



SMART Ride XV

by Rose Hornedo

For Glen Weinzimer, it began in 1993. He was diagnosed with AIDS and given less than 2 weeks to live. That diagnosis was the catalyst for the SMART Ride. Ten years later, and gathering experience from participation in other rides, an amazing group of people joined Glen- less than 200 riders and crew- and raised \$169,000. That year, clients from 5 HIV/ AIDS-service agencies in southern Florida were able to get assistance with needs that could not have been met otherwise.

THIS IGNITED THE FIRE THAT IS THE SMART RIDE TODAY.

The SMART Ride is very much like a small moving community of like- minded people,

working together for two purposes: to raise awareness about the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS, and to raise funds for the HIV/AIDS community. It is a 2- day, 165 mile bicycle ride from Miami to Key West. It's the second largest HIV/AIDS fundraising bike ride in the nation, and guarantees 100% of every dollar raised goes to client services. Every year 7 community based organizations are chosen as benefiting agencies, and the funds are distributed equitably between them. 2018's agencies were AH Monroe/ Key West, Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center/Fort Lauderdale, Metro Wellness/ St. Petersburg, Broward House/ Fort Lauderdale, Compass Community Center/ Lake Worth, Pridelines/ Miami, and Miracle of Love, Inc. / Orlando.

12-13

World AIDS Day in the Space Coast



14

Ryan White Conference on HIV Care



It's a fully supported ride, with massage therapy, catered meals, pit stops, support vehicles, medical staff, and even cheerleaders! It's a RIDE, not a RACE so riders can go at any pace that's comfortable for them. Typically speeds range from 12mph to 22 mph. Corporate sponsorship and benefiting agency support cover the overhead costs of ride production, which is how all funds can be guaranteed to be given back. One huge difference Glen insisted on from the very inception is to give the riders power to designate 50% of their raised funds to the agency of their choice; riders know where their raised dollars are going. Also incorporated into this ride is the 10% Lifeline, which is funding available to other HIV/AIDS organizations through an application process.

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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 10:00 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 3:00 PM

Executive Committee

- This meeting is the Thursday of the week before the Planning Council meeting at 10:00 AM

Planning Council

- This meeting is the last Wednesday of the month
- Meet-N-Greet (5:30 PM) & Meeting (6:00 PM)

Contact Planning Council Support for meeting locations or visit website

PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

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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



Connect with us on Facebook @ CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil

<https://ryanwhitecfl.org/member-resources/integrated-hiv-prevention-care-plan/>

www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite

Typically, the SMART Ride is held annually every November. Hurricane Irma devastated Florida in 2017, and many of us who have been with the SMART Ride for years now faced the daunting task of postponing the ride- cancelation was never an option- into the New Year. Any community organizer knows the logistical nightmare of rescheduling a major event! Event coordinators not only stepped up to the task and pulled off SMART Ride 14 in January 2018, they hit the ground running one month later to begin preparations for SR15, scheduled for November 2018.

SR15 was themed We Are Warriors, and 700 Warriors swarmed south Florida November 16 & 17, 2018, riding and crewing for the cause! On Saturday, we gathered in Truman Waterfront Park for the big reveal...

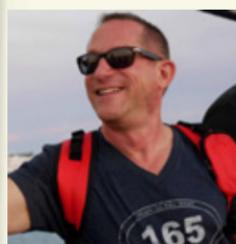
\$1,171,849 RAISED!

Check distribution was announced January 13:

- AH Monroe- \$173,283
- CDTC- \$137,602
- Metro Wellness- \$154,170
- Broward House- \$162,646
- Compass- \$156,137
- Pridelines- \$141,181
- Miracle of Love, Inc.- \$134,008

Clients from each of these agencies who may be struggling with medication, transportation to medical appointments, food, and other necessities will have those needs met this year, thanks to the wonderful supporters of the SMART Ride. People participate for many reasons; it's a fun event, to benefit the clients, to raise awareness, to challenge themselves. But Glen put it best when he said, "The sense of accomplishment in helping others and in finishing the ride itself is life- changing."

2019 the SMART Ride turns Sweet 16, and we need everyone's help! A lot of the volunteers have been around since the beginning, and are feeling the years creep up. Long term survivors need our help, and the fact is the face of HIV is VERY different today than it was 30 years ago. **THE SMART RIDE NEEDS YOU!**



You can ride, you can crew, you can donate, you can sponsor, you can help fundraise- there are lots of opportunities to support this incredible event. Please visit www.thesmartride.org or [www. http://miracleofloveinc.org/thesmartride/](http://www.miracleofloveinc.org/thesmartride/) for more information.

The founder of the SMART Ride, Glen Weinzimer.

TURKEY DROP AND SMART RIDE: A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL

The Executive Director, staff members and volunteers of Miracle of Love INC. would like to take the time to thank everyone that took part in the 2018 Turkey Drop. It's because of events like Smart Ride that families all over the Central Florida area are able to have thanksgiving among other needs met. There is no other program like it and it has made many ways out of no way for many people and families. Always remember, when one door closes, another one will open. - **Front Desk, Prevention, Outreach Ira Westbrook**

"Everything I know about morality and the obligations of men, I owe it to football (soccer)." Albert Camus

It is not happenstance that a soccer tournament was selected to draw the attention of Caribbean Islanders on World AIDS Day. Islanders are very passionate about their "football." It is the common thread that weaves throughout all races, religions and social status within the fabric of life in the Caribbean.

