

Written by Kara Johnson Williams, MPA, MNM

Being one of the 48 Ending the HIV Epidemic jurisdictions we as a community understand the importance of community engagement. Here in Central Florida we have been working hard for the past 3 years to address the barriers HIV stigma, testing, care, and prevention. Our Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan is a cohesive partnership which includes: government, academia, hospital systems, private providers, community agencies, local advocates, grassroot initiatives. and importantly the perspectives of persons with HIV.

On September 13-14, 2022, Heart of Florida United Way in partnership with Florida Department of Health Area 7 Program Office hosted "A Map for Change: Ending the HIV Epidemic Summit," at the Crowne Plaza Orlando-Downtown Hotel.

The Summit brought together 150 advocates, educators, stakeholders, and providers for a conference of innovation, best practice, and to raise awareness about the EHE efforts in Central Florida. This conference was a great opportunity to support an educational experience for community members who will play a

key role in deciding how HIV prevention and treatment services are delivered in Central Florida.

As we enter into year 4 of our EHE journey we will continue our Map for Change by engaging the community through smaller engagement sessions called "map checkpoints". Each "map checkpoint" will address one of the 4 pillars (Diagnose, Treat, Prevent and Respond) of the ending the HIV epidemic grant. Through this engagement we are continuing the conversation and developing innovative approaches to Ending the HIV Epidemic in Central Florida.

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Ending the Epidemic:

Giving My Life, My Love, My ALL

Written by Ida Starks

A 30-year-old heterosexual African American female, Laughing, Living and Loving LIFE, walked into the Lila Mitchell STD Clinic, in Orlando, to get the results of her STD/STI panel. Ms. Henson, "I have good news and bad news, what do you want to hear first?" She responded, "Give me the good news!" "Your syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea and hepatitis results are negative" the counselor said. Excited because 2 weeks prior, Ida went into the clinic for testing, after receiving a call from her boyfriend who had been recently incarcerated and tested positive for syphilis. "Well, if that is the good news," she said to the counselor, "then what is the bad news?" The counselor took a deep breath and shared, "Ma'am your HIV test is POSITIVE." Sinking in her seat the only thing she thought was death, as Ida had a close relative who had passed several years prior with complications related to AIDS.

After diagnosis, Ida spent time educating herself and others on how not to die from HIV/ AIDS. Becoming employed by local Community Based Organizations (N.E.E.D, Haven of Hope Ministries, Miracle of Love, Inc., Let's Beehive, CAN Community and The Florida Department of Health both Lake and Orange Counties) Ida started to participate in educational seminars that would give her insight on this virus that had not only taken the City of Orlando and the State of Florida but the Nation, by storm. Ida linked arms with Abbott Pharmaceuticals, appreciating Tom Hettenbach and the late Tanya Blocker for recognizing and encouraging her to become a spokesperson and advocate for persons living with HIV. In her spare time, she still beats the pavement as a Patient Advocate with Merck Pharmaceuticals.

Since May 9, 2000, Ida's date of diagnosis, she has worked in capacities as an outreach worker, support for testing and counseling, peer support, administrative assistant, Ryan White and HOPWA Case Manager, TOPWA (Targeted Outreach for Persons with AIDS) and EIS supervisor. Actively participating over the years with the local Central Florida Planning

Counsel, the State of Florida CHAG (Consumer HIV/AIDS Group) and she currently sits as the State of Florida Representative for the Medical Monitoring Project with the CDC.

Ida enjoys helping people from all walks of life. She has learned to stand in the gap for the forgotten and prides herself in being the voice for the voiceless. Ida works to fight stigma in the face of a stigmatized world. Her prayer is to live to see the End of the HIV Epidemic so that her children and her children's children can live a safe and healthy life.



23 years ago, Ida goal was to not die. Today Idas goal is to LIVE life abundantly.



