




RED RIBBON TIMES

2018 Volume 3



10
National HIV Testing Day



8-9
Miracle of Love

Taking a Moment to Come Together

Central Florida HIV Planning Council Retreat 2018 by Chris Haubenestel

It has been almost a year since the Ryan White Part A Planning Council merged with Ryan White Part B's Central Florida AIDS Planning Consortium (CFAP), creating the current sole body, The Central Florida HIV Planning Council. To welcome the new year and to look back at the one that just passed, both planning council members and associate members joined together at the Florida Department of Health in Orange County to gain knowledge while also developing stronger connections with one another.

To initiate an annual occurrence, this was the very first retreat for the newly formed planning body. All members who were in

attendance were seated depending on what candy bar they chose at registration. This was an opportunity for members to become familiar with individuals they may not be involved with on a regular basis.

RIGHT OFF THE BAT, NEW NETWORKS AND STRONGER CONNECTIONS WERE BEING MADE, EVEN BEFORE THE PROGRAM HAD STARTED!

After a short ice breaker, attendees were enriched with educational materials including a portrait of the history of HIV presented by a Brevard County Provider that has been seeing patients living with

HIV since the height of the epidemic in the mid-1980s. This was the reminder that planning council members needed as to why they chose to get involved with HIV care and prevention.

The Ryan White Program is the reason there is a planning council and retreat attendees were provided with a brief history of the program and given a description of each of the parts and who they aim to serve. Along with an overview of the general programming of Ryan White, members received a refresher on The Florida Sunshine Law that governs the planning council and reviews of parliamentary procedures with conflict of interest. These presentations gave planning council members the tools they need to

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CENTRAL FLORIDA HIV PLANNING COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership Committee

- This meeting is the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM

Service Systems and Quality Committee

- This meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM

PR & Marketing Committee

- This meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM

Needs Assessment and Planning Committee

- This meeting is on the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM

PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Planning Council Support
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407-429-2119
Dieudonne.Pierre@hfuw.org

David Bent, Planning Council
Support Administrative
Assistant
407-835-0906
David.Bent@hfuw.org

RYAN WHITE PART A SERVICE PROVIDERS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
407-204-7000
www.aidshealth.org

**Center for Multicultural
Wellness and Prevention**
407-648-9440 • www.cmwp.org

**FL Dept. of Health in Orange
County**
407-836-2680
http://orange.floridahealth.gov/

**Dept. of Health in Lake
County**
352-771-5500
http://lake.floridahealth.gov/

Miracle of Love
407-843-1760
www.miracleofloveinc.org

Turning Point
407-740-5655
www.turningpointcfl.org

ASPIRE Health Partners
407-245-0014
www.aspirehealthpartners.com

**Dept. of Health in Seminole
County**
407-665-3200
http://seminole.floridahealth.gov/

**Dept. of Health in Osceola
County**
407-343-2030
http://osceola.floridahealth.gov/

**Orange County Medical
Clinic Pharmacy**
407-246-5356
N.E.E.D. Inc.
407-661-1300
www.needincfla.org

Hope and Help Center
407-645-2577
www.hopeandhelp.org



have efficient and productive meetings so that each task can be completed with the highest level of quality.

Training and education was not the sole purpose of the retreat. The gathering was also set up for planning council members to get to know each other and form stronger connections with colleagues. The “True Colors” activity was an opportunity for each member to see what color fits their personality best and how they may interact with other personality colors. After completing a short questionnaire following a simple formula, they could determine their color. A person could fall into the four following colors: the adventurous, generous, tolerant, skillful and charming oranges; the warm, kind, devoted, compassionate and artistic blues; the consistent, loyal, thorough, traditional and cooperative golds; and the clever, level-headed, logical, competent and visionary greens. After everyone had determined their personality color, everyone met in groups with their common color to discuss commonalities with the persons with the same personality color and differences. Lastly, everyone discussed how each color performed at work and how to successfully collaborate with each color type. This was a fun activity the shed light on how planning council members can effectively complete tasks and maximize future collaborations.


