

2023 Winter Newsletter



Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc.

Health & Human Service Innovations
200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33020 | 954.561.9681 | www.BRHPC.org

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A Leadership Message

From BRHPC's President & CEO, Michael De Lucca



BRHPC Awarded \$78 Million Insurance Assistance Program Benefits Contract From the State of Tennessee AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). BRHPC has been awarded \$78 million to serve over 5,000 clients annually over a three-year contract period. The Insurance Assistance Program (IAP) Benefits program provides health insurance premium payments as well as medical and pharmaceutical copayments for Ryan White clients enrolled in Tennessee's AIDS Drug Assistance (ADAP) program.

In September of 2022, the State of Tennessee Department of Health issued an RFP for Insurance Assistance Program Benefits Management. In December of 2022, the State completed the evaluations and provided its Notice of Intent to Award the contract to Broward Regional Health Planning Council. Since that time, the current provider has unsuccessfully attempted to appeal the award.

The State of Tennessee's procurement process provides three levels of appeals. The current IAP provider immediately submitted their first protest of the award to the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) upon the award in December. In February of 2023, the appeal to the Procurement Office was denied. In response, the incumbent filed a Notice of Appeal of the CPO's decision to the State Protest Committee. In May of 2023, the State Protest Committee (SPC) unanimously voted to deny the protest and uphold the CPO decision. In July of 2023, the incumbent filed the third and final appeal available, a Petition to the Chancery Court seeking judicial review of the decision made by the State Protest Committee. The Chancery Court will hold oral arguments in March of 2024. Stay tuned for further updates.

The 2024 Open Enrollment Period is still ongoing. Take advantage of the January 16, 2024, deadline to select an affordable plan for health coverage, which will start on February 1, 2024. To select and enroll in a health plan, check eligibility status, or for more information, call BRHPC's Get Covered Broward Program directly at 1-800-794-2208 for one-on-one assistance. Get Covered Broward is an initiative funded by the Health Foundation of South Florida and managed by BRHPC to assist residents with enrollment in low-cost health insurance. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Our representatives can help you select the best plan for you and your family. After January 16, you can enroll in or change plans if you qualify for the Special Enrollment Period.



BRHPC celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Every year, BRHPC staff selects a day in October to wear pink and show their support for breast cancer awareness and research in the office. I want to thank our staff for participating in such an important cause, as this brings awareness to the disease and acts as a

reminder for screening exams. According to the American Cancer Society, when breast cancer is detected early, ans is in the localized stage, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.



Housing and Health Summit Opening Speech. As Board Chair of the Health Foundation of South Florida, I was honored to provide the opening remarks and welcome speech at the Housing and Health Summit on November 30, 2023. The summit served as a first in convening leaders and policymakers from healthcare and housing agencies to address one of our community's most pressing issues: the escalating affordable housing crisis. Thank you to the Health Foundation of South Florida and Miami Homes for All for allowing me to kick off the summit.

World AIDS Day Recognition. In observance of World AIDS Day, three BRHPC staff (left to right), Michelle Barrett, Dr. Gritell Berkeley Martinez and Natalie Lewis, participated in the opening ceremony of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Hagen Park in Wilton Manors. The event was an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate the stories and lives of those lost to HIV/AIDS. HIV continues to affect millions of lives globally, and we must come together as a community to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support those affected.



Spreading Gratitude. We are on the cusp of a new year, and I want to thank BRHPC's funders, community partners, Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for your tireless efforts, expertise, and guidance. Thanks for contributing to a successful 2023, and I look forward to continued achievements in 2024 with new opportunities to serve our community.

Sincerely,

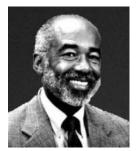
Michael De Lucca, MHM, President & CEO

BRHPC Board of Directors

2023-2024



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Nurse-Family Partnership

About the Program

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program works with high-risk mothers of the community. The program is aimed at improving prenatal care, decreasing infant mortality rate, and promoting breastfeeding in the community. NFP works with both at-risk first-time mothers and mothers with multiple births. The goal of NFP is to implement early interventions for these women. 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:

- Economic adversity
- Any form of High-Risk Behaviors
- Education levels
- 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 potentially high-risk mothers.

The NFP program is administered through a partnership between BRHPC and two of the County's hospitals, Broward Health and Holy Cross Health. The hospitals directly employ the nurse home visitors for the program who are trained and report to the Program Nurse Supervisor, which is employed directly through BRHPC. Broward NFP has eight (8) nursing positions total; 4 nurses with Broward Health and 4 nurses with Holy Cross Health. The NFP program is funded by the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Visiting Initiative (MIECHV) which is administrated by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions.

NFP clients participating in the program receive essential items such as car seats, Pack n Plays (for safe sleep practices) diapers, and wipes to those participants monthly. One of Broward's NFP goals is to help families access resources and become confident in their care of their child.

NFP Graduation 2023

The NFP graduation was held on Saturday, December 2nd at Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center at Holy Cross Health. As the NFP program is entering its 10th year, current and former nurses of the program were recognized at the ceremony. One of the presenters at the program included a former NFP Nurse Supervisor/Nurse Practice Manger, Alain Glenn. Alain spoke on the growth of the program and how it has been a benefit to many mothers in Broward County.

