

2025 FALL NEWSLETTER

Broward Regional Health Planning Council is committed to developing and providing innovative technology and service solutions at the national, state and local level through planning, direct services and evaluation.

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A Letter from the President & CEO

A Leadership Message



As the fall season approaches, it's important to remember that hurricane season continues through November 30. Preparedness remains essential—homes, families, and neighborhoods should be equipped for any potential natural disaster. Emergency kits should include water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications, and backup power sources when available. Comprehensive Hurricane Preparedness resources, including guides, shelter information, and supply checklists, are accessible at [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane). Early preparation is key—well before a storm appears on the radar.

Marketplace Open Enrollment for 2026 begins November 1 and continues through January 15. Enrollments or plan changes completed by December 15, 2025, will take effect on January 1, 2026. For eligibility details, plan comparisons, and financial assistance, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325). The Get Covered Broward team provides free, personalized enrollment support in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. For assistance, call 1-800-794-2208.

BRHPC proudly celebrates nine years of its Public Health Workforce Development Series, presented in partnership with Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, Department of Public Health. These virtual workshops provide practical skill-building opportunities, promote career development, and enhance community health outcomes. To participate as a learner or presenter, contact Workforce@brhpc.org.

BRHPC continues to lead the Health Care Access Committee, a standing committee of the Coordinating Council of Broward. This initiative brings together community stakeholders to expand access to health care and track progress through measurable outcomes that benefit Broward County residents. Committee members represent a diverse range of facilities, agencies, and departments. For more information or to get involved, reach out to Yolanda Falcone at YFalcone@brhpc.org.

Across all programs and services, BRHPC remains dedicated to delivering innovative technology and service solutions at the national, state, and local levels through strategic planning, direct services, and evaluation. Sincere appreciation is extended to BRHPC's Board of Directors, funders, community partners, staff, volunteers, and interns for their continued support and commitment to our mission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael De Lucca'.

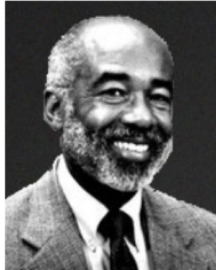
Michael De Lucca, MHM
President & CEO

BRHPC Board of Directors

2025-2026



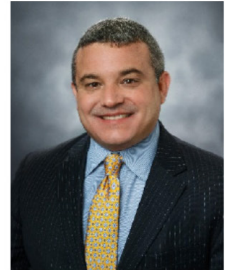
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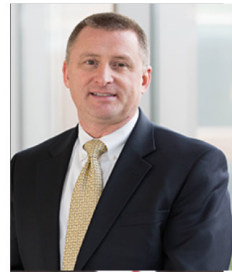
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Leilani Kicklighter
MBA, ARM, RN



Ronald E. Moore
MD

Nurse-Family Partnership

Program Overview

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program is making a meaningful difference in the lives of families across Broward County. This nationally recognized program connects specially trained nurses with first-time, high-risk mothers, working together to build healthier beginnings for both moms and babies.

NFP focuses on reducing the risk of pre-term labor, improving prenatal care, and lowering infant mortality rates. But the program goes beyond health—it also encourages breastfeeding, promotes child development, and supports family stability. Each mother enrolled receives personalized care and education designed to strengthen her confidence, improve her baby's outcomes, and help her family thrive.

NFP is delivered through a strong partnership between the Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC) and two hospitals in Broward County —Broward Health and Holy Cross Health. Together, they employ a dedicated team of seven nurse home visitors (four from Broward Health and three from Holy Cross Health) who provide ongoing home visits and education. These nurses work closely with families from pregnancy until the child's second birthday, guided by a Nurse Supervisor employed directly through BRHPC.

The program is funded by the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative, which is administered by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions.

All participants in the program are screened through a collaboration with Broward Healthy Start Coalition and Nurse Family Partnerships. The program has grown from just assisting first-time mothers, to including any potential mother in a high-risk situation.

Who Can Participate?

The program is open to first-time mothers and now extends to any expectant parent experiencing high-risk circumstances, such as:

- Families with low income
- Mothers experiencing domestic violence or mental health concerns
- Those facing educational challenges
- Residents of Broward County in zip codes: 33311, 33313, 33319, 33023, 33024, 33025, 33060, 33064, 33069

Recognizing the challenges many families face, NFP nurses also help with basic needs. Each month, families may receive essentials such as diapers and wipes,

delivered directly by nurses during visits. This support is available to families, and it is not connected to other government assistance programs. In addition to maternal education, NFP provides connections to community resources.

Community Events

NFP nurses are not only supporting families in their homes—they are also active in the community. Recently, they participated in the “Stay Healthy Together” event, where they helped share resources, promoted maternal and child health, and connected with families across Broward County. These events give NFP nurses the chance to raise awareness about the program while encouraging families to learn more about healthy living and available support.



Education



NFP nurses recently attended the MIECHV Summit, which highlighted the importance of early language development in young children. The summit provided tools and strategies to help nurses further support parents in building strong communication skills with their babies, laying the foundation for school readiness and lifelong learning.