To wrap up the day, attendees prepared for Data Presentation and Priority Setting/Resource Allocation (PSRA) for the upcoming year. Data Presentation is an opportunity for planning council members to see a snapshot of the HIV epidemic in the Orlando Service Area along with the impact on those receiving Ryan White Services. This is also a chance to identify gaps or unmet needs as we plan for Resource Allocation. PSRA is when planning council members vote on determining the need for the area and what our priorities will be. In preparation, retreat attendees went through presentations and exercises regarding Data Presentation and PSRA with real-life scenarios. In closing, everyone in attendance listened to a Ryan White Consumer as they discussed all the ways consumers can get involved. The Central Florida HIV Planning Council is not just for providers, but is also for consumers who are strongly encouraged to join in the planning process and get involved in all areas of HIV care and prevention.

At the end of the first-ever retreat, the Central Florida HIV Planning Council became a strong and more solid unit ready to serve people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in the Orlando Service Area.

“THE CFHPC RETREAT WENT REALLY WELL.

We had helpful reviews of key information and insightful guest speakers. I want to thank everyone for their hard work. The retreat was greatly needed for the CFHPC to move forward better and stronger.” - Ira Westbrook



 Connect with us on Facebook @
CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil

[https://ryanwhitecfl.org/member-resources/
integrated-hiv-prevention-care-plan/](https://ryanwhitecfl.org/member-resources/integrated-hiv-prevention-care-plan/)

www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite

Kissimmee Pride Recap

By Ramona Ramsarran

It was a celebration of pride in historic downtown Kissimmee on June 9, 2018, as the second annual Pridefest Kissimmee took place from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Kissimmee Civic Center. More than 1,700 guests were in attendance, welcomed by local dignitaries including City of Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez and City of Kissimmee Commissioners Wanda Rentas and Jim Fisher.

Attendees were treated to 30-plus vendor booths including the Osceola Health Department, Miracle of Love, the Downtown Business Association of Kissimmee, the Human Rights Campaign and the LGBT+ Center Orlando. Osceola Health Department Representatives Summer Pratt, Elihu Salas and Yaidelis Walker were present at the Osceola

County Health Department booth, where they educated hundreds of guests with information on HIV, STDs and tobacco-free living. They also passed out informational pamphlets, condoms and other educational items. Entertainers headlining at this very special event included Orlando entertainer Miss Sammy, musical performances by Lisa Lane and an incredible show-stopping event finale by the local drag queen entertainment group, the Kissimmee Queens.

This event provided all who attended a much-needed opportunity to feel welcome in our community, said Kissimmee Queens entertainer Joshua Orsini Collins, who performed as his alter-ego Summer Holiday at the pride event. Pridefest Kissimmee 2019 is already in the planning stages and the



Osceola Health Department staff is looking forward to participating!

“THIS EVENT PROVIDED ALL WHO ATTENDED A MUCH-NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO FEEL WELCOME IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

— JOSHUA ORSINI COLLINS





Salud! 2018 Summer Wellness Fair

By Gabriela Rodriguez & Nicole Elinoff



The second annual Salud! 2018 Summer Wellness Fair, presented by QLatinx, was a free, family friendly event open to the public, bringing together healthcare providers, LGBTQ+ community leaders and allies for a day of learning, growth, fun and, ultimately, health promotion. The goals of the health fair were to build understanding and promote a culture of health and wellness for all.

QLatinx, along with several other collaborating partners, had an opportunity to welcome the community at Dr. J.B Callahan Neighborhood Community Center located at 101 North Parramore Ave. in Orlando, Florida.

From Zumba dancing and cooking classes to healthy panel conversations discussing local resources and personal narratives, the event was truly a holistic representation of what dedication and promotion of healthy living looks like.

Christopher Cuevas, the executive director of QLatinx and CDC Act Against AIDS ambassador, reflected on this event: “We were incredibly excited to have hosted our second annual wellness fair for the Orlando community! This family friendly event brought together healthcare providers, LGBTQ+ community leaders and allies with resources and information designed to build understanding and promote a culture of health and wellness for all.”

The community was responsive to the day’s activities, which featured dynamic workshops addressing the health disparities in the Black/African-American and Latino/a/x communities, engaging conversations to provide potential solutions to lingering health challenges, an active healthy cooking demonstration by Chef Tyhina Canto, a guided yoga session by Monica Socarras, and a fun Zumba lesson lead by Yan Ortiz and RJ Noble.

The main hall was full of resources from different community partners that provide different services such as mental health, substance-use counseling, HIV treatment and care, insurance navigation and reproductive health.