During the ceremony, certificates of completion were given to NFP clients along with an educational presentation focusing on fire safety during the holiday season. Participants were educated on essential safety tips which included placing Christmas trees away from heat sources, discarding any lights with worn or broken cords, keeping live trees fresh and moist by watering daily and turning off all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. The day ended with an art activity for moms and children.





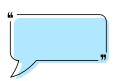








Client Testimonial



"Thank you so much for our graduation moment!! For me I am blessed to have had this program and achievement now to show Eden when she grows up! Thank you. Big hug from both Eden and I for the education and guidance received! Keep up the good work! Thank you for the pictures and memories." - G. Driscoll, 2023

For more information on the Nurse-Family Partnership Program contact the Program Nurse Supervisor, **Maxine Pink** at mpink@brhpc.org.

Get Covered Broward

Community Events

Florida locals are accustomed to the scorching summers, and 2023 delivered some of the hottest days on record. Despite our adoration for the tropical paradise we call home, as the holiday season approached, we eagerly anticipated cooler days offering us the chance to enjoy outdoor activities.

On October 19, 2023, Gilda's Club South Florida hosted the Living Well with Cancer Resource & Education Fair. It ran from 11:00am to 4:00pm in Fort Lauderdale. Approximately 115 people attended and BRHPC was able to distribute 189 informational flyers.









The event aimed to empower individuals affected by cancer, offering education, resources, and emotional support to patients, survivors, families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. It focused on addressing the psychosocial impact of cancer, providing health screenings and facilitating access to wellness resources. It was a well-attended event, giving BRHPC's ACA Coordinator, the opportunity to meet survivors, other community organizations, clergy, those working in the trenches and bring awareness of the 2024 Open Enrollment Period.

On October 21, 2023, Broward County Municipal Services District held their 7th Annual BMSD Wellness Jamboree. It ran from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Reverend Samuel Delevoe Park in Fort Lauderdale. The turnout was great with 225 adults and children in attendance. BRHPC was able to distribute 213 flyers.







This event aimed to raise health awareness within the community, offering free blood pressure and diabetic screenings, vaccines, cardiac screening information, entertainment such as music and dancing, giveaways, a local high school marching band, and bicycle raffles. Notable attendees included Mayor Lamar Fisher and Commissioner Robert McKenzie. It was a lighthearted event with warm images of the dignitaries engaging with and enjoying the children and adult constituents of the community. BRHPC's ACA Coordinator interacted with attendees answering any questions regarding eligibility and enrollment information for the upcoming Open Enrollment Period.

BRHPC remained active during the Special Enrollment Period while also preparing for the annual Get Covered Broward Open Enrollment kickoff. Anticipating a bustling Open Enrollment Season and to better assist the diverse populations we serve, BRHPC produced informational flyers in English, Spanish, and Creole, ensuring access to vital details for securing or retaining health insurance for 2024.

Media Efforts



Get Covered Broward officially kicked off **Open Enrollment season on November 1st and will run through January 16, 2024.** Radio spots aired on National Public Radio, reaching approximately 76,500 individuals. The spots ran during various hours from November 6th to November 19th, including an additional spot tailored for the Creole-speaking population. Additionally, free and paid advertisements were shared on BRHPC's social media pages that include Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram

and X (formerly known as Twitter). During the month of November, thirty-one free posts were shared on all social media platforms with a reach of 779 individuals. Six paid posts were shared on Facebook, each running between five to seven days long, with a reach of 14,676 individuals. All paid advertisements were placed in the program's targeted zip code areas.

Individuals and/or families who enroll in a health plan by December, 15, 2023, will have health coverage beginning January 1, 2024. Get Covered Broward did a large push for the December 15th deadline by broadcasting advertisements in English on Pandora with a reach of 6,032 listeners and in Spanish on Univision Radio with a reach of 9,263 listeners. All advertisements running on Pandora and Univision were placed in the program's targeted zip code areas. The autumn rush has kept us on our toes, but at BRHPC, a bit of hustle and bustle is just part of the game. Bring it on, Winter!

For more information on the ACA Enrollment Program, contact ACA Enrollment Coordinator, **Michelle Barrett** at mbarrett@brhpc.org. For assistance in enrolling in a health insurance plan call **1-800-794-2208**.

Centralized Intake and 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 continues to serve as the single point of entry for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) who are residents of Broward County.



The CIED Team welcomes back **Joseph Pierre**, Eligibility Specialist, who spent more than two years of service with CIED in past years. Jospeh Pierre brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, diverse cultural and multi-lingual skills to our team effort.



Congratulations to **Yolette Beckford**, CIED Eligibility Specialist, who is recognized as the CIED Top Producer with the highest number of eligibility assessments completed and clients served for the month of September 2023. Yolette remains an integral part of the success of CIED and outstanding performance at two off-site locations, AHF North Point and The Poverello Center. Clients consistently comment about her

professionalism, supportive referrals, and compassionate engagements.



Congratulations to **Kazim Ramroop**, CIED Lead Eligibility Specialist, who is recognized as the CIED Top Producer with the highest number of eligibility assessments completed and clients served for the month of October 2023. Kazim continues to lead CIED efforts across multiple CIED off-site locations and goes the extra mile to assist clients, his CIED team members and the Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP) Coordinator.