Staff Contact: Maxine Pink, NFP Director
Email: Mpink@BRHPC.org.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS

Program Overview

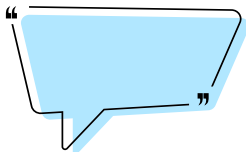
The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program provides vital housing assistance to vulnerable individuals and families in Broward County who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program specifically serves very low, extremely low, and moderate-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

At Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), the Housing Assistance Program delivers these services under HOPWA. For the past nineteen years, the program has supported eligible low-income residents (defined as households earning 80% or below the Area Median Income) by offering past-due rent, mortgage, and utility assistance, as well as permanent housing placement services.

During the current contract year (October 2024 – July 2025), BRHPC's Housing Assistance Program provided more than \$348,844 in housing support to 153 unduplicated clients. Assistance included short-term rental subsidies, permanent housing placements, utility and mortgage relief, and emergency hotel vouchers—critical interventions that prevented homelessness among residents in need.

BRHPC continues to work closely with the local HOPWA Grantee and the City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development Division to strengthen service delivery. In addition, BRHPC partners with community-based HOPWA agencies—including Care Resource, Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO), and SunServe—to provide training, technical assistance, and coordinated services that maximize impact across the community.

Client Testimonial



“After I was laid off, I fell behind on my mortgage payments and was terrified of losing my home of more than 15 years. I didn't know where to turn, but with the swift and caring support of my Housing Case Manager and the Reviewer at BRHPC, I was able to work out an arrangement with my mortgage company. The

program helped me with financial assistance for my mortgage and late fees, and the payments were made quickly. Thanks to their help, I was able to avoid foreclosure and keep my home for myself and my family. I am so grateful for the support that saved my home and gave me peace of mind.”

As we enter the final quarter of the fiscal year, the HOPWA team remains committed to another successful year of supporting individuals living with HIV/AIDS in our community by working to prevent and end homelessness.

Staff Contact: Sharon Alveranga-Jones, Director of Housing

Email: Smcdonald@BRHPC.org.

Tenant Based Rental Voucher Program

About the Program

The Tenant Based Voucher Program (TBRV) increases affordable housing choices for low-income individuals and families, enabling participants to choose and lease safe, decent, affordable rental units, and provides a monthly rental subsidy that stays with the client in any housing unit of their choice within Broward County. The client is responsible for using a portion of their income to contribute to rent. Clients must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income and HOPWA eligibility criteria, which include having at least one household member who is HIV positive and being at or below 80% of the area's median income. The TBRV program case managers assist clients in achieving self-sufficiency through development of Individualized Housing Stability Plan which, identifies the client housing instability, creates objectives and goals for independent living and provides supportive services.

Through ongoing psycho-social case management, advocacy, coordination of benefits, and follow-up housing stability work that includes but is not limited to home visits, creation, and monitoring of housing plans with the client, and budgeting, the housing case manager works with clients to ensure reaching self-sufficiency.

The TBRV program takes extraordinary measures to ensure that all clients live in safe, sanitary housing conditions, complying with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines. TBRV continues to make advances in admitting new clients into the program. Applicants are being selected from the City of Fort Lauderdale waitlist by a lottery process. TBRV has successfully admitted four new clients into the program and looks forward to admitting more clients in the future.



Novlette Green joined the TBRV Program on February 26, 2025, driven by her passion for serving vulnerable populations across healthcare, nursing, social work, and counseling. She holds a degree in Health Science and brings valuable experience from her work with providers, social services, and HIV Test and Treat programs. In these roles, she supported low-income individuals by connecting them to medical care, medications, and housing resources. With a strong understanding of challenges such as treatment adherence, Novlette is deeply committed to ensuring stable housing for individuals with chronic health conditions, including HIV. She looks forward to advancing BRHPC's mission and contributing to the program's evolving goals. Outside of her professional work, Novlette is an active volunteer with her church, serving on the Health Team, Usher Ministry, and Food Bank.

Staff Contact: Sharon Alveranga-Jones, Director of Housing

Email: Smcdonald@BRHPC.org

Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination

About the Program

Centralized Intake & Eligibility Determination's (CIED) core functions include determining eligibility for Ryan White Part A services and/or third-party payers. CIED also provides information and referrals to clients seeking medical and supportive services. CIED Services include a centralized intake, eligibility, enrollment, and information/referral process for all Ryan White Part A funded services. CIED continues to serve as the single point of entry for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) who are residents of Broward County.

An integral part of the success of CIED is the unshakeable dedication and passion to serve the HIV community along with the various Ryan White Networks of collaborative organizations, community partners and clients. Clients consistently commented about the professionalism, supportive referrals, and compassionate engagements they experienced and expressed their genuine appreciation for the services rendered and accommodations made by some of the most exceptionally caring and client-focused staff.

CIED team members welcome fresh ideas and new intervention strategies to better engage clients and provide exceptional services. The Consumer / Peer Advisory Group was reactivated in March 2025. The Advisory Group, comprised of ten (10) diverse individuals with a wealth of insight and lived experiences, shares relevant information with BRHPC to enhance services delivered by CIED staff. We encourage consumers to join our special focus group sessions along with staff as we explore, re-imagine, and improve client-focused services. If interested in developing new and innovative strategies and solutions, please call the CIED Office to reserve your seat at the table with Jasmin Shirley at 954-561-9681, extension 1203.



