

FOCUS ON HIV in the Time of COVID-19

[IN THIS ISSUE]

GET CARE BROWARD
HIV Planning Council
Engages the Community

[Page 3](#)

Committed & Determined
to help with HOWPA

[Page 4](#)



Broward Ryan White & You:
The Simple Facts
New YouTube Video Series

[Page 5](#)

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY



Embracing the New Normal
Care Resource Finds
Opportunities & a Silver Lining

[Page 6](#)



Providing Food & Love
Poverello's Cosmic Readiness

SunServe Shines On
Meeting LGBTQ Needs
in the Time of Coronavirus

[Page 7](#)

It's Okay to Ask for Help
Mental Health America is Here
for Everyone

[Page 8](#)

“I Pay Attention to What People Don't Say”

Broward “Disease Detective” Jasmin Shirley on HIV then & COVID-19 now



Jasmin Shirley, Epidemiologist

Prior to 1990, when the Ryan White Care Act was passed, Broward County was deemed ineligible for the first federal HIV funds, but Jasmin Shirley wasn't having it. As Senior Epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, she knew she had logged sufficient and accurate reports of AIDS cases to qualify Broward for Ryan White funding and she proceeded to prove it.

“It was an exciting time,” Jasmin asserts, “and a controversial one.” Her work in HIV health had begun in the early 1980's, “on the cusp of the AIDS outbreak, when we didn't know what was happening,” she recounts. “We didn't have readily accessible outpatient care. We didn't have support services. It became evident to me that what we needed was an infrastructure.” Or, she waxes poetic, “We needed to stand on our own and fish for ourselves so we could eat forever.”

[Continued on Page 13](#)

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY (Cont.)

Keeping the Community Safe

TransInclusive Helps Trans in Need Navigate COVID-19

[Page 9](#)

We Strive to be Accessible
Memorial Outpatient Behavioral Health Center

[Page 10](#)



Committed to the Scientific Journey
In Pursuit of an HIV Vaccine

[Page 11](#)



A Safe Space for Art & Acceptance
MHA's 9Muses Art Center

[Page 12](#)



This Doesn't Have to Have a Bad Ending
Dr. Michael Sension:
Good News & a Fundamental Question

[Page 15](#)

A Ryan White Welcome

Meet Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot

Health Care Services Administrator



Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot
Human Services Administrator



I'm honored to serve as a steward for Broward County government.

Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot



Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot joined Broward County Community Partnerships Division as Health Care Services Administrator in May, 2020. In this role, Ms. Gonzalez-Charlot is responsible for the development and oversight of the \$39 million dollar budget of Primary Care services and Ryan White Part A services delivered through contracted public-private partnerships to ensure a responsive and inclusive system of care.

Ms. Gonzalez-Charlot, who earned dual masters in Health Administration with a concentration in Health Policy and Public Health, is an accomplished healthcare administrator with over 15 years of service within the federal government and leadership experience in healthcare operations for non-profit and for-profit organizations. Prior to her Human Services Administrator role, Ms. Gonzalez-Charlot served as a Senior Public Health Analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) overseeing broad public health issues relating to organizational development, grants and contracts, management

initiatives, policy and program formulation and site-visit assessment. She is also a proud graduate of HRSA's Outstanding Scholars Program. Additionally, she has worked in South Florida's prominent teaching hospitals and the ambulatory healthcare environment, maintaining a network of external partnerships while cultivating relationships with Federally Qualified Health Centers and community-based organizations.

Ms. Gonzalez-Charlot is a dedicated advocate for universal healthcare services. She has a special interest in working with underserved and at-risk communities, and promoting initiatives that support access to quality and culturally competent care.

"I'm honored to serve as a steward for Broward County government," asserts Juanita, "furthering my desire to safeguard public health and to equitably address the health and human services needs of our most vulnerable populations by effectively advocating for policy improvement and funding opportunities to ensure better health outcomes."



THE RYAN WHITE
PART A PROGRAM
OF BROWARD COUNTY
QUARTERLY JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot
Health Care Services
Ryan White Part A Program

PUBLICATIONS SPECIALIST

Lauren Kettler Gold
Ryan White Part A Program

If you have any comments or questions,
please write to:

RyanWhitePartA@broward.org

The Ryan White Part A Program Quarterly Journal is published by Ryan White Part A Program Office (Health Care Services, Community Partnerships Division). The goal of the publication is to provide Broward County residents with HIV information about available services and other special interests. The digital publication is available on the Broward Ryan White Part A Program website: <https://www.broward.org/ryanwhite>

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This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$15,886,455 with 0 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

HIV Planning Council Engages the Community

Community Empowerment Committee: Outreach and Education

The efforts of the HIV Health Services Planning Council (HIVPC), which directs and coordinates effective responses to the HIV epidemic in Broward County, are supported by five vital HIVPC committees. Of these, the Community Empowerment Committee (CEC) encourages council participation of Broward residents living with HIV and community allies, conducts outreach events and educates community members about topics related to HIV and the Ryan White Part A Program.



CEC members: (l to r) L. Robinson, B. Dennis (Chair), H. Frank, G. Martinez, V. Lewis, D. Gunion



CEC Chair Bessie Dennis addresses event attendees at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center on February 6.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CEC was working diligently to engage participation through events in the community. One such outreach opportunity took place on February 6th at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, observed annually on February 7. In honor of the awareness day, the library hosted a series, “Cultural Conversations at the Center.” Featured guest speaker Anthony Singletary discussed “Love and Positivity” and shared his story of living with HIV from diagnosis through empowerment. Throughout the event, CEC and HIVPC members hosted a table, disseminating information about the HIV Planning Council, and the CEC Chair appealed to event guests to attend both council and committee meetings.

The CEC was also working to engage older adults in the community by hosting events to share HIV information with seniors and involving elders in the HIV discussion through presentations, games and testimonials. As the Community Empowerment Committee continues

to bring new events to Broward’s HIV population, it collects feedback and fortifies the HIV Planning Council’s interaction with community members.

The HIV Health Services Planning Council is required to maintain a minimum 33% unaffiliated consumer membership. That means that one-third of the Council’s members must utilize Ryan White Part A services and not work for or be otherwise compensated by a Part A-funded agency. Having consumer involvement means that the HIVPC meets its goal of representing the views and needs of people using Part A services.

The HIV Planning Council continues to engage prospective members despite limitations resulting from the current pandemic. The Council is currently seeking new members to contribute their time, ideas, and expertise by serving on the Planning Council and its five committees: Community Empowerment Committee, Membership/Council Development Committee, Quality Management Committee, Priority Setting

& Resource Allocation Committee and System of Care. In May, after a hiatus due to the pandemic, committee meetings resumed virtually on Webex. Anyone interested in participating should contact the HIV Planning Council Support Team (see box below).



GET INVOLVED!

Join the HIV Planning Council or an HIVPC Committee

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the HIV Planning Council or any of its five committees, please get in touch!