In addition, the event featured HIV testing and counseling provided by Miracle of Love, food trucks by Arepas gran Caracas and music by DJ Nela.

Cuevas continues, “We were honored to have invited the community to be part of this truly wonderful and immersive experience, driven by the power of love, integrity and a dedication to a healthy life. We offer this vision of how we share space and time together, as has been done by countless convenings we have been blessed to co-create, to inspire a culture of mutual support, growth and critical and conscious transformation.”



QLatinx seeks to center and empower the most marginalized members of our community, establish affirming and supportive healing spaces, build a strong and united community, and work towards a society free of fear, violence and hate. **If you’re looking for more opportunities to support the work of QLatinx, visit QLatinx.org or visit them on their social media pages @QLatinx.**



THE LGBT+ CENTER ORLANDO, INC. EXPANDS TO KISSIMMEE

Address: 21 W. Monument Ave.,
Kissimmee, Florida 34471

Open to the Public: Wednesday, August 8.

Testing Begins: Monday, August, 13.

Hours of Operation:

Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

HIV and HEP C Testing Hours:

Monday, Noon-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Noon-5 p.m.

Wednesday, Noon-8 p.m.

Thursday, Noon-5 p.m.


Friday, Noon-5 p.m.

For more information or to contact us, call 407-201-2544.

Make a Difference in Your Community TODAY!

Are you interested in making a difference in the HIV+ community? Join the Central Florida HIV Planning Council (CFHPC) and you will have the opportunity to do just that! As a community planning group, the CFHPC is a diverse group of members that holds the responsibility of setting service priorities, allocating funds and providing directives on how to best meet the needs of people living with or affected by HIV in the Central Florida region. Comprised of individuals from the community and service providers, the planning council aims to improve individuals' quality of life and provide the strategies needed to reduce and prevent the spread of HIV disease. With your help, we can ensure that communities in the Central Florida region receive the best quality of service and prevention education.

If you are interested in obtaining more information, please contact Planning Council Support TODAY! **Questions can be directed to CFHPC@HFUW.org or 407-835-0906.**

 @CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil



Spotlight Feature
Miracle of Love

by Ira Westbrook

Front Desk/Prevention @ Miracle of Love. Needs Assessment & Planning Committee Vice Chair, Central Florida HIV Planning Council

I would like to let clients know that Miracle of Love, Inc. provides some really wonderful services. We have more than just in-house services. We also provide outreach in the community. We go door to door with our prevention program and even walk the streets in all types of weather conditions to get people enrolled into care. If you need help, our Prevention team and peers are here to help. If you know someone who wants to be tested, we have a unit that can come to you!

HIV AND STD TESTING CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

We provide pregnant woman with case management and peers. We also have two new support groups starting soon, including Positive Action and Live and Learn. For more information, please contact Miracle of Love at 407-843-1760 or info@miracleofloveinc.org.

miracleofloveinc.org



facebook.com/miracleofloveinc/



twitter.com/MiracleLoveinc



instagram.com/miracleofloveinc/



youtube.com/channel/UckziGahazn49PX3JcD6GSgA



The Ways of a

by Rose Hornedo

**“THERE IS SOMETHING OF A WARRIOR IN ME.”
— LECH WALESKA**

There are times in life that you come to crossroads; you face choices that could lead you on a detour through adversity, a path of healing and growth, or both. My SMART Ride journey began in 2011, and since that time I have come to understand myself in a way I never have before. I set and accomplished a daunting goal — one that drove me to want to DO more.

What is the SMART Ride? It's a two-day, 165-mile bicycle ride from Miami to Key West, the second-largest AIDS bicycle ride in the country and the only one of its size to give back 100 percent. I've been in the HIV social service field since 1994, so I understand how crucial these funds are to people living with HIV. **But...165 miles? On a bike? Seriously???**

Florida leads the nation with the highest rates of HIV transmissions. Warriors are needed, now more than ever. Every November for the past 14 years, more than 700 volunteers come together for three days and have raised more than \$9.3 million for the HIV communities of Southern and Central Florida. The vision of SMART Ride is to assemble and sustain a group of thoughtful, committed citizens to build relationships and raise funds to positively affect the lives of people they may have never met, and in doing so challenge themselves to stretch the limits of what they thought they could do as an individual.