BRHPC and CIED staff are preparing and training for the open enrollment season for Medicare and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace Exchange Plans. October kicked off with new clients enrolling and selecting their options for Medicare plans effective January 1, 2024. In addition, current Medicare clients are engaged to understand any changes and selections they may opt for during this open enrollment period. The ACA Marketplace open enrollment will kick off November 1, 2023. Plans selected on or before December 15th will become effective January 1, 2024. We encourage all Ryan White Part A clients to actively engage and participate during this open enrollment period. CIED staff are united and prepared to improve access to medical care and supportive services available throughout Broward County.

Ryan White Part A - Certification Locations/Services

Broward Regional Health Planning Council

200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100

Hollywood, FL 33020 | 954-561-9681 x 1242/ 1279

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)

2866 E. Oakland Park Boulevard, Floor 2

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 | 954-561-6900

W-8:30am-5:00pm

AHF -Downtown (Medical & Case Management)

700 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 301

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 | 954-767-0887

Th & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

BCFHC Pompano Beach (Medical & Case Management)

168 N. Powerline Road

Pompano, FL 33069 | 954-970-8805

M 8:30am - 5:00pm & T 9:30am - 6:00pm

Broward House (Case Management Only)

2800 N/ 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, Th & F, 8:30am-5:00pm

Broward Health Comprehensive Care Center

1101 NW 1st Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311 | 954-467-0880

M, W & Th 8:30am - 5:00pm

Memorial Primary Care Center (Medical & Case Management)

5647 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL 33021

954-276-1616 | M, T & W 8:30am - 5:00pm

Poverello (Food Bank)

2056 N. Dixie Highway

Wilton Manors, FL 33305 | 954-561-3663

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

Specialty Care Center (Medical & Case Management)

1111 W. Broward Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 | 954-463-7313

T & F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

FDOH (ADAP)

2421 SW 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

954-467-4700 x 5633 - ADAP 954-213-0623

Th & F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

Call CIED for assistance at **954-566-1417** or email Program Director, **Jasmin D. Shirley** at <u>Jdshirley@brhpc.org</u> for additional information.

Housing Opportunities For Persons with HIV/AIDS

About the Program

The Housing Assistance Program at BRHPC provides services to the community under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program. For the last fifteen 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, October 2022 to September 2023, the Housing Assistance program provided over 201 unduplicated clients with over \$366,666 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.

Client Success Story



The client recently had a stroke and was not able to work. His sister called our office and requested assistance with two months' rent. We immediately made an appointment for the client's sister to come in the next day because the client's landlord was getting impatient and was threatening to evict the client. The client's sister had power of attorney for the client so she could complete the application. The housing specialist contacted the landlord so he could complete the

necessary documentation. The Reviewer did the intake for the client and then spoke to her supervisor about expediting the application process since the client was facing possible eviction. The client's sister called the Reviewer and said, "She wishes one and all in the HOPWA department a Happy Veteran's Day." The client also called and stated, "Words cannot express how thankful I am to everyone who has made the procedure anxiety-free."

As we enter the first 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.

Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program

About the Program



The Tenant Based Voucher Program (TBRV) increases affordable housing choices for low-income individuals and families, enabling participants to choose and lease safe, decent, affordable rental units, and provides a monthly rental subsidy that stays with the client in any housing unit of their choice within Broward County. The client is responsible for using a portion of their income to contribute to rent. Clients

must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income and HOPWA eligibility criteria:

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

The TBRV program case managers assist clients in achieving self-sufficiency through development of Individualized Housing Stability Plan which:

- Identifies client housing instability.
- Creates objectives and goals for independent living.
- Provides supportive services.

Through ongoing psycho-social case management, advocacy, coordination of benefits, and follow-up housing stability work that includes but is not limited to home visits, creation, and monitoring of housing plans with the client, and budgeting, the housing case manager works with clients to ensure reaching self-sufficiency. TBRV also partners with Consolidate Credit, which specializes in providing credit counseling and debt management solutions, with the primary goal of helping individuals struggling with unmanageable debt by offering services and strategies to regain control of their finances.

The TBRV program has made strides in working towards its goals and looks forward to establishing even more objectives for the upcoming year! TBRV continues to make advances in admitting new clients into the program. A lottery process selects Applicants from the City of Fort Lauderdale waitlist.

Client Success Story

Before joining, the client and her family faced the daunting challenges of homelessness. The program's personalized approach to addressing individual needs, dedicated case managers, and goal setting has helped the client on her journey. The client is now discharged due to graduating from the TBRV program. The client's household income was over 80% AMI and has shown the ability to pay the entire rental portion with no TBRV assistance for several months.

For more information, contact Program Coordinator, Sharmaine Clarke at sclarke@brhpc.org.

Planning Council Support Activities

HIV Health Services Planning Council (HIVPC)

One of the important aspects of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) is its focus on community health planning for HIV care and treatment. Community health planning is a deliberate effort to involve diverse community members in an open public process designed to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare services in their community.



PSRA Committee Members, Chair Brad Barnes (Second from Right)

The **Priority Setting and Resource Allocation** (PSRA) committee of the HIVPC uses needs assessment data and data from other sources to set priorities and allocate resources. The members decide which services are most important to people with HIV (priority setting) and then agree on which service categories to fund and how much funding to provide (resource allocations).

