

BRHPC

Connecting Education, Research, Technology & Service with Community Need

Letter from BRHPC President and CEO Mike De Lucca

The last few months Broward Regional Health Planning Council and its community partners have been working diligently to assist uninsured individuals and families to enroll for health insurance coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace. By utilizing a grant provided by Community Catalyst, BRPHC has formed the Broward County CAC Initiative, a multi-organizational collaborative of community partners, including: 2-1-1 Broward, Hispanic Unity of Florida, Urban League of Broward County, Community Access Center, Impact Broward, Memorial Healthcare System, Broward College, and Broward County's Family Success Centers.

Since December, nearly 2,000 residents have enrolled in the Marketplace, received education and/or chosen a health care plan. Although enrollment is now closed for the year, the CAC initiative will continue to reach out to those who are uninsured and provide education on insurance options, preparing individuals and families for the next open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act scheduled for November 1, 2014. Individuals who may have lost their insurance during the year or have a life changing event that affects their health insurance eligibility such as getting married or having a baby will be able to enroll in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace during the year and not have to wait for open enrollment. BRHPC and its community partners are available to assist individuals and their families throughout the year.

Broward Regional Health Planning Council served as the coordinating agency for this year's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, where the community agencies went out...(continued on page 11)

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 President and CEO**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CAC DIVISION	2	NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	6	SAMH	12
HIV DIVISION	3-4	TOUCH	7-9	CIT	13
PIT COUNT	4	SSVF	10	HEALTH PLAN	14
CIED & HOPWA	5	EOTQ	11	TBRV & HARC	15



Certified Application Counselors

Affordable Care Act Program Enrolls Broward County Residents!

The Affordable Care Act moved into full-swing this quarter. With a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ) through *Community Catalyst*, BRHPC's Certified Application Counselors (CACs) and Partner Agencies, began enrolling individuals and families into qualified, affordable health insurance plans.

Community Catalyst's mission is to organize and sustain a powerful consumer voice, "to ensure that all individuals and communities can influence the local, state and national decisions that affect their health".

Partnership agencies include: Impact Broward, Hispanic Unity of Florida, Community Access Center, Urban League of Broward County, 211 Broward, and Broward College. During this past quarter, a total of **1,668** individuals were enrolled into the Marketplace, received education and/or chose a health care plan. The program has also been busy marketing itself and educating the public by participating in press conferences, appearing on BEACON TV with Children's Services Council and working diligently with Elected Officials to participate at enrollment events.



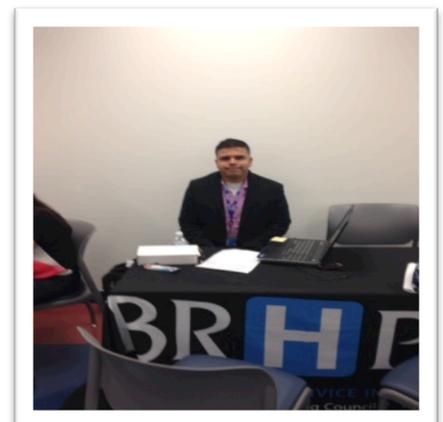
The CACs believe they make a difference every day by way of education, enrollment or just by answering questions regarding health insurance. The following is just one example of this program "making a difference."

Larry, a 42 year old male, residing in Fort Lauderdale and employed as a freelance worker, could not afford his health insurance premiums. He was paying approximately \$700.00 a month for his health insurance from a previous job he worked at in 2013. Due to pre-existing health conditions, he was "uninsurable". Larry chose a silver level PPO plan through Blue Cross/Blue Shield paying only \$210.00 for his monthly premium payment compared to his current \$700.00 a month where he had limited benefits.

The Certified Application Counselors were booking appointments through March 31st.

From April 1 through October 31st, the CACs will be available to provide education, and will be preparing individuals and families for the next open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act.

You can find out more by calling 211 Broward or contact us at Getcovered@BRHPC.org.



HIV Division Updates



From Left to Right: Cady Sandler, Amy Newton, Ariela Eshel, Brithney Johnson, and Taryn-Lea McEachrane

Goodbye to the HIV Division's Program Manager

After three years of service to the Broward County HIV Health Services Council, Ariela Eshel has accepted a new position continuing her work in quality assurance. She will be working with Clear Health Alliance, a Medicaid speciality plan for people living with HIV/AIDS, in Miami, FL. Ariela has been an integral part of the quality management program and will be greatly missed. The HIV Division wishes her all the best and would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the program!