It's Time to Shatter HIV Stigma

Written by Andres Acosta Ardila

HIV stigma is one of the biggest challenges faced by people living with HIV. It affects every aspect of our lives from dating to family life and guides the way we disclose our status and navigate our social structures. In the Orange County service area we see that 33% of respondents for the community needs assessment stated they have yet to disclose their status to anyone else. On a brighter front this was the first year that the assessment showed the number of respondents that stated that other people's attitudes about HIV impacted their self image was lower 42% than those that did not feel impacted by it 58%. All in all when asked about HIV Stigma most PLWH agree that it is one of the hardest challenges associated with our status.

Ending the HIV Epidemic A Plan For America better known as EHE has brought increased funding to our region to help fight the HIV epidemic. The EHE plan is divided into four pillars each tackling crucial issues that need to be addressed in order to end the epidemic. As a part of the EHE plan the Orange County Department of Health (DOH) decided to create an HIV stigma taskforce that will help understand the state of HIV stigma in Orange County and create and implement different activities and resources to fight HIV stigma. Recognizing that grassroots organizations and CBO's are often best suited to reach the priority populations for the HIV epidemic, DOH is partnering with local mental health non-profit Peer Support Space. Peer Support Space takes the peer model of care that is a pillar of HIV treatment and applies it to mental health. The organization aims to build and be a hub for diverse peer led communities, including an HIV positive support group for youth. The

collaboration for the task force is meant to marry the community-driven peer led approach to public health that Peer Support Space is known for and the many resources of DOH.

The taskforce is the first of its kind for Orange County and is billed as a place for people living with HIV to come together to create solutions or innovative approaches to tackle HIV stigma. The taskforce will tackle stigma using a four pillar approach consisting of a community assessment, lived-experience based capacity building, PLWH driven content, and artistic activism. Each pillar comes with its own unique project that will be developed as the taskforce continues to meet.

The Community Assessment pillar is meant to build a fundamental understanding of HIV stigma in the Orlando Service Area. The assessment was designed by the taskforce and it is a 20 question survey meant to capture the lived experience of people with HIV. The assessment will be used to create a detailed report that will be delivered to DOH, Planning Council, and service providers in the area. The community assessment will be the foundation for the lived experience based capacity building project.

Lived experienced based capacity building is the signature trademark of peer support space. Their inaugural "What The LGBTQ+ Community Wishes You Knew" has been used to educate service providers LGBTQ+ competent care. Likewise the community assessment from the taskforce will be used to develop a workshop title "What People Living With HIV Wish You Knew." The curriculum for the workshop will tackle HIV stigma, barriers to care and culturally competent care for people living with HIV. The workshop will be delivered to DOH partner organizations including those in the Ryan White System of Care.

PLWH driven content is the third pillar and this one will focus on creating digital content that will share the experiences of people living with HIV. The main focus will be long term survivors and those with co-occurring conditions. The hope is to capture what the journey of long-term survivors has been like including specially those that lived through the height of the epidemic. The focus on co-occurring conditions is to shed light on issues that often affect people living with HIV such as mental health and substance use.

Finally artistic activism will focus on the collaboration between arts organizations and HIV advocacy to create a space where the community can learn through art. The first event will be a forum theater street performance that will invite the public in downtown Orlando to step into the shoes of someone experiencing or witnessing HIV stigma and challenge them to respond to the incident. This performance will be the foundation for a larger event which will include a longer version of the forum tether piece and an open discussion on HIV stigma. The project is a collaboration with Descolonizarte a local theater organization focus on decolonizing theater through intentional storytelling.

The taskforce is a short term program meant to energize efforts to address HIV stigma in our community. It is open to anyone living with HIV that would like to be a part of the solution. **Meetings happen once a month.**

To get connected please email Andres Acosta Ardila a.f.acosta22@gmail.com

Since November 2009, Miracle of Love (MOL) and the riders and crew in Central Florida have been packing up bikes and rolling to Miami Florida for a two-day bike ride, The SMART Ride. The Southern Most AIDS Ride (SMART Ride) is a two-day, 165-mile bicycle ride from South Miami to Key West to raise HIV awareness and vital funds for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The SMART Ride is the largest bike ride in the country that directly returns 100% of the money raised directly back into the community it serves. MOL has been the benefiting agency for The SMART Ride since 2009, representing the Central Florida community.

