

Outstanding Leader  
of the Year Award  
Dr. Martinez



Upcoming Public  
Health Workforce  
Development



Healthy Families Broward team attending Healthy  
Families Leadership Conference



## MISSION STATEMENT



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

Ending Stigma through Collaboration and Lifting to All to Empowerment (ESCALATE) Miami Training Participants



Spring Employee of  
the Quarter  
Marlen Salcedo



Summer Employee  
of the Quarter  
Cristy Kozla



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## A Letter from our President & CEO

### *A Leadership Message*



We are still in the midst of Hurricane Season, so I encourage you to keep your homes stocked with water, canned food, batteries, flashlights, first aid kits, other essential necessities, and an evacuation plan. It is always better to be prepared for an emergency. Broward County's official Hurricane Preparedness Guide is designed to provide valuable information you can use before, during, or after a storm. For additional resources on how to keep you and your families safe during hurricane season, visit [www.Broward.org/Hurricane](http://www.Broward.org/Hurricane).

Make sure to sign up for an affordable health insurance plan during the open enrollment period to have health coverage for 2023. Now is the time to compare and select an affordable Marketplace health insurance plan. The open enrollment period kicks off Tuesday, November 1, 2022, and ends on January 15, 2023. For information to see how you might save on Marketplace premiums and to see if you qualify for financial assistance, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) or call the Marketplace Call center at 1-800-318-2596. Teletypewriter (TTY) users can call 1-955-889-4325. If you would like to speak with a representative from BRHPC's Get Covered Broward Program, call 1-800-794-2208. Team members will assist residents with one-on-one enrollment for free or low-cost insurance in English, Spanish, and Creole. The Get Covered Broward Program hours of operation starting November 1st will be Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 12 pm to 8 pm. If you need assistance sooner, call 1-800-794-2208 to see if you may qualify for the special enrollment period.

I am proud to announce that I have been a loyal contributor to the Sun Sentinel's South Florida 100 for the past seven years. The South Florida 100 is comprised of the most influential and knowledgeable leaders in government, politics, and culture. Each week the panel of South Florida 100 submits two articles that focus on current events, providing their thoughts and insights on the week's most fascinating stories and what they think will be the prominent stories in the weeks to come. I invite you to view the weekly discussions by visiting [www.SunSentinel.com/100](http://www.SunSentinel.com/100) or on the Sun Sentinel Opinion Facebook and Twitter social media pages.

BRHPC strives to demonstrate excellence by delivering quality services and programs that meet the entire community's needs, from infants to the elderly. I want to thank our Board of Directors, funders, community partners, volunteers, and staff for their endless support in allowing us to provide health and human services to the residents of Broward County.

Sincerely,

Michael "Mike" De Lucca, MHM, President & CEO

## BRHPC's Board of Directors

*2022-2023*

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# Nurse-Family Partnership

## About the Program

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program works to reduce the risk of pre-term labor and deliveries. The program is aimed at improving prenatal care, decreasing the infant mortality rate and promoting breastfeeding in the community. NFP works with both at-risk first-time mothers and mothers with multiple births. NFP strives to empower these mothers with support for the child's health and development and increase the economic sustainability of the families. Some of the qualifying events for the program include:

- Low income
- Lives in Broward County in one of the following zip codes
  - 33311, 33313, 33319, 33023, 33024, 33025, 33060, 33064, 33069

All participants for the program are screened through a collaboration with Broward Healthy Start Coalition and its funding providers. The program has grown from just assisting first-time mothers, to now include any potential high-risk mothers. Families participating in the NFP program receive essential items including diapers, baby wipes and maternal education. The goal of the NFP Program is to help families access resources.

The NFP Program is administered through a partnership between BRHPC and the two hospital districts in Broward County, Memorial Healthcare System and Broward Health. The hospital districts directly employ the nurse home visitors for the program which are trained and report to the Program Nurse Supervisor which is employed directly through BRHPC. NFP has eight nurses total, four from each hospital district. The program is funded by the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Visiting Initiative (MIECHV) which is administrated by the Florida association of Healthy Start Coalitions.

## Success Story



Client was a referral from Ohio relocating to Broward County. First contact was through virtual visits and mom did not seem as engaged in the program. The breakthrough was during the first in-person visit. At this time the mom confessed that she really wants to be a good mom to her child. The nurse considered this confession as a strength to encourage the mom to collaborate on education and improvements.

The baby Londyn was a healthy delivery, born at 38 weeks via C-section due to pre-eclampsia. Londyn weighed 6.6lbs and mom recovered nicely. Despite education on breastfeeding mom was only able to breastfeed for 2 months. This allowed Londyn to have vital nutrients which is very important.

Londyn continued to grow as a healthy and happy baby. Mom was able to complete a dream to obtain her CDL License although she chose not to start working. Instead she returned to school achieving her high school diploma and is continuing with college courses. Educational toys and books offered above and beyond support to her and her child. She states that the support and constant education received in the program helped her be a good mom and she will grow from the support received.

For more information about the Nurse-Family Partnership program contact Nurse Supervisor, Maxine Pink at [Mpink@brhpc.org](mailto:Mpink@brhpc.org).

## Insurance Benefit Management System

*Open Enrollment Starts November 1, 2022*



It's been another great year and BRHPC is gearing up for its November 1st Open Enrollment for the annual ACA Marketplace 2023 policies by updating Enroll.BRHPC.net enrollment site. A number of improvements have been made to include eligibility verification, verification of income eligibility,

checking and preventing

BRHPC's Insurance Benefits Management System (IBMS) continues to evolve as new opportunities present themselves. Improvements have been implemented to automate enrollment and payment processes which improve service times, quality assurance and data accuracy. The IBMS utilizes staff monitored work queues for clients with enrollment data discrepancies such as insurance carrier change, income documents or marketplace requirements which require additional research needing to be resolved by designated staff.