The HIVPC, through the PSRA Committee, completed two cycles of reallocating funds by removing monies from underutilized services and moving to underfunded services. During its August 24, 2023, meeting, the Council approved the reallocation of \$2,094,362 for Part A Core and Support Services and \$238,092 in Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Core and Support services, totaling \$2,332,454. Then, at the December 5, 2023, meeting, the reallocation of \$737,649 for Part A Core and Support Services and \$333,077 in MAI Core and Support services was approved, totaling \$1,070,726. The reallocation of Ryan White Part A program funds was conducted according to the standard priority setting and resource allocation procedure. The HIVPC's PSRA Committee adhered to legislative requirements for the proper use of funds and reallocated resources to service categories, which include Core Services: Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services; AIDS Pharmacy Assistance; Oral Health Care, Health Insurance Premium & Cost Sharing, Medical Case Management, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Outpatient Care. Support Services: Non-Medical Case Management Services, including Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination, Emergency Financial Assistance, Food Bank/ Food Voucher, and Legal Services.

World AIDS Day: December 1st

This year marks the 35th commemoration of HIV/ AIDS. The theme is World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit. This message is fitting as we remember those we have lost and come together to emphasize our collective commitment to end the HIV epidemic. In observance of World AIDS Day, three BRHPC staff participated in the opening ceremony of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display on Saturday, December 2nd, at Hagen Park in Wilton Manors. The Chair, Lorenzo Robertson, and Vice Chair, Von Biggs, of the HIV Health Services Planning Council, received,



V. Biggs, HIVPC Vice Chair 2nd from left, L. Robertson, HIVPC Chair, 4th from left with Board of Commission Officials & staff of the Ryan White Part A Program, Community Partnerships Division | Human Services Department



on behalf of the Council, Broward County's World AIDS Day Proclamation by the Board of Commissioners on December 12th. These events were opportunities to remember, honor, and celebrate the stories and lives of those lost to HIV/AIDS. HIV continues to affect many lives, and we must come together as a community to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support those affected. Through the 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, we are committed to finding new ways to get people with HIV diagnosed and connected to care, as well as expanding HIV treatment and prevention efforts. BRHPC staff pictured from left: Michelle Barrett, Dr. Gritell Berkeley Martinez and Natalie Lewis who participated in the

opening ceremony of the AIDS Quilt display by reading out the names of the departed and opening the quilts.

Join the Planning Council!

The Council is seeking people with HIV 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 optimizes the health care 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 individuals diagnosed with HIV. Contact the Planning Council Office: **954-561-9681 Ext., 1343/1244** or hivpc@brhpc.org. Check out our social media: Facebook @BrowardHIVPlanningCouncil; Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) @Broward HIVPC.

Clinical Quality Management (CQM) Activities

Quality Improvement Projects

A CQM program is the coordination of activities aimed at improving patient care, health outcomes, and patient satisfaction. It is the responsibility of the RWHAP recipient to work directly with their subrecipients to provide overall direction and to implement, monitor, and exchange any needed data for performance measure data and/or quality improvement activities. BRHPC's CQM team continues its annual quality improvement guidance of the 12 subrecipients of the Ryan White Part A Program. Each agency has prepared aim statements and is completing improvement activities which will be reported in January and February 2024.

Ending the HIV Epidemic

Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) is a national plan announced in 2019 that aims to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. Broward County along with other jurisdictions across the U.S. developed an operational plan to pursue that goal. The plan,

submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) addresses four pillars HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outbreak response. As a recipient of EHE funding, the Ryan White Part A Program has instituted a CQM component to assist its subrecipients in meeting the EHE objectives. During October and November, the following trainings were coordinated and hosted by the CQM staff:

- October 26th: Skill Building for Disease Case Managers, Non-Medical Case Managers, and Peers Through Provider Network Support & High-Quality Services. This training focused on: Improving the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of data used to conduct Comprehensive Assessments and increasing the use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and information provided by members of the EHE Intensive Care Teams (ICTs) and other care providers; Alignment between Assessments, Action Plans, referrals, and services provided by the DCM and members of the EHE ICTs: Alignment of these activities with the Part A and EHE Service Delivery Models (SDMs); Improving documentation and billing; and Increasing the roles of Supervisors, Non-medical Case Managers, and Peers to improve the quality of services. Presented by Dr. Julia Hidalgo, Positive Outcomes Inc.,
- November 17th: Medicare Basics: Helping Clients to Enroll and Maximize Benefits: An increasing number of Broward PWH are eligible to enroll in Medicare due to age and/or long-term disability. This workshop was designed to familiarize EHE network members with the basics of Medicare enrollment, including Medicare Advantage plans and medication benefits. The benefits available to Medicare beneficiaries were reviewed and methods for coordinating services were discussed. This workshop was scheduled during Medicare open enrollment to facilitate community efforts to enroll beneficiaries in plans that best meet their needs. Presented by Dr. Julia Hidalgo, Positive Outcomes Inc.
- November 29th: Housing First Initiative and Ending the HIV Epidemic: Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. Presenters: Amanda Bruno, Joshua Kratz, Ken Robinson, and Ginny Shubert of Housing Works, Inc.; Rafael Garcia, Marifel La Cruz, Georgie Reid, and Francisco Gomez of Care Resource. Housing Works is a New York City-based non-profit that works to ensure that all people living with HIV/ AIDS have access to quality housing, healthcare, HIV prevention, treatment, and other lifesaving services. Care Resource, a Federally Qualified Health



Center, is a Broward County Ryan White Part A subrecipient that offers direct client support services such as case management, housing, and food assistance and referrals to several assistance programs, including transportation, utility, and rental/housing services.