On January 15, 2023, The SMART Ride distributed \$1,043,270 to five benefiting agency's representing different areas in Florida. MOL brought back \$139,391.00 for the Central Florida area. Counting 2023, SMART Ride has given \$15,954,344 back to the community over the last 19 years.

The SMART Ride funds have been, and continue to be an essential part of MOL's efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic over the last 14 years. Below gives a brief outline of some of the projects The SMART Ride funds have supported in the Central Florida community:

- Supported the construction of the Stafford House
 An LGBTQ+ affirming drop-in space for youth and young adults located in downtown Orlando
- Helped in part with the purchase of a Mobile Screening Unit - Allows for HIPAA compliant HIV testing in the community, taking the service directly to those in need
- Covered burial expenses Assisting with the final expenses for clients in the Central Florida area, for individuals infected or affected by HIV
- Provided emergency housing and utility assistance
 Assistance for clients that have exhausted HOPWA or aren't HOPWA eligible.
- Helped obtain medications, provide infectious

- disease care, vision care, and nutrition services
- STI testing kits Purchase of STI testing kits to provide HIV and STI screening on a daily basis
- Secured transportation for consumers to get to medical appointments. Transportation is a major barrier for many consumers
- Transgender Program Start-up of Divas in Dialogue to ensure individuals of trans experience have a seat at the table.
- Black MSM Programing and Support Groups
- Thanksgiving Turkey Drop Providing families with the holiday essentials to prepare a full course meal.
- Other activities that are not supported through other restricted funds

MOL's goal is to provide optimal care to individuals living in Central Florida with HIV/AIDS by assisting them in meeting their needs while providing the highest quality of service. The goal directly aligns with the mission of SMART Ride.

To Central Florida, we give special recognition and appreciations to the "small group" of local committed citizens that ensured the success and continuation of SMART Ride. This includes sponsors, riders, crew members, committee members, volunteers, and vendors. Without them none of this would be possible.

For more information regarding SMART Ride 20, and how you can be involved in the change, please visit the website at www.thesmartride.org or www.miracleofloveinc.org.



I Am More Than My HIV

Can you imagine being newly diagnosed with AIDS the only things you can associate with the diagnoses is death because this has been the outcome of PLWHA based upon what you have seen. One of the things running through your mind is will I live to see my children graduate from high school, go to college, have children, or get married. If not, who's going to take care of my children if die. I'm here today to let you know what I thought was a death sentence has truly been the driving force to help me live life by being compliant with taking my medication and attending doctor appointments regularly. As a result of that I've been blessed to see both of my daughters graduate from high school and go to college. Written by Maunieca Martin

A bonus for me is I'm a grandmother I have four grandchildren. I have a grandson and three granddaughters. It's nothing like being a mom but being a grandmother, it's given me an opportunity to pour into the lives of another generation by instilling love, morals, and values. I get to see them grow and develop into themselves. When I'm having a trying day there are times, I will facetime my grandson my heart is filled with joy every time I see his eyes open wide, he lights up when he see my face, I get to see a big smile on his face he has an infectious smile that warms my heart.

Life as a caregiver reminds me of being a Nonmedical Case Manager (NMCM). I can truly say my experience as a NMCM has helped to prepare me for life as a caregiver. As a NMCM I wanted to save every client I had who was non-compliant when it came to taking their medication or going to the doctor. I've had the opportunity to work with clients who were compliant and non-compliant. Which brings me to my current clients, my parents. I have one who's compliant and one who's non-compliant. My father is compliant he attends his doctor appointments, takes, his medication and does what he must do. My mother is non-compliant this year makes four years she hasn't taken any of her medications. She's been in hospice, received occupational and physical therapy. I've done linkage to care for my mom for mental health and other resources the hard part for me is my mom refuses to take advantage of the resources. This has been a hard road for me I've cried, laughed, and had moments of frustration. I've tried looking at things from her perspective from being independent to becoming co-dependent not being able to do things you once loved to do. Through it all I'm thankful that I'm able to be a caregiver for both of my parents. Being a caregiver has humbled me even more.