“THIS IS THE STRANGE WAY OF THE WORLD, THAT PEOPLE WHO SIMPLY WANT TO LOVE ARE INSTEAD FORCED TO BECOME WARRIORS.” — LAUREN OLIVER



Warrior: SMART Ride 15

I've participated in five rides — I've ridden three times, and crewed twice — and each year a transformation occurs. Doubt has made me hesitate and fear has made me pause. None of it matters when I know Miracle of Love will be able to supply clients with resources including food, housing and utilities assistance, personal hygiene products, insurance and medication co-pays, medical supplies, clothing, transportation, funeral costs, and vision care. We've helped more than 800 families each year with SMART Ride funds. I push through the fear and the doubt because the fight against HIV must never waver.

“A WARRIOR WITH A CAUSE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL.” – MICHAEL SCOTT

Think you can't ride that many miles? Just see it as several 20 mile rides, with a bunch of well- stocked pit stops in


between! Each pit stop has food, refreshments, bathrooms, medical and bike technicians to address any need.

Think you can't raise the money? SURE YOU CAN! There are lots of great tips on the SMART Ride website, or you can join a team and work together to reach the goal. Remember, it's so much easier to ask when you aren't asking for yourself.

This year's theme is We Are Warriors, and this is a call to arms! Please join us this November. If you are interested in learning more about the ride, call Rose Hornedo at 407-843-1760 or Wyatt Haro at 321-347-2083, or go to www.miracleofloveinc.org/thesartride/ for more information.



Don't miss any of these wonderful events next year! Stay connected with everything at Facebook @CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil



RYAN WHITE FOOD ASSISTANCE

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST

Ryan White consumers may be eligible to receive Food Assistance if they meet the following criteria:

- **UP Food Vouchers \$35/month (Orange County Residents)**
- **Food Cards \$50/month (Lake, Osceola & Seminole County Residents)**
- **FPL 150% & below**
- **Proof of SNAP Benefits Denial/Ineligible Status**



Contact your Medical Case Manager/Referral Specialist for additional Food Bank Resources or any questions.



The **New** Ryan White Eligibility **Process**

As of August 1, 2018, a new Ryan White eligibility process has been implemented. Referral Specialists (previously known as Non-Medical Case Managers) are now completing the eligibility for all Ryan White consumers.

If a consumer is assigned a Medical Case Manager, they will refer the consumer to a Referral Specialist every six months to complete eligibility as this will no longer be a part of the Medical Case Manager's role. Medical case management will continue to be for those consumers who need more support in navigating the system of care. Assessments are completed to determine which level of care the consumer will receive.

Your Referral Specialist will:

- Complete consumer eligibility every six months;
- Provide Ryan White services such as:
 - Transportation;
 - Food;
 - Oral Health Care; and
 - Medical Nutrition Supplements.
- Refer, link and assist with community resources such as, but not limited to:
 - HOPWA;
 - Patient Assistance Programs; and
 - Other federally funded programs (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid etc.).

- Financial/budgeting; and
- Healthy relationships.
- Provide Ryan White services such as:
 - Transportation;
 - Food;
 - Oral Health Care; and
 - Medical Nutrition Supplements.
- Refer, link and assist with community resources such as, but not limited to:
 - HOPWA;
 - Patient Assistance Programs; and
 - Other federally funded programs (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid etc.).

Hope & Help

707 Mendham Blvd., Suite 104
Orlando, FL 32825
407-645-2577

Miracle of Love

741 W. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32804
407-843-1760

Turning Point of Central Florida

2256 Winter Woods Blvd.
Winter Park, FL 32792
407-740-5655

Your Medical Case Manager will:

- Assist with overall care coordination, such as:
 - Ensuring attendance at medical care appointments;
 - Ensuring adherence to medication regimen;
 - Ensuring achievement of viral load suppression; and
 - Providing HIV/AIDS education.
- Partnership to set and achieve goals such as, but not limited to:
 - Mental health;
 - Substance abuse;
 - Educational;
 - Employment;

If you have questions regarding this new process or the services you are receiving, please contact a Case Management Agency.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

1701 N. Mills Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803
407-204-7000

Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

641 N. Rio Grande Ave.
Orlando, FL 32805
407-648-9440

Florida Department of Health in Orange County

832 W. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32805
407-858-1400

Florida Department of Health in Osceola County

1875 Fortune Road
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407-343-2000

Other office locations may be available throughout the Orlando Service Area.