BRHPC's Premium Assistance team meets daily to review data integrity and discuss client or system issues which, in turn, continually improves the IBM system allowing BRHPC to exceed client and funder expectations. All issues are tracked utilizing the IBMS ticket system and remain pending until they are resolved and closed pending confirmation of resolution

For health insurance information, please contact **Matt Anthony at 954-561-9681 ext. 1205** and for payment information, please contact **Cristy Kozla at 954-561-9681 ext. 1334**.

## Healthy Families Broward

### *Events & Acknowledgments*

Healthy Families Broward (HFB) was in full swing from spring to summer with lots of activities. Our final Spring Community event was the Awesome Dads Awesome Men event where fathers were celebrated for their presence in their child's life. At the event, HFB provided community resources and education about the program. To celebrate Father's Day, the Child Development Specialist (CDS), Candi James, invited Mr. Andrew Williams from Community Connections to meet with the fathers on Zoom to share advice and encouraging words. The dads in our program enjoyed the session.

Our Family Support Specialists (FSS) introduced summer safety tips focusing on water, violence and heat safety. The HFB team discussed safe water activities with children, avoid leaving children around dangerous equipment in the household, being mindful of the dangerous Florida heat and to not leave children unattended in hot vehicles. The FSS also educated HFB participants with water safety materials provided from the McGovern Foundation and educational material provided by the HFB CDS for the older children in the home, to get them ready for the new school year.



HFB would like to recognize our award-winning staff Corinne Perez-Lopez (FSS) for being a great team player. Corinne knows how to step in and get the job done. She is always striving to do her best by meeting unit requirements, outcomes, and paperwork deadlines. Corinne has shown great effort and teamwork which has made her a stellar employee.



As families prepared for Back To School, HFB provided backpacks filled with school supplies. The backpacks were donated by Children Services Council of Broward and Hands On Broward to ensure all Broward County Children were ready for the school year.



To celebrate Child Advocate Week, the HFB team attended the Healthy Families Florida Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL. The theme this year was "Mission: Possible" which highlights the optimism and passion that our home visiting program is known for.

At this event our HFB Program Director, Lasonya Starlin was awarded "Staff Milestone" for 10 years of continued dedication to the HFB program which is imperative for the success of this mission. Congratulations, Lasonya!

For additional information on the Healthy Families Broward Program, contact Program Director, [Lstarlin@brhpc.org](mailto:Lstarlin@brhpc.org).

## Community Based Workforce

### *COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Program*

Broward Regional Health Planning Council's Community Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Program is a collaborative program that engages three (3) community partners; mobilizes community health workers and medical professionals to educate; assists individuals in getting the vaccine; addresses COVID-19 related health disparities and advances health equity.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) mobilized countywide to educate, reduce barriers, build vaccine confidence, and support vaccine access to communities facing greatest challenges. CHWs readily identified three (3) top reasons for vaccine hesitancy as (1) medical mistrust; (2) credibility, conflicting information, and misinformation; and (3) lack of awareness and inconsistent messaging. CHWs identified key subpopulations experiencing high levels of vaccine hesitancy and the greatest challenges and needs. BRHPC commends the highly specialized workforce from Holy Cross Health, Memorial Healthcare System and Mount Olive Development Corporation for a successful year.

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life, including our ability to attend important appointments and receive routine vaccinations. Now that students have returned to school for the fall and flu season has begun, this is a reminder to catch up on routine visits and vaccinations that may have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, it is recommended to talk to your doctor, nurse, or healthcare provider to ensure you and your family are protected against serious diseases by getting caught up on routine vaccinations.

Vaccination is one of the best ways parents can protect infants, children, and teens from sixteen (16) potentially harmful diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious, may require hospitalization, or even be deadly - especially in infants and young children. The CDC recommends that children age 6 months and older should get a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and children ages 5 and older who received the Pfizer vaccine should get a booster at least 5 months after the second shot. At this time, people aged 12 years to 17 years can only receive the updated Pfizer bivalent booster. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you recover from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19.

Looking to get your booster vaccine? Bivalent Boosters are available every Thursday throughout October at Holy Cross Health Outpatient area. Schedule an appointment by calling Virginia at 954-542-1654 and bring your vaccine card and photo ID to your appointment.

For more information, support, and assistance with community resources available to support vaccine access, contact Jasmin D. Shirley, MSPH, Project Director, at 954-561-9681 x 1261 or email [Jdshirley@brhpc.org](mailto:Jdshirley@brhpc.org).

## Get Covered Broward

### *Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance Program*

BRHPC is proud to join the initiative for the second year in a row to increase awareness regarding the availability of FREE or low-cost health insurance, through the partnership of the Health Foundation of South Florida. This program called Get Covered Broward, successfully completed its first open enrollment period last year and is gearing up for the upcoming open enrollment period. Call BRHPC's 1-800-794-2208 toll-free number for one-on-one enrollment assistance through an actual broker.

**Open Enrollment begins November 1, 2022 and ends January 15, 2023**

**Call 1-800-794-2208 During Open Enrollment for Assistance**

**If you think you may qualify for a special enrollment period - call now**

This year, more people than ever qualify for financial assistance. Consumers will be able to find affordable health insurance plans that cover essential health benefits, pre-existing conditions, and preventive care when seeing In Network providers. Four out of five people will be able to find plans for \$10/month or less after the recent expansion of financial assistance. With the new law, more people qualify for tax incentives that lower their premiums. More than 400,000 uninsured people in Florida are eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan for \$0 per month after receiving financial assistance. Every year, health plan options change in cost, coverage, and participating providers, which is why it is important for consumers to compare plans during Open Enrollment.