BRHPC welcomes **Daisy Rodriguez** as our CIED Administrative Assistant. Daisy brings exceptional customer service, bilingual communications, and office operational experience to Broward Regional Health Planning Council, making her a valuable addition to our team. With her dedication and professionalism, Daisy will play an important role in advancing BRHPC's mission and strengthening our impact in the community.

CIED Team members are actively training and preparing for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace open enrollment period November 1, 2025, to December 15, 2025. We plan to prepare clients with education and knowledge; enhance understanding of the various processes and steps required to select and qualify for premium assistance; and collaborate with the statewide AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) staff. Informed decision-making is the goal. CIED will proactively engage and empower qualified clients with the information needed to make the best decision about their health insurance plan selection for coverage beginning January 2026.

Ryan White Part A - Twelve (12) Provider Locations and Hours of Service

Broward Regional Health Planning Council

200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100

Hollywood, FL 33020 | 954-561-9681 x 1242/ 1279

M-F 8:30am - 5:00pm

AHF - North Point (Medical & Case Management)

6333 N. Federal Highway, Suite 301 & 302

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 | 954-722-2411

M, T, Th & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

AHF - Oakland Park (Medical & Case Management)

2866 East Oakland Park Blvd., Floor 2

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306 | 954-561-6900

W - 8:30am - 5:00pm

AHF -Downtown (Medical & Case Management)

700 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 301

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 | 954-767-0887

TH & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

BCFH Pompano Beach (Medical & Case Management)

168 N. Powerline Road

Pompano, FL 33069 | 954-970-8805

M 8:30am - 5:00pm & T 9:30am - 6:00pm

Broward House (Case Management Only)

2800 Andrews Avenue, Wilton Manors, FL 33311

954-568-7373 | M, W & F 8:30am - 5:00pm

Care Resource (Medical, Case Management & RW Part A Dental)

871 W. Oakland Park Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

954-567-7141 | M, W-F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

Broward Health Point at Comprehensive Care Center

1101 NW 1st Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311 | 954-467-0880

M, T, W, T, 8:30am - 5:00pm & F, 8:30am - noon

Memorial Primary Care Center (Medical & Case Management)

5647 Hollywood Boulevard, teams

Hollywood, FL 33021

954-276-1616 | M, T, & W, 8:30am - 5:00pm

Poverello (Food Bank)

2056 N. Dixie Highway

Wilton Manors, FL 33305 | 954-561-3663

M, W, Th 8:30am - 5:00pm

Broward Health Specialty Care Center (Medical & Case Management) *Site Permanently closed to CIED Services on 8/16/2024*

FDOH (ADAP)

2421 SW 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

954-467-4700 or 954-213-0623

Th & F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

**** All CIED sites are closed the third Friday of each month ****

Staff Contact: Jasmin D. Shirley, CIED Program Director

Email: Jdshirley@BRHPC.org

Health Insurance Continuation Program

Overview

The Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP), administered by Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), continues to provide vital financial assistance to Ryan White Part A clients. By covering co-payments, deductibles, and coinsurance for HIV-related medical services and medications, HICP helps clients maintain access to care, adhere to treatment, and reduce financial stress. As we enter the 2025–2026 contract year, several important updates have been introduced to improve program efficiency and ensure compliance.

Updates

Beginning March 1, 2025, to streamline billing and improve processing times:

- All billing forms must include CPT/procedure codes.
- Clients and providers must submit billing documentation within 60 days of the date of service and no later than February 28, 2026.
- Acceptable forms include itemized medical billing statements or CMS-1500 forms with Explanation of Benefits (EOB).
- Clients are now required to notify their medical provider at least 30 days before scheduled appointments to inform them that BRHPC may cover out-of-pocket costs. This proactive communication helps ensure smoother billing and payment processing.

Policy Change on Surgical Procedures

Effective April 7, 2025, HICP will no longer assist with most surgical procedures (CPT 10004–69990), except for a few allowable exceptions listed in the Surgical Procedures Guide.

This change follows a Dear Colleague Letter from HRSA Administrator Thomas J. Engels clarifying that Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) funds are not authorized for procedures or interventions beyond the scope of outpatient care, as outlined in Policy Clarification Notice #16-02. The prohibition on surgeries and inpatient care remains absolute to ensure resources remain focused on HIV-specific needs.

To support clients and providers, HICP has created a list of eligible and ineligible CPT codes to guide billing and ensure compliance with Ryan White Part A priorities.

Additional Requirement

Clients must sign the HICP Policies and Procedures/Consent Form before receiving services. This step formalizes their understanding of program rules and

responsibilities. New Service: Health Insurance Education (HIE)

Tips for Clients

- Schedule appointments early and notify providers about HICP coverage.
- Submit billing documents promptly—within 60 days of service.
- Monitor your insurance portal for claim updates.
- Follow up with providers after HICP payment is issued.
- HICP does not reimburse clients directly—payments go to providers only.