954-561-9681 Ext. 1295 or 1343

For more information on the Planning Council, please visit:

Brhpc.org/programs/hiv-planning-council/

Committed and Determined to Help

Working with HOPWA during the COVID-19 crisis

“Housing is always a stressful program,” notes Tiffany Arieagus, Director of Housing Case Management at SunServe, one of two local providers overseeing eligibility and enrollment for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). “It’s demanding because it’s a necessity,” she notes. “If you have a roof over your head, you can better take care of yourself and we understand that.”



The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program is the only federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA program, the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD) provides grants to local communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for housing projects that benefit low-income persons medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

For information on HOPWA eligibility and enrollment in Broward County, contact these providers:

SunServe 954-764-5150 X104

tarieagus@sunserve.org

Care Resource 954-567-7141 X110

fgomez@careresource.org

“With the pandemic, it’s even more stressful,” insists Tiffany. “We’re seeing a large influx of new clients,” many of whom have never accessed HOPWA before but meet the eligibility requirements, as must all HOPWA clients. “They had jobs and they had insurance,” she says. “Now they’re unemployed and asking for assistance, and we’re glad to help. But,” she cautions, “these are unusual times and it can take longer to get approved.”

To address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, HOPWA offers vouchers for short-term hotel stays for clients in need of quarantine space and extends hotel stays beyond the usual 60-day limit. Relays Francisco Gomez, Housing Services Manager at Care Resource, a local Ryan White provider also enabling HOPWA access, “Right now HOPWA is more flexible,

especially with hotel vouchers. I had clients who were kicked out of their home because they had coronavirus. We were able to put them in a hotel until we could find them a property. With Care Resource,” he states, “if the client goes to our webpage and does a preregistration for housing needs, someone will contact them right away and do the assessment. After that, we assign them to housing case management and begin the process.” He adds that clients can also pick up a housing packet from the front desk at Care Resource weekdays, 8:30am-5:15pm.

Francisco sees an increase in the need for rental assistance and mortgage assistance due to the pandemic. “People lose their jobs and they don’t have money. How are they going to pay for their food or their car? We work with them and call the credit card companies to get them time to pay. We tell

them where the food banks are. My people are working full-time to provide services,” assures Francisco.

Similarly, cites Tiffany, “SunServe offers wrap-around services. We make sure clients get medical care and we make sure they have food,” and even provide applications for the Poverello food bank along with those for HOPWA in the SunServe lobby. Clients can also request housing enrollment packets via email as well as through a housing case manager online. “We are working as fast and as diligently as we can because we are committed and determined to help the community,” she says. “There are clients that don’t know the system, they want things done immediately. But it’s first come, first served,” vows Tiffany with a heartfelt, “Everybody’s life is important.”

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Broward Ryan White and You: The Simple Facts

New Video Series on YouTube Channel “Get Care Broward”

Broward Ryan White Part A Program recently produced a brand new YouTube series of 5 short, informative videos available on its YouTube channel “Get Care Broward.” *Broward Ryan White and You: The Simple Facts* advises and informs Broward residents as to emotional, practical and medical aspects of living with HIV and acquaints them with the Ryan White Part A continuum of care. Each video, hosted by HIV advocate Angela “Myammee” Pitts and filmed at a different Broward County landmark locale, is aimed at demystifying access and adherence to HIV care.

How Can Broward Ryan White Help You? (3:37)

Learn how the Ryan White Part A Program helps Broward residents living with HIV. This video gives you The Simple Facts: who Broward Ryan White serves and which HIV medical and support services are provided. Filmed at the NSU Art Museum in Fort Lauderdale.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPF3WpMMupM>



When You Learn You’re Living with HIV (6:37)

What do you do when you learn you’re living with HIV? Broward residents can turn to Ryan White Part A for HIV medical and support services. Here are 5 steps to getting the care you need to live your healthiest life.

Filmed at the World AIDS Museum in Wilton Manors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5sAYb7nDRc&t=8s>



Applying for HIV Services: Ryan White “CIED” (6:37)

A guide for applying for Ryan White Part A HIV services for Broward County residents. This video maps out the Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED) process. Filmed at the Old Dillard Museum in Fort Lauderdale.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVyBdcWMIV4&t=9s>



Getting the Most from Your HIV Doctor (7:27)

Having an optimal relationship with your doctor is key in getting the most from your HIV care. A visit to Dr. Vanessa Rojas highlights the importance of doctor-patient communication and trust. Filmed at the Children’s Diagnostic & Treatment Center in Fort Lauderdale.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a50L9N9Mbtc&t=11s>



5 Reasons to Stay Connected to HIV Care (6:44)

If you’re living with HIV, adherence to care is of the utmost importance for your personal health and that of the greater community. This video outlines 5 key reasons to stay connected to HIV care. Filmed in the Stonewall National Museum and Archives in Wilton Manors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7OX5EqUO7c&t=24s>



Visit the Broward Ryan White Part A YouTube Channel “Get Care Broward” to view these and other videos for insights and information about living with HIV and accessing care.

You Tube

GET CARE BROWARD

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrgvGtL-RLkRTYz3XatzJT-Q/>

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Embracing the New Normal

Care Resource Finds Opportunities & a Silver Lining

Care Resource began utilizing telemedicine back in 2018 as part of a behavioral health program for black HIV positive MSM youth. The following year they extended its use into medical services, an effort spearheaded by Care Resource Medical Director Dr. Sheryl Zayas who began using telehealth for incarcerated transgender patients in need of hormone therapy. Last summer, they employed it to treat PrEP patients and found it actually improved adherence to care.



Dr. Steven Santiago, Care Resource Chief Medical Officer, in virtual meeting with Care Resource background

“A lot of PrEP patients were falling out of care,” says Dr. Steven Santiago, Chief Medical Officer at Care Resource. “They were busy with family and work responsibilities; it was difficult for them to come in. When we started using telemedicine, it was very well received. At the time, we didn’t feel the need to roll it out for our other patients but, of course,” he concedes, “this forced us.”

Dr. Santiago is referring to the COVID-19 health crisis, which prompted Care Resource in early March to limit their on-site services to one provider seeing only a few patients a day in-house and the rest via telemedicine. The remaining providers, practicing from home and working in-house on a rotating basis, have maintained the same level of productivity as before. “Which is amazing because this says that patients really want to do telemedicine,” purports Dr. Santiago. “There’s a huge need for it and our new reality is probably going to be that patients want to continue doing telemedicine in addition to in-house.” He adds brightly, “I think telemedicine is going to improve adherence and retention even further for HIV patients.”

“This will be the new normal,” concurs Dr. Zayas, citing, “It’s interesting how the pressure to have this kind of access has impacted the technology. When we started with Zoom, we didn’t expand it much because it wasn’t convenient. A lot



Dr. Sheryl Zayas, Care Resource Medical Director, sees patients onsite and via telemedicine

of people couldn’t figure it out. Now that everybody needs this, we have been able to find the technology that enables more and more of our patients to get into the video arena for virtual home visits.” She enthuses, “There’s so much to be said for meeting people in their homes and seeing their environment.”