HIV testing is essential for expanding treatment and ensuring that all people living with HIV can lead healthy and productive lives. The topic of HIV/AIDS is still very taboo for Caribbean Islanders and sex is not something you talk about. Stigma and discrimination still deter people from taking an HIV test. Access to confidential HIV testing is still an issue of concern. Many people still only get tested after becoming ill and symptomatic.

In Caribbean culture if you want to engage the family, you must first win the attention of the Patriarch. Once the lead males are engaged, the rest of the family will follow. Not only does the soccer tournament engage families, but it is the most efficient call to draw the diverse groups throughout the Caribbean Islands.

It is the hope of the Florida Department of Health, Orange County (FDOHOC) in collaboration with The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention (CMWP) to foster the type of environment and begin the type of discussions that eliminates stigma and encourages HIV testing among all Blacks, including Caribbean Islanders. An added bonus to hosting the soccer tournament is that soccer promotes the benefits of physical activity thereby decreasing the perils of a sedentary lifestyle.

In the initial planning stages, it was requested that "World AIDS Day" not appear on the promotional flyers nor souvenir T-Shirts. In the field of HIV Awareness each advancement in the cause must be celebrated. Getting six (6) teams to sign up for the 1st Annual World AIDS Day Soccer Tournament was cause to celebrate. There was team representation from

Haiti, Jamaica, Latin America, St. Lucia, St. Thomas, the Bahamas, Brazil and Mexico. Having 20 HIV tests completed on event day along with 9 STD panel tests was even bigger cause to celebrate. In addition to the HIV testing, PrEP information and 2,000 condoms were distributed.

In the words of world renowned soccer favorite, Franklin Foer,

"SOCCER ISN'T THE SAME AS BACH OR BUDDHISM. BUT IT IS OFTEN MORE DEEPLY FELT THAN RELIGION, AND JUST AS MUCH A PART OF THE COMMUNITY'S FABRIC, A REPOSITORY OF TRADITIONS."

FDOHOC & CMWP hope to create a new tradition that will allow the family unit to come together and have a healthy fun time. The venue was at Barnett Park, because of its centralized location and access to bus routes but who knows, maybe one day the venue will be the Orlando Soccer Stadium.

The event offered music, networking and the availability of HIV and other STD testing with the hopes of increasing the number of people that are willing to test and linkage to care for those that may have been diagnosed but not yet in care. In addition to the culturally specific music, HIV messages encouraging testing and knowing your status were given intermittently.

Of local teams; Links United under 40 (named to signify the diversity of the Caribbean Islanders linked together by soccer) and Bus Quarante "40" (named to signify a rural bus in Haiti that goes everywhere - takes you places), Bus Quarante emerged as the winner to advance to the finals. Of local teams;

Gwoudougwoudou FC (gwoudougwoudou, pronounced goodoo goodo, is the noise you hear and the rumble you feel as an earthquake storms through) and Real Winter Garden (named to conjure the spirit of the International Soccer Team Real Madrid), Gwoudougwoudou FC advanced to the finals. In between the morning games and the finals, The Older Players (T.O.P.) of Orlando vs Links United over 40 played an exhibition game which in Caribbean culture was an excellent way to still acknowledge and pay homage to the older soccer players that are no longer playing competitively. In the end, Gwoudougwoudou emerged as the tournament champions in true fashion with the passion and impact from which their name is derived, leaving everyone involved already looking forward to the 2nd Annual World AIDS Day Soccer Tournament. -**Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention**





World AIDS Day: 30 Years Remembered

By Gabriel Martinez

World AIDS Day, recognized on December 1st, seeks to bring awareness to the HIV/AIDS epidemic within communities across the globe. The University of Central Florida's Wellness and Health Promotion Services (WHPS) serves as an on-campus HIV testing and STI referral site for the UCF community. As a result, WHPS teams up yearly with other on-campus partners to celebrate this day and take the time to educate the campus community on how this virus continues to affect millions of Americans in our country.

This year, Wellness and Health Promotion Services teamed up with Multicultural Student Center (MSC), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), LGBTQ+ Services, Student Government Association (SGA) and HIV Education, Awareness, and Research Team (H.E.A.R.T.) and created HIV/AIDS Awareness Week starting Wednesday November 28, 2018 and ending on Monday December 3, 2018. The week kicked off its first event on Wednesday November 28, 2018 with the Paint the Campus Red event where students had the opportunity to write letters of encouragement to those affected or infected with the virus as well as stalk red flags on campus grounds to pay tribute to those who have been lost in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The week's events continued with PRIDECHAT which was the event held on Thursday November 29, 2018. This event was a discussion forum that was held with students where they took a historical journey of HIV and what it is in today's society. On Friday, November 30, 2018 the very first REDTalk: WAD Dinner Party was hosted. Keynote speakers included Nicole Elinoff, Sexual Minority Health Coordinator for the Florida Department of Health, Gabriel Martinez, Sexual Wellness Coordinator at UCF's Wellness & Health Promotion Services, and Daniel Downer, Early Intervention Specialist at Hope and Help and Program Coordinator for Bros in Convo. The banquet, a two hour event, was open to all members of the community and provided a safe space to discuss important topics surrounding HIV, such as prevention, PREP and PEP, personal stories, and support groups. The event was also filled with games, activities, resources, testimonials and provided education and inspiration to become involved within the HIV community and spread messages of hope, unity, and acceptance. Lastly, the week culminated with a World AIDS Day Rapid HIV testing event. Students, faculty, and staff were able to get tested, for free, at the WHPS office. A total of 33 individuals were tested between the hours of 10am-2pm, with the majority of individuals tested ranging from ages 18-23 years of age.