Testimonials

- *“My anxiety has been out of control lately, so I appreciate your help very much. Literally I’m bowing as I’m crying and saying thank you. Hard being sick and harder with obstacles so again much appreciated for your help.” – Client*
- *“Thank you very much for your help and collaboration.” – Client*
- *“Thank you so much! I appreciate all you have done to help me through the years. This program is a blessing for those of us who need the help.” – Client*
- *“Thank you for your time helping me navigate through all this. You all do such wonderful work down there at BRHPC. Just letting you know you all are appreciated.” – Client*
- *“Thank you for all your hard work you do for me! Have a good weekend. Sincerely.” – Client*
- *“Thank you for all your hard work you do for me! I will be submitting other claims in the following days. Have a good weekend. Sincerely.” – Client*
- *“Thank you so much for your support on these difficult medical issues I am experiencing now. You are doing a remarkable job making our life easier facing all these medical bills.” - HICP Client*
- *“You’re the best, thanks. Have a great weekend! - Medical provider*
- *“I hope you had a great weekend. Thank you. I am hoping that my client will be satisfied that this has been paid. Have a Blessed Day!” - HICP Case Manager*

Need Assistance?

Staff Contact: Natalie Lewis, HICP Coordinator

Email: NLewis@BRHPC.org

Get Covered Broward

Overview

BRHPC continues to provide enrollment assistance through a partnership with the Health Foundation of South Florida. Get Covered Broward raises awareness about the availability of low-cost health insurance in Broward County through meetings, events, social media and paid advertisements featured on Pandora, Univision Radio and various radio stations. The 2026 Open Enrollment Period will begin on November 1, 2025, concluding on January 15, 2026.

Throughout the fiscal year, the program participated in numerous outreach events, distributing multilingual educational materials in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. These resources outlined eligibility criteria, the application process for low-cost health insurance plans, and promoted the **phone number: 1-800-794-2208**, where individuals can get one-on-one assistance.

Special Enrollment Period

This quarter, Get Covered Broward has been raising awareness of the Special Enrollment Period (SEP), which ends October 31, 2025. Get Covered Broward is available to provide assistance by telephone at 1-800-794-2208 in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. You may be eligible for coverage now if you qualify for any of the below life events now:

- You married during the Special Enrollment Period Window
- You become a dependent or have/adopted a child
- You become a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident
- You moved homes permanently
- There was an error with your open enrollment
- Your income is at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level
- You have an income or circumstance change that makes you newly eligible

Quarterly Events

On Saturday, July 12th, Get Covered Broward participated at the Stay Healthy Together Event that Broward HealthPoint and the City of Pompano Beach launched together bringing medical care and a free family friendly event to the community. The event was from 10am to 2pm and was held at Mitchell Monroe Park. Get Covered Broward was onsite sharing information about the Special Enrollment Period for health coverage.



Important Dates

November 1, 2025: is the first day of Open Enrollment where you can enroll in, renew or change health plans through the Marketplace for health coverage in 2026. Health coverage can start as soon as January 1.

December 15, 2025: This is the last day to enroll in or change plans for coverage to start January 1, 2026.

January 1, 2026: Coverage starts for those who enroll in or change plans by December 15, 2025.

January 15, 2026: this is the last day to enroll in or change Marketplace health plans for the year. After this date, you can enroll in or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

February 1, 2026: Coverage starts for those who enroll in or change plans December 16, 2025 through January 15, 2026.

For assistance in enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan or additional information, call 1-800-794-2208.

Staff Contact: Barbara France, Outreach Enrollment Specialist

Email: Bfrance@BRHPC.org

HIV Health Services Planning Council & Clinical Quality Management

Planning Council Support

Broward County HIV Health Services Planning Council (HIVPC)

During the Fall 2025 quarter, the Broward HIV Health Services Planning Council (HIVPC) remained committed to community engagement and outreach efforts aimed at increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS.

Listening Tour Session #2: Voices of the Community

The Priority Setting Resource Allocation Committee (PSRA) and the System of Care (SOC) hosted the second Listening Tour session on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center. The event, held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, provided an important opportunity for consumers of the Ryan White Part A system to share feedback on successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

The session welcomed 85 participants, including consumers, Planning Council members, Recipient staff, and community providers. Debbie Cestaro-Seifer and Dr. Jeffrey Beal, Clinical Quality Management Consultants at BRHPC, co-hosted the event.

Key takeaways from the session included:

- Clients highly value Ryan White services for care, medications, and support.
- Ongoing concerns focused on transportation, housing limitations, and the range of services offered.
- Participants emphasized the importance of personalized care, clear communication, and expanding youth HIV education.

PSRA Sweeps FY2025 Reallocation/Sweeps – Cycle One

The PSRA committee completed its first cycle of Reallocation/Sweeps at its August 2025 meeting. This process focuses on shifting funds in core and support services. During its August 28, 2025, meeting, the Planning Council approved the reallocation of \$1,155,402 for Part A Core and Support Services and \$340,615 for Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Core and Support Services, totaling **\$1,496,017**.

