozens of non-traditional Complete Streets partners who play a vital role in the equitable and sustainable implementation of Complete Streets throughout Broward. BRHPC has established five Healthy Community Zones and provided technical assistance to foster Complete Streets in areas of great need such as, Broward County Municipal Services District, Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, Sistrunk Corridor and Lauderdale Lakes.

Transforming Our Community's Health (TOUCH) Continued

Broward County Public Schools & TOUCH

Over 30 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In Broward County alone, nearly 62% of students are enrolled in the NSLP. To be successful in school, it is important to receive a healthy and balanced meal. The Smarter Lunchroom movement was first established in 2009 by Cornell University's Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition (BEN Center). The low to no cost idea identifies areas for opportunity in increasing school lunch participation while also decreasing plate waste. The notion is that little changes in school cafeterias encourage students to choose healthy, nutrient dense foods.



Recognizing the importance of healthy school meals, in November of 2016, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) adopted implementation of the Smarter Lunchroom movement concept. Concepts of the Smarter Lunchroom Movement include focusing on fruits, increasing sales of reimbursable meals, promoting vegetables and salads, creating school synergies by displaying posters of healthy foods, making white milk more available and promoting an entree of the day. Our schools offer fruit with each meal served and there is a daily featured salad, including vegan salads for those who refrain from the consumption of meat.

Staff from BCPS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) were invited to participate in the three-session course, where 10 CEU's (continuing education points) were given. The first session was an Initiative Introduction given by Beth Owens from University of Florida's Family Nutrition Program. The second session was a hands-on demonstration with celebrity chef Rudy Poindexter where staff learned healthy food preparation techniques. During the final session, BCPS FNS staff had the opportunity to present their smarter lunchroom concepts and review how it has changed and improved student eating behaviors.

Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED)

Ryan White Part A Services

Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc., provides Centralized Intake and Eligibility for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Broward County. The program provides a single entry point of service and assistance with applications and referrals to third party benefits and community services to all eligible Broward County residents.

Ryan White Part A CIED Team attended a Benefits Support Services Training to enhance their knowledge and skills about Ryan White Part A programs in Broward County. During the training each CIED Specialist had the opportunity to gain information about improving fundamental skills when assisting clients to ensure they receive assistance with health insurance, disability, income and other benefits in which clients may qualify. The CIED Team participated in solo and group work and learned about additional resources available for clients in Broward County.



Centralized Intake Eligibility Determination (CIED) Continued

CIED Main Office

Broward Regional Health Planning Council
200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100, Hollywood, 33021
954-566-1417

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

6405 N Federal Highway, #205, Ft Laud 33308
954-722-2411
Tuesday-Friday 8:30-5:00

AIDS Healthcare Foundation Oakland Park

HCC

1164 E Oakland Park Blvd, Oakland Park 33334
954-561-6900

AIDS Healthcare Foundation River Plaza

954-767-0887

Broward Community & Family Health

168 N Powerline Rd, Pompano 33069
954-970-8805
Monday 8:30-5:00 pm Tuesdays 10:00-6:30 pm

Florida Department of Health in Broward

County

Paul Hughes Health Center
205 NW 6th Avenue, Pompano 33060
954-566-1417

Florida Department of Health in Broward

County

State Road 84
780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale
954-467-4700

Broward Health

Comprehensive Care Center
1101 NW 1st Street, Fort Lauderdale 33311
954-467-0880

Specialty Care Center

1111 W. Broward Blvd, Ft Laud 33311

Broward House

Wilton Manors Client Service Center
2800 Andrews Ave, Wilton Manors 33311

Care Resource

871 W Oakland Park Blvd, Ft Laud 33311
954-567-7141

Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center

Comprehensive Family AIDS Program
1401 S Federal Highway, Ft Laud 33316
954-728-1088

Memorial Healthcare System

Memorial Primary Care Center – Dania
1150 N 35th Avenue, Hollywood 33021
954-265-8412

Poverello: Friends Fitness Center

2200 NE 12th Ave. Wilton Manors 33305
954-561-3663

Healthy Families Broward

On March 18, 2017, Healthy Families Broward held its annual graduation ceremony at Franklin Park in Fort Lauderdale. A total of 75 participants proudly walked in the graduation ceremony as their final step in their journey in the Healthy Families program.

