

Positively Palm Beach



Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc., 600 Sandtree Drive, Suite 101, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 33403

Progress in AIDS Fight Should Inspire Confidence, but not Overconfidence

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There's been significant progress across the world in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Countries where the disease is rampant are doing a far better job spreading awareness and providing effective treatments. And many people infected with the relentless HIV virus are living full, productive lives.

The success, unfortunately, has led some international officials to prematurely declare "mission accomplished" and push for a cut in funding needed to combat the disease. They say the money could be better used to address pneumonia and other illnesses that kill more children annually.

Those concerns are understandable, but they reflect the need for additional resources. Robbing the global fight against AIDS of its momentum to combat other illnesses could be a colossal mistake.

Right here in Florida, there are 91,000 people still living with HIV/AIDS — and about 5,500 are infected annually. Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties are among the nation's top 10 areas for new AIDS cases per capita, according to 2006 statistics.

In the neighboring Caribbean basin, the numbers are even more disturbing, with 20,000 people infected and 14,000 deaths in 2007 alone. The region is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in the rate of infections. And in Haiti and other Caribbean countries, AIDS is one of the leading causes of death.

Those most vulnerable to the disease are women as

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Look Who's Talkin'

Kim Bradley

Director of Health Programs

Treasure Coast Health Council

It seems like just a week ago I began working at Treasure Coast Health Council as the Director of Health Programs. The past two months have flown by. I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know many providers and consumers over the past two months, and a huge thank you for being so welcoming.

Prior to working at the TCHC, I worked at the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County for four and a half years. I served as the Project Director for the HRSA funded Federal Healthy Start

January SHARE Menu

Basic Package \$18.00
 1.8 lbs. Split Chicken Breasts
 12 oz. Brown~N~Serve Pork Sausage Links
 1.25 lbs. Carne Asada Beef Steak Strips
 1 lb. "Honeysuckle" brand White Marinated Herb Turkey Strips
 1 lb. Ground Beef (85/15)
 Plus a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables

Double Meat \$12.00
 Meats only from the Basic Package


Produce Pack \$6.00
 Variety of fresh fruits and vegetables only from the Basic Package

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!

The website address is www.shareflorida.org and their phone number is 1-800-536-3379.

grant, which focuses on reducing/eliminating racial disparities in birth outcomes. Before serving as the Project Director, I was one of two health educators funded by the grant. As a health educator I conducted home visits and group education sessions in the Western communities of Palm Beach County. My experience working with consumers and professionals has led me to believe social service entities should aim to develop a system of care that ensures high quality services which are consumer centered and focused on empowerment.

The New Year will provide me with many more opportunities to build relationships and learn from all of you who have been so involved and dedicated to serving the PLWHA community. I look forward to working with you all to ensure that 2009 is a great year. Happy New Year!



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Is Anyone Listening?

Lorenzo Robertson

Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council Member

Is anyone listening? World AIDS Day has come and gone once again. There were many activities to commemorate the day. There were increased HIV testing efforts, candle light vigils, prayers, HIV/AIDS Awareness programs and many other efforts to assure the community was aware that World AIDS Day was happening.

Unfortunately, most of these events were poorly attended, if at all. Why is it that we as a community don't think that World AIDS Day is something to which attention must be paid! I was very disappointed in the number of people attending a well planned and thought provoking event sponsored by United Deliverance Community Resource Center, Inc. at Gaines Park, really kicking off the World AIDS Day week of activities. The event included Lorenzo Robertson's poetry from eclectic essence, monologues from Devin Robinson's one-man show, a skit written by Carline Hill and singers. Events were advertized through e-mails, radio, and of course through word of mouth. But, to no avail, the attendance was poor.

Attendance at the Annual Motorcycle Ride for Life fared a little better only because there were so many bikers and biker supporter that participated with the event. Elizabeth Robinson and Eugenia Joseph did a great job planning the event and again letting the community know the event was occurring, but the community was not in attendance. What, if anything can we do?

A beautiful candle light vigil and block party was one of the last events addressing World AIDS Day and I am sure there were many other World AIDS Day events that occurred in Palm Beach County. All cannot be included in my rant. Why is it that people don't care about AIDS anymore? Have we done such a great job educating the community that HIV/AIDS is a manageable, treatable disease that the concern and fear are no longer taking it (HIV/AIDS) as a real threat? Have we made AIDS seem less of a deterrent to a good quality of life? I am not sure what the problem is, I just know that when we plan and present HIV/AIDS programs to the community they just don't show up!