Distinguished Service Award: 20 Years of Dedication

Planning Council Chair Lorenzo Robertson and Membership Council & Development Committee Chair Dr. Timothy Moragne presented **William Marcoviche and Ronald**

Bhrangger with the 20-Year Distinguished Service Award. Both have dedicated two decades (2005-2025) of service to the Council, providing unwavering advocacy and commitment to the community.

The Council extended its deepest appreciation for their outstanding contributions and looks forward to their continued service.



From left to right – Dr. Timothy Moragne, Membership/Council Development Committee Chair; William Marcoviche, Member; Ronald Bhrangger, Member; and Lorenzo Robertson, Planning Council Chair.

Clinical Quality Management

Fall 2025 Quarter Highlights from the Clinical Quality Management (CQM)

During the Fall 2025 quarter, the Clinical Quality Management (CQM) team supported the Quality Network through their Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle for Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs), all while organizing seven Network meetings.

Provider Network Activities

Training on “Managing Agitation & Difficult Behaviors as it Relates to HIV” was provided to the **Oral Health and Support Services networks**. The session, led by Dr. James Satriano from the Northeast/Caribbean AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC), focused on staff safety protocols and verbal de-escalation strategies, with an emphasis on ten core areas.

Efforts within the **Medical Provider, Medical Case Management (MCM), and Behavioral Health Networks** were focused on preparing for an upcoming presentation aimed at enhancing data collection across the Ryan White Part A network. Preparation activities included:

- Review of insights and recommendations from the previous needs assessment
- Input into the development of the current needs assessment
- Selection of training topics for future sessions
- Resolution of ongoing challenges to improve data quality and coordination

This coordinated approach demonstrates a commitment to advancing care through informed, data-driven strategies.

The **Medical Provider, Medical Case Management (MCM), and Behavioral Health Networks** concentrated on preparing for an upcoming presentation aimed at enhancing data collection within the Ryan White Part A network. This involved reviewing recommendations from the needs assessment, contributing to the current needs assessment, selecting training topics for future meetings, and addressing existing challenges.

The Quality Network recently rolled out its PDSA strategy to elevate the impact of its Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs). The latest session was held in person at the Salvation Army campus in Fort Lauderdale, bringing together agency representatives for a hands-on, collaborative experience.

Each agency was invited to send up to three team members from their QIP group, with a strong recommendation to include peers or consumers actively involved in their improvement efforts. This inclusive approach fostered richer dialogue and more grounded insights.

The Planning Council's Community Empowerment committee joined the session to share updates on the Planning Council and extend invitations to upcoming events, including the PSRA meeting. Their presence helped bridge strategic planning with community engagement.

The highlight of the day was a lively team-building challenge rooted in the PDSA cycle. Participants were tasked with constructing the tallest freestanding tower using only cards, spaghetti, marshmallows, string, and tape—a playful yet powerful exercise in planning, testing, and refining ideas.



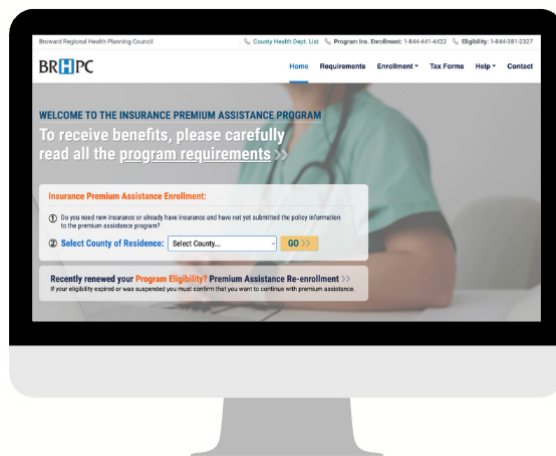
Staff Contact: Dr. Gritell Berkeley Martinez, HIV Health Services Planning Council
and Clinical Quality Management Program Director
Email: Gmartinez@BRHPC.org

Insurance Benefits Manager Services

It's that time of year again, the time where BRHPC and the Insurance Benefit Management team are gearing up for Open Enrollment!

The Enroll.BRHPC.org has been enhanced for Open Enrollment 2026 by using a decision tree to easily guide the client through the process of obtaining an approved premium assistance program plan that will best meet their needs for 2026.

There have been a number of changes affecting the ACA Federally Facilitated Marketplace this year. These changes have been implemented into the online assessment to accommodate these requirements.



Numerous events and trainings were done to communicate the importance of actively enrolling in premium assistance by entering their insurance information through the Enroll.BRHPC.org site or by calling **1-844-441-4422**. Additional outreach efforts include phone calls, emails and text messages.

If clients miss the December 15th deadline, Open Enrollment with the Federally Facilitated Marketplace will continue until January 15th, 2026, for policies starting February 1st, 2026.

For more information on Insurance Enrollment contact **1-844-441-4422** and for Program Eligibility contact **1-844-381-2327** or visit Enroll.BRHPC.org. Our website contains information about the 2026 Open Enrollment Period, the premium assistance program, resourceful links, outreach materials and more.