Contact the CQM Support Staff at 954-561-9681 x 1295 or email quality@brhpc.org.

Upcoming Events

The Quality Team is excited to announce the Lean into Your Peer Power through Quality Improvement Initiatives Workshop, a free in-person training session that will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 12 PM-2 PM at Broward Regional Health Planning Council. After participating in this professional development session, attendees will be able to: 1). Identify formal and informal quality improvement activities/strategies that peers, and client support workers engage in; and 2). Discuss consumers' access and engagement with services that support viral suppression/undetectable status.

In honor of the National Black HIV Awareness Day, the HIVPC Community Empowerment Committee will be hosting its Community Conversation, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, entitled Stigma Smashers: Breaking Health Stigma in the Black Community. The event will be at the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center from 6 PM-8 PM.





Scan the QR Codes to register for the events.

For more information on Health Planning & Clinical Quality Management, contact Program Director, **Dr. Gritell Martinez** at Gmartinez@brhpc.org.

Insurance Benefits Management Program

Pre-Registration/New Look for Open Enrollment

The launch of the new Enroll.BRHPC.

org site has seen a dramatic increase
of insurance enrollments for premium
assistance compared to the same time last
year. A significant factor to the marked
increase is attributed to the new rules
implemented by the Florida Department
of Health (FDOH) requiring all program
participants to provide their policy
information on the Enroll.BRHPC.org website.
As of the time, approximately two thirds of
the previous year's enrollments have already
submitted through the Enroll.BRHPC.org site.
This helps to ensure clients will have an active



insurance policy for January 1st with no access to care issues.

The premium for the 2024 plan year has increased 26% over the 2023 premium with an anticipated annual cost of \$150 million. The remaining third of those clients that have not self-reported through the enrollment site are being referred back to the Department of Health and the respective Counties and case managers. Florida Blue has also identified over 2,300 clients that appear to have passively re-enrolled for the 2024 plan year. The FDOH has authorized payments to be made to prevent an interruption of services. These clients will be sent a letter indicating passive re-enrollments are not supported by the program and advise them of the potential risk of their premium assistance being delayed, inaccurate or omitted entirely.

BRHPC has been conducting open enrollment activities since November 1st, 2024. Open enrollment for policies effective January 1st closed on December 15th. However, open enrollment is still ongoing until January 16th, 2024, for policies with an effective date of February 1st, 2024.

For more information on Insurance Enrollment contact 1-844-441-4422 and for Program Eligibility contact 1-844-381-2327.

Support Services for Veterans and Families

About the Program

Broward Regional Health Planning Council is funded by a 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) programs primary goal is rapid re-housing for Veterans and their families.

SSVF case managers assist participants in transitioning from homelessness to permanent, stable housing arrangements or supported housing arrangements. SSVF case managers 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.

Supportive Services Include

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

New Team Member



The Supportive Services for Veterans and Families program proudly announces the newest Case Manager on the team, **Jennyca Jerome**. Jennyca graduated from Rutgers University with her bachelor's in public health. Jennyca has over five years of experience working at Hyacinth Foundation as a case manager, working with the HIV population and serving as an advocate to ensure they get proper and affordable housing. Jennyca looks forward to applying her knowledge and experience to serve the veterans in our community.

Do You Need or Know Someone Who Needs SSVF Services?

Are you a Veteran experiencing homelessness in Broward County and in need of housing assistance? Call the Advocate Program at **305-704-0200**, **211** Dade or Veteran Helpline at **786-227-5842**. For additional information, contact the SSVF Program Administrator, **Sharon Alveranga-Jones** at smcdonald@brhpc.org.

Health Insurance Continuation Program

Program Overview

The Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP) is a phenomenal program offered through Broward Regional Health Planning Council. The program is designed to ensure continuity of quality health care for clients that are HIV positive. The program provides funding for primary care services and assist clients that do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources to manage treatment for HIV/AIDS. Ryan White Part A funding is used to provide coverage for medical services and copayments for prescriptions. The Ryan White Part A program provides assistance for clients that reside in Broward County.

HICP has been working diligently to ensure clients are able to receive financial assistance for their medical needs. One client stated, "Thank you all, even the ones that have worked there in the past, for everything you have done for me. I really don't know where I would be now without this program. Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything, I really mean it. You all have been there for me." HICP continues to aspire to make improvements to the program for the benefit of the client.



HICP is contacting local medical facilities and individual providers in attempts to streamline the invoicing process. HICP successfully engaged billing coordinators, reducing the stress off the client from having to monitor and submit documents for payment. One client stated, "this is so much better because I already worry enough with everything else going on with me, that I don't want to forget to submit something that I can't afford to pay back later and I really

need to go to the doctor, so I can keep living."

HICP has increased communication and awareness about the HICP and transactions to clients and providers. Thirty-four new providers have agreed to accept third-party payments for co-payments, coinsurances, and deductibles. HICP has provided information about the important changes to the HICP payment process that took place effective March 1, 2023; the information can be given to medical facilities and individual providers to be able to coordinate invoice payments. One client stated, "I show that sheet of paper with all the information on it about the Program to my doctor and I haven't had a problem with my copayments. I just show it to the person at the front desk and they call you. It's been great. I can't complain."