UCF prides itself with providing students with an environment that reflects real life experiences. UCF prides itself in engaging students and preparing them for the future. HIV/AIDS is everyone's fight and it's everyone's plight. HIV/AIDS does not discriminate against race, color, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, or all the other categories we utilize to label our society. As a result, WHPS dedicates itself to ensure that all individuals coming through their doors understands the power and energy they all play into one day getting to zero infections.



World AIDS Day: 30 Years Remembered

By Chris Haubenestel

On December 1st, 2018, the Central Florida HIV Planning Council celebrated thirty years of World AIDS Day. To commemorate the anniversary, the planning council wanted to put together an event that was not only special, but a celebration that will be remembered for years to come.

Just as the summer was coming to close, The Public Relations and Marketing Committee decided to create a special work group dedicated solely to planning the next World AIDS Day event. This year, representatives from the entire planning council were present for monthly meetings leading up to December, with a goal to create an event that was not only enjoyable but accessible to clients and members of the community. The approach was to reflect on how we have progressed over the past thirty years while also looking forward to the future of HIV and advancements that are yet to come. For 2018, the planning council was able to mix some traditional with new by putting together an evening with a variety of entertainment showcasing talent in Central Florida. The venue that was decided was the Darden Courtyard at

the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre with food provided by White Wolf Café. With this location, the Planning Council was able to create a beautiful and uplifting event.

The night opened with a proclamation from the City of Orlando delivered by Commissioner Patty Sheehan. This was a special proclamation to commemorate thirty years of World AIDS Day. To showcase where we have been over the past thirty years, three local advocates performed monologues from a journal of physicians who had been working with patients diagnosed with HIV during the very early stages. These monologues gave descriptive perspectives of certain cases that had left an impression with the doctors and then we were able to share those experiences with the attendees. The planning council also thought it was important to have this event be uplifting and spiritual. Local talent such as a praise dancer, spoken work, and singers performing spiritual tunes created an atmosphere that was full of love and inspiration.

The night ended with a quilt folding ceremony to a standard spiritual hymn as

procession entered with the quilt, unfolded it, and then allowed participants to view the quilt. The quilt folding ceremony is a standard practice that is always the same no matter where it is performed. The Planning Council was fortunate to have members who were trained on how to carry the ceremony. After the hymn was through, the song "Rise Up" performed by local performer Sunshine Mathews, provided the perfect background while attendees held electric candles and reflected not only on those we have lost to HIV, but to those who have survived and will continue to live as we progress into the future. We said goodnight as a brilliant spectacle of lights shined bright as the quilt was folded and put away by the same processional. To the next thirty years, we hope to see the end of new HIV transmissions and continue to celebrate life!

A special thanks to our sponsors for the 2018 World AIDS Day Event put on by the Central Florida HIV Planning Council! The Florida Department of Health in orange County, Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, and AIDS Healthcare Foundation.



Coming Out with Pride

By Gabriella Rodriguez



2018 Come Out with Pride (COWP) was much different than any years before with a week span of events, that truly showed the unity within Orlando community.

This year, COWP attracted more than 160,000 visitors to the city of Orlando. The events for Orlando Pride Week are as follows:

Monday Oct 8th

The first event was call "Drag Race 5K" where the Zebra Coalition lead the efforts with over 150 organizations participating that took place at Harbor Park in Lake Baldwin. The attendance was plentiful and several local drag personalities joined the races while sashaying their way through Baldwin Park.

Tuesday, Oct 9th

A QLatinx event called Reel Pride, which screened the international short film "MAR (The Sea) along with a personal Q & A with the director William Vitoria that played at an Orlando Favorite, The Venue.

Wednesday, Oct 10th

The third event was the "House of Pride" the Edge reunion took place at the Ace Cafe, where The Edge nightclub used to be. This was a place that provided many with unforgettable memories, music, dancing, celebrating our chosen families and the people who created the Orlando club culture into what it is today. This party truly brought the house down with Jose Xtravaganza, and other local drag personalities.

Thursday, Oct 11th

The Weekend Launch Party that was

emceed by our beloved local Gidget Galore, with several local art and theater performances while DJ Joanie hit the beats all night long. A book launch of Keith Newhouse, a local author and independent publisher first book, My Tio's Pulse. The story explaining what happened at Pulse on June 12, 2016 in a clear and simple way that will give children the tools to talk about difficult topics and empower them to feel safe, featuring illustrations by over 20 Orlando local passionate artists.

Friday, Oct 12th

Then there was the Block Party at Stonewall with live performances and 4 different DJ's spinning tracks throughout the club. Parliament House also took part with hosting the Pride Friday Party featuring Detox from Rupaul's drag race.