I think telemedicine is going to improve adherence and retention even further for HIV patients.

Dr. Steven Santiago



“We’re getting to see things that we wouldn’t’ve otherwise,” agrees Dr. Santiago. He cites one patient, living with HIV for more than 30 years, who now has diabetes and suffers from neuropathy. “He had a history of tripping and falling. By

actually seeing where he lives, I was able to see how his furniture was arranged and have a discussion about safety.”

Another Care Resource response to the pandemic was adapting the Test & Treat program. Securing funds for HIV home testing allowed those who are at home in the current crisis to be tested and then either get PrEP or get linked to care via their PrEP Hotline. “We wanted to make sure people in the community who wanted an HIV test could get one,” explains Jonathon Welsh, Associate Director of Development and Communications at Care Resource. “Just because things are different, it doesn’t mean that access isn’t available.” There’s also a new PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) Hotline offering those who have been exposed to HIV a rapid HIV testing option with free transportation to their centers via Uber Health.

“We try to stay ahead of the curve,” insists Dr. Santiago. “It’s been challenging but also exciting. It’s wonderful how we’ve been able to find the silver lining in these difficult, unprecedented times, and discover new ways to continue to serve our patients. And maybe,” Dr. Santiago reflects on that silver lining, “even improve how we serve our patients.”

Care Resource Hotlines:
PrEP Hotline 347-919-8904
PEP Hotline 786-322-1503

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Providing Food & Love

The Poverello Center's Cosmic Readiness



Poverello staff greets pick-up vehicles



Food is loaded safely into cars

In a recent communication, Poverello Center CEO Tom Pietrogallo relayed, "We have initiated important COVID-19 response protocols that both continue high quality, healthy grocery distribution and protect our clients throughout the Ryan White Part A care system who need to access food." To that end, Poverello continues to deliver groceries to those who are home or in isolation or without transportation. For those clients who are able to get to the center, a system is in place for safe groceries pick-up.

"We were ready for this in a strange cosmic sense," Tom reveals. "Three years ago, we started implementing an online ordering system. Each time clients came to pick up food, they were sitting down with staff, learning the system, using the touch screen to order food." When the COVID-19 crisis hit, Poverello was able to quickly switch to ordering from home with clients using their computers or smartphones.

"For those who don't feel comfortable," Tom says, "we have a staff member

helping them over the phone. Normally we were calling every scheduled client to come in, so people were already in the habit of talking to us." Case managers even received online Zoom training on helping clients order food. "Letting people choose their foods like they'd already been doing," he says, "maintains a sense of normalcy, and dignity and respect."

All this, cites Tom, constitutes "a cosmic readiness that really helps our clients and works to their advantage." This is reflected in Poverello's mission to address the COVID-19 pandemic, professed in a "Commitment to Our Community" statement: "We know what it's like when isolation and stigma keep us from living life to the fullest. During the very beginning of this new pandemic, we at Poverello recommit to being caring persons through providing love to our community in need through service provision."

Order food or become a Poverello client:
<https://poverello.org/food-bank/>

SunServe Shines On

Meeting LGBTQ needs in the Time of Coronavirus

NOTE: *This interview was conducted before Mark Ketchum retired in May.*

"It's always been my goal that when you walk into SunServe, you feel welcome and safe," says Mark Ketcham, Executive Director of the Wilton Manors nonprofit, which has been providing social services to the LGBTQ community since 2002. These days, of course, it's a little different. You don't walk in, you call, but you still receive the same warm reception. "Our main number is hooked to our receptionist at home," Mark reveals, who then transfers all calls to the appropriate SunServe staff.

"We're doing everything virtual, either on

the phone or the computer. Our goal is to minimize, if not eliminate, face-to-face contact with anyone until this crisis has passed," he explains. "Everything" includes transgender services, housing case management with Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), mental health services, youth programs and women's services. "The only thing that's closed," clarifies Mark, "is the senior center, but we're following up with clients by phone and with home delivered meals."

One of SunServe's largest initiatives, their youth program for ages 10-22, is functioning at full capacity. "We have an activities director putting all the things kids



Mark Ketchum, former Executive Director of SunServe

like online, like Dungeons and Dragons," Mark relays. "The kids come on and play with each other. There are a bunch of activity groups so they can interact with each other and that alleviates some of the boredom."

Continued on Page 8

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

It's Okay to Ask for Help

Mental Health America is Here for Everyone



9Muses Art Center gallery of student art



"Everyone Welcome" at 9Muses

On the homepage of its website, Mental Health America of Southeast Florida (MHA) declares "Mental Health is a goal for everyone" and proclaims itself "your voice for mental wellness." Even in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, MHA has remained true to these assertions, adapting its services to help an even broader range of South Florida residents than ever before.

"Individuals who have never experienced mental illness before are calling because they're panicked," says MHA Managing Director Chris Yoculan. "The demographics have changed. People who don't have mental illness are also reaching out to us."

If this pandemic has done anything," he concludes, "It's now okay to ask for help."

In response to the coronavirus crisis, MHA has extended the hours of its Sethline, a warm talk line for "those who are feeling isolated, lonely, panicked or just need a friendly voice," touts the MHA website. It was named for client Seth Stambaugh, who relied on a supportive telephone network that "provided the caring, concern and support that most of us, whether diagnosed or not, seek in our everyday lives," and anyone is welcome to call.

MHA, which provides behavioral health services and education for children,

adults and families, offers an array of arts and wellness classes at its 9Muses Art Center. Since mid-March, all programming has gone virtual with Skype classes that include sculpting, mixed media, acting, dance and more. (See **Positive Expression**, page 12.) "My staff opened their home studios," discloses Chris, for people to enjoy self-expression "in a nonjudgmental setting. It's a protective environment," he claims, defined by "caring and compassion."

9Muses resumed some in-studio classes on June 16, but Chris expects virtual programs will continue, citing this positive note: "I had one 9Muses member who moved away but stayed in touch. Now he's in our class again and he's able to communicate with his friend who he hadn't seen in six months. That's magic, and I would never have seen it if it weren't for this tragedy."

Sethline Warm Line: 954-578-5640
M-F 10am-10pm, Saturday, 10am-5pm

For 9Muses Art Center info & updates:
<https://www.9musesartcenter.org/home.html>

SunServe Shines On

Meeting LGBTQ needs in the Time of Coronavirus

Continued from Page 7

SunServe also provides youth with therapy and life coaching, which continue virtually as well. "A lot of young people are not getting the attention they need at home," Mark notes. "It's interesting how it's changed over the years; being LGB is not considered as daunting as being trans, which 70% of our youth now are. If you're a youth in Broward and you need help," he

encourages, "you can call us."

SunServe support groups are also now online: Bereavement Support Group, Safe T Transgender/Gender Non-conforming Support Group, Gay Men's Empowerment Support Group, SOFFA (Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies of Transgender People) and Transmasculine Support Group.

"SunServe has stepped up to meet the needs of our community in this crisis. We may not be able to give you an answer for everything, but," Mark pledges, "we will certainly try."