Well that is the case with most World AIDS Day events, but the Annual AIDS Coalition Luncheon did garner a good number of people in attendance and an even larger number purchased tickets to support the event. This is one of the few events I attended this year for World AIDS Day that had a decent attendance and the attendance was really not that great.

We, in the arena of public health, need to do a

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Palm Beach County HIV Cases Jump 50 Percent This Year

The number of new HIV infections reported in Palm Beach County leaped 50 percent this year, ending years of drops.

Since January 2008, the Palm Beach County Health Department reports 393 new HIV infections have been reported, up from 224 cases in 2007.

The trend reversal began last year, when cases increased over 2006, but this 50 percent jump is more dramatic and reflects a change statewide, according to health department records.

Part of that leap can be attributed to advances in how the public is tested for the disease, and part of it is a new mindset that shrugs in the face of a lethal disease, said Health Department spokesman Tim O'Connor.

Testing is the most tangible of those factors.

Where once a doctor had to get a patient's permission to administer an HIV test; doctors can now order a new test that can be done along with a standard panel of blood and does not require patient permission.

"Of course, they still must discuss any results with the patients," O'Connor said. And both doctor and lab are required to report any positive results to the department.

Also, people have come to realize that becoming infected is no longer an immediate death sentence.

"You can live a longer and healthier life, so it doesn't seem as daunting, but it doesn't go away

and AIDS is still not curable," O'Connor said. And the regimen to remain healthy is rigorous and no simple matter.

With these new diagnosed cases, the total number of people living with the disease in this county comes to 7,568.

And even with this spike in diagnosed cases, health department officials believe that number may fall short by as much as 20 percent. More people need to be tested.

There do remain some bright points among the statistics.

It's been 26 years since Dr. Jean Malecki made the first pediatric AIDS diagnosis in Palm Beach County after examining a dying 9-month-old.

These days, less than 1 percent of those living with AIDS or HIV are younger than 5 years old, but the adult population afflicted continues to grow, according to the Palm Beach County Health Department, now under Malecki's direction.

The biggest increase in diagnosis is now among heterosexual women - primarily black women, O'Connor said.

These numbers come along as people around the globe prepare to recognize World AIDS Day Monday, Dec. 1. It has been 20 years since the World Health Organization and the United Nations created the annual event.

So the Palm Beach County Health Department has planned a number of events leading up to and including World AIDS Day in hopes of seeing more people tested and treated. ■

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January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	20 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	21 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	22 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	23
26 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass	27 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	28 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	29 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	30

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	3 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	4 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	5 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	6
9 12:00 Noon Treatment Education Garden Road Health Center 7289 Garden Road Health Center Riviera Beach <i>Lunch Served</i> 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	10 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	11 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	12 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	13
16 PRESIDENTS' DAY	17 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	18 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	19 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	20
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HOTLINES

A.G. Holley State Hospital TB Hotline.....	1-800-482-4636
CDC Info Hotline.....	1-800-342-2437
Crisis Line (Center Line).....	211
Drug Abuse Hotline.....	662-4357
Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline.....	1-800-352-2437
Gay and Lesbian Hotline.....	1-888-843-4564
Medicare Hotline.....	1-800-638-6833
National Deaf AIDS Line.....	1-800-AIDS-TTY
Project Inform Treatment Hotline.....	1-800-822-7422
STD Hotline.....	1-800-227-8922

EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Accessible Life Saving Education for at Risk Teens (ALERT).....	966-4288
American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR).....	1-800-392-6327
CDC HIV/AIDS Treatment Information.....	1-800-448-0440
Children with AIDS Project of America.....	1-602-973-4319
Children's Case Management Org., Inc.....	804-9441
Clinical Trials Information.....	1-800-Trials-A
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida AIDS Action Council.....	1-800-779-4898
Glades Health Initiative, Ind.....	996-0500
National Minority AIDS Council.....	1-202-483-6622
PBC Health Department.....	540-1300
PBC HIV CARE Council.....	844-4430
Red Cross, American.....	833-7711
Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP).....	586-4843
Treasure the Children/Charles' Crew Adolescent Speakers, Inc.....	790-6291

HIV/AIDS TESTING

Be Encouraged in the Word Ministries.....	738-7888
Compass, Inc*.....	533-9699
Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP)	
Belle Glade*.....	996-7059
Delray Beach*.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach*.....	844-1266
West Palm Beach*.....	472-2466
Glades Health Initiative, Inc*.....	996-0500
Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA).....	844-3556
Jesus People Proclaim Int'l Ministries.....	361-0610
PBC Health Department	
C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3105
Lantana Health Center.....	547-6805
Riviera Beach Health Center*.....	804-7909
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5465
Redemptive Life Urban Initiatives.....	832-6077
Repairshop Outreach Ministries.....	502-3173
Riviera Beach Family Resource Center.....	840-1888
St. James Missionary Baptist.....	842-5971
United Deliverance Resource Center*.....	659-7988
Women of Color, Rise Above Your Shame.....	577-3612
Zanmi Lavi.....	752-6239