Contact Natalie Lewis, HICP Program Coordinator for more information at Mlewis@brhpc.org.

Fingerprinting Services Provided at BRHPC

Level II Background Screenings Available at BRHPC

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).

Level II background checks provide a more comprehensive view of an individual's background, including a thorough examination of criminal history. This deeper scrutiny reduces risks, ensures legal compliance, and instills confidence in decision-making, making them valuable for roles and situations where accuracy



and security are paramount. Whether it's for employment, professional licensing, or other essential needs, our Live Scan Services adhere to the highest industry standards, offering you fast, secure and thorough results.

Live Scan allows for electronic submission of fingerprint screens, with results within 24 to 48 hours. 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.

BRHPC's fingerprinting clientele include hospital employees, guardian ad litem programs, doctors' offices, non-profit and social service agencies, colleges, universities and more. BRHPC is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards and using advanced technology to deliver timely results, ensuring safety, trust and confidence in every interaction. Fingerprinting clients must bring a valid ID and the identifying number for the organization requesting fingerprints (ORI, OCA).

Our goal is to provide accurate and reliable background information and maintaining the highest ethical standards using advanced technology to deliver timely results. We accept cash or business checks only.

If you are in need of Electronic Background Screening Submissions & Quick Results, BRHPC can help you. Walk-ins are welcome or call **954-561-9681** to schedule an appointment. Fingerprinting services are available Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

Health Care Access Committee Meeting

Committee Facilitation

BRHPC serves as a neutral facilitator for the Health Care Access Committee with the purpose to improve access to health care for the residents of Broward County residents, through establishing, implementing, and measuring goals and benchmarks in many areas of health, such as maternal and child health, mental health, primary care and health care access. The members of the committee represent various facilities, agencies and/or departments within the County.

Quarterly Updates

Over the past quarter, the committee received a presentation from BRHPC on the results of the PRC Community Health Needs Assessment. This presentation focused on social determinants of health which included economic stability, neighborhood and built environment and social and community context. The committee also received a presentation on Chapter I of the Broward County Health Plan. Chapter I provides a demographic and socioeconomic indicators influencing health status and impacting availability of health resources that contribute to increasing utilization rates and decreasing availability of healthcare financing. Additionally, the committee received program success data covering several months for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and received information on future Public Health Workforce Development Series.

Community Partners Include

- American Cancer Society
- Broward Community and Family Health Center
- Broward Health
- Broward Healthy Start Coalition
- Broward County Public Schools
- Broward Sheriff's Office
- Children's Services Council
- Community Care Plan
- Community Foundation of Broward
- Jack and Jill Center
- FLIPANY
- Florida International University

- Florida Blue
- Florida Department of Health Broward County
- Health Foundation of South Florida
- Holy Cross Health
- Humana
- Light of the World Clinic
- Memorial Healthcare System
- Nonprofit Executive Alliance of Broward
- Nova Southeastern University
- South Florida Regional Planning Council
- United Way of Broward County
- Volunteers
- Interns

Interesting in Joining the Committee?

Contact **Yolanda Falcone** at <u>Yfalcone@BRHPC.org</u> to receive the meeting link for an upcoming meeting and to be included in the email distribution list. The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month virtually through Microsoft Teams at 10am.

Upcoming meeting dates: January 22, 2024, February 26, 2024 and March 25, 2024.

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations Leidy Salinas



Each quarter, BRHPC recognizes an outstanding employee of their achievements, dedication and support to their program, their coworkers, their community partners and the clients they serve. **Leidy Salinas** was selected as the outstanding employee of the quarter for the Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED) program. Pictured to the left (from left to right) is Mike Delucca, President & CEO, Leidy Salinas and Jasmin Shirley, CIED

Program Director. Leidy has surpassed all CIED Eligibility Specialists in performance outcomes; she consistently goes above and beyond to clear the client spreadsheet needing reviews from the Ryan White Online Portal and she readily assists other CIED Eligibility Specialists with her knowledge, expertise and assistance as needed.



Leidy with CIED Team Members.

Leidy exhibits compassion and professionalism and receives commendations by many of the CIED Off-site locations and their leadership teams where Leidy is assigned daily. Consumers enthusiastically commend Leidy for the assistance, patience and efficiency provided as she works through the system to complete in-person appointments for RW eligibility determination services.

Batching Cycles

Second Cycles 2023

Hospice: Second Batching Cycle 2023

Description	Dates	
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	8-04-23	
Letter of Intent Deadline	8-28-23	
Application Deadline	9-27-23	
Completeness Review Deadline	10-04-23	
Application Omissions Deadline	10-25-23	
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	12-15-23	

Nursing Home and ICF/DDs: Second Batching Cycle 2023

Second Battining Cycle 2020		
Description	Dates*	
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	9-2923	
Letter of Intent Deadline	10-16-23	
Application Deadline	11-15-23	
Completeness Review Deadline	11-22-23	
Application Omissions Deadline	12-20-23	
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	2-09-24	

^{*}Rule 59C-1.008(2)(a), 1. Florida Administrative Code, which requires the Agency to publish Fixed Need Pools in the Florida Administrative Register at least 15 days prior to the letter of intent deadline prevails in cases of conflict with Rule 59C-1.008(1)(g) F.A.C.