To access SunServe support groups:
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Keeping the Community Safe

TransInclusive Helps the Trans Community Navigate COVID-19

“You have to think about it,” prods Tatiana Williams, co-founder of the TransInclusive Group, a trans-led LGBTQ nonprofit based in Wilton Manors. “Before we even got to COVID, a lot of people in the trans community were already experiencing some of these challenges.” The COVID-19 pandemic, she says, added “another layer of trauma” to what they’re already struggling with: day-to-day survival. “A lot of the trans community work as waiters, show girls, they do survival sex work. So this really impacted them,” she contends. “They think, ‘What do I do now? I thought I was able to support myself and keep food on the table. Now I don’t even have a job.’ It put them in a situation.”

In response, the TransInclusive Emergency Relief Fund has been providing emergency assistance to trans and gender non-conforming individuals in need, as it does year-round. “The influx of calls since COVID has tripled,” says Tatiana, who estimates 60% of those who have applied for aid are HIV positive. “It’s not that we ask about it,” she clarifies. “They share it on the application under ‘healthcare concerns.’ Some are saying they can’t get their meds, or this is really disturbing to them and they find themselves sick.” The relief fund addresses as many requests as possible and receives additional funds to do so from organizations such as the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Destination Tomorrow.

To further address the pandemic, on May 7, TransInclusive held a virtual COVID-19 townhall on Facebook. A panel of four guest speakers shared their perspectives on the current situation. Asked if the transgender population was at a higher risk for COVID-19, panelist Carmarion D. Anderson, Alabama State Director of the Human Rights Campaign, pointed out, “When we look at the social determinants of public health, there are not a lot of adequate services geared toward

the trans and gender non-conforming populations. So if we were never written into the blueprint for public health, then we’re always going to receive the short end of the stick, and that impacts our communities that are most vulnerable when pandemics such as COVID-19 enters our society.”

Fellow townhall panelist Morgan Mayfair, Executive Director of TransSocial, injected a positive take on the crisis. “Things have changed but not all the change has been bad,” he ventured. “We’ve been helping other organizations, like the Dream Defenders in Miami helping the homeless. In a way I think this is going to bring more unity. Because now we’re helping other folks that are not even part of the LGBTQ community and I think that’s going to build bridges.”

Another positive for the local trans community is TransInclusive’s weekly meeting which convenes online every Thursday from 7-9pm. It’s accessible only from a link on the TransInclusive Group Facebook page, “because it’s more closed,” Tatiana explains. “We try not to open it up to the general public.



TransInclusive COVID-19 Townhall on Facebook Top row, l to r: Co-host Carson Graham, Co-host Brayland Brown, Nik Harris; bottom row, l to r: Carmarion D. Anderson, Shervin Jones, Morgan Mayfair

We want to keep the community safe.” These meetings, she insists, are highly beneficial for TransInclusive members. “For a lot them at this time, their mental health is not great. The virtual meetings are giving them a sense of community. They’re able to meet and really talk and express themselves,” she says, her voice laced with a compassion that underscores her next sentence. “It gets them through the week.”



TransInclusive Group January 2020 Co-founder Tatiana Williams, front row, left

To learn about TransInclusive Group:
<https://www.transinclusivegroup.org/>

For virtual TransInclusive meetings:
<https://www.facebook.com/TransInclusive/>

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

We Strive to Be Accessible

The Memorial Outpatient Behavioral Health Center Offers Walk-in Service & Much More

“A lot of people are having trouble coping,” observes Joyce Myatt, Director of the Memorial Outpatient Behavioral Health Center. With the COVID-19 pandemic, she adds, “It’s exacerbated for people who were having trouble coping already.” The center, whose services include outpatient behavioral health, detoxification and medication-assisted programs, has substituted a significant portion of its onsite treatment with telehealth, but continues to see people face to face for assessments and therapy, individual and group. “People that are more acute, extremely depressed, suicidal – we still have those groups going on,” she says, with the now-necessary safeguards in place.

“We strive to be accessible,” Joyce declares, as evidenced in the center’s Same Day Access Program which opened April 15. “We’d been working toward it, but this gave us an opportunity to launch it. People can just walk in,” she confirms. “It’s been very successful. The other day we had twelve people show up.” All precautions are taken for a safe visit. “We screen people before they walk in with an infrared thermometer,” she says. “We give everybody a mask and meet in rooms where there’s space to spread out.”

Their Rebel’s Drop-in Center, which until March was a dynamic hub of patient treatment and activity, is closed due to the pandemic but provides telephonic counseling and two to three virtual groups a day. Certified peer specialists, themselves in recovery for mental health issues or substance use disorder, man the drop-in center’s warm line seven days a week. Effuses Joyce, “They show clients you can have wellness, be employed and have a well-balanced life.”



Elizabeth Johnson (l), Marriage & Family Therapist, Memorial Ryan White Counseling, with Joyce Myatt (r), Outpatient Behavioral Health Center Director

She’s equally delighted with the drop-in center’s art program for patients. Pre-pandemic, there were designated slots for painting several times a week, for which the center furnished supplies. “It’s beautiful artwork,” comments Joyce, some of which is on display throughout the Memorial Healthcare System and the greater community; the Hollywood Art and Cultural Center has held exhibitions of Rebel’s artists for the past 5 years.



Rebel’s artist Malcolm Butler, center, with (l to r) Hans Heubel, Dr. Tammy Tucker, Renzo Torrenza and Tim Curtin, Executive Director, MHS Community Services

The Memorial Outpatient Behavioral Center’s philosophy is rooted in the belief that mental health and physical health are intertwined. Their Mind Body Wellness Clinic, established in 2016, integrates behavioral health with primary care. “We’re on a journey to treat the whole person,” professes Joyce and to that end, the clinic is staffed with psychiatrists, clinical therapists, registered nurses certified in psychiatry and family medicine, wellness coaches and more. “It’s a one-stop shop,” she states, “where people can receive all their services in one place.”



We’ve had to evolve as the community changed to be responsive to its needs.

Joyce Myatt



Joyce has been Director of the Outpatient Behavioral Health Center since 1997. “We were small back then,” she recalls. Today the center boasts a staff of 50 and serves about 4,000 patients yearly. “We’ve had to evolve as the community changed to be responsive to its needs,” Joyce affirms. “Whether in a pandemic or not, we want to be a resource to people in the community.”

Same Day Access Program
Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm
Memorial Outpatient Behavioral Health
3400 N. 29th Avenue, Hollywood, FL
954-276-3422

Rebel’s Drop-in Center Warm Line
10am-8pm, 7 days/week: 954-276-3452

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Committed to the Scientific Journey

HVTN remains steadfast in its pursuit of an HIV vaccine

On March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Nations around the world mobilized resources to implement public health response strategies to curb the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the infectious virus that causes COVID-19. As governments began deploying measures to slow its transmission, HIV prevention clinical research was notably impacted, with ongoing studies impeded and others already in the pipeline delayed. The HIV Vaccine Trial Networks (HVTN), headquartered in Seattle with HIV vaccine trials on five continents, turned to their sound relationships with local public health authorities to implement strategies in response to COVID-19.