National HIV Testing Day

By Nicole Elinoff



Each year, National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) takes place on June 27. The goal of NHTD is to get people talking, testing and learning about ways to prevent HIV, with the ultimate goal of normalizing HIV testing and increasing routine screenings.

This year, the Central Florida community partnered with Walgreens and participated in a multi-day testing spree that covered Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Over the course of the week, 326 individuals were tested and through social media efforts, more than 14,000 people were reached, making this the area's most successful social media outreach for NHTD yet. Through collaboration between HIV service organizations and community-based organizations, the community was able to

receive much needed services and know their status! Collaborating organizations included:

Talk Test Treat Central Florida, The Florida Department of Health, Walgreens, Greater Than AIDS, Miracle of Love, Hope and Help, Aspire Health Services, The PrePare Program, The Hispanic Federation, Dismas Charities, Farmworker Association of Florida, Two Spirit Health Services, OAK Central Florida, Rosemont Specialty Pharmacy, UCF Wellness and Promotion Services and Orlando Immunology Center.



Don't miss an event! Check out our Facebook page @ CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil for the latest updates.

HIV AND HOUSING INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

An in-depth look into the impact insecure housing has on individuals living with HIV in Central Florida.

Study conducted by Amy Donley, Ph.D., for use by the Central Florida HIV Planning Council.
Comments welcome to Dr. Donley at amydonley@gmail.com.

Background:

There are more than 100,000 people living with diagnosed HIV in the state of Florida. The HIV and housing study looked at the Orlando Service Area (OSA), which is made up of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Brevard counties.

Within the OSA, there are a total of 14,815 people living with diagnosed HIV (11,454 in Orange, 771 in Osceola, 893 in Seminole, 519 in Lake and 1,178 in Brevard counties).

Definitions:

Homeless- "Lacking a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence." Includes residing in a motel and doubling up with friends or family because no other options are available.

Precariously housed-those who:

- 1) have not leased, owned or occupied permanent housing within the past 2 months;
- 2) have experienced persistent housing instability (i.e., two moves or more during the preceding 2 months); and
- 3) are not expected to change their housing status at any point in the near future.

STUDY METHODS

87 people were included in the study (72 from Orange, 2 from Osceola, 5 from Seminole, 7 from Brevard, 1 from Lake counties). Of those studied, the average age was about 50 years with 31% identifying as White, 58% as Black/African American, 7% as Hispanic/Latino, and 1% as Asian. 90% identified as Male, 10% as Female.

Data collection occurred between February 2017 and February 2018.

82%

of participants self reported to be homeless in the Orlando Service Area. With **52%** of participants staying at a homeless shelter or transitional housing facility.

RESULTS

18%

of participants self reported to be precariously housed in the Orlando Service Area.

90%

of participants report that they are currently taking Anti-Retroviral Therapy. With **59%** of people stating they are currently undetectable.

67%

of participants stated that more stable housing would increase their ability to manage their HIV.

“It's really hard being homeless. It's hard to make appointments. I let Ryan White lapse when I was having to go back and forth trying to find a place to stay. It's been very stressful.”

Other Health Conditions

62% of respondents stated they have been diagnosed with depression.

Of those depressed, 23% feel down everyday.

51% of respondents were diagnosed with anxiety.

Over 25% have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

1 in 5 have been diagnosed with high cholesterol.

Needs and Barriers

Respondents were asked about other social service needs:

- 52% stated they need help with budgeting/credit repair
- 33% need help with transportation
- 26% need help obtaining food
- 23% need assistance with job training

Participants cited lack of affordable housing, limited or zero income as barriers to stable housing.

KEY FINDINGS

Lack of stable housing is leading to difficulties that are negatively impacting the health of individuals in the Orlando Service Area.

Stable housing is the key to better health outcomes.

For the full "HIV and Housing Instability in Central Florida" report or if you are living with HIV in Central Florida and need assistance with housing services, please contact the Central Florida HIV Planning Council at: 407-835-0906 or CFHPC@hfw.org.



www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite



Can't wait for the next Red Ribbon Times? Us either! Stay connected for all the latest info on Facebook @ CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil