



OPENING NOTES

Wow—Can you believe we are already more than halfway through the year? Between testing and outreach for all of the awareness days, a shift of employees in multiple organizations, and working on the first PEP protocol in our area, we have been up to our eyes! We hope you join us for these next two NoFLAC meetings as we will be preparing for our next election. Good luck to all of those hoping to be the next NoFLAC Chair! The Bylaws of the Northwest Florida AIDS Consortium have had a couple changes—make sure to get your new copy from www.noflacweb.org.

A NOTE FROM OUR “NEW” SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR

What was the second-year pro Mickey Mantle thinking in 1952 when he replaced the great Joe DiMaggio in center field after Joltin Joe retired, saying, “I’m not Joe DiMaggio anymore.” And what was going through Gene Bartow’s mind when he assumed the UCLA’s coaching position after the Wizard of Westwood, John Wooden, coach par excellence-retired in 1975? Having to succeed someone who has distinguished him or herself; someone who has been exceptional at his craft or vocation is challenging, daunting, and-quite frankly, intimidating. I know from whence I speak because sitting in Scott Mickley’s chair as the new Area 1 Surveillance Coordinator, I am keenly aware of the bar he’s set, the long shadow he casts, and that his footprints are everywhere. I have often said that Scott was not only the best Surveillance Officer in the State of Florida but possibly in the nation. I am fortunate to have worked alongside him for the past 17 years and have been able to observe up close his passion for public health, attention to detail, and professionalism. I wish I were able to say that I am a Scott clone, but I’m not. However, I can say that I will do my best to fully learn the position, provide the best service possible, and be accessible. If you are needing anything from Surveillance regarding statistics and the like, please feel free to email or call me. I may be reached at Maurice.Moody@flhealth.gov or 850-595-6500, ext. 1502. Again, Scott, thank you. We all applaud you for a job well done!



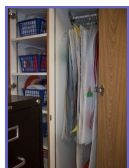
PREVENTION PLANNING—MSM SUBCOMMITTEE HARD AT WORK!

The MSM subcommittee of the Prevention Planning group has been hard at work over the past year developing the first protocols in Area 1 for non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) and making pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) more accessible. We are proud to say we have formulated a protocol for nPEP in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and soon our HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, Debbie Carty, will be meeting with personnel from local Emergency Rooms to discuss the recommendations for uninsured patients as well as anyone who thinks they may have come in contact with HIV after hours or on the weekends. Most of the time, health insurance will cover the cost of PEP and uninsured patients or those with low income may be eligible for the medication at no cost via a Patient Assistance Program through the drug manufacturer.



As far as PrEP goes, we have identified physicians at five locations in Area 1 that are willing to prescribe. Escambia Community Clinic, AHF, and Dr. Robert Carpenter, and Dr. Issa Ephtimios are prescribing PrEP in Pensacola and Dr. Venita Morell is prescribing at Walton County Health Department in Defuniak Springs. Truvada for PrEP is available free of charge through Gilead's Patient Assistance Program for qualifying applicants.

Stay tuned to the NoFLAC website for more information on these topics!



LUTHERAN SERVICES—RESOURCE ROOM UPDATE

LSF is happy to report that the Resource Room has been a great addition to the Ryan White program and has helped many of Area 1 clients. LSF's biggest success story involved a gentleman who moved into a new home, with very few possessions. Through the Resource Room, LSF was able to provide him with a couch, bed, linens, towels, microwave oven, kitchen supplies, toiletries, and a lamp! A big thank you goes to everyone who participated in this case as it was definitely a group effort.

Please keep in mind:

- The Resource Room is open the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.
- The Resource Room includes clothing (men, women, children, and infant), shoes, accessories, home goods, linens, toiletries, and furniture (by case manager request).
- LSF is always accepting donations and donor in-kind forms are available. Call 850-497-7157 for directions or to schedule a pick-up.

GEARING UP FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

It's that time again! The World AIDS Day committee will start gathering together again in preparation for World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is held on December 1st and provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite and bring awareness of HIV/AIDS, show support for people living with HIV/AIDS and to remember and commemorate people who have died from AIDS related illnesses. Last year we had various events throughout Area 1. In Downtown Pensacola, we joined together for a candlelight ceremony, a proclamation from Mayor Ashton Hayward, and listened to various speakers speak about how far we have come in our fight against HIV. If you would like to be notified about the World AIDS Day committee meeting times or would like to contribute ideas and make sure World AIDS Day is a day to remember, contact our Prevention and Training Consultant, Kenneth Griffin at Kenneth.griffin@flhealth.gov.