Public Health Workforce Development Series

About the Series

The Public Health Workforce Development Series is a series of seminars conducted by Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel, College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) Department of Public Health Program and Broward Regional Health Planning Council. This program involves educational workshops about important skill sets for those in the public health field. During the 2023 Workforce Development series, six presentations were conducted between February and December covering a variety of public health topics.

2023 Series

We would like to thank all of the participants in the series and the following speakers for their presentations to the community:

Kasi Lou Van Heel, DrPH, MPH - February 2023

Assistant Professor, NSU KPCOM
Recentering the Social Determinants of Health

Jennifer Maizel, PhDc, MPH, CHES, March 2023

NSU KPCOM

Centering Mental Health in Diabetes Care

Ashleigh Bennett, MPH, May 2023

Assistant Professor, NSU KPCOM
Shared Decision Making: What Is It and What Can We Be Doing More?

Jayson Forbes, Ph.D, September 2023

Assistant Professor, NSU KPCOM

Demographics and Perception of Patient Safety Culture

Sandrine Gaillard-Kenney, Ed.D and Brianna Black Kent, PhD, MEd, BSN, RN (ret.), November 2023

Associate Dean and Professor, NSU Dr. Pallavi Patel College Healthcare Sciences

Human Trafficking for the Public Health Professional

Christi M. Navarro, Ph.D, December 2023

Assistant Professor, NSU KPCOM
A Socio-Ecological Approach to Understanding Mental Health as Public Health

Next Workforce Development

The next Workforce Development is scheduled for **Thursday, January 18 from 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Von Biggs**, will be presenting on "Normalizing the Conversation Surrounding HIV".

About the Presentation: A discussion surrounding people living with HIV and understanding the impact that HIV has had on Broward County. Florida is #1 for new infections of HIV, and STIs are on the rise. Let's discuss how we can reduce stigma and assist those living with HIV to stay in care and help end the HIV epidemic. We will have a conversation regarding medical implied stigma to normalize the conversation surrounding HIV and empower those who are affected.



About the Speaker: Von Biggs is the current Vice Chair for the Broward County HIV Health Services Planning Council and a Disruptive Advocate who believes in daring to challenge outdated perceptions, demanding justice, and fearlessly fighting for the rights and dignity of those affected by HIV. Von is the Community Outreach Coordinator for HIV Self-Testing at Holy Cross Health. His focus is on smashing the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS by confronting misinformation head-on, fearlessly debunking myths, and

empowering people with knowledge by leveraging social media, innovative campaigns, and unconventional methods. He aims to reach a broader audience and spark conversations that challenge societal norms. His experience as a Ryan White services recipient and a person that "HIV lives with" has propelled Von in his solution-based advocacy that addresses the disconnect, stigma, and barriers to care.

RSVP to this seminar by emailing Workforce@brhpc.org to receive the meeting link.

Save the Date for Future Seminars

- February 22, 2024: Robert Hill, Vice President- Community Impact, American Heart Association will be presenting on "Well-Being Better & Driving Health Equity in the Workforce."
- March 4, 2024: Lea Nehme, Adjunct Professor, Nova Southeastern University, KPCOM will be presenting on "The Influence of Sociocultural Factors on Alcohol Use Severity and its Impact on Public Health."

2024 Needs Assessment



For the next year's workshops, we are conducting a needs assessment to assess the possible topics for professional development. Please take this short questionnaire below by scanning the QR code. The needs assessment has an option for interested speakers to provide their name, organization, contact information and presentation topic. All seminars are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12:00pm and 1:00pm or Tuesdays and

Thursdays between 12:30pm and 1:30pm. For more information email Workforce@brhpc.org.

Social Media Collaboration

Connect with BRHPC

BRHPC continues to work in partnership with Dr. Claudia Serna, PhD, MPH, MBA, MPH Chair/ Director & Assistant Professor at the Public Health Department, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) on social media campaigns that are disseminated across BRHPC's social media channels. BRHPC's social media channels consist of Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn and Instagram. These social media campaigns help increase awareness of critical public health topics, BRHPC's programs and services, visibility of BRHPC at the national, state and local level and attracted visitors to the BRHPC website.

This semester, two students from NSU, Alianys Rodriguez and Daniella Martinez, are interning with BRHPC. Alianys and Daniella are assisting in the development of social media campaigns and analyzing data from each social media platform's respective built-in tracking tools for organic (unpaid) posts and boosted (paid) posts. They are tracking key performance indicators for each social media platform which are being measured by the number of posts, reach, likes, impressions and engagements.

About our NSU Interns



Alianys Rodriguez, a Public Health major on the pre-dental track at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, joined Dr. Serna and Daniella Martinez for a Social Media Research project at BRHPC in the Fall of 2023. Her responsibilities involve creating informative social media content and analyzing data. Alianys finds joy in using social media creatively to simplify complex topics for wider understanding. Currently collaborating with Daniella on educational posts, including a recent flu campaign, Alianys aims to utilize these skills to raise awareness about oral health. Beyond her studies and work commitments, she enjoys hobbies such as drawing and crocheting.