Saturday, Oct 13th

Then there was the famous OIC's "Big Gay Brunch: The Party Before the Parade", with bottomless mimosas and Bloody Marys. Who could ask for more? The food was provided by Seasons 52 and was a great segway to the afternoon Come Out with Pride Festival activates at Lake Eola. The Pride Marketplace at Lake Eola Park began at noon expanding its space in 2018 with dozens of vendors, businesses and organizations committed to diversity in the Central Florida area. COWP created an initiative called Pride Takes Action, designed to connect festival-goers with advocacy groups, will be back this year to join the vendor lineup. Several stages were set up with different performances, and entertainment, variety of food and kids

zone. The most eagerly anticipated event of this year's festival and which featured more than 100 groups spanning a 1-mile route through downtown Orlando. The evening was followed by the sky being lit up with signature fireworks on the lake and continued with 2 After Pride Parties. One at the Parliament House and the other at Stonewall with the stars from the FX hit show "Pose".

Sunday, Oct 14th

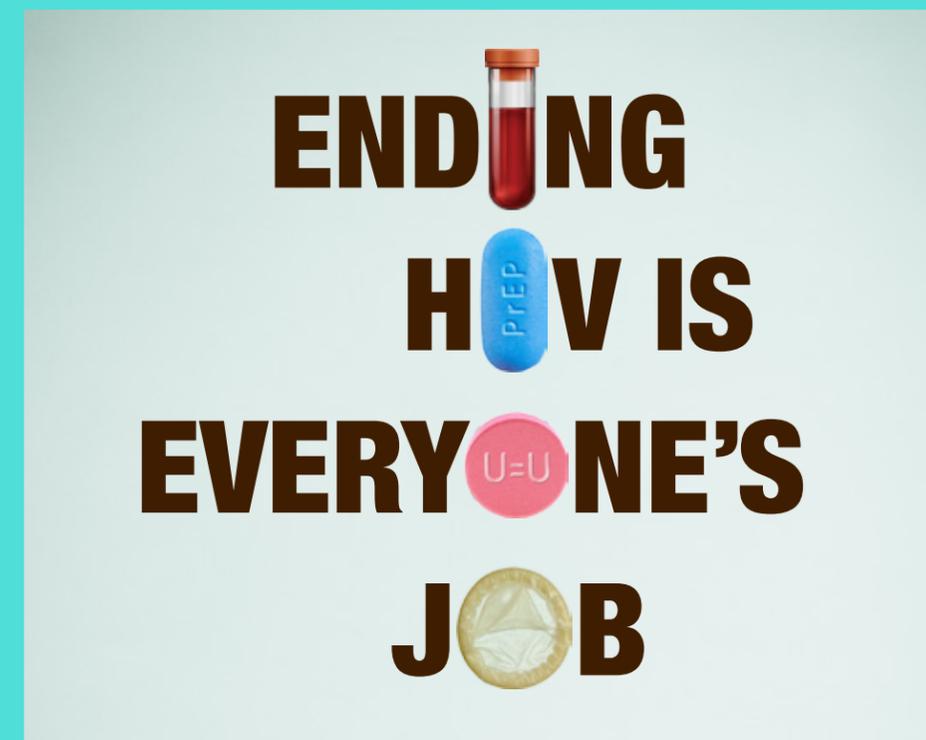
The Sunday Funday Recovery Brunch was a wine down for those who had some party left in them at Celine Orlando with plenty of food and entertainment. Overall, it was an eventful packed week filled with a sense of community, encouraging all to live their best and authentic life and showing the Orlando community by educating through our shared cultural heritage, acceptance and diversity. Pride is always a fun event. It is a safe place where everyone can feel welcomed with the most colorful parades and best entertainment. However, Pride is much more than that. The Pride legacy is about fighting for our LGBTQ community's rights, especially for those who don't always have a voice. Pride is also about taking action.

Come Out with Pride, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization inspired to make an impact in Orlando's LGBTQ+ community. Come Out with Pride is also dedicated to supporting the community through grants and scholarships via its 'Pride Gives Back' program. For more information, go to comeoutwithpride.com.



around disclosing status to family and partners, learning how to communicate effectively with healthcare providers, and recognizing the importance of managing HIV are all critical to ensure the retention of our Spanish speakers in medical care.

In addition, the need for program interventions and understanding of the social and cultural experience of its Latino participants that seek health care. Many Latinos affected by the virus may come from histories of poverty and living under repressive governments with limited access to healthcare services or education. Therefore, Latinos, especially recent immigrants, may not be accustomed to inquiring about services from healthcare providers and may not recognize its importance of addressing HIV and health care.



NATIONAL LATINX AIDS

AWARENESS DAY 2018



By Gabriella Rodriguez

Oct 15th, 2018 was National Latinx Gay Men HIV Awareness Day. It was a collaborative effort of many community partners. A robust, informational and interactive conversation was held about creating dialogue and brainstorming strategies on how to understand the impact within the Latinx community and to identify and build strong stakeholders individually and within organizations invested in the same goals of addressing the epidemic. The Latinx population is the

fastest growing minority group in the United States, and has been disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic.