New Staff Introductions

Welcome Brithney Johnson! Ms. Johnson is a training professional, formerly with the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office. She has been the driving force behind a renowned training program and cultivated relationships with public officials, community leaders, and over 10,000 Election Day Workers through outreach and training opportunities. Ms. Johnson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Florida with a specialization in Health and Behavioral Sciences. She holds a Master of Science in Public Health from Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Johnson previously worked as an evaluator with the Broward County YMCA and BRHPC's TOUCH program. Ms. Johnson has experience in both the public and non-profit sector – creating and administering innovative training and educational programs, evaluating and presenting best practices research with community leaders, and honing her program evaluation skills throughout both her academic and professional career. She is committed to performing strategic client and project management functions and utilizing her ability to provide high-quality service to meet the needs of a diverse community. Ms. Johnson will provide support to the Planning Council and Committees.

Welcome Cady Sandler! Ms. Sandler is a two-time University of Florida graduate, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Management and Policy. Ms. Sandler has a strong interest in community based health initiatives and health policy, and brings a strong knowledge of public health, policy development, implementation and analysis to her new position. Her previous experience in the public health world includes working on the nationally recognized Control Flu vaccination program, developing and implementing a healthy food policy for Southwest Advocacy Group in Gainesville, Florida, and analyzing Florida's Medicaid Reform measures as part of the Medicaid Reform Evaluation team at the University of Florida. Ms. Sandler will be providing support to the Planning Council and Committees.



From Left to Right: Cady Sandler, Amy Newton, Ariela Eshel, Brithney Johnson, and Taryn-Lea McEachrane

HIV Division Updates (Continued)

Welcome Amy Newton! Ms. Newton grew up in Niceville, Florida, a small town on Florida's panhandle. She received a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Management and Policy and a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from the University of Florida. During graduate school, Ms. Newton worked as the program assistant for the Florida Disability and Health Project, a CDC disability grant at the University of Florida. The project strives to improve accessibility and health outcomes for people with disabilities. Ms. Newton has additional experience as the manager for the Health Outreach Quality Improvement program at the Equal Access Clinic (EAC), a network of student-run free health care clinics in Gainesville, FL. During her time at EAC she wrote and implemented a HIV prevention grant that was successfully funded by the Gilead Foundation; the grant aims to increase access to HIV counseling and testing for the uninsured population of Alachua County. Ms. Newton has experience with program and grant management, policy research, and quality improvement projects. Her interests include improving the health of underserved populations through community-based public health programs. Ms. Newton will be providing support to the Quality Improvement Networks.

PIT (Point-In-Time) Count

Preliminary Results From This Year's PIT Count Are In!

Between January 21 and 23, 2014, nearly 200 volunteers fanned across Broward County to survey both sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

This initiative will not only help the county determine the needs and service gaps of this population, but by utilizing the updated, more extensive survey tool, will also facilitate the prioritization of housing for the most chronically needy and vulnerable individuals. Led by Broward County's Homeless Continuum of Care, BRHPC coordinates the planning for this effort in collaboration with various agencies throughout the county with the common goal of ending homelessness by 2020.

According to the preliminary results, there were 2,026 sheltered individuals and 882 unsheltered individuals counted during the 2014 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, for a total of 2,908 individuals experiencing homelessness. This represents a slight increase from the 2,820 individuals counted in 2013. Broward's chronic homeless population had a one-percent increase from 31% in 2013 to 32% in 2014. This is considerably higher than both the state and national averages, which are 20% and 18%, respectively. Demographically, 54.1% of those counted were "Black", 40.8% were "White", and 5.1% were "Other". Between 28 and 31 percent of those counted had a substance abuse issue, while 4 percent of those sheltered and 20 percent of the unsheltered suffer from some form of mental illness.



As a direct result of the PIT count the county is now working towards housing 12 people who were identified as being chronically homeless through various programs including BRHPC's Supportive Services for Veterans and Families program!

Final results from the count will be reported next month.

For more information, contact Shira Fowlkes, Point-In-Time Count Coordinator, sfowlkes@brhpc.org.