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

HIV TESTING BILL BECOMES FLORIDA LAW

Retrieved from The AIDS Institute

TALLAHASSEE, FL: A bill passed by the Florida Legislature in May became law today and takes Florida a step closer to removing the stigma of HIV by increasing HIV testing and making it a more routine part of care in our state. When the change to HIV testing laws takes effect on July 1, 2015, Florida doctors, in healthcare settings, will not have to go through burdensome paperwork in order to test their patients for HIV. Under the new law, patients will still be informed that the test is being provided. Written consent forms will continue in non-healthcare settings, such as health fairs and testing conducted at community-based organizations.

When the law takes effect, Florida will have implemented CDC policy recommendations related to routine HIV testing. "With this change to the law, Florida now lines up with the state policy recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," added Fry. "Florida continues to lead all other states in the number of HIV tests performed within our public health system.

The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education.



#AskTheHIVDoc

New YouTube Series | WATCH NOW

HOW DO I DISCLOSE MY STATUS?

Ok, you've dealt with the news that you are HIV positive, you may have even accepted your condition with an optimistic outlook. Affirmations such as "this disease doesn't define me" and "I may have HIV but it doesn't have me" are healthy mantras to live by. So why is it still so hard to tell someone you care about that you are positive? Fear of rejection must be crippling, throw in some stigma and shame for extra debilitating self-doubt and it's no wonder there never seems to be a right time. One young man was so overwrought with fear of disclosing to his new lover, he wrote this post on the Ask the Experts forum at www.thebody.com :

Recently, I serendipitously met a stunning, caring, intelligent woman and we began dating. We are sexual though only have intercourse with condoms. I have not disclosed. Despite all I do to encourage clients in groups I facilitate about openness, I am petrified by the thought of telling my new love about my status. Notwithstanding constant condom use and extremely low transmission risk (a la HPTN 052 and Partners data, etc.), my failure to have not raised the issue--I believe--will scuttle my first honest taste of love in over a decade. As we've gotten closer, I feel more scared and sad and guilty and fearful. I'm also extremely picky and know I'm unlikely to find such a good match anytime again soon. I've actually been spontaneously shedding tears. http://www.thebody.com/Forums/AIDS/Mental/Q240865.html?ic=700101&sp_rid=OTI0OTM2MjA3NTkS1&sp_mid=7735883

There is no easy answer to this dilemma and what's right for one person may be wrong for someone else, which is precisely why I believe the Healthy Relationships workshop is just the intervention we need in our area. Healthy Relationship workshops are currently provided through OASIS in both the Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach area. These workshops offer a safe yet healing environment to observe how other people cope with stressful situations brought on by their positive status and to learn from their mistakes and successes. And what's more, there is no pressure or expectations of you during these sessions. The Healthy Relationship facilitator is trained to allow you to interact to the degree that you are comfortable. Most importantly, through the viewing of entertaining movie clips in a secure atmosphere of camaraderie and trust, you will learn how to make decisions based on what is best for you in your own unique situation. Healthy Relationship workshops come highly recommended not only by me but by people who have already attended one. It doesn't matter if you are newly diagnosed or have been living with HIV for years, everyone can benefit in some way from Healthy Relationships. To find out more about the next scheduled date and times, please call Doug Landreth or Butch McKay at 850-314-0950. Meals are included and transportation may be arranged. Don't miss this chance to take advantage of these free workshops!

Debbie Carty

Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator

MEET YOUR NEW HIVEVOLUTION STAFF!

The past few months have seen many changes at HIVEvolution. We said goodbye to former directors Patrick Rodgers and then Kimberly Brill as they relocated from Pensacola, and though we are a new team, we are dedicated and eager to continue the work started by those before us. Along with our wonderful volunteers, Dr. Dave Mills and Bernadette Roberts, we look forward to making your acquaintance and joining with you to serve our community.