Life is an author writing is therapeutic for me. I've had times when I cried because it was as if I were revisiting some of the traumatic things that happened in my life. Writing help me to release things I've been holding on to. The words I write in the pages of a book come alive in the lives of those who read them. Currently, I've written four books, two non-fiction and two prayer devotionals. Last year I was blessed with an opportunity to partake in three speaking engagements that opened the door for me to share my story living with HIV and I have an article in Poz Magazine. What I thought was a death sentence has been the driving force in my life giving me the motivation to keep going as I help to make a difference in my life and the lives of my parents as a caregiver, my children, grandchildren and through my journey of writing. I Am More than HIV.

Meet the Provid

Dr. Emmanuelle Allseits

(pronouns: she/her/hers) is the Orlando Region Medical Director at Midway Specialty Care Center (MSCC). She is an AAHIVS certified HIV specialist and board-certified Family Medicine physician. She was born and raised in France and immigrated to Miami, FL when she was 15 years-old.

She completed an HIV fellowship at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California HIV Clinical Leadership Program and family medicine residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She attended medical school at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU in Miami, and prior to that received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Miami. Dr. Allseits has worked in various clinical settings serving diverse underserved communities across all ages and backgrounds. She is fluent in French and proficient in Spanish.

She currently is the physician providing patient care at MSCC in Orlando, at our two sites: Vineland and Lee road (see below for more info/details on clinic)

Midway Specialty Care Center (MSCC) is a non-profit organization, and there are multiple Midway clinic sites throughout Florida. Our priority is to provide care to the most underserved communities.

Here in Orlando, we provide HIV Care, HIV Primary Care, PREP, nPEP, Hepatitis C Testing/Treatment, STI Testing/Treatment. Trans-Inclusive Care/HRT, Case Management. We assess for social determinants of health for each patient, and provide a whole person care approach. We also provide access to the latest treatments on the market to patients, such as access to injectable PREP or HIV treatment. We accept most insurance plans but also see uninsured patients!

This past summer, MSCC Orlando also became a Ryan White Part A provider and are looking forward to providing HIV medical care for Ryan White clients here in Orlando.

We have an outreach team who also participates in many community events and provides free rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing. We provide rapid linkage to care, offer rapid start, and can also do labs in house at both our clinic sites!



Dr. Emmanuelle Allseits Orlando Region Medical Director at Midway Specialty Care Center

We look forward to serving you. Give us a call today to make your appointment!



Call us at 07-745-1171

Orlando Office:

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 5979 Vineland Road Suite 208

Orlando, Florida 32819

Winter Park Office:

Mondays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1685 Lee Road **Suite 110** Winter Park, Florida 32789



Ending the HIV Epidemic

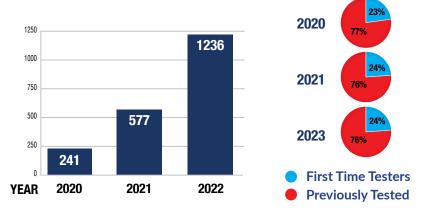
Home Test Kit Program

Written by Kara Johnson Williams, MPA, MNM Infographics by Yissel Hernandez

Orange County's Ending the Epidemic plan has been in motion since 2020. Our goal as a community is to ensure we are providing access to HIV prevention and treatment options to everyone in Orange County. Back in 2020 we faced an epidemic during a pandemic, and we wanted to ensure everyone had access to know their HIV status during Covid.

Thus, the HIV Home Test Kit program was started.

Over the past 3 years the home test kit program has been promoted through print advertising, radio, and social media platforms. It has been a huge success in providing access to the community. Listed below is data showing the success of our program.