No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people need medical care at some point. Health insurance helps cover the costs and offers many other benefits. It covers essential health benefits, critical to maintaining your health and treating illness and accidents. Health insurance is an important way of not only protecting you and your family's health, but also protecting them from high unexpected medical costs and bills. All plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace cover free preventative care with no co-pay. This means no more putting off important services like check-ups because of the cost.

The Get Covered Broward Initiative provides free education and application assistance to uninsured and vulnerable individuals. We take time to make sure consumers understand their coverage benefits and answer questions about selecting a plan. Whether you are uninsured or looking to find health coverage at a lower cost – this Open Enrollment Period is for you! Call Now: 1-800-794-2208.

For any additional questions, contact Affordable Care Act Enrollment Coordinator, Shawn Tinsley at [Stinsley@brhpc.org](mailto:Stinsley@brhpc.org).

# Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

## *About the Program*

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. For the last fourteen years, the team has been working to assist eligible low-income [Area Median Income 80% or below] Broward County residents with past due rent, utility, mortgage assistance, and permanent housing placement.

During the current contract year, April 2022 to June 2022, the Housing Assistance program BRHPC provided over 136 unduplicated clients with over \$178,687.31 for short-term rental, permanent housing placement, utility, mortgage, and emergency hotel voucher assistance to help prevent homelessness.

BRHPC has been working closely with the local HOPWA Grantee and the City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development Division to find better ways to deliver services to the community. BRHPC has also cooperated with local HOPWA agencies such as Care Resource, Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO), and SunServe to offer training, technical assistance, and service coordination. Below is one of our recent success stories: An email from a client.

**Client Success Story:** Client was laid off from her job and fell behind on her mortgage payments. As a result, the client was at risk of going into foreclosure and losing her home for over 15 years. With the swift and dedicated help of the client's Housing Case Manager and the Reviewer at BRHPC, the client worked out an arrangement with the mortgage company. The program assisted the client with financial assistance towards her mortgage and late fees. As a result, the payments were made quickly, thus preventing foreclosure and saving the client's home for the client and family.



**New Team Member:** BRHPC welcomes Andrew Goode as our new Housing Reviewer in the HOPWA Program. Mr. Goode is a graduate of Towson University in Maryland with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in International Business. He was born in Southern Florida, lived in Texas, New York, Hawaii, and New Mexico, and spent most of his life in the DC metro area. Andrew loves to watch sports, study different cultures and learn about history.

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

For additional information, please email Director of Housing, Sharon Alveranga-Jones at [smcdonald@brhpc.org](mailto:smcdonald@brhpc.org).

## Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination

### *About the Program*

Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination's (CIED) core functions include determining eligibility for Ryan White Part A services and/or third-party payers. CIED also provides information and referrals for services for clients who are seeking medical and supportive services. CIED services include a centralized intake, eligibility, enrollment and information/referral process for all Ryan White Part A funded services. CIED serves as the single point of entry for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) who are residents of Broward County.

This program is funded by Broward County Board of County Commissioners. Our specialized staff provides information and assistance in obtaining medical care and other core and supportive services. Expected benefits for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) include:

BRHPC provides Part A online eligibility, allowing clients to complete recertification without traveling to a physical intake location. To date there have been over 3,211 online user accounts created. BRHPC has interagency and out-posting agreements with approved Ryan White Part A Providers. CIED provides RW Part A eligibility at thirteen RW Provider locations and the BRHPC main office in Hollywood.

### **Journey to Successful Viral Load Suppression Project:**

CIED developed a quality improvement project in March 2022, to monitor and evaluate the viral load suppression of new to care HIV consumers of Ryan White Services through December 2022. Twenty-eight (28) consumers were randomly selected; 100% had detectable viral load test results and are not virally suppressed at initiation of the project.

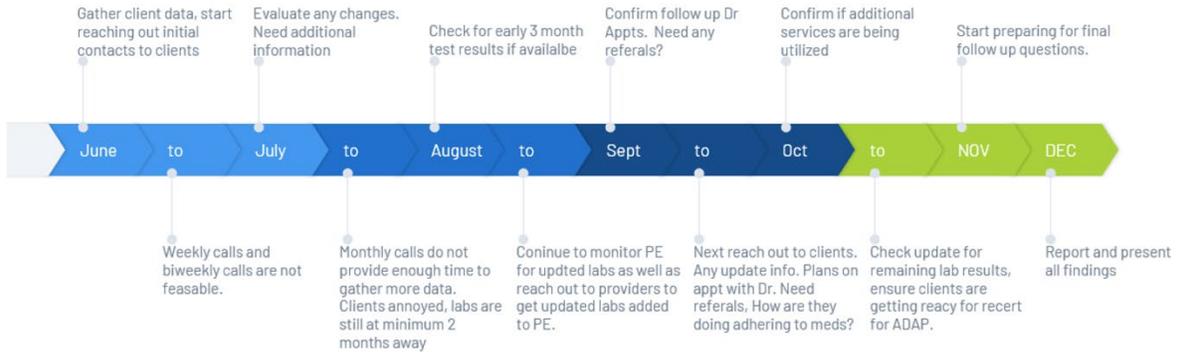
### **The objectives of the Journey to Successful Viral Load (VL) Suppression Project are multifold:**

1. Ensure timely/consistent communication with a Peer Specialist.
2. Ensure consumer is knowledgeable about HIV disease, Ryan White Services Network options of care and supportive services, and how to navigate effectively.
3. Ensure consumer is compliant with care plan(s), medical/laboratory appointments and adhering to medication(s) prescribed.
4. Monitor and evaluate VL laboratory results through December 2022.
5. Achieve VL Suppression indicative of an “undetectable” VL test result.

### **Within the first three months, preliminary VL results/outcomes are evaluated:**

- 8 of 28 (29%) - VL Undetectable
- 5 of 28 (18%) - VL Detectable
- 15 of 28 (53%) – VL not available

## Journey to Successful Viral Load Suppression Project. Timeline:



Continuing analysis is warranted. Unanticipated events surfaced that shall require effective communications and accountability for all Ryan White Network Providers as data is uploaded into Provide Enterprise. Special commendations are extended to Von Biggs, CIED Peer Specialist, who is the star champion and advocate of the Journey to Successful Viral Load Suppression Project. Kudos to the success of this exciting journey as together we all strive for excellence, compliance, and viral suppression for all consumers of Ryan White Services.



**Left:** Jasmin D. Shirley, Program director, CIED/HICP Program

**Right:** Vonn Biggs, Peer Specialist, CIED/HICP Program

For more information on the Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination Program, contact Jasmin D. Shirley, Program Director, at [Jdshirley@brhpc.org](mailto:Jdshirley@brhpc.org).

# Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination

*View the Office Location & Hours Below*

## **Broward Regional Health Planning Council**

200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
954-566-1417  
M-F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **AHF North Point (Medical & Case Management)**

6333 N. Federal Highway, Suite 301 & 302  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-722-2411  
M, T, Th & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **AHF - Oakland Park (Medical & Case Management)**

1164 E Oakland Park Boulevard  
Oakland Park, FL 33334  
954-561-6900  
W - 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **AHF - Fort Lauderdale (Medical & Case Management)**

700 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 301  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316  
954-767-0887  
Th & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **BCFHC (Medical & Case Management)**

168 N Powerline Road  
Pompano, FL 33069  
954-960-8805  
M & T 9:30am - 6:00pm

## **BCFHC (RW Part A Dental)**

162 N Powerline Road  
Pompano, FL 33069  
954-970-7067  
M & T - 9:00am - 4:00pm

## **Broward House (Case Management)**

2800 Andrews Avenue  
Wilton Manors, FL 33311  
954-568-7373  
T - F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Care Resource (Medical, Case Management & RW Part A Dental)**

871 W Oakland Park Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

954-567-7141

M, W-F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Children Diagnostic and Treatment Center\***

1401 S. Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316  
954-728-8080  
M-F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Comprehensive Care Center (Medical & Case Management)**

1101 NW 1st Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
954-467-0880  
M, W & TH 8:30am - 5pm, F 8:30am - Noon

## **Memorial Primary Care Center (Medical & Case Management)**

5647 Hollywood Boulevard  
Hollywood FL 33021  
954-276-1616  
M-Th 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Paul Hughes\* (ADAP)**

205 NW 6th Avenue  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
954-566-1417 x 1242 or 1279  
M-F, 8:00am - 5:00pm

## **Poverello (Food Bank)**

2056 N. Dixie Highway  
Wilton Manors, FL 33305  
954-561-3663  
M - F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Specialty Care Center (Medical & Case Management)**

1111 W. Broward Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
954-463-7313  
T & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

## **Florida Department of Health - State Road 84 (ADAP)**

2421 SW 6th Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315  
954-213-0623  
Th & F 9:00am 4:00pm

## Health Insurance Continuation Program

### *About the Program*

The Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP) provides financial assistance to clients who meet program criteria of residency, income and health status. Health insurance plans are identified by the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and the Ryan White Program. Financial assistance is offered for Broward County eligible individuals living with HIV to maintain optimal health outcomes. The goal of HICP is to help clients with financial assistance to maintain health insurance coverage, go to medical providers of their choice and receive preventive health care through their chosen Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace health insurance plan.

Each client enrolled in the HICP program is eligible for \$6,500 in annual assistance for out of pocket and deductible cost for their respective insurance plan. The target population includes all Ryan White Part A clients that have an income between 250% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. During the FY 2021-2022, clients had the option of selecting and enrolling in 1 of 25 different ACA Marketplace health insurance plans. The ACA enabled clients to select a plan based on medical providers, medications on approved formularies and geographic location of medical providers and pharmacies. The Health Insurance Continuation Program is funded by Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

### HICP Welcomes New Health Insurance Continuation Coordinator



BRHPC welcomes Latasha Lane-Lovett as the HICP Coordinator. She joined the BRHPC team on May 17, 2022. Latasha works closely with Central Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED) to ensure continuity of care and access to healthcare providers for all clients. The HICP program works with pharmacies, health care providers, and hospitals to ensure clients are eligible for co-pay assistance for medical visits.

Latasha is a graduate of Miami Beach Senior High School and attended Florida International University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Health Services Administration. She is very excited to represent the Ryan White program and support the mission of providing quality health care for patients in the program.

HICP participated in a virtual Provide Enterprise training on August 2-5 that served as a refresher on how to use and navigate the program. On August 26th, HICP attended an eligibility training presented by Ms. Jasmin Shirley for the CIED staff. The training was informative and covered all aspects on how we to enroll clients needing HICP services.

Satisfied HICP Client: Informed the HICP program on the amazing job that we are doing within the community. He is honored to be a part of the program. Client reports, "the HICP program is doing an excellent job and commends us for our hard work and dedication.

For additional information on the program, contact Program Director Jasmin D. Shirley at [Jdshirley@brhpc.org](mailto:Jdshirley@brhpc.org).

# Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program

## *About the Program*

Tenant Base Rental voucher (TBRV) increases affordable housing choices for low-income individuals and families, enabling participants to choose and lease safe, decent, affordable rental units. The TBRV program conducts annual housing quality standard inspections to ensure that assisted clients' units are safe, sanitary, and habitable. The TBRV assistance voucher moves with the client anywhere in Broward County if they no longer want to rent their current unit. The program continues to make strides in admitting new clients into the program. All applicants must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Income and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) criteria. In addition, applicants must be a current Broward County resident whose household is at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI) and could document HIV status that meets program criteria.

### What services are provided?

- Tenant Based Rental Voucher (TBRV) program helps with a portion of qualified individuals rent expenses monthly. This monthly rent subsidy may include a utility allowance (subject to eligibility).
- The Housing Case Management (HCM) program provides support to help clients attain the goal of self-sufficiency.

### The goals for TBRV Housing Case Management are:

- Help clients to establish or maintain a stable home that is sanitary, decent, and safe.
- Help clients to create and follow a housing plan to prevent homelessness and take steps towards self-sufficiency.
- Increase access to health care and community resources.

### Who is eligible for services?

- Be HIV positive (any person in the household).
- At or below 80% of the area's median income.

BRHPC continues to partner with Consolidated Credit to offer monthly financial literacy workshops. that provide our clients with several classes such as debt management, budgeting, coping with financial stress, credit repair, and pathway to homeownership. Visit [www.consolidatedcredithere.com](http://www.consolidatedcredithere.com) for more information.

**Welcoming A New Team Member:** The TBRV Program welcomes Brittney McDonald as the new Housing Specialist. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a bachelor's in sociology, a background in recruiting, admissions, and childcare. Ms. McDonald has over 7 years of experience working for nonprofit organizations assisting disadvantaged families. She plans to apply her current knowledge, skills and experience to the TBRV program.

For more information on the TBRV, contact Program Coordinator, Sharmaine Clarke, at [sclarke@brhpc.org](mailto:sclarke@brhpc.org).

## Supportive Services for Veterans and Families

### *Advocate Program*

Broward Regional Health Planning Council is included in the grant between the Advocate Program, Inc., and the US Department of Veterans Affairs to provide supportive services to veterans. The Support Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) program has a primary goal of rapid re-housing for Veterans and their families.

BRHPC provides case managers to coordinate SSVF case management and rapid rehousing efforts for Veterans and their families. In addition, the SSVF case managers will assist SSVF participants in transitioning from homelessness to permanent, stable housing arrangements or supported housing arrangements.

The SSVF program is a "housing first" initiative. This evidence-based model asserts that the client is housed first regardless of income. Also, it is a program component that all clients receive budget guidance and training at the onset of the program. SSVF Case Managers work diligently to secure the veteran's income through VA benefits, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, including employment search and job readiness.

BRHPC SSVF case managers will serve as the primary point of contact in the coordination of services, on behalf of the clients. They are responsible for the referral to and follow up with, local community service providers, as well as fellow SSVF partner agencies working in concert to assist with the successful housing outcomes for the SSVF Program Participants.

**Are you a Veteran experiencing homelessness in Broward County and in need of housing assistance?  
Call the Advocate Program at 305-704-0200 or the Veteran Helpline at 786-227-5842.**

### Supportive Services Include:

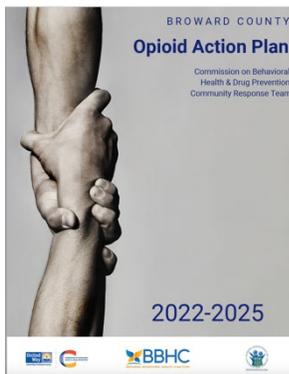
- Assertive Outreach
- Ongoing Case Management
- Housing Stability and Counseling
- VA Benefit and Health Care Acquisition
- Public Entitlement and Disability Benefit Attainment
- Emergency and Temporary Financial Assistance
- Income Supports: Educational, Vocational, Employment
- Legal Services

## Broward County Opioid Outreach Initiatives

BRHPC has been contracted to provide for the evaluation of surveillance and prevention activities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant activities implemented by the Department in Broward County (DOH-Broward). BRHPC's local level evaluator creates and executes, in coordination with the State and CDC level evaluators, as well as DOH-Broward, an evaluation plan with measurable outcomes. Evaluation activities include, surveys, focus groups, secondary data analysis, interviews, etc. Evaluations are used to monitor both process and programmatic outcomes of activities.

BRHPC has also been contracted to provide collaboration with the United Way Community Response Team (CRT) to develop their Opioid Action Plan into a comprehensive strategic plan and to help implement the plan through Broward County. BRHPC's CRT Coordinator works with United Way's CRT to develop a strategic response form the Opioid Action Plan and ensure that such a plan considers various factors including data collection, resource availability and capacity, evaluation processes, DOH-Broward's opioid grant, local priorities, etc. BRHPC serves as the liaison between the Florida Department of Health in Broward and United Way of Broward County Commission on Behavioral Health and Drug Prevention (UWBCCBH & DP), by establishing and maintaining mutually productive working relationships with stakeholders.

### **Broward County Opioid Action Plan 2022-2025**



**Plan Development:** The Opioid Action Plan was developed through a methodical research and assessment process. The Commission facilitated guided community conversations to collect information from our stakeholders on the gaps within prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and policy regarding the opiate epidemic. Then the Commission and its partners created strategies to address the existing gaps and promote a countywide response.

**Scope of the Problem:** In Broward County and throughout the U.S., we face an ongoing opioid epidemic. An estimated 1.6 million people had an Opioid Use Disorder in 2019. Compounding the opioid epidemic is the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2020, individuals have experienced an increase in isolation and decreased access to treatment services. As a result, there has been a staggering increase in overdoses in Broward County and nationwide. Data from the CDC indicate that between April 2020 & April 2021, there were more than 100,000 overdose deaths in the country, an increase of more than 28% from the prior year. More than 75% of those deaths involved opioids, and the vast majority were attributed to illicit fentanyl, a synthetic opioid. In Broward County, overdose deaths involving fentanyl increased by 101% between 2019 & 2020. Additionally, Florida businesses report a cumulative \$46 million loss in revenue due to loss of productivity due to the opioid epidemic.

### **Broward County Monthly Committee Meetings**

United Way of Broward County's Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention works to unite key community stakeholders in Broward County through its action teams to develop prevention strategies and action plans that address specific substance abuse and mental health concerns. Join BRHPC and all of the impactful community partners and stakeholders at the committee meetings outlined below:



- **The Surveillance Committee** shares and provides emerging drug and mental health trend data and actionable information to our community. The committee meets on the 1st Friday of every month from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. To register and receive the Zoom link, contact Coraal Cohen at [ccohen@UnitedWayBroward.org](mailto:ccohen@UnitedWayBroward.org) or call 954-308-9275.
- **The Community Response Team Committee** works to combat the opiate epidemic and other emerging drug trends in our community. The committee meets on the third Thursday of every month from 9:00am - 10:30am. To register and receive the zoom information, contact Luzcarime Figari, [lfigari@UnitedWayBroward.org](mailto:lfigari@UnitedWayBroward.org) or call 954-453-3723.

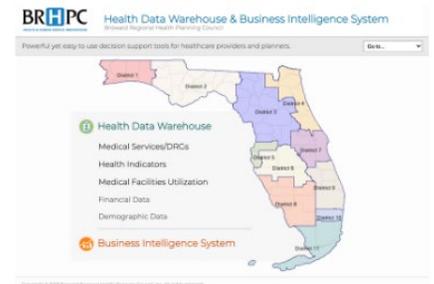
#### **Community Response Team Sub-Committees**

- **The Policy Workgroup** supports advocacy efforts related to substance use and prevention, mental health promotion and community well-being. The subcommittee meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 12:00pm - 1:00pm
- **The Prevention Workgroup** works to bring prevention information regarding opiates and other substance use among individuals of all ages in Broward County. The subcommittee meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- **The Addiction Services Workgroup** promotes a coordinated network of community-based services and supports helping individuals in the community to live a healthy and productive life. The committee meets on the second Thursday of every month from 10:45am to 12:15pm.
- To receive meeting links for the CRT subcommittees, contact Luzcarime Figari [lfigari@UnitedWayBroward.org](mailto:lfigari@UnitedWayBroward.org) or call 954-453-3723.

For additional questions about the Broward County Opioid Outreach Initiatives or ways to get involved contact Nicole Cohen, at [Ncohen@brhpc.org](mailto:Ncohen@brhpc.org).

## BRHPC's Health Data Warehouse

The BRHPC Health Data Warehouse contains self-reported utilization data for hundreds of hospital and nursing home facilities throughout the State of Florida. This state-of-the-art system also processes detailed and searchable data indicators from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and Nielsen, making it a powerful tool for planning, analysis and report development.



### Datasets Include:

- Hospital and Nursing Home Utilization
- Prevention Quality Indicators
- Pediatric Prevention Quality Indicators
- Emergency Department Utilization
- Self-Inflicted Injuries
- Diagnosis Related Groups
- Chronic Diseases
- Demographic Data

For additional information on BRHPC's Health Data Warehouse email [Utilization@brhpc.org](mailto:Utilization@brhpc.org).

## Health Care Access Committee

### Monthly Meeting



BRHPC acts as facilitator for the Health Care Access Committee with the purpose to improve access to health care for the residents of Broward County. During committee meetings, outcomes and indicators are established, measured and reviewed. The members of the committee represent various facilities, agencies and/or departments within the County. The Health Care Access Committee Meeting is held on the fourth Monday of the month virtually through Microsoft

Teams at 10am. If you are interested in participating on the Health Care Access Committee, email Yolanda Falcone at [Yfalcone@brhpc.org](mailto:Yfalcone@brhpc.org).

## 2022 Public Health Workforce Development Series

*RSVP to Join the Conversation*

The Public Health Workforce Development Program is organized by Nova Southeastern University in collaboration with Broward Regional Health Planning Council. This program involves educational workshops about important skill sets for those in the public health field.

### **Upcoming Presentation - Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

Join us on Wednesday October 19th from Noon - 1PM for the fifth Public Health Workforce Development Seminar this year. The presentation will be presented by Chad Chelius, ACI, ADS covering PDF Accessibility in Public Health. In this presentation you will understand why it's important for PDF files to be accessible and what it means to users with disabilities. This session will show you the importance of PDF accessibility, why it's important, and how you can get started.



**About the Speaker:** Chad Chelius is a trainer, author, consultant, and speaker residing in the Philadelphia area. He has been using Adobe products for over 25 years and began his career in the design and publishing industry. As an Adobe Certified Instructor, Accessible Document Specialist, and a consultant, he teaches and advises on all Adobe print and web products, specializing in InDesign and InCopy workflows, Illustrator, and PDF accessibility using Adobe InDesign and Adobe Acrobat. He works with clients both large and small, in and outside the United States, helping them to solve problems, work smarter, and more efficiently using Adobe products.

**Interested in attending? RSVP to [Workforce@brhpc.org](mailto:Workforce@brhpc.org) to receive the link to the webinar.**

Save the Date for our final speaker for the 2022 Public Health Workforce Development Series that is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th Digital Health Information: Media Coverage of Cancer and It's Impact on Patients.

For the 2023 cycle, we are looking for presenters on a range of public health topics. If you are interested in presenting or have any further questions, email [Workforce@brhpc.org](mailto:Workforce@brhpc.org) and provide the following information: name, title, organization, topic(s) interested in presenting and contact information. We look forward to your presentations!

# HIV Planning Council & Clinical Quality Management

## *Join the Planning Council*



You can be a part of the HIV Health Services Planning Council's (HIVPC) efforts by joining the Council or any of its committees. The Council seeks new members to contribute their time, ideas, and expertise to serve on the Planning Council and its committees. The HIVPC directs and coordinates effective responses to the HIV epidemic in Broward County. The goal is to ensure quality, comprehensive care that positively optimizes the health of people with HIV at all stages of illness. The Planning Council offers a unique opportunity for community members and service providers to work together to improve the health outcomes of the HIV community.

The HIVPC's Community Empowerment Committee (CEC) continued its Community Conversation series to discuss the experiences and needs of people with HIV. On June 14, CEC collaborated with the World AIDS Museum to discuss options and challenges faced by Long-Term HIV Survivors. These sessions successfully garnered community feedback and identified gaps in the provision of care.



On August 9, 2022, CEC hosted "My Faith. My Story," a Faith HIV Awareness Day discussion at ArtServe. Thirty people were in attendance, and there were 57 Facebook views and 15 participants on Zoom. Guest Speakers were Von Biggs (Former Pastor, HIVPC Vice-Chair), Rabbi Noah Kitty (Jewish

Community Representative), Cary Goodman (Balm of Gilead Representative), and Mamie Harris & Camisha Chambers (Tri-States Faith Community Representatives, Cincinnati). The panelists discussed the removal of judgment and stigma within faith-based communities; providing education to faith-based organizations so they can properly educate their congregation; how faith leaders should use the power of the pulpit but also utilize the power of their influence to distribute HIV education and prevention messages; ways that Faith-Based Organizations should partner and build relationships with the Public Health community; both parties (Faith community and HIV community) may have preconceived notions and biases, but until both parties come together and collaborate, the HIV Epidemic will continue; places of worship should be more trauma-informed, with the ability to understand the culture of places of worship. The discussion was facilitated by the CEC Chair, Ms. Shawn Jackson-Tinsley, and panelists also fielded questions from the audience. The event was a partnership between the CEC, World AIDS Museum, and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. The Arianna's Center and Broward County Florida Health Department were other community partners tabling at the event.

## **Telling a Story with Data: What's Happening in Quality Management**

The BRHPC Clinical Quality Management team is guiding the Ryan White Part A contracted service providers to achieve successful Quality Improvement Projects (QIP) to meet an overall



goal of increasing the systemwide retention rate for people with HIV. Patient retention is measured as a percentage of patients who return to their provider for multiple visits. With technical assistance from the Quality team, each of the 12 agencies is tailoring their QIP to affect the goal directly/indirectly. Similarly, the other networks (Support Services, Behavioral Health, Oral Health, Disease Case Management, and Medical Providers) will drive the conversation about identifying barriers to increasing retention among marginalized populations. The Quality team will perform a data analysis into the systematic issues that each agency experiences in the Broward Ryan White Part A EMA related to retention in care and proposes that if each agency has a retention increase by at least 2%, the average retention in care of the whole EMA would increase from an average of 72% to 84.5%. Trainings for all the networks are scheduled throughout the fiscal year to support the agencies as they develop innovative ways to address discrepancies within the system of care.

Additionally, the Clinical Quality Management team organized the LGBTQ 101 Proficiency and Workplace Bias Training on August 12, 2022, at BRHPC for all Ryan White Part A providers and staff. This three-hour training was facilitated by Misty Eyez, the Director of Transgender Services, Women’s Services, and training/education at SunServe, a nonprofit agency serving the LGBTQ community in South Florida. Around 25 people attended the event to learn more about addressing transgender issues, gain a historical perspective of the LGBTQ+ community, and understand how to address diverse populations appropriately.



### **Ending Stigma through Collaboration and Lifting All to Empowerment (ESCALATE)**



NMAC – (The National Minority AIDS Council), in partnership with the University of Chicago, launched the ESCALATE program in 2020. Funded by a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA),

“ESCALATE” works to reduce the stigma against People with HIV at the individual, organizational, and systemic levels.

Three BRHPC staff Dr. Gritell Berkeley Martinez, Shawn Jackson-Tinsley, and Von Biggs, attended a five-day ESCALATE training in Miami, FL, August 14-19, to better inform the HIV Health Services Planning Council in its efforts to learn ways to reduce HIV stigma & discrimination, increase awareness, and address stigma throughout the Ryan White Part A System of Care.

HIV stigma is a primary contributor to health gaps and disparities around access to HIV treatment and prevention within communities of color. As such, the ESCALATE program teaches participants to recognize and address HIV stigma, focusing on transgender/gender non-conforming individuals, men who have sex with men, and the Black/African American community.