Staff Contact: Cristy Kozla, Director of Premium Assistance
Email: Ckozla@BRHPC.org

Public Health Workforce Development Series

We are proud to celebrate the eighth year of the Public Health Workforce Development Series! This virtual seminar series is a collaborative initiative between Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) Department of Public Health and the Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC). Designed for professionals in the public health field, these interactive workshops provide essential skills, knowledge, and insight to support career growth and improve community health outcomes.

Thank You to Our Quarter One Speakers

July 2025: Athena Hall, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Public Health, NSU KPCOM

Presentation Title: From Ideas to Impact: Building, Funding and Sustaining Academic-Public Health Partnerships

August 2025: Lisa Elsinger, PhD

Assistant Director, Benefits Support Services & Employee Wellness, Broward College

Presentation Title: Move More, Stress Less: Power Up Your Day with 1-Minute "Purposeful Pauses" - Micro-Breaks for Vitality at Work

September 2025: Sandra Garcia-Davis, PhD, MPH, CPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, NSU KPCOM

Presentation Title: How Health Services Research Supports Aging and Caregiving: Using Unmet Needs Data as a Tool for Community Decision-Making

October Workforce Development Series

The next Workforce Development series is scheduled for **Friday, October 24th**, from 12pm to 1pm. **Dr. Nisha Vijayakumar** will be presenting on "Invisible Invaders: How Microplastics Are Impacting Our Health."

About the Presentation: Microplastics, plastic particles less than 5mm in size, have become a pervasive environmental and public health concern, found in oceans, soil, air, and even within the human body. With the ubiquitous use of plastic in modern life, the presence of microplastics in our environment has significantly increased. Originating from the breakdown of larger plastics and products like microbeads, these particles disrupt ecosystems and pose emerging health risks. Human exposure through ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact has been linked to oxidative stress, inflammation, and potential long-term effects such as endocrine disruption, reproductive and neurodevelopmental harm, and immune dysfunction, especially in vulnerable populations. Addressing microplastic exposure requires both individual actions, such as reducing single use plastics and filtering water, and systemic change

through stronger regulations, sustainable design, and improved waste management. This presentation emphasizes the urgent need for education, policy innovation, and environmental stewardship to mitigate the growing impact of microplastics on health and the planet.



About the Speaker: Dr. Nisha Vijayakumar is an Assistant Professor in the Public Health Department at Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. With a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) from JSS Dental College, she brings a diverse background to her academic and research pursuits. Her primary research focus lies in environmental health, where she investigates the complex interplay between environmental factors and population health outcomes. Dr. Vijayakumar has published on topics ranging from cancer prognostics to public health interventions and is deeply committed to advancing environmental health through both scientific inquiry and community-based strategies. In addition to her research, she actively mentors students and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in public health education.

RSVP to this seminar by emailing Workforce@BRHPC.org to receive the meeting link.

Save the Date for Future Seminars

November 19, 2025: Carlos Arias

Assistant Professor, Public Health, NSU KPCOM

Presentation Title: Communicable Disease Control: A Disease Intervention Specialist's Perspective

December 12, 2025: Li (Jean) Zhang, PhD, M.S., M.A.

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, NSU KPCOM

Presentation Title: Studies on Health Effects of Flavonoids and Flavonoid-Rich Foods

Why Participate?

The Public Health Workforce Development Series is more than just a learning opportunity - it's a platform for collaboration, innovation and growth. By participating as an attendee or speaker, you will contribute to a vibrant professional community dedicated to advancing public health and making a lasting impact on the communities we serve. Those interested in attending a seminar, email Workforce@BRHPC.org and include the date of the seminar you are interested in attending to receive the meeting link any additional information. Following participation in any seminar, attendees may request a customized certificate of completion. Each certificate will include the participants name, date of attendance, the presenter's name and the presentation topic.

Call for 2026 Speakers: Share Your Expertise

Are you a public health professional with a passion for teaching and a wealth of experience to share? The Public Health Workforce Development Series is seeking speakers for the 2026 program. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the field of public health by educating and inspiring your peers.

How to Apply: To be considered, email Workforce@BRHPC.org with the following information: your availability (*seminars are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm*), a brief overview of your proposed presentation topic and its relevance to the public health practice and a summary of your professional experience and credentials.

Staff Contact: Nicole Cohen, Public Information Officer
Email: Ncohen@BRHPC.org

Certificate of Need

BRHPC has overseen the Certificate of Need (CON) Program for Broward County since its establishment in 1982. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration website describes the program as follows. The CON program is a regulatory process that requires certain health care providers to obtain state approval before offering certain new or expanded services. CON Batching Cycles are posted on the BRHPC website, www.BRHPC.org. BRHPC collaborates with all healthcare facilities planning to establish or expand their services in Broward County.

Hospice: Second Batching Cycle 2025

Description	Dates
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	8-01-25
Letter of Intent Deadline	8-25-25
Application Deadline	9-24-25
Completeness Review Deadline	10-01-25
Application Omissions Deadline	10-22-25
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	12-19-25

Nursing Home and ICF/DDs: Second Batching Cycle 2025

Description	Dates*
Summary Need Projections Published in F.A.R.	10-03-25
Letter of Intent Deadline	10-20-25
Application Deadline	11-19-25
Completeness Review Deadline	11-26-25
Application Omissions Deadline	12-17-25
Agency Initial Decision Deadline	2-13-26

*Rule 59C-1.008(2)(a), 1. Florida Administrative Code, which requires the Agency to publish Fixed Need Pools in the Florida Administrative Register at least 15 days prior to the letter of intent deadline prevails in cases of conflict with Rule 59C-1.008(1)(g) F.A.C.