These families successfully completed the in-home parenting education program offered by Broward Regional Health Planning Council and its partners, which include Kids Inc., Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Memorial Healthcare System and Broward Health. The graduation event is designed to honor mothers and fathers for taking such a positive and active role in the growth and development of their sons and daughters. Their completion of the Healthy Families program is evidence of the commitment they made to embrace positive parent-child interaction throughout the lives of their children. It is also a celebration of the knowledge gained towards achieving the goals they have set forth, while challenging themselves to be self-sufficient, utilize community resources, and live free of abuse and neglect. During the Healthy Families graduation ceremony, families proudly dressed in pristine white caps and gowns to collect a certificate as a reminder of the investment they made into their family's well-being. It is our hope that all graduates will be able to encourage others within the community to also embrace positive parenting and create healthy environments for children to thrive.



Healthy Families Broward Continued

Funded by Ounce of Prevention, Children's Services Council, United Way of Broward County and AD Henderson Foundation, the Healthy Families Broward program serves approximately 600 families in 13 zip codes in Broward County.

We sincerely thank the Children's Services Council of Broward and Neighbors 4 Neighbors who provided a videographer to capture the event. We also give a special thank you to Valeria Wolberg of Broward County Parks and Recreation and Franklin Park for providing us with this incredible facility. BRHPC sincerely thanks all of the Healthy Families staff members for their dedication in making this event special for all attendees.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Since inception, the goal of the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Broward County has been to help first-time mothers reach their highest potential as parents by promoting healthy habits during pregnancy, fostering positive parent-child interaction and supporting economic self-sufficiency. This past February, Broward Nurse-Family Partnership participants were selected to be included in the Nurse-Family Partnership's National Service Office #MomLove Campaign which emphasized what participants loved the most about being a first-time mom.



Nurse Family Partnership Continued

We proudly serve 97 mothers and 83 infants and we truly look forward to continuing to work with these families. Nurse Family Partnership works to reduce the risk of pre-term labor and delivery, reduce infant mortality rate, promote breastfeeding and improve the rate of prenatal care. To qualify for the program and all of its benefits, a woman must: (1) be less than 28 weeks pregnant, (2) have no previous live births, (3) be low-income and (4) live in one of the following Broward County zip codes: 33024, 33025, 33023, 33319, 33313, 33311, 33069, 33060 or 33064.



The Broward Nurse-Family Partnership services are delivered through a partnership between BRHPC and the two hospital districts in Broward: Memorial Healthcare System and Broward Health. Each hospital district directly employs two home visiting nurses who are certified and report to a nurse supervisor employed by BRHPC. The participants are screened for program eligibility through collaboration with the Broward Healthy Start Coalition and its funded providers. Nurse Family Partnership also works in close collaboration with other community providers to receive eligible participants. The program is supported through Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative (MIECHV) funds which are administered by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions. For more information, please contact Manoucheka Chery, NFP Nurse Supervisor, mchery@brhpc.org.

School Readiness/VPK

Broward Regional Health Planning Council provides School Readiness & Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten services. BRHPC and Blue Jean Software have created and implemented the on-line **Redetermination Portal** that allows families to access the child care application, wait list, upload required documentation through the use of their cell phone and submit the application for review by BRHPC eligibility specialists. Currently, there have been approximately 23,398 entries in the Redetermination Portal.

The Referral Portal was created to assist referring Providers with a streamlined referral application that can be completed and submitted online, viewing capabilities that reflect the status of the application and completion updates that provide the completion date and childcare provider selected. Once the Referral is completed a Referral Invitation number is created and this can be used to begin the application process in the Redetermination Portal. The ability for two systems to “speak” to one another assists in streamlining application time for parents, staff time and accuracy of information. There are currently 4,216 entries in the Referral Portal.

Funding has become available to open the wait list and enroll approximately 350 children into Childcare. **A Parent Waiting List** has been added to the on-line eligibility system and correspondence has been sent via email and regular mail with an invitation number. The invitation number is used to access the Redetermination Portal and assistance is available through 2-1-1 Broward as well as the eligibility team at Broward Regional Health Planning Council. Funding is limited and placement into services is dependent on the availability of these funds.

Child Care Assistance & Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)
www.BrowardChildCare.org
Financial Assistance For Eligible Low-Income Families & Free VPK

BRHPC is excited to announce our new program, which provide Eligibility, Enrollment & Fiscal Administration for the School Readiness, Child Care Executive Partnership, Voluntary Pre-K & Financially Assisted Child Care contracts.

Logos at the bottom include: Broward County, Office of Early Learning, Broward.org, Children's Services, and LIVE UNITED Broward.