Ryan White Part A Services

Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination

<p>CIED Main Office Broward Regional Health Planning Council 200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100, Hollywood, 33021 954-566-1417 Monday - Friday from 8:00 to 5:00</p>
<p>AIDS Healthcare Foundation 6405 N Federal Highway, #205, Ft Laud 33308 954-722-2411 Tues, Wed & Thurs, 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>AIDS Healthcare Foundation Oakland Park HCC 1164 E Oakland Park Blvd, Oakland Park 33334 954-561-6900 Wed 8:30-12:00 pm</p>
<p>Broward Community & Family Health 168 N Powerline Rd, Pompano 33069 954-970-8805 Friday 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>Broward County Health Department Paul Hughes Health Center 205 NW 6th Avenue, Pompano 33060 954-566-1417 Mon, Wed & Fri 8:30 -5:00</p>
<p>BCHD State Road 84 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale 954-467-4700 Mon, Thurs & Fri 8:00-4:00</p>
<p>Broward Health Comprehensive Care Center 1101 NW 1st Street, Fort Lauderdale 33311 954-467-0880 (Mon & Wed 8:30-5:00)</p>
<p>Specialty Care Center 1111 W. Broward Blvd, Ft Laud 33311 954-463-7313 Tues & Fri 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>Broward House Wilton Manors Client Service Center 2800 Andrews Ave, Wilton Manors 33311 954-568-7373 Tues, Wed & Thurs 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>Care Resource 871 W Oakland Park Blvd, Ft Laud 33311 954-567-7141 Mon-Friday 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center Comprehensive Family AIDS Program 1401 S Federal Highway, Ft Laud 33316 954-728-1088 Tues & Thurs 8:30-5:00, Wednesday 1:00-5:00</p>
<p>Memorial Healthcare System Memorial Primary Care Center – Dania 4105 Pembroke Rd, Hollywood 33021 954-265-8412 Wed & Thurs 8:30-5:00</p>
<p>Poverello: Friends Fitness Center 2200 NE 12th Ave. Wilton Manors 33305 954-561-3663 Mon - Fri 8:30-5:00</p>
<p><i>After Hours & Weekend By Appointment</i></p>

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.

Services are provided at twelve Ryan White locations throughout Broward County. Assistance with Medical, Part B, and case management appointments, third party benefit applications and referrals are completed by CIED intake specialists to assist clients who may be eligible to receive food stamp assistance, Medicaid and additional services.

To schedule an appointment for initial and annual certification, please contact our main office at 954-566-1417. Documentation needed for certification can be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.brhpc.org/CIED.html.

To ensure easy access for individuals who are unable to travel, CIED intake specialists can assist clients at their home (due to medical need), at hospital locations, treatment centers and homeless shelters.

City of Fort Lauderdale HOPWA

The Housing Assistance program at Broward Regional Health Planning Council provides housing assistance and case management services to Person Living with HIV/AIDS under the HOPWA grant (Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS). For the last five years, the team has been working diligently to assist our clients with past due rent, utility and mortgage assistance as well as permanent housing placement. The Housing Assistance program has received 440 unduplicated applications and has assisted 198 unduplicated clients between January-March with short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance. As we enter the third quarter of the current fiscal year, the team is on track to deliver resources for meeting the housing needs of low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Success Story:

Client had lost his job and was at risk of losing his home due to not being able to make their mortgage payments. With the help of the HOPWA program they were able to maintain housing while staying in treatment and looking for employment without having to worry about their mortgage falling behind. The client is now employed working two part-time jobs and is able to manage mortgage payments without assistance. The client has given the highest praises to the program staff and his HCM stating that without the help of this program they would have surely lost their home.

Nurse-Family Partnership

We are excited to update you on all of the recent developments in the Nurse-Family Partnership program. Our staff has grown! We now have our Data Coordinator, as well as 2 full time Nurse Home Visitors, who are working in partnership with BRHPC and Memorial Healthcare System.



Our Program Data Coordinator, Nora, will work with our *Efforts to Outcomes* data system, collecting all of the information from the home visits. This program will track efforts and outcomes here in Broward County. Nora previously worked for Healthy Families Broward for 5 years. She originally began as a Family Support Worker and then joined the Data Entry team after one year. Our two nurses, Ruth and Judith, have been busy engaging with clients in the past month. Both Memorial Healthcare System nurses bring a wealth of experience, are bilingual, and eager to work with the clients here in Broward County. Judith Gomez is a mother of two. She is currently furthering her education at Florida International University. She is excited to put her knowledge to action in our community with first time mothers. She is grateful for the great opportunity to work for Nurse-Family Partnership and make a difference.

The team is working hard to get news of the program circulated throughout Broward County. There have been several presentations this Quarter to organizations such as: Broward Healthy Start, Broward Breastfeeding Coalition, Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center Provider Information Exchange, Sunrise City Commission, Hope Women's Center and Respect Life.

Every week, the team meets to learn and discuss topics that are relevant to our clients. Topics have included: Safety for Home Visitors, Boundaries, Time Management, Birth Plans and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We have also had presentations from The Starting Place and the MOMS Program. We also recently had a Homemade Toys Workshop, where each of us demonstrated toys that families can make from materials that they already have at home! This created a lively discussion regarding toy safety, development, and creativity. We hope you enjoy some of our photos from the Workshop.



To qualify for the program and all of its benefits, a woman must be: (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.

We all look forward to serving the mothers of Broward County! You can now find more information about the program, as well as a referral form on our website www.brhpc.org, under Nurse Family Partnership.