Daniella Martinez is currently in her second to last semester at Nova Southeastern University, obtaining her Public Health Bachelor's degree, with a minor in Pre-Health. She is extremely passionate about Public Health, but also medicine. After graduating, she plans on getting her Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management at NSU, and then going to Medical School, to become a physician. Her all-time favorite hobby is traveling. She has had the privilege to travel to many different countries for vacation, but have also traveled to assist underserved populations, providing them with medical assistance as well as working on health communication throughout

these communities. Daniella has had the opportunity to intern alongside Alianys Rodriguez working on the 2023 Vaccine Campaign to spread awareness about the importance of everyday vaccines, as well as encourage the community to get their flu vaccines.

Results of the Campaign

Alianys and Daniella worked on creating evidence-based social media posts to share with the community and to provide them with important information on vaccine topics. Some of these topics included the importance of vaccines, possible side effects, where to get vaccinated, their effectiveness, and more. There were five posts created and shared on each platform. Free posts were shared on Instagram, LinkedIn and X (five posts per platform; a total of 15 posts), reaching 585 individuals. The same posts were shared on Facebook as a paid (boosted) posts (total of five posts), reaching 15,759 individuals. The total amount spent on this campaign was \$623.84.

Samples of Vaccine Social Media Campaign









For more information, contact Public Information Officer, Nicole Cohen at Ncohen@brhpc.org.

Council on Accreditation

Overview

Founded in 1977, the Council on Accreditation (COA) is an international, independent, nonprofit organization that accredits human and social service providers. COA currently accredits over 1,600 organizations that serve more than 7 million individuals and families in the U.S. and Canada. With the support of over 30 national and international organizations, a network of over 500 volunteers, a dedicated board, and highly skilled staff, the COA community is committed to championing quality by promoting best practice standards and advocating for accreditation. COA's mission is partnering with human and social service organizations to strengthen their ability to improve the lives of the people they serve.

BRHPC Has Been Accredited Since 2016

Accreditation provides a framework to manage resources, offer best practices, and strive for continuous improvement. This supports an organization's sustainability, encourages its growth and helps it to achieve measurable results.



BRHPC is proud to announce that our organization has been accredited twice, since 2016. BRHPC's COA accreditation has increased BRHPC's ability to standardize processes and improve methods of communication, particularly through the monthly Performance Quality (PQI) Committee meeting, the quarterly subcommittee meetings and the weekly Executive Committee Meetings. The quarterly subcommittee meetings are broken

down into four subcommittees which include: Human Resources, Risk and Prevention Management, Staff Training and Development and Management Information System (MIS).

In the Process of a Third Accreditation!

BRHPC is currently in the Standards and Self-Study phase of the reaccreditation cycle. This self-evaluation provides us with an opportunity to look at the current policies, procedures and practices we have in place and to see how they align with COA standards. We select narratives and documents that show our implementation of the standards and electronically submit them to COA.

After the Self-Study Phase is completed, a team of COA volunteer Peer Reviewers will run an on-site review with BRHPC. COA's volunteers have many years of experience in the field and have been trained by COA to effectively review our organization. Our Site Visit is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, to assess and rate the standards. The entire reaccreditation cycle takes up to 18 months.

We look forward to another success cycle!

Florida Health Data Warehouse

About the Systems



BRHPC's long-term strategy for expanding its

Health Data Warehouse offers hospitals and healthcare systems the unique opportunity to be at the forefront of data-driven decision-making, comparing hospitals and procedures across specific counties and the entire State of Florida. The Health Data Warehouse is a collection of health information databases developed by BRHPC which are designed to assist hospital and nursing home administrators in their strategic planning & decision-making endeavors. These databases offer a wide

array of health-oriented data sets, including Hospital & Nursing Home utilization, health indicators & Emergency Department data, and Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRGs) data, as well as the financial and demographic databases that are continuously updated and added to the Warehouse.

The **Medical Facilities Utilization Reporting System** improves upon a manual reporting system that BRHPC administered for over 40 years. These datasets are accessible online, improving program efficiency and overall functionality, giving users the ability to utilize data to make capacity and quality-related decisions. The database has he ability to generate 39 exportable and/or ready to print reports, having been expanded to become a strategic planning tool for administrators to review and assess variances in utilization.

The **Health Indicators Database** is a Hospital Inpatient & Emergency Department Analytical System consisting of six modules that analyze inappropriate emergency department utilization, avoidable hospital admissions, and key chronic conditions.

The **DRG Data Warehouse** is a decision support tool for healthcare providers and planners. It allows you to quickly run customized reports by hospital medical services such as cardiology or orthopedics including DRG level detail by selected hospitals in your area using the Florida AHCA hospital inpatient database.

BRHPC has utilized the Data Warehouse in addition to qualitative data (including focus groups and key informant interviews) in order to create **Community Needs Assessments** based on the 990 IRS requirements for several local hospitals.

Finally, the **Financial Database** summaries end-of-year charges and other miscellaneous financial data reported to AHCA by hospital statewide. We are also in the process of developing analytical tools that will allow you to generate customizable views of the aforementioned fiscal information.

To learn more about BRHPC's Data Warehouse email Utilization@brhpc.org..

BRHPC Celebrates the Holiday Season Together

Photos from BRHPC's Holiday Spirit Week & Annual Luncheon

On behalf of the entire Broward Regional Health Planning Council family, we wish you, your family and friends a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and New Year!































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