Health Care Access Committee

About the Committee

BRHPC serves as a facilitator for the Health Care Access Committee, established as a committee of the Coordinating Council of Broward. This committee aims to enhance healthcare access for Broward County residents by establishing and measuring specific outcomes and indicators over the coming years. The committee members include representatives from various facilities, agencies and/or departments within the community. All meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at 10am virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Members of the Committee Include

- American Cancer Society
- Broward Community & Family Health Center
- Broward Health
- Broward Healthy Start Coalition
- Broward County Public Schools
- Broward Sheriff's Office
- Children's Services Council
- Community Care Plan
- Community Foundation of Broward
- Jack and Jill Center
- FLIPANY
- Florida International University
- Florida Blue
- Florida Department of Health Broward County
- Health Foundation of South Florida
- Holy Cross Health
- Humana
- Light of the World Clinic
- Memorial Healthcare System
- Nonprofit Executive Alliance of Broward
- Nova Southeastern University
- South Florida Regional Health Planning Council
- Sunshine Health
- United Way of Broward County
- Volunteers and Interns

Quarterly Updates

Over the past quarter, the committee received an updated version on the 2025 Broward County Health Profile. The Profile provides a synopsis of Broward County health indicators. It is a compilation of statistics at the county and state levels; including population demographics, socioeconomic factors, leading causes of death, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, healthcare utilization, healthcare access and prevention quality indicators. The committee also received a presentation on Chapter III and Chapter IV of the Broward County Health Plan. Chapter III provides an overview of health resources currently available in Broward County and Chapter IV provides healthcare utilization data. Additionally, the committee received program success data covering several months for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and the Get Covered Broward Program, as well as information on the upcoming Public Health Workforce Development Series.

Staff Contact: Yolanda Falcone, Manager of Administrative Services

Email: Yfalcone@BRHPC.org

BRHPC's Data Warehouse

About the System

BRHPC's long-term strategy for expanding its Health Data Warehouse offers hospitals and healthcare systems the unique opportunity to be at the forefront of data-driven decision-making, comparing hospitals and procedures across specific counties and the entire State of Florida. The Health Data Warehouse is a collection of health information databases developed by BRHPC which are designed to assist hospital and nursing home administrators in their strategic planning and decision-making endeavors. These databases offer a wide array of health-oriented data sets, including hospital and nursing home utilization, health indicators and emergency department data, and diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) data, as well as the financial and demographic databases.

The Medical Facilities Utilization Reporting System improves upon a manual reporting system that BRHPC continues to administer for over 40 years. These data sets are accessible online, improving program efficiency and overall functionality, giving users the ability to utilize data to make capacity and quality-related decisions. The database has the ability to generate 39 exportable and/or ready to print reports, having been expanded to become a strategic planning tool for administrators to review and assess variances in utilization. The datasets in the Data Warehouse provide healthcare practitioners, planners, researchers and policy-makers with a vulnerable community-planning tool to target initiatives, set benchmarks to increase healthcare access and quality, identify target areas for quality improvement, establish healthcare system delivery policies and develop programs to address identified needs. For more information about BRHPC's Data Warehouse, email Utilization@BRHPC.org.

Council on Accreditation

National Accreditation Since 2016



BRHPC continues to uphold its accreditation, having recently submitted its annual maintenance report. Nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) since 2016, BRHPC has successfully renewed this distinction every four years, reflecting its steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional health and human services. Through innovative planning, direct services, evaluation, and capacity building, BRHPC continues to set the standard for excellence at national, state, and local levels. COA Accreditation, a service of Social Current, is a rigorous evaluation process that examines an organization's programs, services, management, and operations to ensure compliance with international best practice standards. This achievement reflects BRHPC's commitment to providing culturally competent, evidence-based, and outcomes-driven services through a highly skilled and well-supported workforce. For additional information on COA Accreditation, visit www.social-current.org.

Fingerprinting Services

BRHPC offers Live Scan fingerprinting technology for Level II Background Screening for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS), Elder Affairs, and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).



Level II background checks provide a comprehensive view of an individual's background, including a thorough examination of criminal history. This deeper scrutiny reduces risks, ensures legal compliance, and instills confidence in decision-making, making them valuable for roles and situations where accuracy and security are paramount. Whether it's for employment, professional licensing, or other essential needs, our Live Scan Services adhere to the highest industry standards, offering you fast, secure and thorough results.

Live Scan allows for electronic submission of fingerprint screens, with results within 24 to 48 hours. Additional services such as photo submission to the AHCA clearinghouse are available at BRHPC. In order to assist community agencies and providers in meeting legislative requirements of HB 7069, BRHPC acquired equipment with the capability to scan fingerprints electronically for Level II Background Screening, using Live Scan technology.

Need to be Fingerprinted?