Active Living and Healthy Eating

FLIPANY's 'Earn-a-Bike' Program

With the support of TOUCH, BRHPC and Urban Health Partnerships, Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) rolled out its 'Earn-a-bike' program in Broward County.

The 'Earn-a-bike' program teaches kids 9 to 17 years of age to take apart donated bicycles, fix and repair them, and reassemble them again. The program uses these activities to help participating kids develop leadership and teamwork skills as well as bike mechanic capabilities. Youth who attend all eight of the sessions of the program earn a recycled bicycle of their own, along with a brand-new lock and helmet to keep them and their bike safe. For many of our participants, this is the only way they can afford to get a bike.



The program was made available at two locations: Mary Saunders Park and the Dania Beach PATCH Market Garden. Registration is now closed for these two locations but you may contact Jennifer Hoffman of FLIPANY at jhoffman@flipany.org or 954.636.2388 for future dates and locations.

Participants include both boys and girls who are excited to learn "how to take things apart and fix them" and of course, earning their very own bike after completing the program.

Buy Local Broward Season Is Coming To a Close

On January 6th, 2014, the Buy Local Broward season kicked off with the first 'Meet & Greet' event held at the Funky Buddha Brewery in Oakland Park, FL. Buy Local Broward is a community-wide effort to expand access to and awareness of the availability of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. It also highlights local food produced in Broward County and available at markets, restaurants, and food stores throughout the community.

Over 80 local growers and farmers, local food vendors, retailers and distributors, food entrepreneurs, innovators and chefs attended the event and put in motion a three month long calendar of events.

Buy Local Broward events were held at Farmers Markets throughout Broward County, including: the Dania Beach PATCH Market Garden, Plantation Farmers Market, Oakland Park Farmers Market, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Farmers Market and Las Olas Farmers Market. Programs included food demos by local Chefs, specials at area restaurants, and educational events in communities throughout Broward County.



Breastfeeding and 'Baby Friendly' Hospital Practices Get the Press They Deserve



In March, a special report aired on WSVN Chanel 7 News. This video report, titled "Forget The Formula" highlighted the breastfeeding initiatives at Memorial Healthcare System (a TOUCH Partner). MHS has also been working closely with the Foundation for a Breastfeeding Culture as they institute baby friendly practices throughout the Memorial Hospital System.

We are thrilled to see MHS get the credit they deserve for all their hard work.

You can view the special report on WSVN's website: <http://bit.ly/touch-ff>



Tobacco-Free Living

YMCA Youth Sand Art Competition!

To further promote smoke-free environments, raise awareness and provide education about the dangers of secondhand smoke and the benefits of tobacco free parks, The American Lung Association in Florida in collaboration with the YMCA of Broward County and the TOUCH Initiative at Broward Regional Health Planning Council held a Tobacco-Free Sand Art Competition on March 27, 2014.

This highly anticipated event engaged students who attend the YMCA of Broward County. Prior to the sand art event, students participated in a cigarette butt cleanup at North Ocean Beach Park to learn the importance of tobacco free parks and beaches. The students were then taught to create sand art by renowned local sand artist John May. After the lesson, students broke up into groups and created their own anti-tobacco themed sand art. The event served as an interactive learning experience for children who are the primary users of the park.

Event judges Commissioner Dick Blattner, City of Hollywood District 4; Joy Satterlee, Hollywood Arts and Cultural Center E.D.; and Allan Libero, Hollywood Chamber Education Chair selected the winning sculpture and all team members were awarded gift cards. Each of the participants in the event also received medals for their creativity and participation.



Winning Sculpture - Youth anti-tobacco sand art competition



Cigarette butt cleanup @ Sand Art Event - N. Beach Park, Hollywood, FL



FAU Student zombies!

Walking Dead Themed “Kick Butts Day” at FAU!

The zombies came to campus with a tobacco free message! Bringing the message about the importance of smoke-free college campuses, TOUCH Partner, The American Lung Association in Florida along with the Florida Atlantic University’s Exercise Science and Health Promotion Club (ESHP), The Tobacco Free Task Force and other student clubs and community partners hosted a “Kick Butts Day” Event: The Walking Dead! Utilizing “The Walking Dead” as a theme, students dressed up as “zombies” and passed out tobacco related facts and information. This event was designed by students to

raise awareness and provide educational information to students, faculty and administrators.

Broward College South held its annual “Kick Butts Fay” event on March 20th. This event used a cigarette butt cleanup on the college campus and game show trivia theme where students “contestants” answered questions relating to the negative aspects of tobacco. The event was organized by The American Lung Association in Florida and the Broward College South Student Government.