School Readiness/VPK Continued

Families with low incomes in Florida who are seeking employment or training to work, may be eligible for School Readiness help. *The School Readiness Program* offers financial assistance to low-income families for early child education and care so families can become financially self-sufficient and their young children can be successful in school in the future. Services vary based on individual need and range from part time care to full time care and even extended care in some instances.

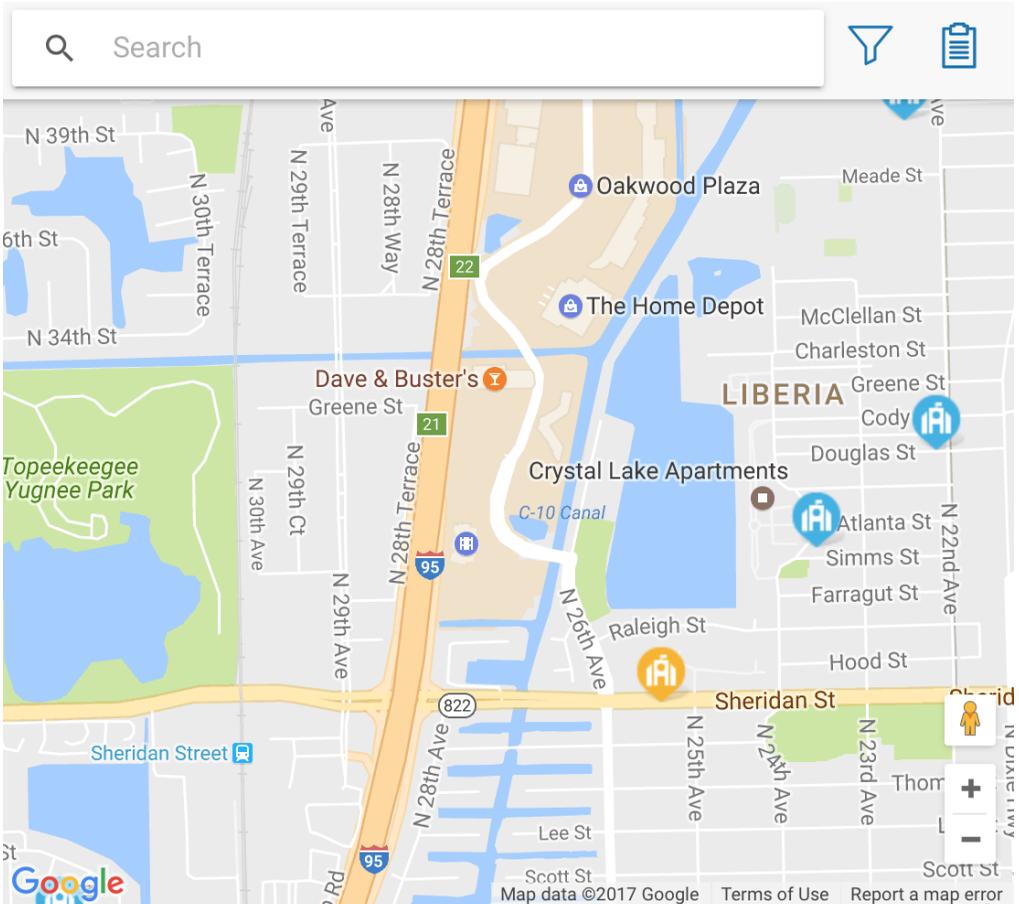
The program takes into account a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development; involves parents as their child's first teacher; prepares children to be ready for school; and gives parents information about child development and other topics of interest. School readiness programs provide developmental screenings for children and referrals to health and educational specialists.

Florida's *Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program* or *VPK* is a free educational program that prepares 4-year-olds for kindergarten and beyond. Children must live in Florida and be 4 on or before September 1 of the school year they enroll. Parents can choose from private child care centers or public schools and school-year or summer programs. Parents of 4-year-olds with special needs have an option outside the classroom setting – VPK Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS).

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services help families locate quality child care and early education programs. Trained specialists offer information about local child care options and develop customized lists of child care providers based on each family's specific child care needs. Financial assistance strategies and referrals to other community resources and programs are also available. You can also call Broward's CCR&R provider, **211-Broward** by dialing **954-537-0211**.

Vanessa Oratien: "I am grateful for the opportunity to work for an organization that provides imperative health services to Broward county residents."