BRHPC's fingerprinting clientele include hospital employees, guardian ad litem programs, doctors' offices, non-profit and social service agencies, colleges, universities and more. BRHPC is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards and using advanced technology to deliver timely results, ensuring safety, trust and confidence in every interaction. Fingerprinting clients must bring a valid ID and the identifying number for the organization requesting fingerprints (ORI, OCA).

Our goal is to provide accurate and reliable background information and maintaining the highest ethical standards using advanced technology to deliver timely results. We accept cash or business checks only.

If you are in need of electronic background screening submissions & quick results, BRHPC can help you. Walk-ins are welcome or call **954-561-9681** to schedule an appointment. Fingerprinting services are available Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm at 200 Oakwood Lane, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33020.

BRHPC Staff Recognitions

Summer Employee of the Quarter

Each quarter, BRHPC recognizes an outstanding employee of their achievements, dedication and support to their program and/or department, their coworkers, their community partners and the clients they serve.



Please join us in celebrating **Yolanda Falcone**, our Manager of Administrative Services and Assistant to the President & CEO, as BRHPC's Summer Employee of the Quarter! Yolanda has been an integral part of the Broward Regional Health Planning Council family for 40 years. Her dedication, professionalism, and exceptional work ethic have helped shape the agency into what it is today. In her advanced and highly responsible role, Yolanda leads a range of administrative and human resources functions—from onboarding new employees

and maintaining essential records to overseeing insurance policies and supporting office operations. We are proud to recognize Yolanda for her decades of outstanding service and invaluable contributions. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!

Fall Employee of the Quarter



We are proud to recognize **Barbara France** as our Fall Employee of the Quarter! During the Open Enrollment period, Barbara works tirelessly to ensure eligible participants are enrolled in ACA Marketplace plans. She attends numerous events across Broward County, educating the community about the benefits of coverage and supporting individuals through the enrollment process. Barbara's commitment extends beyond her program—she is always willing to assist other departments and is truly a team player. Her

dedication, professionalism, and positive attitude make her an invaluable member of our staff and a pleasure to work with every day. Please join us in congratulating Barbara on this well-deserved recognition!

Social Media

BRHPC & NSU Collaboration

Social media has become a powerful tool for organizations to disseminate information to the public. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, BRHPC increased its social media presence through frequent posts on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn. BRHPC currently has over 5,700 followers across all platforms. Since 2018, **Nicole Cohen, BRHPC's Public Information Officer and Dr. Claudia Serna, PhD, DDS, MPH, MBA, Chair**, Director of Public Health, Director, Master of Public Health (MPH) and Associate Professor of Public Health, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, Nova Southeastern University, have collaborated to develop social media campaigns, evaluate data, and implement new strategies to enhance awareness of BRHPC's programs, services and important public health topics. These efforts have drawn more visitors to the BRHPC website and increased awareness of BRHPC at the national, state and local levels.



Laura Restrepo-Cucunama is a senior Public Health Major at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), with minors in Honors Transdisciplinary Studies and Health Informatics. She is currently working alongside Dr. Serna at NSU and Broward Regional Health Planning Council in developing monthly public health topics to share on social media and helping to share various social media public health campaigns. After graduating with her bachelor's degree, she plans to obtain her Master of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology.



Varesha Singh is a current student in Nova Southeastern University's Master of Public Health Program. She graduated in May of 2025 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology and minors in Pre health and Psychology. In the future, she hopes to continue on to NSU's Master of Physician Associate Program to practice medicine. This past semester, she worked with Nicole Cohen at Broward Regional Health Planning Council to create social media campaigns. These campaigns helped bring tips and awareness to individuals on how to prioritize their health. Varesha hopes to utilize her skills to bridge the gap between public health and clinical care.

Sample of the Social Media Campaigns

June
National Brain & Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Here are some quick facts!

- 1 Alzheimer's is a progressive brain disorder
- 2 Signs appear as memory loss, behavioral changes & difficulties with daily functions
- 3 Signs of Alzheimer's can appear as early as the age of 40
- 4 Risk factors include age, family history, & lifestyle choices
- 5 There are a variety of programs that can help support the patients and families affected

BRHPC
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

JULY
National Healthy Vision Month!

Here are a few quick tips to make sure your vision stays healthy!

- Get an eye exam every year
- Use devices at an arms length distance to prevent eye strain
- Wear sunglasses if sunny outside
- Wear safety goggles when handling hazardous material
- Rest your eyes every 20 minutes to prevent eye strain

BRHPC
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

August is National Traffic Awareness Month

- Always wear your seatbelt in vehicles.
- Avoid distractions when driving.
- Never drive while impaired or drowsy.
- Be cautious while driving in bad weather conditions.

BRHPC

September

National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

- Sickle cell is a condition in which the red blood cells are irregularly shaped
- Sickle Cell is an inherited disease
- The irregularly shaped blood cells make it hard to deliver oxygen to the body
- 1 in 4 children develop sickle cell
- 300+ million people live with sickle cell disease
- There is no cure for Sickle Cell disease, however there are treatments to help manage it

BRHPC
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

Follow BRHPC on Social Media

Facebook | LinkedIn | X | Instagram

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