*Rapid HIV Testing Available

DENTAL CLINICS

C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1636
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3111
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5310

PHARMACIES

Department of Health	
Belle Glade.....	996-1637
Delray Beach.....	274-3107
Riviera Beach.....	804-7940
West Palm Beach.....	514-5380
Commcare Pharmacy.....	615-0564
BioScrip Specialty Pharmacy (Spanish speaking).....	683-0001

HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGENCIES

Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)	
West Palm Beach.....	472-2466
Belle Glade.....	996-7059
Delray Beach.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach.....	844-1266
Pahokee.....	924-7773
Care Resource	
Coral Gables.....	1-305-667-9296
Fort Lauderdale.....	1-954-567-7141
Miami.....	1-305-573-5411
Compass.....	533-9699
Youth Line.....	533-9699
Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.	
North/Central Palm Beach County.....	832-6185
Southern Palm Beach Count7.....	995-0490
Farmworkers Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida Lighthouse.....	499-1442
Gratitude Guild, Inc.....	833-6826
HIV Pastoral Care.....	1-305-858-4649
Hope House of the Palm Beaches.....	697-2600
Hospice By the Sea.....	395-5031
Hospice of Palm Beach.....	848-5200
Integrated Healthcare Systems.....	586-7404
Latin American Immigrants & Refugee Org.....	966-4515
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.....	655-8944
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.....	296-5722
Palm Beach County Home.....	842-6111
Palm Beach Research Center.....	689-0606
Planned Parenthood.....	848-6300
Oakwood Center.....	844-9741
Social Security Administration.....	722-1213
Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.....	844-4220

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHYSICIANS

<u>Central County</u>	
<i>Riviera Beach Health Center</i>	
Manochehr Khojasteh, MD.....	804-7900
Celeste Li, MD.....	804-7900
Kleper de Almeida, MD (Spanish Speaking).....	967-0101
Kenneth Ness, MD.....	655-8388
Olayemi O. Osiyemi, MD.....	832-6770
Donald Watren, MD.....	655-9660
Larry Bush, MD.....	967-0101
<u>Northern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Associates- Leslie Diaz, MD.....</i>	776-8300
<u>Southern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Consultants.....</i>	499-1442
Hamed A. Komaiha, MD, Jose C. Villalba, MD,	
Jaroslav F. Ondrusek, MD, Cesar A. Randich, MD, Melvin S. Kohan, MD	
<i>Delray Beach Health Center</i>	
Snehprabha Samant, MD.....	274-3178
<i>Guadalupe Medical Center (Spanish Speaking).....</i>	642-0768
<i>Infectious Disease Associates</i>	
Julio Cardenas, MD, Ines Mbagha, MD, Susan Saxe, MD, Jill Howard,	
MD, Sanda Cebular, MD, Kurt Weise, MD	
Delray.....	496-1095
Boca Raton.....	393-8224
<u>Western County</u>	
Lyonel Jean Baptiste, MD.....	992-9216
Juan Carlos Rondon, MD.....	924-7788

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

VA Medical Center (for veterans only).....	422-7522
Palm Beach County Health Department	
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
C.L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade).....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3100
West Palm Beach Health Center (pediatrics).....	514-5300

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young as 15, who account for 35 percent of 230,000 Caribbean nationals living with the disease.

Until those numbers drop sharply, there's no sense in slowing down the anti-AIDS campaign. The world has made progress, yes. That's reason to feel confident, but not overconfident. The war against this deadly scourge is far from over. Fighting the disease must remain a priority. ■

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better job promoting World AIDS Day and all of the other AIDS awareness and prevention days.

We are still seeing the numbers of people becoming infected with HIV rising. We are on the AIDS battlefield and we are losing the war. What is it that we can do to get more people interested in the HIV/AIDS pandemic impacting our communities? Does anyone have any thoughts or ideas as to how we can put HIV/AIDS back on the minds and in the thoughts of the everyday man and those in power to decide how funding is spent...Is anyone listening?

To contact Lorenzo call 561-996-1600

Pictures, taken by Lorenzo Robertson, from World AIDS Day events are below.