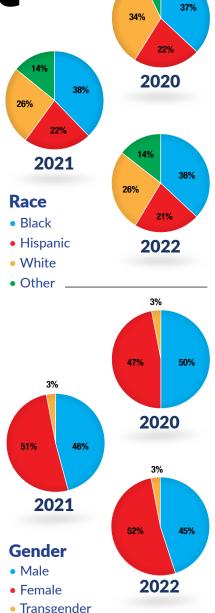
(Disclaimer Data is based on test kits issued through requests made at www.talktestcfl.com)

Entering year 4 our goal is to continue to provide access to testing for those who need it as well as greater access to additional services. We are on a mission to make healthcare more inclusive and accessible by decreasing barriers to care. To achieve our mission, we are expanding the home test kit program through our partnership with Ash Wellness. Ash Wellness is responsible for being a national leader in at-home testing trusted by several healthcare partners throughout the United States. Starting February 2023, we will provide Free HIV/STI Self Testing Kits. Through this partnership we will be able to reach clients that don't usually interact with local care teams, detect new infections, and ensure linkage to care and treatment. What makes this process unique is that individuals will be able to conveniently collect their samples and send them back to Ashwell for processing, clients will receive their results and we will

provide linkage to STI treatment, HIV Care and PrEP services.

Through this partnership we will be the first in the State of Florida to provide home test kits of that include Free STI self-testing. In addition, we will be able to address previous limitations of the program including the ability to measure the percentage of home test results as well as the ability to directly link positive clients into HIV Care. Through this new process we are empowering clients to take charge of their sexual health. They will be able to register their kits through the patient portal, monitor the shipping status, receive results through a secure

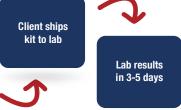






Non-Binary

TO ORDER A FREE AT-HOME TEST KIT OR FIND A TESTING LOCATION NEAR YOU SCAN THE OR-CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OUR ANNUAL RECRUITMENT EVENT IN JULY?



THEN CHECK OUT THE SPONSORSHIP TIERS BELOW!

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

\$5,000

- Feature in the Red Ribbon Times Magazine
- Tabling opportunity at the event
- Opportunity to speak about agency/organization services at event
- First in line for choosing the carnival game that your org. wants to run*
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter



PHILANTHROPIST

\$3,000



- Tabling opportunity at the event
- Opportunity to speak about agency/organization services at event
- Next in line for choosing the indoor carnival came that your org wants to run*
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter

SUPPORTER

\$1,500

- Opportunity to speak about agency/organization services at event
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter



ACTIVIST

\$500



- Logo will be featured on the event flyer
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter

CENTRAL FLORIDA HIV PLANNING COUNCIL



Saturday, July 29, 2023 2 - 5 p.m.

Hispanic Office for Local Assistance

595 North Primrose Drive, Orlando, FL 32803











Meet our Planning Council Member Spotlights.

Thank you to them!



Ida Starks

A person who has dedicated 21 years to HIV/AIDS community and ending the epidemic. Somethings about Ms. Starks is she loves shopping and fashion. If she could bring back any artist, it would be the infamous Ms. Whitney Houston. A dream place for her to visit would be Dubai.



Mike Alonso

Mike has dedicated 19 years to the HIV/AIDS community and ending the epidemic. If could he visit anywhere in the world tomorrow, he would visit an elephant reserve in Phuket, Thailand. In his free time, he enjoys playing softball with the Central Florida Softball League.



Bryan Dubac

Bryan has dedicated his time and support to the HIV community through Miracle of Love and community outreach. If he could visit anywhere in the world tomorrow, he would visit Australia. In his free time, he loves blasting Elton John or catching up on some Broadway musicals.



Yissel Hernandez

Yissel has dedicated 5 years to the HIV/AIDS community and 17 years with the Health Department. If she could be anywhere in the world tomorrow, she would spend quality time with her family. An artist that inspires her and makes her smile is Frida Kahlo.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The merged Membership & Engagement Committee

• This meeting is the first Tuesday of the month at 2 PM

The merged Service Systems Planning & Quality Committee

• This meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM.