An element of these strategies included ensuring that HVTN sites were well equipped for the critical work of implementing clinical trials while a global pandemic persisted, relying on community engagement which had built strong partnerships between HVTN trial sites and the local communities.

A response team was mobilized to procure and have delivered specialized personal protective equipment (PPE) to clinical trial sites conducting HIV vaccine efficacy studies.

Yunda Huang, PhD, led the effort to navigate complex business processes and deliver the approved – and globally sought-after – PPE. Yunda, Principal Staff Scientist at the Fred Hutchinson's Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Research & Prevention, is a U.S. citizen living in Shanghai and a lead statistician on clinical trials coordinated by the HVTN. "Procuring PPE in such a political and epidemiological climate was simply a non-existent type of job before this pandemic," cites Yunda, admitting, "Although I felt



HVTN clinical trials staff suit up with the arrival of much needed PPE

a tremendous responsibility to help, I severely underestimated the complexity of the mission."

Yunda found herself in a balancing act, as did HVTN study teams overall, to remain committed to the scientific journey for a safe preventive HIV vaccine while simultaneously supporting the clinical trial sites' response to COVID-19. "The demand took a toll on my sleep time, family time and normal work time, but I feel fortunate that I could help," she says, crediting her children as her pillars of strength when work pressures escalated. "It took only three weeks between the moment the mission was assigned and the moment that first-rate PPE was safely delivered is," reports Yunda, adding humbly, "If that's not a miracle, what is?"

COVID-19 has backed the global community into an unprecedented new normal, but the HVTN remains committed to the scientific journey for a safe and globally effective preventive HIV vaccine. Despite major breakthroughs in HIV prevention and treatment, there are an estimated 5,000 new HIV infections around the world each day. The need for an accessible biomedical intervention that can be taken to scale will help curb the impact of HIV/AIDS. Though COVID-19 has become a major focus of the research enterprise, the need – and the quest – for an effective HIV vaccine continues.

HIV & COVID-19: Resource Links

The following are a few sources for reliable and current information about COVID-19 as it relates to HIV.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a page on its website: "What to Know about HIV and COVID19," with a list of questions and answers, plus a directory of links for more information. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/hiv.html>

HIV.gov includes a section "Coronavirus (COVID-19) and People with HIV" which calls out resources for people living with HIV and a listing of relevant federal agencies. <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/staying-in-hiv-care/other-related-health-issues/coronavirus-covid-19>

National Institute of Health (NIH) provides "Guidance for COVID-19 and Persons with HIV" and includes guidelines for specific populations. https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/8/covid-19-and-persons-with-hiv--interim-guidance-/0?utm_source=AIDSinfo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3-20-20-COVID19_Guidance

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

A Safe Space for Art & Acceptance

“You Can Totally Be Yourself” at 9Muses Art Center

These days on Fridays, Sculpting Class at Mental Health America’s 9Muses Art Center is on Skype. From 1–5pm, instructor Nicole Storrs sculpts her own piece onscreen as students log on at their convenience to work on class projects with her guidance.



Instructor Nicole Storrs, left, and student Lisa Doering, right, sculpt together on Skype

On this particular Friday, student Lisa Doering is making “the world’s slowest pinch pot,” a reflection of her low-energy day. The week before, Nicole had put together student care packages of low-fire earthenware clay that Lisa and other class members retrieved from the 9Muses studio. Lisa is using her clay to make a holder for a hummingbird’s nest. Once the sculpting is done, the pinch pot will need to be bisque-fired in the 9Muses studio, glazed and fired again. In addition to pots, she’s done some sculpture. “I started messing around one day and I thought, that looks like a fish!” she giggles. She had to figure out how to attach fins and create gills. The resulting piece she refers to whimsically as her “bug-eyed, wrinkle-lipped purple fish.”

The two previous weeks, Lisa spent the session sculpting a wall plaque. “I asked myself, ‘What would I want to hang on my wall?’” She came up with a coconut palm tree and a garden bed. “I had gardening on the brain,” she quips. Once designed, she let the plaque air dry and then baked it in the oven for an hour at 250 degrees. For this piece she’d made her own salt clay, the primary ingredients being flour and salt. Before the clay care package, it was all “doing art with what you have in your house,” she remarks, a marked change from in-studio classes, where students are supplied with all the tools and materials they need.

“When I first went to the studio, I was pretty much working with colored pencils,” Lisa



Lisa and the World’s Slowest Pinch Pot

recalls, which till then had served as her “personal art therapy.” “I started to learn what I call plain pencil sketching. I learned how to do contours and shading. I was able to take that skill and use it with my colored pencils, and my drawings just got better.” She studied life drawing – “exactly what it says, drawing from life” – and tackled hard-to-draw subjects: faces, hands, feet. “Then one day I said, I think I’ll try to paint. I tried acrylics, I’d never done that before.”

Lisa has been taking art classes at 9Muses since she moved to Florida in 2009. “I had to leave the state for a couple of years. But once I returned, I came right back. I missed it. There’s nothing like it anywhere else,” she claims. “You can totally be yourself at 9Muses. When I first showed up, I wasn’t very stable. My brain chemistry was

affecting my mental health and my physical health. It took me a couple of years till I got on the right medications. 9Muses helped. Mostly it was a place to come and have a social outlet and be safe.”

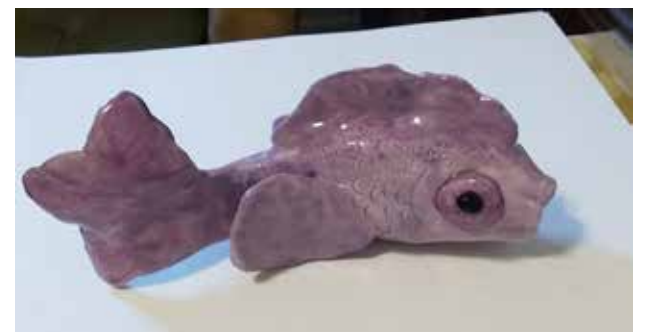
And now that sculpting class is online? “In some ways it’s better,” allows Lisa, who enjoys her personal space. “In some ways it’s not, because at the studio we have all the glazes, more equipment, turntables. I go there to do clay,” she says, “but I also get to see some good friends.”

“I think mental health is a valid concern with people being isolated,” she reflects. Overall, the virtual experience, she says, has been “a challenging process in terms of getting it to work, but you get conversation and that’s been good for my mental health. It’s not as good as face to face,” she concedes, “but at least you can communicate with somebody outside these four walls!”