American Lung publishes “Smoke-free Housing” Video guide:

On March 14, 2014 The American Lung Association in Florida published on YouTube an eight-minute video guide on the subject of Smoke-free Housing. The video is aimed at engaging property managers, building owners and communities by informing them of the positive economic, safety, and health impacts of creating Smoke-free environments for their residents. You can watch the video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/ala-sfhousing>



High Quality Clinical and Preventive Services

On Tuesday, February 11th Broward Community and Family Health Centers (a TOUCH Partner) celebrated the grand opening of their new Central Broward Community Health Center, located at the South entrance of the Lauderhill Mall. The Central Broward location will provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care with services offered in English, Español, and Creole at a convenient community location.



Healthy and Safe Physical Environments

Complete Streets in the Southeast: A Tool Kit

AARP Government Affairs, in partnership with Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition released a tool kit based on the implementation of Complete Streets programs in several southern communities.

The tool kit is both a research report and how-to guide for groups and organizations looking to start and implement “Complete Streets” initiatives in their communities.

The extraordinary efforts and results performed by TOUCH and our partners for this directive are featured in the report in the form of a case study. TOUCH and BRHPC extend our congratulations to our Complete Streets partners: Urban Health Partnerships, Broward MPO, Smart Growth Partnership and Nova Southeastern University for this amazing recognition.

You can access and download the full report here: <http://bit.ly/touch-csreport>

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families

SSVF Team Participates in Point in Time (PIT) Count



The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program has been working hard to locate homeless Veterans to house. They have successfully housed or prevented homelessness for over 100 Veterans since November 2013.

Broward Regional Health Planning Council serves as the Coordinating agency for the Point in Time Count (PIT), so when the opportunity to participate occurred this past January, the SSVF team, new to PIT activities, participated in the survey at various hours during the days of January 21st and January 22nd.

The Case Management team approached a homeless man, bundled up from the cold day we were experiencing this year during PIT, in South Broward County. The person they approached was not very interested in talking to the team. They gently persisted with a promise of a gift bag and possible future assistance. During this process, the SSVF team learned he is a homeless Veteran who had been living on the streets for the last 6 years. When the PIT survey was complete, they gave this homeless Veteran, "David" their business card and asked him to call them so that they could assist him.

By the end of the week, the veteran had followed up with a phone call to Lisa Besley, an SSVF Case Manager. Lisa screened the Veteran and completed an assessment. She learned through this process that "David" had enough income to get him off the streets and live on his own. "David" looked at several apartments and chose a trailer home that fit his budget and a city that he wanted to live in. Through funding from United Way of Broward County, "Mission United", the SSVF program was able to pay deposits for rent and utilities so that David could move into his new home.

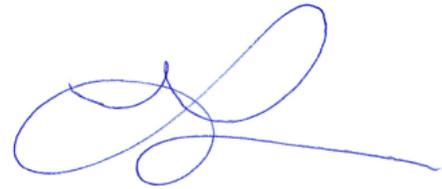
"David", could not be happier that he no longer lives on the streets and has a place to call home.

THANK YOU POINT IN TIME COUNT! WITHOUT THIS NATIONAL INITIATIVE WE MAY NEVER HAVE FOUND DAVID.

Letter from BRHPC President and CEO Mike De Lucca (Continued)

...one night during the year (January 21st) to count those who were homeless in Broward County. The survey was a community effort, with multiple organizations and more than 200 volunteers participating in this year's event. They canvassed the county's homeless shelters and streets to survey the homeless population to get a better understanding of how many are homeless in our community and some of the needs as well as barriers they encounter in housing stability. This year, it is estimated that 2,908 individuals are homeless in Broward County, and many are families or veterans. As the volunteers canvassed the community, they also tried to link the homeless to programs that may be able to assist them in finding permanent housing, including the housing programs offered by BRHPC.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the community for these important initiatives as well as our other programs.



Michael De Lucca

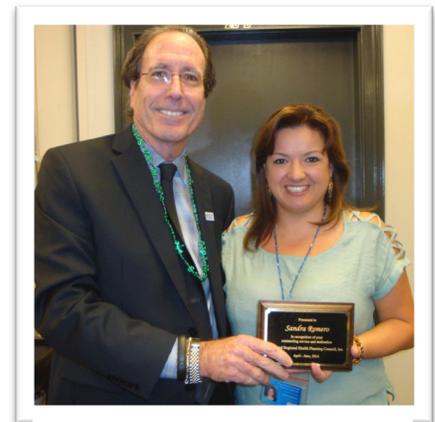
Employee of the Quarter Family Support Worker Sandra Romero

The Healthy Families Broward team proudly commends Sandra Romero, Family Support Worker, as the Broward Regional Health Planning Council *Employee of the Quarter* for the months of April, May and June of 2014.