Contact Program Director, Dr. Gritell Martinez for more information on the HIV Planning Council and Clinical Quality Management Program at [Gmartinez@brhpc.org](mailto:Gmartinez@brhpc.org).

## BRHPC's Outstanding Leader of the Year



**Dr. Berkeley Martinez** has been with BRHPC for four years, served as the Coordinator of the Disaster Case Management program, Manager of Clinical Quality Management, and is currently the Director of Planning and Quality Management. She also serves as a member of BRHPC's Human Resources and Staff Training & Development subcommittees. Dr. Martinez is from the U.S.

Virgin Islands and has worked for over 20 years in social services, psycho-social, and public administration in both the non-profit and government sectors. There she served as the Territorial Director of the Virgin Islands Department of Health's Communicable Diseases Division - STD/HIV/TB Unit. Dr. Martinez holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of the Virgin Islands, a Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration from Walden University, and is a Certified Public Manager. "She is thrilled to be part of the Broward Regional Health Planning Council family and to contribute to its 40-year history of being an agent of social change to a diverse community."

*Employee of the Quarter*

### Spring 2022



**Ms. Marlen Salcedo** joined the BRHPC team in March 2016. In her role as the Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED) Administrative Assistant, Marlen provides the CIED Program with consistent eligibility scheduling, provider appointment requests and support to the CIED specialists. She continuously communicates with all program staff, provider agencies, creates and documents progress notes and clearly expresses issues

and problem resolutions. Marlene is client focused, exceeds expectations as set forth by the program and the agency, takes pride in her work and is always a pleasure to be around. Congratulations, Marlen!

*Employee of the Quarter*

### Summer 2022



**Ms. Cristy Kozla** began her career at Broward Regional Health Planning Council in 2015 as a temp employee. A few months later, BRHPC was awarded a contract with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) where Cristy was hired as a full-time employee and took on the role as the Payment Manager for the ELC Program. In this new role, Cristy ensured all day care centers in Broward County received their monthly payment, between VPK and School Readiness contracts, accurately and on time. After twenty-seven months, the ELC

program ended and a new opportunity was present for Cristy. BRHPC was later awarded an expanded ADAP program and she is to this day, the Payment Manager for BRHPC's Insurance Benefit Management System Program. Along with her extensive knowledge in finance and accounting skills, Cristy is also the office baker, who makes the most incredible and decadent desserts! Congratulations, Cristy!

## Do You Need to Be Fingerprinted?

**What:** BRHPC offers Live Scan fingerprinting technology for Level II Background Screening for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS), Elder Affairs, and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Live Scan allows for electronic submission of fingerprint screens, with results within 24 to 48 hours, in comparison to the hard card fingerprint submission, which can take 4 to 6 weeks. Additional services such as photo submission to the AHCA clearinghouse are available at BRHPC. In order to assist community agencies and providers in meeting legislative requirements of HB 7069, BRHPC acquired equipment with the capability to scan fingerprints electronically for Level II Background Screening, using Live Scan technology.

**Who:** BRHPC's fingerprinting clientele include hospital employees, guardian ad litem programs, doctors' offices, non-profit and social service agencies, colleges, universities and more.

**When:** Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Fingerprinting clients must bring a valid ID and the identifying number for the organization requesting fingerprints (ORI, OCA). Cash or business check is accepted. We accept cash or business checks only.

If you are in need of Electronic Background Screening Submissions & Quick Results, BRHPC can help you.

For more information, email [Yfalcone@brhpc.org](mailto:Yfalcone@brhpc.org) or call 954-561-9681.

### **Location for fingerprinting services:**

Broward Regional Health Planning Council

200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100

Hollywood, FL 33020

954-561-9681

Located in the Oakwood Plaza

## Council on Accreditation

### *Second Time Accredited*



Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC) has achieved national accreditation for the second time on January 8, 2021, through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). Organizations like BRHPC pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of BRHPC's programs, services, management, and administration. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement. BRHPC has achieved the highest standards of professional practice for the service it provides through August 31, 2024. This past August, BRHPC completed the Annual Maintenance Report through the COA portal.

BRHPC upholds a culture of continuous quality improvement through its transparent processes that engages the BRHPC Board of Directors, managerial and supervisory staff and stakeholders to eliminate barriers to achieving accountability. On a monthly basis, BRHPC conducts a Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) meeting which is comprised of executive, supervisory and managerial staff. The PQI meeting functions as a forum for ensuring all staff involved receive needed training and education for optimal program operation. Providing leadership for the assessment and improvement activities ensures activities are conducted in a collaborative, continuous, and effective manner. The following four subcommittees present their reports to the PQI meeting for discussion and approval:

- **The Human Resources Subcommittee**
  - Ensuring HR and grievance issues are addressed
- **The MIS Subcommittee**
  - Management of information and technology activities
- **The Risk Prevention Management Subcommittee**
  - Mitigating risks for the protection of client information
- **The Staff Training & Development Subcommittee**
  - Training and education for all BRHPC staff

Overall, BRHPC views performance quality improvement as a dynamic process that is constantly evolving.

Hospice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Batching Cycle 2022

<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates*</b>
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	8-5-22
Letter of Intent Deadline	8-22-22
Application Deadline	9-28-22
Completeness Review Deadline	11-23-22
Application Omissions Deadline	12-21-22
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	12-16-22

Nursing Homes: and ICF/DDs: 2<sup>nd</sup> Batching Cycle - 2022

<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates*</b>
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	9-30-22
Letter of Intent Deadline	10-17-22
Application Deadline	11-16-22
Completeness Review Deadline	11-23-22
Application Omissions Deadline	12-21-22
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	2-10-23