School Readiness/VPK Continued



To view child care providers in your area, please enter your zip code and the provider locations will be displayed on the map for your review. Additional information about the childcare provider is available once you click on the provider location of choice. Child care providers who are Gold Seal accredited will appear in gold. If you require additional assistance with your selection, please dial 211 directly.

To access the map, please visit: www.Browardchildcare.org.

HOPWA



The Housing Assistance program at Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc., provides services to the community under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program.

The team has been working diligently assisting our clients in helping to prevent homelessness. The Housing Assistance program assisted 226 unduplicated clients between October 2016 and February 2017 with

over \$166,902 expended for short-term rent, mortgage, utility assistance and permanent housing placement of first and last months' rent.

A recent success story:

The client came to the office in need of assistance to move. Client's landlord refuses to make any repairs to client's apartment to accommodate the client. The client was referred to Legal Aid to sort out the issue with his landlord. The client and the landlord were not able to resolve the issue. Client found another property to move into because the landlord had threatened the client with eviction. The client's application was reviewed immediately to prevent the client from being homeless. The client was given a hotel voucher while waiting for the property inspection. The client called to thank Reviewer and her Supervisor who expedited the process. The client told reviewer, "You always find a way to guide me."

As we enter the second quarter of the current fiscal year, the HOPWA team is looking forward to another successful year assisting persons living with HIV/AIDS in our community to prevent and end homelessness.

Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program



The Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program (TBRV) inspires our clients to work on their personal goals and educate them to increase self-sufficiency through financial literacy workshops.

The TBRV program takes great measures to ensure that all our clients are living in safe, sanitary housing conditions and in compliance with HUD guidelines. Our aim is to personalize each case by prioritizing and supporting each

clients' physical, emotional and financial needs.

Once again we are proud to announce that three of our clients successfully achieved self-sufficiency between January 1, 2017, and March 31, 2017. Our program is currently serving 108 clients and we are looking forward to opening the waiting list for additional clients that are in need of the TBRV program benefits.

The TBRV program welcomes Ms. Viviana Caceres as a Housing Specialist. Ms. Viviana has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, she's very passionate about working with our clients and is a great addition to our team.

If you would like more information on the upcoming financial literacy workshops please contact Rhode Rosulme-Rock, QA skills Development Coordinator at Rock@brhpc.org

HIV Planning Council & Clinical Quality Management

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Speakers at the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event held at the Megaphone on February 7, 2017. © Megaphone

On February 7th, the HIVPC's Community Empowerment Committee (CEC) took part in a community gathering in recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The outreach event took place at the Megaphone in Fort Lauderdale and featured speakers from the public sharing stories about how HIV/AIDS impacted their own lives and those around them. Community members also participated by taking CEC's outreach survey. Respondents showed an understanding of HIV/AIDS and provided necessary insight into the types of education and trainings needed in order to both educate and empower members of the community. The survey results were reviewed and will be used in preparing community engagement activities. Members of the committee expressed how much they enjoyed interacting with and engaging the community.

Training Days

Over the course of two days, case managers, disease case managers, quality management staff, and other stakeholders from Broward's Ryan White Part A system engaged in training facilitated by Julia Hidalgo, ScD, MSW, MPH of Positive Outcomes, Inc. on the topics of Disease Case Management (DCM) and Benefits Support Services (BSS). The BSS training provided an interactive forum of foundational learning and encouraged professional growth for providers. DCM training providers engaged in discussions about challenges and opportunities faced during the initial DCM implementation and opportunities for service delivery improvement.

HIV Planning Council & Clinical Quality Management Continued

Staff received a great deal of positive feedback from providers and are looking forward to future trainings for Ryan White Part A providers during the course of the year.

Planning Council Guest Speaker

On February 23rd the HIV Planning Council held its monthly meeting with special guest speaker Laura Reeves. Ms. Reeves, the Section Administrator of the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Florida Department of Health, gave council members and interested parties an overview of the state's 2015 HIV epidemiology trends. She noted that Broward and Miami-Dade were the 2 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) with the highest new infections in the US. The Orange County MSA was ranked #3.

The Department of Health's goal is to eliminate new HIV infections and reduce AIDS related deaths. She discussed the HIV Continuum of Care, and compared the continuums of Florida, West Palm, Broward and Miami, noting that the Broward continuum has higher viral load suppression and retention in care measures than its neighbors and the state. Ms. Reeves detailed Florida's Plan to Eliminate HIV Transmission and Reduce HIV-Related Deaths. Strategies include routinized HIV testing in urgent care and hospital settings, focusing on the change from the "informed consent" to the "opt out" HIV testing policy. Ms. Reeves highlighted the need to leverage and prioritize resources in order to meet the needs of the 111,000 people living with HIV in Florida.