Sandra began working with Healthy Families in March of 2009. Through the years, she has demonstrated a solid understanding of her role as Family Support Worker. She has been flexible and has graciously adapted to change. She has consistently met performance outcomes on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis. For example, Sandra met 16 out of 18 program outcomes the October-December 2013 quarter.

Sandra also shows great dedication to the participant families she interacts with every day. This past quarter, she maintained a 100% home visit completion rate, which means that she never failed to conduct a home visit with any of the participants who expected her and relied on her. She is a wonderful team player and is much appreciated by her colleagues. In times of need, she does not hesitate to step in to replace a colleague who is out on leave. Her personality shines through when working along with fellow staff. Her sense of humor allows her to get along with anyone, and she shows genuine compassion for others around her.

It is quite fitting that her fifth year anniversary as a BRHPC employee be rewarded with the distinction of the Employee of the Quarter. Please join us in congratulating Sandra Romero for a job well done!

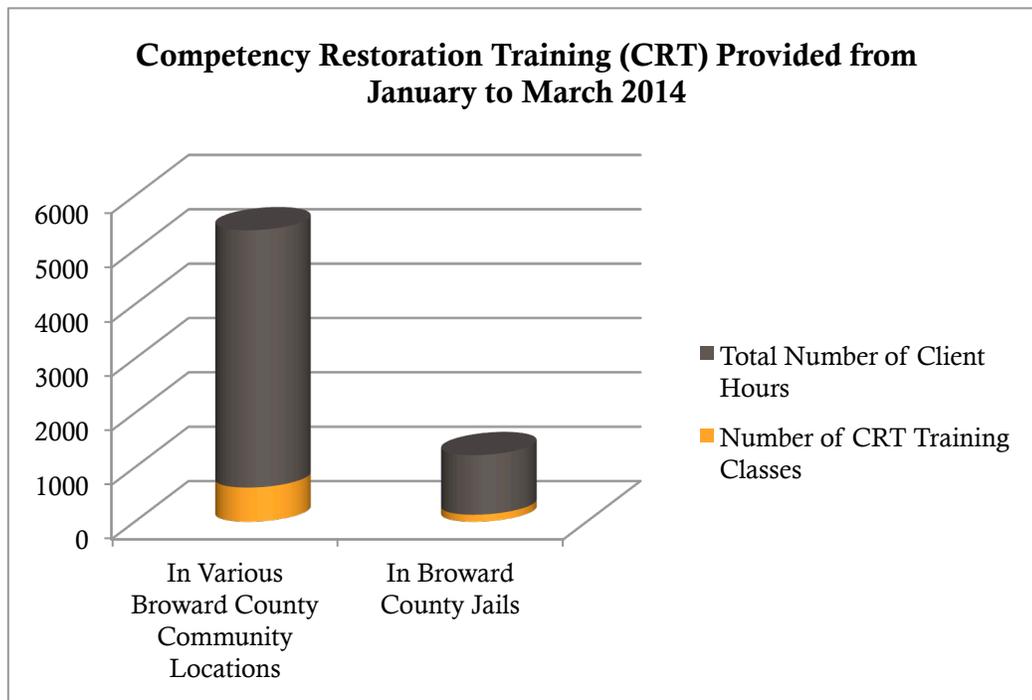


Sandra Romero (right) with BRHPC President and CEO Mike De Lucca

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The Forensic team continues to provide Competency Restoration Training (CRT) five days a week at multiple locations. In addition to classes at the BRHPC office we visit the four Broward County Jails and provide on-site training at New Beginnings, House of Hope, and Stepping Stones, which are residential treatment programs. We also provide two classes at Order My Steps, a very large ALF. Beginning in April, a training session was added at the Spectrum Programs residential facility in Pompano Beach, Florida.

During the last quarter, 630 countywide training sessions and 130 sessions in the jails were provided. This is a total of 5833 client hours for the combined sites and is illustrated on the graphic below.



We have also modified our class structure with the goal of providing more intensive services to clients who are capable of moving at a faster pace. Very small classes and 1:1 sessions have been implemented to address specific issues that are hindering clients from moving forward. This allows the client to practice with the trainer the kinds of questions he/she will face when being evaluated by a Court-appointed psychologist for restoration of competency.

New goals have been set for the program in terms of forwarding reports to the Court which is the first step in returning our clients back to the legal process that is interrupted by being found Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) to trial. Since January 1, 2014, 70 competency reports for clients have been sent to the Court for consideration. The goal is to forward an increasing number of reports, on a consistent basis, to facilitate a more rapid response by the Court system in reviewing individual ITP cases and thus allow clients to move forward with their court cases and their lives in an expeditious manner.