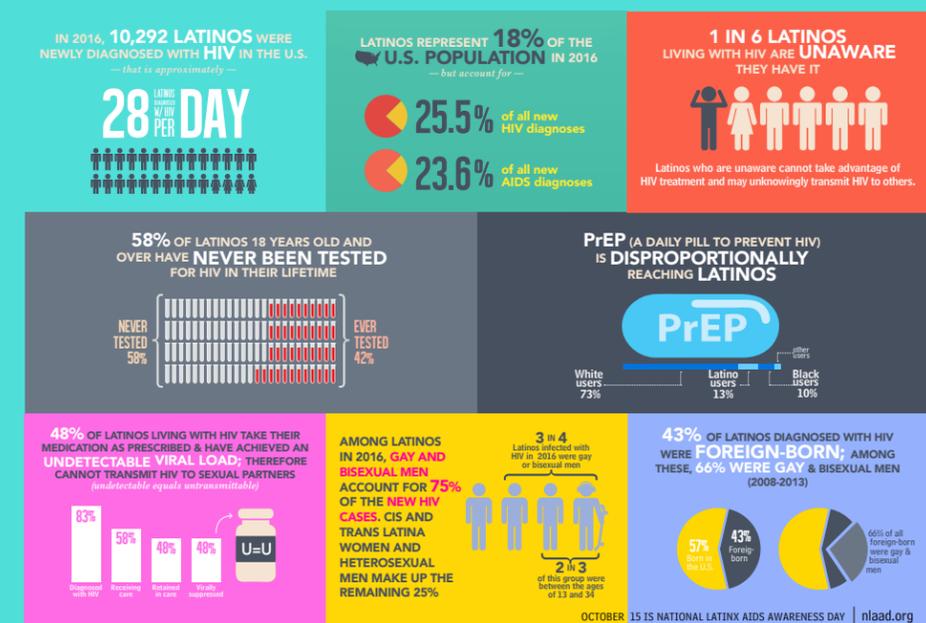
According to the CDC (2007), the Latinx population makes up 13% of the US population yet accounts for 20% of persons living with AIDS. In Florida, 27,250 out of 116,944 (23%) persons living with an HIV diagnosis in Florida year-end 2017 were Hispanic. 1,534 out of 4,949 (31%) persons who received an HIV diagnosis in Florida in 2017 were Hispanic, 485 out of 2,044 (24%) persons who received an AIDS diagnosis in Florida in 2017 were Hispanic. According to data collected by Florida Department of Health (2017), 26% of Hispanics living with an HIV diagnosis were not in care in 2017, compared to 25% of all PLWH in Florida. 65% of Hispanics living with an

HIV diagnosis were virally suppressed, compared to 62% of all PLWH in Florida.

Along with the data presented by the Department of Health, discussions of barriers and retention to care were identified such as language, immigration status, culture, distrust, internalized stigma, access, affordability and transportation to name a few. Traditionally, Latino culture has viewed homosexuality negatively, thus decreasing the likelihood of disclosure of information that would imply sexual orientation or behavior. Lack of culturally and linguistically relevant interventions that address more personalized HIV knowledge, attitudes, and practices has been an issue. The need for dispelling myths about HIV, providing assurance about confidentiality, building skills

BUT, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? THE NEED FOR THESE CONVERSATIONS TO BE HAD AND CONTINUE PAST NATIONAL LATINX HIV AWARENESS DAY ARE VITAL IN OUR APPROACH, WITH WORKING WITH OUR LATINX COMMUNITY.

Further conversations in January will include: What does the community need or need more of to address the epidemic? Information? Testing? PrEP? What are potential ways that local organizations can work together to address the epidemic? What more information is needed to be the most successful? It starts with you getting involved. Together, we will get to zero!



United States Conference on AIDS Recap

Gabriella Rodriguez & Nicole Elinoff

The 2018 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) occurred on September 6-9 at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, FL.

Over 140 host committee members met over a year and spent countless hours in planning. From organizing the memorials, opening reception, and lounges, to reviewing abstracts, and organizing workshops-- the host committee gathered and trained volunteers, several were awarded local scholarships that handled social media on a local level. All the hard work was definitely reflected in the Opening reception and the events intentionality as a whole. The opening reception, featuring Ongina from RuPaul's Drag Race season 1, along with the sounds of the University of Central Florida's jazz band, and all the interactive performers made the event truly special. To the beautiful unique Inspiration Orlando- This mural, a living work in progress, captures the first leg of a historic story in the greater community's resilient journey as Orlando Strong.... Orlando United.

SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS THAT WERE HOSTED BY THE ORLANDO HOST COMMITTEE WERE:

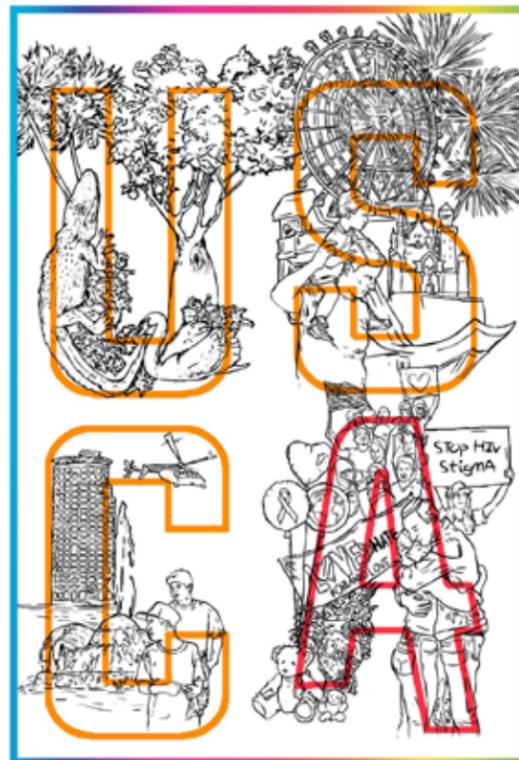
Being Alert, Taking Action and doing the Work: HIV & Public Policy

To which discussed and explored the impact of public policy in the field of HIV, from decisions about the affordable care act, to immigration policies, to IV civilization and syringe access. As these policies affect those impacted directly, this community conversation engaged those in exploring the work that needs to be done to move the needle forward.

The Time is Now! Together of Never!

This Panel was comprised with several local organizations such as the merger of the

HIV Planning Council Beehive! Inc. Prepare Program, Aspire and other local agencies discussed the need for collaboration, the advancement of technology and all the tools, wisdom and experience to utilize as tools to succeed.



Orlando United: Community response healing and moving forward from the Pulse tragedy

Since June 12th, 2016 Orlando experienced one of the worst mass shootings in American history that took place at the Pulse Nightclub. This Workshop was a panel discussion that told the story of Orlando's resilience and how the community came together on healing and rebuilding after

Pulse, along with the continued challenges face and how as a community it's being addressed.

Latidos heartbeat: home away from home

This workshop went over the first monolingual support network in the central Florida Community describe how Latinos Orlando Kissimmee created a family for individuals living with HIV

Bros in convo initiative: We are community

Spoke on encouraging individuals to identify with the importance of their role in reducing the community's viable viral load through advocacy activism Innovation and volunteerism assisting attendees to identify their local challenges within YBMSM communities, mobilization and best practices

Orlando's host committee truly took charge in building new partnerships, diversifying funding and drawing awareness through ongoing conversation, to the cause, as we believe it is up to us as individuals to assume the responsibility in our community to help end the epidemic and reach zero new transmissions. We recognize that there is still much work to be done both locally and nationally.

WE WANT TO THANK ALL OF THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT.

YOU TRULY MADE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE! THANK YOU!

Next year the United States Conference on AIDS will be coming September 5-8, 2020 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. We hope to see the joining with thousands of others to celebrate the resiliency and diversity of ending the HIV epidemic.



Aspire: PrePare Program By Gabriella Rodriguez

Recently, I had an opportunity to speak to the Director of the Aspire PrePare Program, Maria Angie Buckley.

While I had a broad view of all the services that Aspire Health Partners provides, I was given an in depth view of this innovative program. Her amazing team is truly creating an impact in our community by talking about prevention through education, linkage and providing a safe space. The program began February, 2018 at the 100 Columbia Street location, Aspire Health Partners joins 57 other grantees across the United States to address professional health shortages in both medical and behavioral health.

The Prepare program was awarded a five-year SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion federal grant that will provide services and support to improve HIV-related health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities that are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and to reduce HIV-related health disparities in racial/ethnic minority male (particularly Black {African-American} and Latino YMSM) populations who are at high risk of or infected with the HIV spectrum disease and/or Hepatitis. Increasing access and availability of residential substance abuse/co-occurring, treatment services, increase access to testing for HIV, Hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections (STI), and increase access to supportive services needed to ensure success and medical stability.

According to the CDC's 2015 HIV Surveillance report Orlando ranked 5th among all Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in the U.S. in terms of new HIV diagnosis. The report found that Orlando had a new HIV diagnosis rate of 28.8 per 100,000. In fact, the number of people becoming infected with HIV in the Orlando MSA was up 28% in 2016. In Orlando, HIV

infections disproportionately affect men and racial/ethnic minorities. Of the more than 9,852 individuals in Orlando living with HIV, 74% are men and 62% are racial/ethnic minorities (39% Black and 23% Hispanic/Latino). Among individuals newly diagnosed with HIV, 78% are men and 68 % are racial/ethnic minorities: (39% Black and 29% Hispanic/Latino).

THE PREPARE PROGRAM ALIGNS WITH GOALS OF THE HHS ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION, CARE & TREATMENT OF VIRAL HEPATITIS RELATED TO ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR REDUCING VIRAL HEPATITIS RELATED TO DRUG USE BEHAVIOR.

Within Prepare is Positively Empowered Program (PEP) which aims to integrate efforts to prevent new viral hepatitis infections, identify people infected hepatitis, and to provide better linkages and referrals to care and treatment. PEP seeks to identify persons infected with viral hepatitis early in the course of their disease. All clients who are considered to be at risk for viral hepatitis (B and C) as specified by CDC recommendations for hepatitis B (CDC, 2008) and hepatitis C (CDC, 1998) should be tested for hepatitis (B and C). All clients testing positive for viral hepatitis (B or C) will be referred for treatment.

The PrePare Program's goal is to serve through residential treatment services, prevention care coordination and peer support an estimated 300 individuals over the course of the five year grant program. Through outreach efforts, a minimum of 1,250 individuals eligible for services will be

identified and offered testing, co-occurring disorder and substance use disorder services funded by the grant.

To learn more, start the conversation by contacting Leo at (407) 875-3700 Ext. 3248 or (321) 946-7631

Free of charge services offered through the PrePare Program:

- Detoxification
- Residential substance abuse treatment
- Medication Assisted Treatment (Methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol)
- HIV Prevention, Education and Monthly Outings
- Care Coordination and Case Management for PrEP, PEP, Hepatitis C Treatment
- Testing Offered (HIV Rapid, Hep C Rapid)
- Vaccinations Offered (Hep A&B)

Aspire Health Partners, Inc. (Aspire), is a non-profit 501(c) 3 behavioral healthcare organization. Aspire is Florida's largest Behavioral Health Non-Profit that provides a full continuum of behavioral healthcare services and is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in behavioral services including mental health and substance.

Through innovative, resourceful treatment and recovery approaches Aspire offers individuals and families the opportunity to "Aspire" to healthier, more independent lives.





Medical News/ Articles, County PrEP Update, Test & Treat Update (Area 7 office)

By Dean Hutchins

Let's take a brief moment to review of some of the great strides we have made in linkage over the last 12 months. Prior to the Test & Treat program, clients would receive a rapid test, then await a confirmatory test, before eligibility could be prompted. After that, one would schedule Dr appointment(s), labs, services and support. This process would often take weeks, perhaps months. With Test & Treat protocols in place, clients can begin eligibility and qualify for services based on the results of the rapid testing generally in 24 hours or less. This enables us to link clients to care, achieve an undetectable viral load much sooner, assist in the prevention of potential new infections, while increasing our long-term retention to care. Since we introduced Test & Treat in Area 7, October 2017, we have serviced over 200 clients.

Our Surgeon General guided all State Health Departments to have PrEP protocols in place by December 2018. PrEP services began in Area 7 in April 2018. Since then, we have enrolled over 140 clients. PrEP is a great tool to assist in preventing new HIV infections. Think of PrEP like birth control. You take it daily to prevent possible infection. This gives you the option to have control over your sexual health, with an extra layer of protection without dependence on condoms alone. Condom usage should always be in effect, as PrEP doses not prevent other STIs, nor pregnancy. Always discuss with your provider your risk factors, sexual practices, and any other potential health concerns you may have. To find out more about local services, and testing locations, feel free to stop by our website at: <http://talktestcf.com/>.



World AIDS Day in the Space Coast

By Keith E. Tremain



With a county that is 72 miles long and only 26 miles wide, Brevard County aka the Space Coast works hard to unite for various events and World AIDS Day is one of many. Agencies, churches, and various organizations and people from Titusville to Palm Bay came together to stand up to HIV/AIDS, and remember those who we lost as a result of the disease. This year's Space Coast World AIDS

Day had a twofold observance. The first part of the event, held at Unconditional Love, was a reception hosted by the Space Coast's first official World AIDS Day committee. The event was held to say thank you for all the front of the house staff, medical staff, volunteers and clients of the various HIV service agencies, doctor offices and advocacy groups in the county.

At Sundown, the Space Coast held its 30th World AIDS Day candlelight vigil, held at the Eau Gallie Square, with John Curry, the Brevard County's president of BTAN (Black Treatment Advocacy Network) announcing. The opening prayer was led by Rev. Brian Devlin of PFLAG and United Church of Christ (UCC), followed by the current progression of the epidemic by Florida Department of Health, Brevard County's epidemiologist, Barry Inman. Immediately following the "Progression of the Disease Address", was the tribute to those who lost their lives in the battle of HIV/AIDS. Mario Davis, of First United Methodist Church of Titusville sung his rendition of "Remember the Rain" originally by Josh Groban. Followed by Colleen Cunningham of Unconditional Love's testimony about her friend who guided Cunningham through the first few months of finding out she had HIV, before her friend passed away from cancer.

A new tradition was added this year. To remember those who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS, the loved ones were given an opportunity to say the name of their departed. Once all the names were spoken one more time, the Space Coast AIDS Memorial Bell was rung 37 times each year of the epidemic.

Following the memorial portion, were 2 testimonies that dealt with stigma and fear that we often face. Lori Leaf of Unconditional Love, gave her story about finding out she had AIDS in 1986 while being 6 months pregnant. Keith Tremain of Project Response, shared how the lack of knowledge can be just as deadly as the disease itself. Closing the event was the Reverend Patricia Pena of Saint Andrew United Methodist Church.

Florida ranks number 1 in both new infections and people living with HIV. Out of the 116,944 people in Florida that are HIV positive, 1,666 live in the Space Coast. Free Rapid HIV testing is available in Brevard County. Please Call Project Response at 321-724-1177 or Unconditional Love at 321-253-0846. If you are HIV+ and require care, Please call Project Response, Unconditional love or the FL Department of Health, Brevard County.



Space Coast Pride Parade and Festival

By Michael Pecko

On Saturday September 29, 2018, Brevard County gathered to celebrate the LGBTQ community on the Space Coast. The festivities started off with a Parade at 1:00pm and continued with vendors, different organizations, and entertainment celebrating all the diversity

reflected in our community. The HIV community was well represented along with Project Response Inc., Comprehensive Health Care, Orange County Health Department, provided prevention education, condom distribution. Hope and Help provided their mobile testing unit to provide free HIV testing.

2018 NATIONAL RYAN WHITE CONFERENCE ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

By Adrian Humphrey

This conference was well put together and provided tracks for each type of Ryan White professional, community member, advocate and interested party. The following workshops were provided:

INCREASING ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, AND RETENTION IN HIV CARE AND TREATMENT:

This track focuses on best practices and models for access to, engagement with, retention of and re-engagement in HIV care and treatment that result in improved health outcomes for people living with HIV.

CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:

This track examines the fundamentals and best practices for clinical quality management programs to measure and improve HIV service delivery and health outcomes with the ultimate goal of reducing health disparities. DATA UTILIZATION: This track examines data integration, data analysis, and data utilization with a focus on how these activities improve engagement/reengagement, service delivery, and public health approaches to ending the HIV epidemic and curing hepatitis C in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

This track focuses on requirements and best practices for integrated planning, program implementation, workforce development, and resource allocation and utilization. It includes examples of collaborative partnerships and community engagement initiatives that result in a high-quality, comprehensive system of HIV prevention, care, and treatment that is responsive to the evolving HIV epidemic.