For 9Muses virtual classes, visit:

<https://www.9musesartcenter.org/virtual-classes.html>

A “bug-eyed, wrinkle-lipped purple fish”



RETURN TO FRONT PAGE



“I Pay Attention to What People *Don’t* Say”

“Disease Detective” Jasmin Shirley on HIV then and COVID-19 now



Jasmin Shirley, Community Service Honoree at the African American Achievers Awards, 2019

we had was education and prevention strategies. I was responsible for all mandated communicable disease reports from physicians and hospitals,” Jasmin notes, “for anything suspect or confirmed. I had to work closely with the physicians to make sure the report was accurate.” She quips, “I was the Disease Detective.” And because there was no antibody test before 1985 to confirm exposure to HIV, Jasmin also worked with the medical examiner’s office to verify the first 350 AIDS cases reported in Broward County.



We need to be thinking ahead: progressive and aggressive.

Jasmin Shirley



“You had to have 2,000 confirmed AIDS cases to qualify for the first Ryan White funding,” she explains. “I was told by our surveillance team and the State Office that we weren’t eligible because they threw out the initial 350 case reports that did not have a confirmed HIV antibody test. I was not going to allow anybody to say that Broward wasn’t eligible,” she declares. “I fought for it!” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told her on a Wednesday afternoon that they had until Friday to report all their cases. “That Monday the headlines read: ‘Mix Up in the Mailroom: Broward Eligible for Ryan White,’” Jasmin recalls, chuckling at the apparent need to blame the oversight on something.

Leading up to this time, Jasmin had proved an effective proponent of change within Broward’s HIV community. In 1985, she became one of five State AIDS Coordinators in Florida, working to procure funds and services for HIV/AIDS services

in Broward. In 1986, she was instrumental in establishing the first Broward County outpatient-based ambulatory HIV clinic at the Northwest Center and served as its AIDS Patient Care Director.

“When I pushed for the clinic to be in that location,” she says, “I had to convince Carlton Moore,” then President of the Fort Lauderdale NAACP, “and the rest of the African American community. They said, ‘Why should it be over here?’ They only saw gay white men with AIDS.” Finally, Carlton Moore gave the clinic his blessing and the rest is Broward – and Jasmin’s own – history. “He married me two years later!” she reveals. Of their marriage, which lasted 10 years, Jasmin reflects, “It was a good ride.”

I Could See Below the Iceberg

At the onset of the HIV epidemic, Jasmin displayed foresight. “As an epidemiologist,” she maintains, “I could see below the iceberg and everything below the surface. I could see what was going to be coming.” The clinic, she had predicted then, “is going to become the future of HIV care and needs to be in the heart of this community, which is where this epidemic is headed,” forewarning, “We need to be thinking ahead: progressive and aggressive.”

Today Jasmin sees a parallel with the current COVID-19 pandemic. “I’ve had lots of reflection with regards to COVID and lots of lessons that we seemed to have not learned well,” she laments. “When I go out now for essential outings, I’m observing. I see people not taking precautions; even if they’re social distancing, they’re not wearing masks. They think, ‘It’s not going to be me.’ I remember that same thing with HIV; people thought, ‘I’m invincible.’”

She’s appalled at the high incidence of

[Continued on Page 14](#)

Continued from Front Page

It was insight such as this, along with her resolve to “build the best foundation” for Broward’s HIV healthcare, that would define the trajectory of Jasmin’s remarkable role in the Broward County public health system over the next 30-plus years. And although she’s been retired for two years now, in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Jasmin’s expert contributions continue.

The “Disease Detective” Saves the Day

Jasmin did her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and earned her master’s degree in Public Health at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine. While still a graduate student, she began working in a tropical disease clinic. “You would hear things on the news, they were calling it GRID,” she recalls, the acronym for Gay-related Immune Deficiency, the first label for AIDS. Though this was not one of the populations she observed in the tropical disease clinic, it was the beginning of her preoccupation with infectious disease.

Upon graduation, Jasmin was hired by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County as a Senior Epidemiologist. “We didn’t have the tools to contain HIV. All

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

“I Listen to What People *Don’t* Say”

Broward “Disease Detective” Jasmin Shirley on HIV then and COVID-19 now



Jasmin at a 2019 World AIDS Day event in support of AIDS programs on Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale

Continued from Page 13

COVID-19 in nursing homes and jails, and she worries about the vulnerable HIV population she’s championed over the years. “I remember looking at *USA Today*, it was January 27,” she says – a date she remembers because it’s her birthday, “and to the left of the article about Kobe Bryant’s death was a public health alert so obscure that no one even read it. All those months that we could’ve been activated and getting prepared!”

I Pay Attention to What People *Don’t* Say

Jasmin contends that while we’re learning, we still don’t know enough about this coronavirus. “We don’t have enough data because we haven’t done the rigorous testing that needs to be done. We have to know how infectious this disease actually was and is,” she emphasizes, adding, “Pay attention to what’s *not* said, and what’s *not* reported.”

Jasmin takes exception to how COVID cases are currently reported by age, gender and location, as opposed to by demographics as cases normally are.

“I said, ‘Anybody see what’s going on with the black and brown folks?’ I always pay attention to what people *don’t* say,” she proffers. “When HIV first hit, there were so many cases brewing,” she recalls, along with a similar lack of knowledge and information reported. “I don’t think people understand what this virus is,” she surmises. “People need to select the source of their information. They need to listen to the experts.”

With HIV, she points out, “We still have one of the highest rates of incidence in the country. People are realizing that if they test and get diagnosed early, get into care, adhere to treatment, do the prevention they need to do, correct the behavior that puts them at risk, that we can make a difference. But you have to commit to it.” The same for the current COVID-19 health crisis. “I for one,” she confirms, “am taking this extremely seriously.” Whether it’s HIV or COVID-19, she urges, “We’ve got to help our young people understand that responsibility is a must,” and, as she herself does, lead by example.

Destined for Public Health

Jasmin’s commitment to public health stems from a family history rich in not only medical achievement but Broward healthcare firsts. Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, when she says, “I grew up in healthcare,” she means it literally. Her father was the first black OBGYN in Broward County and her mother, a registered nurse, developed the first nursing education program in Broward County. Today five generations of family members, 22 in all, are health professionals. “They’re in the hospital working 12-hour shifts and in other healthcare settings. I’m their sounding board. Every day we’re all on a big conference call and I pray them off.”

Jasmin’s long and illustrious career at Broward Health, as Executive Director of Health Systems Development and then Senior Vice President of Community



Jasmin with goddaughter Joycine Guerra at the Delta Sigma Theta White Hot Soiree Fundraiser, Memorial Day weekend, 2019

Health Services, spanned from 2001 through 2018, when she retired. With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, she began volunteering her time and expertise with the Centers for Disease Control. “I’m in touch with folks I used to work with at CDC all the time. I volunteer my efforts to review data analysis. After cases are confirmed and they need to start doing contact tracing, I’m looking to see, did they drill far enough down to find another potential cluster? I love to use my skills, and it’s an opportunity to say, let’s look at this!”

“I’ve always been chosen or called to areas of concern that require perseverance and that make a big difference. I’ve never looked for it,” she claims. “The door just opened for me.” And now, retirement or no, she says, “I know there’s another door that’s going to open bigger than I could ever imagine. I was destined for public health,” announces Jasmin brightly, and the Broward County HIV community – and beyond – is all the better for it.

[RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



This Doesn't Have to Have a Bad Ending

Dr. Michael Sension with Good News & a Fundamental Question

“When you think back to when you first started hearing about HIV, you didn’t know anybody who had it. Then sure enough, you’d find out a relative or someone you knew had HIV; that had an impact on people’s lives. It’s the same thing with this,” reflects Dr. Michael Sension, “this” referring to the current coronavirus crisis. “I know several individuals or a friend of a friend who’s been impacted.” For Dr. Sension, an HIV specialist with CAN Community Health, when it comes to practicing HIV medicine, as he has for almost 40 years, it’s personal.

He joined CAN a couple of years ago, he says “to address quality HIV care here in Broward County and aggressively pursue a prevention program where at-risk individuals can get treatment.” His passion for his work is matched by his vision for a tomorrow in which everyone living with HIV “successfully controls and manages it, without *it* having the final say;” a tomorrow in which addressing key questions will vanquish the threat of an epidemic still not under control. And with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he continues to focus on not just medical issues but on the greater wellbeing of the individuals he treats.

I Wanted My Life to Count

“I grew up in a small town in Illinois,” Dr. Sension relays, “1,800 people in the middle of the corn and soybean fields. There were 52 kids in my graduating class.” His father was a Baptist minister who taught chemistry and his mother was a nurse. “So part of all this,” he discloses, “is my father was a Baptist minister and his father was also a Baptist minister. I was raised with the Judeo-Christian belief



Dr. Michael Sension



I was raised with the Judeo-Christian belief of giving back to your community and to society.

Dr. Michael Sension



of giving back to your community and to society, and that there was more to life than fulfilling your own needs.”

In 1981, while traveling through Europe, he saw an issue of the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. “On the cover was an arresting image as a lead-in to an article about ‘the gay disease,’” Dr. Sension recounts. “It piqued my interest. I knew I wasn’t going to become a Baptist minister but I wanted my life to count. I really thought my whole career would be in international medicine in underserved areas.” But, he marvels, early on in his medical studies, “Doors started to open in the HIV field, giving me experience and credentials that people often don’t attain in their career for another 15 years.” One

such door opened in 1985, while he was still a student at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He had the opportunity to work for a year with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in an HIV surveillance effort in Zaire with Project Sida, which included rapid testing and a study of the effects of a measles vaccine on HIV.

He relocated to Florida in 1993, leaving the NIH in Maryland, to join the North Broward Hospital District, now Broward Health, where he then worked in the HIV Clinical Services Program for 24 years. “They had just started a dedicated HIV treatment program, predominantly taking care of people without insurance,” he recalls. “There were just a couple of medicines. It was about trying to see if we could provide a few extra months of life for people who were going to die. We had strong partnerships with hospice. We treated what we could and prepared people. The assumption was everyone eventually succumbed. The first studies were clinical endpoint studies. Half of the group would get a promising new drug and half a placebo. At the end, if less people died or less had severe illness, then it worked.”

Some Good News

“Can you imagine trying to treat blood pressure when you can’t measure blood pressure? Or treat diabetes and you can’t measure sugar?” Dr. Sension is reaching to explain the inexplicable: tending to the AIDS epidemic when there was no way to measure the HIV virus and no effective medication to treat it. “Our understanding of HIV was in its infancy,” he notes. But by

[Continued on Page 16](#)

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

This Doesn't Have to Have a Bad Ending

Dr. Michael Sension with Good News & a Fundamental Question



Dr. Sension (2nd from right) with Project SIDA in Kinshasa, Zaire in 1986

Continued from Page 15

1996, when it became possible to measure the virus quantitatively and more potent medicines resulted in undetectable viral loads, “Something miraculous occurred,” Dr. Sension declares. “Sick people got better.”

“We learned at that time that being undetectable and being virologically suppressed were important, and that tenet has been maintained ever since. To me, that’s the overriding principle in our strategy,” he asserts. “For people to be in care and consistently take their medication, so that they are always undetectable. The good news is we know what works,” he affirms. “If people find out they have HIV and get into care, take their meds every day and become undetectable, not only is it great for that person, but that person is no longer infectious and can no longer transmit HIV.”

A Fundamental Question

Which brings us to the HIV epidemic today. Dr. Sension pauses after the next question; he already has the answer, he wants you to think. “If my patients are undetectable,” he posits, “then you must ask yourself, who’s not undetectable?” Pause. “Let’s go back to the fundamental question,” he prompts. “Who is transmitting HIV? Let’s say I think I’m HIV negative because I

haven’t been tested.” He accentuates the answer: “It’s people who *don’t* know.”

“How do we address that? Increase testing so that we identify people who have HIV,” he insists. “We have pretty good statistics in the U.S. About 18% of people living with HIV don’t know they have it, yet they’re responsible for an estimated 30% of new HIV infections. How can we do better? What can we do in Broward County to increase testing?” To Dr. Sension, the answer is clear. “Make it more available.”



It’s very rewarding to help people manage something that can be very frightening and life-changing.

Dr. Michael Sension



Similarly, he says, testing is the missing component in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. “We’re only testing people with symptoms, which means we’re missing the vast majority,” Dr. Sension claims. “Take Broward and Miami, with all the testing sites, it’s still restricted to people with symptoms. We really don’t have a great feel for the denominator,” he cites, referring

the lack of sufficient data, “and we won’t until we have widespread testing.”

More Good News

But despite uncertainties generated by the coronavirus crisis, Dr. Sension is encouraged. “We don’t have any evidence that having HIV puts you more at risk for catching or having a worse course of COVID-19,” he reports. “Not all immunosuppression is the same and not all HIV is the same. It may be those HIV patients who succumb to this novel coronavirus are severely immunosuppressed,” he speculates, noting, “The majority of our patients are virally suppressed. They’re already primed to think about their health.”

Additionally, his HIV practice has adapted, as have most, to the current mode of reduced physical contact. “We’ve rolled out telemedicine; now we’re just a click away,” he announces proudly. “You can be on your iPhone, your iPad, your computer. It’s like a Skype medical visit, you see me and I see you.” And that’s important, he says, not just for the medical consult. “People are losing their jobs. There’s financial insecurity, housing insecurity economic fragility and the impact on mental health. A lot people I talk to are by themselves,” he acknowledges. “That can take a toll of people’s emotional wellbeing. I stay on the phone or video conference, happy to have a prolonged social interaction because that may be the only interaction they have for the whole day.”

As Dr. Sension speaks, it’s evident his storied and accomplished work in HIV is as much a calling as it is a career. “It’s very rewarding to help people manage something that can be very frightening and life-changing,” he asserts. “To help them understand, this doesn’t have to have a bad ending. To help them see they can live their life, and do all the things they desire, and successfully control HIV.” Dr. Sension pauses, this time as much to savor the words as emphasize them. “To be able to tell somebody, ‘You’re going to be okay. Don’t worry, we got this covered.’”