Crisis Intervention Team

Safety First in Crisis

“Safety first” is the focus of CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) of Broward Training. This training re-enforces the safety of sworn law enforcement officers and the mentally ill population during crisis situations. Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. and the SAMH Team is proud to be a part of this service, while keeping steadfast to the mission of preserving, promoting, and advocating for the humane and ethical treatment of the mentally ill.

The creation of a full-time position at Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc., in December 2013, served to generate additional CIT trainings for law enforcement officers. Ms. Sandra Cumper, a master’s level mental health counselor, is the new CIT Coordinator for Broward County. She spearheads the program, directing and facilitating up to 10 trainings per year. Additionally, Ms. Cumper will develop and facilitate trainings for first responders, call takers, victim advocates, and community code enforcers.

In 2002, the CIT of Broward replicated the Memphis Model of Crisis Intervention Team training, and created an exceptional faculty represented by a broad spectrum of individuals from the behavioral health community. These highly qualified professionals included clinicians and personnel from Nova Southeastern University, Barry University, Veteran’s Administration, ARC Broward, consumers, and families from the community. All participants worked diligently on the presentation of the first CIT Training in Broward County.

Currently, the program includes 40 hours of training for sworn law enforcement officers. Topics include clinical issues relating to adult and child mental illness, de-escalation techniques, Baker Act, Marchman Act, suicide awareness, co-occurring disorders, alcohol and drug use, developmental disabilities, role plays, consumer and family perspectives, and a number of other topics.

CIT of Broward represents a partnership of organizations to include Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc., NAMI Broward, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Broward Sheriff’s Office, Henderson Behavioral Health, North Broward Hospital District, Department of Children and Families, and Broward Coalition for the Homeless. All sworn officers within the local police municipalities and BSO are being encouraged to participate in the trainings, which are offered free of cost.

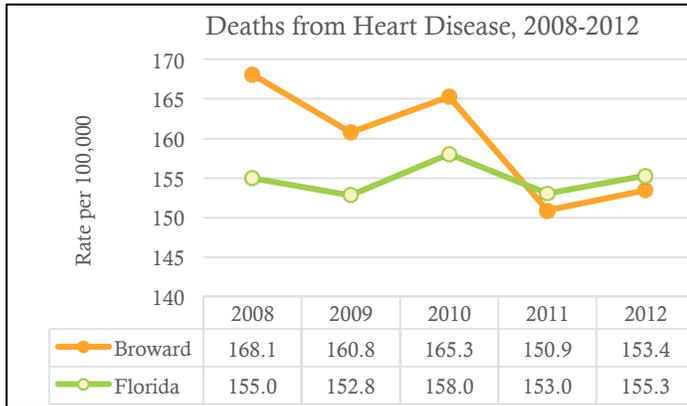


Congratulations to the Thirty-first Graduating Class of CIT Officers and Deputies.

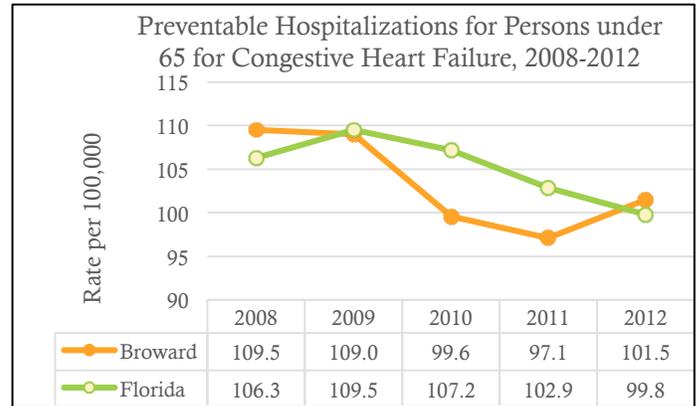
On March 28, 2014, twenty-five law enforcement officers graduated the 40 hours Crisis Intervention Training, held at the South Florida State Hospital. The participating officers were recruited from the Broward Sheriff’s Office, Coral Springs Police Department, Margate Police Department, Lauderdale Police Department and Plantation Police Department. The key-note speaker, Director Bob Pusins from BSO, congratulated the officers and presented them with their CIT pins. Also, addressing the group was Sgt. Jaime Costas from Ft. Lauderdale Police Department, who challenged them to utilize the training to make the difference in the way they perform their duties.