Executive Committee

 This meeting is the Thursday of the week before the Planning Council meeting at 10 AM to Noon

Planning Council

- This meeting is the last Wednesday of the month
- Meet-N-Greet (5:30 PM) & Meeting (6 PM)

Ryan White Community Meeting

 This meeting is on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Dinner will be served and transportation available for RWHAP clients."



PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

Whitney Marshall PCS Manager 407-429-2216

407-429-2216 Whitney.Marshall@hfuw.org David Bent PCS Coordinator 407-429-2119 David.Bent@hfuw.org Nyla Tapley
PCS Engagement Specialist
407-429-2190
Nyla.Tapley@hfuw.org



RYAN WHITE PART A SERVICE PROVIDERS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation 407-204-7000

407-204-7000 www.aidshealth.org

ASPIRE Health Partners 407-245-0014

www.aspirehealthpartners.com

Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

407-648-9440 www.cmwp.org

Dept. of Health in Lake County

352-771-5500

http://lake.floridahealth.gov/

Dept. of Health in Orange County

407-858-1437 http://orange.floridahealth.gov/

http://orange.floridaheaith.gov/

Dept. of Health in Osceola County 407-343-2030

407-343-2030

http://osceola.floridahealth.gov/

Dept. of Health in Seminole County

407-665-3200

http://seminole.floridahealth.gov/

Heart of Florida United Way

407-835-0900 www.hfuw.org

Hope and Help Center

407-645-2577 www.hopeandhelp.org

Miracle of Love

407-843-1760 www.miracleofloveinc.org

Orange County Medical Clinic Pharmacy

407-836-7160

Midway Specialty Care Center

407-745-1171 midwaycare.org

Part A Recipient's Office

2002-A E. Michigan Street Orlando, FL 32805 407-836-7631





Connect with us on Facebook @ CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil



Orangecountyfl.hiv

http://centralfloridahivpc.com



SNAP Feeds Our Community

Food. It's nourishment for our bodies. It's how we connect. And it's how we show our friends, families and neighbors that we care.

And yet, sometimes money falls short and food feels beyond our reach. That's why we have SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—a national, public program with major local impact.

SNAP offers a way for our neighbors to keep food on the table when times are tough.

SNAP helps...

- Prevent hunger
- Boost local businesses
- · Lift people out of poverty
- Keep food on the table when recovering from natural disasters
- Move fresh food from farmers to kitchens

By the Numbers:



For every meal provided by a food bank, SNAP provides nine.



90% of people surveyed feel that anyone could need SNAP at some point.



2 out of 3 people who receive SNAP are kids, seniors or individuals living with disabilities.



Every dollar spent on SNAP benefits in a weakened economy generates \$1.50 to \$1.80 in total economic activity.





To learn more about SNAP's impact, visit **SNAPFEEdS.US**



Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

Team Orlando





WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO DO

- Schedule an individual Interveiw that will take a maximum of 2 hours
- Be audio recorded during the interview
- Check the transcript of your interview for accuracy

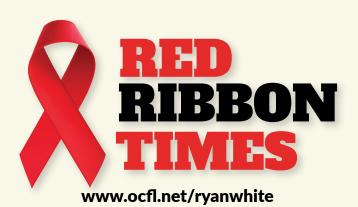


WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AS A STUDY PARTICIPANT

- To be asked respectful, but in-depth questions about sex, sexual health, incarceration, HIV, and health care experiences.
- To receive compensation in the form of a gift card for participating in the questionnaire and the interview.
 - Compensation rate: \$25/hour (maximum of \$50)
 - You must attempt both the questionnaire and interview to receive compensation
 - If your interview ends before 1 hour, you will still receive a \$25 gift card
- To be able to decline to answer any questions without your compensation for the study being affected.
- That your participation will be voluntary and confidential.







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