Laura Reeves, Section Administrator of the HIV/AIDS Bureau in the Florida Department of Health, giving a presentation at the HIV Planning Council meeting on February 23, 2017.

Point-in-Time (PIT)



The 2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Count was a huge success! This year, there were over 300 volunteers, including over 100 law enforcement officers representing 13 agencies throughout Broward County. Beginning on the evening of Tuesday, January 24 through Thursday, January 26, volunteers canvassed known encampment locations and areas

frequented by individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to the hard work of four committees, multiple community partners and hundreds of volunteers, over 1,300 surveys were collected during a 29-hour period. A detailed report with a breakdown of Broward's sheltered and unsheltered populations will be presented mid-summer 2017.



Volunteers pose for a picture before departing for their shift at the central headquarters in Fort Lauderdale.

Please contact Shira Fowlkes at sfowlkes@brhpc.org or visit www.browardpointintime.org for more information.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

On January 24, 2017 the SSVF Team collaborated with other volunteers to complete Broward County's Annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count.

On what is traditionally the coldest day of the year, nationally, PIT Count Volunteers surveyed the homeless population in Broward County. From 6am to 10pm they identified the unsheltered, gathered demographic information and barriers to housing and documented the lifestyle of an individual experiencing homelessness. The survey, also captured experiences of the sheltered homeless to obtain additional funding based on the needs identified.

This year two Veterans identified during the count were connected to services and will soon be on their way to being housed. One of the Veterans, formerly serving in the U.S. Army stated, "I had no idea you all had help for someone like me."

If you are a Veteran experiencing homelessness in Broward County, please call 954-563-HELP (4357) to reach the Homeless Hotline.



Pictured (left to right) Carolyn Washington-Hicks, Giselle Williams, Lisa Besley, Kierra Chestnut, Natasha Hedrington, Avril Williams



Pictured: Lisa Besley, SSVF Case Manager (BRHPC) surveying a citizen experiencing homelessness.



Substance Abused and Mental Health

The Mental Health Court was created as a problem solving court specializing in offenses committed by people with mental illnesses. Its emergence came as a response to the large number of offenders in need of mental health services. As of January 2017, the state of Florida has 27 Mental Health courts operating in 16 Judicial circuits.



The goals of this court are to improve the quality of life of people with mental illness (who repeatedly get in trouble with the law) by increasing their participation in effective treatment; provide alternatives to incarceration, improve public safety by reducing criminal recidivism; and reduce court and corrections related costs. Community Mental Health agencies and various Diversion Programs work in tandem with Mental Health Courts to achieve these goals.

Since 2003, Broward Regional Health Planning Council has been the lead community agency that has served in this court. The Court handles cases from the criminal court, returns from hospitals (competency restored or not restored), downward departures, status hearings (mental health probation or conditional releases), Incompetent to Proceed clients for forensic hospitals, and Incompetent to Proceed clients not meeting hospital criteria. BRHPC would like to recognize Richard Louis who has served our Mental Health Court Clients for over 13 years. Richard stands tall, not only in stature, but in the eyes of the judges and other court personnel who respect him for his knowledge about clients, and community resources (available treatment programs, available housing and truthful reports about facilities where clients are served). Clients look to Richard for advocacy and support while providers of services from the community depend on him to represent their clients if they are not able to be in court. He spends time in court four days per week and serves an average of about one hundred and forty clients per day.