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

HIV Awareness Days

June 27

National HIV
Testing Day
#HIVTestingDay



August 20

Southern HIV/AIDS
Awareness Day
#SHAAD



August 30

National Faith HIV/AIDS
Awareness Day
#NFHAAD



September 18

National HIV/AIDS
and Aging Awareness Day
#HIVandAging



September 27

National Gay Men's
HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
#NGMHAAD



Virtual & Social Distance Support Groups

Bereavement Support Group

Online via GoToMeeting platform
Mondays, 1:00pm
SunServe
954-764-5150
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

Gay Men's Empowerment Support Group

Online via GoToMeeting
Thursdays, 6:30pm
SunServe
954-764-5150
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

Social Distance Positive Group

People living with or affected by HIV
Meets outside, subject to change
Every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm
Latinos Salud
2330 Wilton Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33305
954-765-6239

POZitive Attitudes

Gay HIV+ Men
Online via Zoom
954-815-2550
<https://pozitiveattitudes.com/>

Safe T Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming Support Group

Online via GoToMeeting
Wednesdays, 6:30pm
SunServe
954-764-5150
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

SOFFA (Significant Others, Family, Friends & Allies of Transgender People)

Online via GoToMeeting
Saturdays, 10:00am
SunServe
954-764-5150
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

TransInclusive Group

Trans Identified Individuals
Online via Zoom
Thursdays 7-8:30pm
TransInclusive
954-764-5150
<https://www.facebook.com/Transinclusive/>

Transmasculine Support Group

Online via GoToMeeting
Saturdays, 3:00pm
SunServe
954-764-5150
<https://www.sunserve.org/programs/online-support-groups/>

Facebook HIV/AIDS Support Groups

AIDS HIV Survivor Living Memorial, For All
facebook.com/groups/1716936251671905/

Gay HIV+ Men, MSM
facebook.com/groups/GAYHIVUSA

Heterosexual POZ Heterosexual
facebook.com/groups/126252234585822/

HIV/AIDS Network, For All
facebook.com/groups/284585801584590/

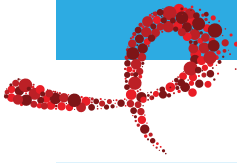
My AIDS Campaign, For All
facebook.com/groups/213320955360312/

Poz & Proud, For All
facebook.com/groups/pozandproud/

If you would like to add a support group to this listing, please email the information to Lauren Kettler Gold at Lgold@broward.org.

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

BROWARD RYAN WHITE PART A SERVICE PROVIDERS DIRECTORY



The Broward Ryan White Part A Program provides medical and support services for uninsured or underinsured people living with HIV. In order to access Ryan White Part A services, individuals need to be deemed eligible by Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED) provided by the Broward Regional Health Planning Council. CIED representatives are located at the following sites. For an appointment, call 954-566-1417 Ext. 1242 or Ext. 1279.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Broward Regional Health Planning Council Hollywood 954-561-9681 Broward Community and Family Health Care Resource Ft. Lauderdale 954-567-7141 | The Poverello Center Wilton Manors 954-561-3663 Broward House Wilton Manors 954-568-7373 Memorial Primary Care Center Hollywood 954-265-8410 Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-728-1088 | Specialty Care Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-527-6064 Comprehensive Care Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-467-0880 Broward County Health Department Ft. Lauderdale 954-467-4700 | Paul Hughes Health Center Pompano Beach 954-213-0638 AHF One River Plaza Ft. Lauderdale 954-767-0887 AHF Oakland Park Oakland Park 954-561-6900 AHF Northpoint Ft. Lauderdale 954-772-2411 |
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|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ● MEDICAL | ● MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT | ● MENTAL HEALTH |
| ● PHARMACY | ● DENTAL | ● LEGAL SERVICES |
| ● CASE MANAGEMENT | ● SUBSTANCE ABUSE | ● FOOD SERVICES |
| ● WOMEN'S HEALTH/OBSTETRICS | ● HEALTH INSURANCE CONTINUATION PROGRAM | ● MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY |

| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilton Manors Pharmacy Wilton Manors 954-494-8013 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northpoint Healthcare Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-772-2411 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunrise Pharmacy Ft. Lauderdale 954-462-9223 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AHF Healthcare Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-767-0887 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oakland Park Healthcare Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-561-6900 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| One River Plaza Healthcare Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-767-0887 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROWARD COMMUNITY & FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pompano Medical Center Pompano Beach 954-970-8805 Dental 954-970-7067 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lauderhill Center Lauderhill 954-583-4710 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hollywood Center Hollywood 954-967-0028 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Park Center West Park 954-966-3939 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROWARD HEALTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comprehensive Care Ft. Lauderdale 954-467-0880 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-728-1088 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bernard P. Alicki Health Pharmacy Ft. Lauderdale 954-527-6042 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broward Health Medical Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-522-3355 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cora E. Braynon Family Health Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-759-6600 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annie L. Weaver Health Center Pompano Beach 954-786-5901 Medical 954-786-5903 Case Management 954-786-5929 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Specialty Care Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-7313 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROWARD HEALTH (Cont.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lauderdale Lakes Health Center Lauderdale Lakes 954-759-7557 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Margate Health Center Margate 954-759-7477 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (FDOH) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paul Hughes Health Center Pompano Beach 954-213-0638 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fort Lauderdale Health Center Ft. Lauderdale 954-467-4700 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROWARD HOUSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broward House Ft. Lauderdale 954-568-7373 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broward House Wilton Manors 954-568-7373 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CARE RESOURCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Care Resource Oakland Park 954-567-7141 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LATINOS SALUD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Latinos Salud Wilton Manors 954-765-6239 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LEGAL AID SERVICES OF BROWARD COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legal Aid Services of Broward County Plantation 954-765-8950 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (SBHD) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Broward Community Health 35th Ave., Hollywood 954-265-8400 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Broward Community Health Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 954-267-1616 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Memorial Center for Behavioral Health Hollywood 954-276-3422 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nova Southeastern University Ft. Lauderdale 954 568-7709 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nova Southeastern University Oakland Park 954-568-7709 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| POVERELLO CENTER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poverello Center Wilton Manors 954-561-3663 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

RETURN TO FRONT PAGE

Ryan White Part A Providers: Here For Your Care

Consult the Directory on [page 18](#) for information on provider services



RETURN TO FRONT PAGE



It's About You Now as much as ever

If you need HIV care, now is the time to get it.
If you've fallen out of care, now is the time
to return. Because in this pandemic,
you need to better protect yourself.
And you can.

People living with HIV who are virally suppressed
and adherent to care appear at no greater risk
for COVID-19 than the general public. But those
not receiving HIV care display an increased risk of
infections and complications in general.*

So if you're living with HIV, get care and
stay in care. Now as much as ever, it's about
being healthy. It's about staying safe.
It's about you.

*[*World Health Organization](#)*

GET CARE
BROWARD
TREAT HIV | BEAT HIV
RYAN WHITE | PART A

***HIV Care Starts With
Ryan White Part A
954-357-9797***