Health Plan Spotlight: Heart Disease in Broward County

In honor of February’s Heart Health Month, this quarter’s Health Plan Spotlight is on Heart Disease. Heart disease (or cardiovascular disease) is primarily related to the build-up of plaque in the arterial walls (a condition known as atherosclerosis). This build-up can lead to a number of problems including heart attack, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmia (an irregular heartbeat). From 2011 to 2012, Broward County saw an increase in death rates from heart disease (150.9 to 153.4), as well as an increase in preventable hospitalizations for persons under 65 for congestive heart failure (97.1 to 101.5).

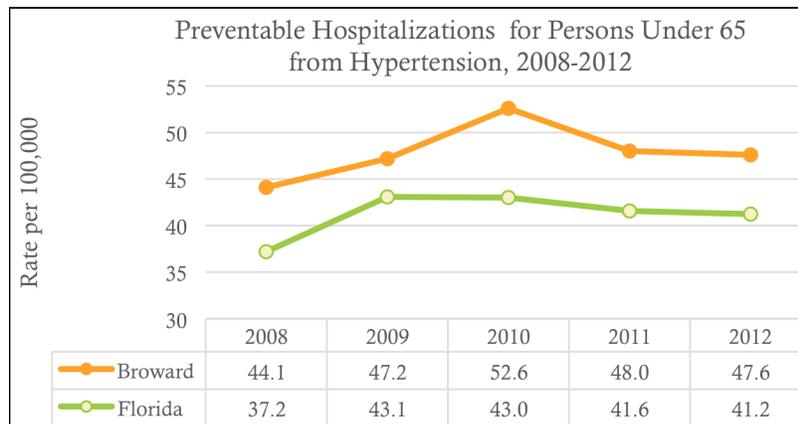


Source: www.floridacharts.com



Source: www.floridacharts.com

Another contribution to heart disease is hypertension (high blood pressure); which, if left untreated, can cause atherosclerosis consequently leading to the same aforementioned complications. From 2011 to 2012, preventable hospitalizations from hypertension decreased from 48.0 to 47.6 in Broward County.



Source: www.floridacharts.com

The Broward County Health Plan provides a comprehensive description of the Broward community, healthcare system and various factors influencing health and healthcare access. The document is divided into eight chapters, it is updated quarterly and made available on the BRHPC website www.BRHPC.org.

For more information contact Regine Kanzki, MPH, Division Director, via email: rkanzki@brhpc.org.

Tenant-Based Rental Voucher Program

The Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program (TBRV) has made strides in working toward goals for this year. Five new clients received housing assistance between October 1, 2013 and January 31, 2014. In addition, twelve prospective clients have started the initial assessment process.

The Financial Literacy workshops hosted by Consolidated Credit continue on a monthly basis to ensure our clients have access to opportunities to help them work toward self-sufficiency. These workshops are offered to all clients on the TBRV program. Those who attended reported that this course met their specific financial needs and they are looking forward to hearing about other workshops as they become available.

The TBRV program also welcomes Monica Samper as a part time Housing Case manager. Monica has a BS from Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia and she brings her enthusiasm for working directly with clients to the team.

If you would like more information on the upcoming financial literacy workshops please contact Jacki Curnow, QA/Skills Development Manager at JCurnow@brhpc.org.

Healthy Aging Regional Collaborative

BRHPC is proud to be a successful Health Foundation of South Florida partner in the implementation of the Healthy Aging Collaborative's *Matter of Balance* program in Broward County. The program emphasizes practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels.

During workshops presented by trained leaders, participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

Below is an excerpt of an appreciation letter that was sent in by a workshop participant.

When I was approached by the people at the Memorial Senior Center in Hollywood, Florida, I immediately accepted as I feel that good balance is my biggest concern in the effort to lead a healthy confident lifestyle.

Our leader, Edwidge Solages, has introduced much information to help me such as, at bedtime exercises to do in the bed before getting up, the ability to better get out of the bed easily and to walk safely into the bathroom, the necessity to install more safety bars in the shower room, and the need to clear a path to the bathroom.

Edwidge has given us information on many other aspects of balance improvement in our lives. I appreciate all the help I can get.

- Elizabeth Griffiths

**Broward Regional Health
Planning Council, Inc.**

200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100
Hollywood, Florida 33020
(954) 561-9681
(954) 561-9685 (fax)

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Hospital Beds and Facilities:

1st Batching Cycle - 2014

Description	Dates
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.W.	1-17-14
Letter of Intent Deadline	2-03-14
Application Deadline	3-05-14
Completeness Review Deadline	3-12-14
Application Omissions Deadline	4-09-14
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	6-06-14

Other Beds and Facilities:

1st Batching Cycle - 2014

Description	Dates
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.W.	4-4-14
Letter of Intent Deadline	4-21-14
Application Deadline	5-21-14
Completeness Review Deadline	5-28-14
Application Omissions Deadline	6-25-14
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	8-22-14