LEVERAGING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND ADDRESS EMERGING PRIORITIES:

This track highlights new and innovative models for people living with HIV engagement, HIV workforce development and deployment, service integration and service delivery that lead to improvements in health outcomes along the HIV care continuum. The track also addresses emerging

priorities such as curing hepatitis C in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, behavioral health integration, and the opioid epidemic. RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM FISCAL AND GRANT MANAGEMENT BOOT CAMP: This is a technical assistance track focusing on training Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients and subrecipients on fiscal and grant management requirements and best practices.

It was very interesting to see how the information was presented and how understandable it was for anyone who attended the conference. Below are some of the takeaways from the 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment. Building BLOCs of Leadership: Intentional Leadership:

This session was amazing for new individuals at the table and new members interested in the Planning Council. The leaders of this session pour into the individuals that may have less than one year of Ryan White experience, consumers of Ryan White services and community members that are wanting to work toward the greater cause, which is getting to zero. These sessions were a safe space for all individuals to ask questions, learn, and communicate with others their struggles as to where they are. My take away was that it's important for programs such as these to help bridge the learning gap for community members and new or perspective members for the Planning Council.

Quality Improvement 101 – I am new to clinical quality management, where do I start?

This was a great segment for individuals newly introduced quality management and improvement. Something that was important to know was that moving forward, with Ryan White dollars, quality will play a big factor in funding. If key outcome measures are not met, you will not be funded for the next fiscal year. Must maintain accurate and good outcomes to continue funding.

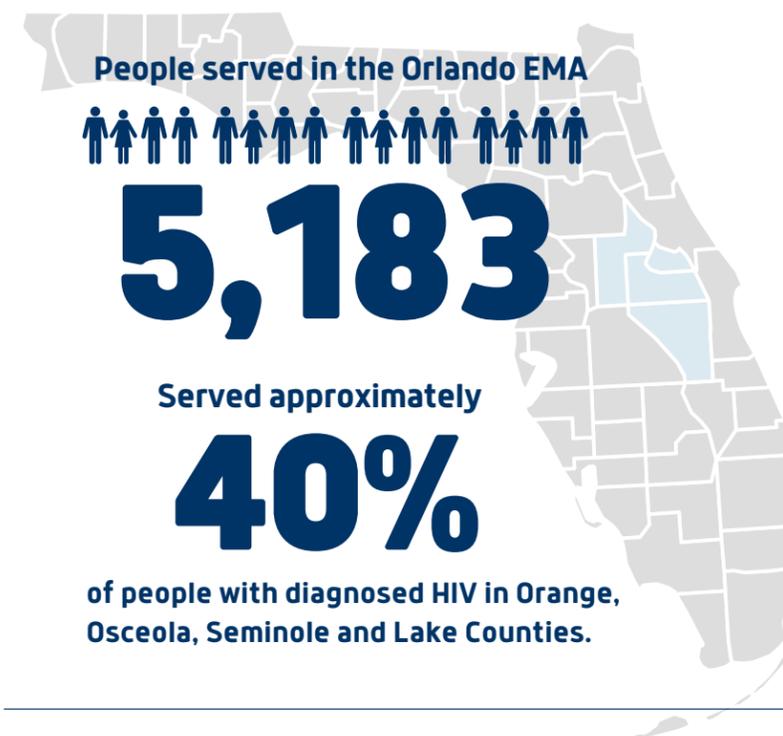
HRSA 340B Drug Pricing Program

Any rebate medication dollars received, must go back into the same program. Each agency must have their own 340B policy in place for their individual organization.

Innovations Contributing to Improving Lives of People with HIV

Rutgers University recruiting new waves of HIV Medical providers into the workplace. Area of Sub Sahara Africa has on the job training for para-professionals to become HIV Nurses.

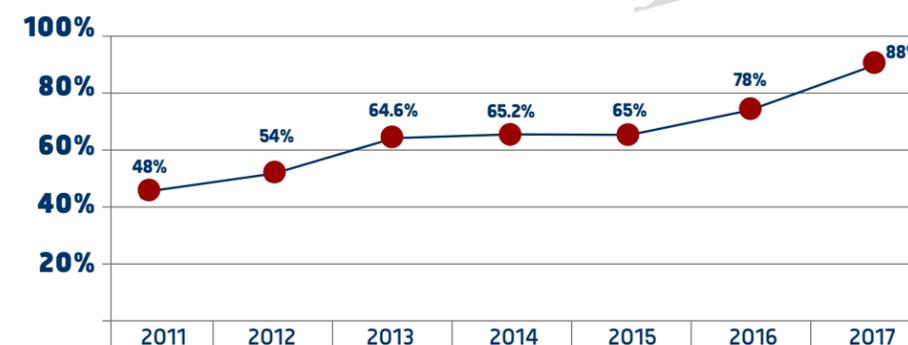
ORLANDO EMA'S RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PART A PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS: 2017-2018



47.6%
of clients were racial/ethnic minorities

45.8%
of clients identified as Black/African American

31.4%
of clients identified as Hispanic/Latino



In 2017
88%
of clients identified achieved viral suppression

55.6% of clients were aged 45 years and older

58.5% of clients were living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level



* Information obtained from the Orlando EMA Provide Enterprise Database.



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