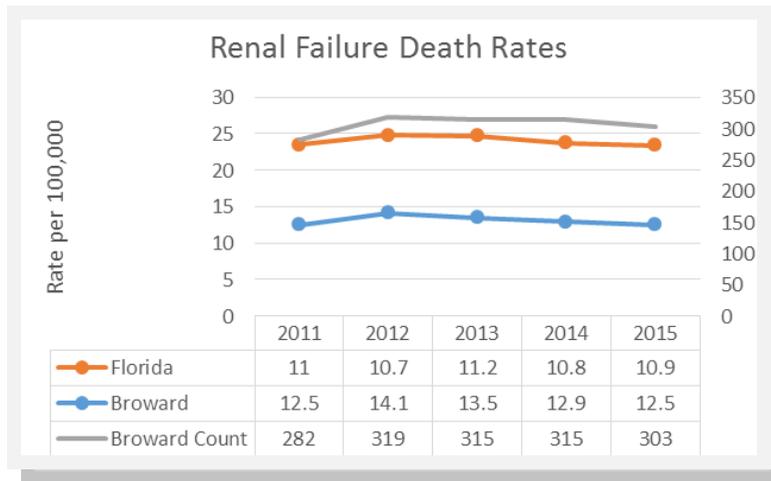
Health Plan Spotlight

The kidneys are responsible for filtering up to 53 gallons of blood per day and are key players in many of the body’s critical functions. With kidney disease acting as the 9th leading cause of death in the United States, it is important to keep the kidneys in optimal condition.

Renal failure occurs when the kidneys become unable to filter waste products from the blood leading to waste buildup and a chemical change in the blood. There are multiple risk factors that may result in renal failure including: advanced age, diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease and liver disease.

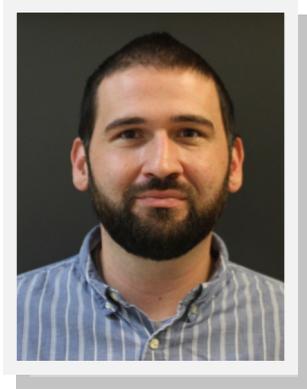
After experiencing a spike from 2011 to 2012 (from 12.5 to 14.1) Broward’s rate for renal failure has steadily decreased back down to 12.5 in 2015. However, Broward County rates have consistently remained higher than the state of Florida.

The Broward County Health Plan is updated quarterly and is available online (www.BRHPC.org) For more information contact Regine Kanzki at rkanzki@brhpc.org.



Source: Florida Charts

Employee of the Quarter Spotlight



BRHPC proudly recognizes Johnny Sokolsky, Network Technician, as Employee of the Quarter for his outstanding contribution to the daily operation of BRHPC. In his role, Johnny's name is well-known around the entire BRHPC office, as he quickly makes himself available to address any network or server issues with humor and wit, even when it requires late nights or weekend hours. Johnny has been working with BRHPC since August 2013 and has demonstrated such skill level that he was selected to participate in the committee overseeing BRHPC's accreditation process. He serves as chair of the Risk Prevention Committee and participates in the MIS Committee and the Performance Quality Improvement Committee.



- WHAT** Level 2 Live Scan background screening for DCF, AHCA, VECHS, Elder Affairs, Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- WHO** Organizations, groups or individuals who need Level 2/Live Scan background screenings.
- WHEN** Monday - Friday from 8:30am until 4:30pm, by appointment only.
- WHERE** Broward Regional Health Planning Council located at Oakwood Plaza, 200 Oakwood Ln., Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33020

If you are in need of Electronic Background Screening Submissions & Quick Results, or additional services, such as Photo Submission to the AHCA Clearing House, BRHPC IS AN APPROVED VENDOR THAT CAN HELP YOU.

To schedule an appointment, please call **954.561.9681**



Broward Regional Health Planning Council is a nonprofit organization committed to delivering health and human service innovations at the national, state and local level through planning, direct services, evaluation and capacity building.

Other Beds and Programs: 1st Batching Cycle - 2017*

| Description | Dates |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R. | 1-20-17 |
| Letter of Intent Deadline | 2-06-17 |
| Application Deadline | 3-08-17** |
| Completeness Review Deadline | 3-15-17** |
| Application Omissions Deadline | 4-19-17** |
| Agency Initial Decision Deadline | 6-02-17 |

Hospital Beds and Facilities: 2nd Batching Cycle - 2017

| Description | Dates |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R. | 4-07-17 |
| Letter of Intent Deadline | 4-17-17 |
| Application Deadline | 5-17-17 |
| Completeness Review Deadline | 5-24-17 |
| Application Omissions Deadline | 6-28-17 |
| Agency Initial Decision Deadline | 8-18-17 |

*Pursuant to Section 408.0436, F.S. (Limitation on nursing home certificates of need), the Agency may not approve new community nursing home beds as the Agency approved the maximum allowable number of additional nursing home beds, statewide, as authorized by the Florida Legislature on February 19, 2016. The statute will be repealed on July 1, 2017.**Pursuant to 408.039 all applicant deadlines have delayed one week while the Agency's deadlines have remained pursuant to 59C-1.008 (1) (g).

200 Oakwood Lane Suite 100
Hollywood, Florida 33020
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