My name is Jenny Diamond, and I am a lifelong resident of Pensacola. I am passionate about ensuring that all Pensacola residents have access to necessary education, assistance, and resources. I graduated with my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Literature from the University of West Florida, where I have been employed as an adjunct instructor since 2011. My interest in HIV advocacy was initially born from a graduate course that analyzed written discourse of HIV theory, treatment, lived experience, loss, and stigma, and was continued by my passion for issues affecting the LGBT community. That interest and passion has only grown since coming on as the Test Site Coordinator at HIVEvolution in March, and I look forward to advancing our mission of testing and education.



My name is Emily Gold, and although I am originally from the West Coast, I have lived in the Pensacola area for over a decade. My passion for education and serving my community has led me to become a proud member of the HIVEvolution team. I am thrilled to bring my enthusiasm and expertise to Pensacola/NWFL, as we make strides to ensuring "Getting to Zero" becomes a not-so-distant achievement.

My name is Jeremy Ward, I'm a native to NW Florida, but have lived in Pensacola since 2003. I originally moved here for grad school and stayed once I finished my Masters in Mental Health Counseling from UWF. I've worked with OASIS off and on for the better part of a decade, starting in 2004 doing HIV prevention, testing, and education at the GEARS Center and then helping out with outreach and testing/counseling when that program ended. I am excited to be working with OASIS again doing HIV education and outreach. While my position may only be part time, my passion for HIV prevention and education is full time and has been since I started working in the field.



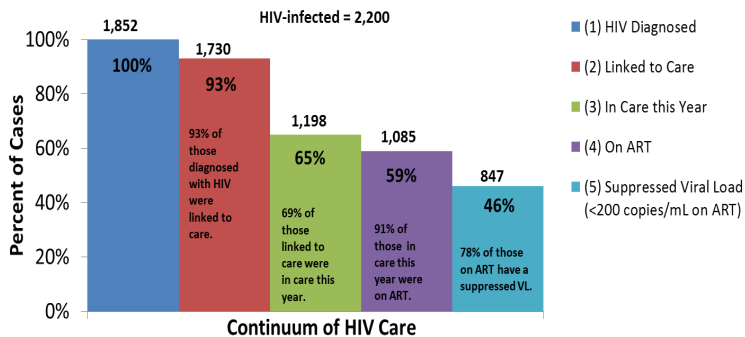
My name is Peggy Murphy, and I graduated with a Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of West Florida in 1998. I worked as a case manager for 8 years before pursuing my Masters of Social Work from Tulane University. While in my Master's program, I worked as a case manager through Jefferson Parish Human Services Ryan White Program and with NO/AIDS taskforce Community Action Network. Since moving back to Pensacola, I became one of the founding Board members of Against HIV/AIDS (AHA!), which raises money for local HIV/AIDS charities. I am excited to join OASIS' prevention and outreach program!

THE CONTINUUM OF CARE—AREA 1 FLORIDA—2013

Submitted by Scott Mickley—Former Area 1 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator.

Edited by Deborah Carty—Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator

This figure illustrates where we are in Northwest Florida with respect to the number and proportion of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) who are engaged in care. **Please note that each bar (except for the first) refers back to the value in the previous bar.** For example, the second bar value of 1,730 is 93% of the first bar and so on.



According to this analysis, we are doing well with linkage to care (2rd bar) at 93% of diagnosed reported cases, however it appears that there are barriers impacting retention in care (the 3rd bar) and treatment adherence (the 5th bar). Only 65% of persons linked to care had an HIV service reported (labs or medication refill) during 2013. Only 59% of those in services during 2013 received ART and only 46% of persons on ART achieved viral suppression (undetectable viral load test result). This data along with information from community needs assessments and focus groups are useful in revealing strengths and opportunities for improvement in our system of care. Increasing both retention and adherence to care can lower the ‘community viral load’ and slow the spread of HIV⁴.

¹Based on 2013 reported data published by CDC in October 2014. See: www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/2011_Monitoring_HIV_Indicators_HSSR_FINAL.pdf

²Based on persons *alive and living in Florida* through 2013, regardless where diagnosed, as of 06/30/2014, *plus* an additional 4% to account for persons reported in other states that are in care but not yet entered into the Florida database.

³Based on unmet need calculations as prescribed by HRSA, for persons living with HIV in Florida (regardless of where diagnosed) and having at least 1 HIV-related care services involving either a viral load or CD4 test, or a refill of HIV-related medication, plus 5% for unreported/missing labs and plus 6% for out of state cases known in care but not yet entered into the Florida database.

⁴ http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/aids_and_chronic/surveillance/statewide/community_viralload_guidance.pdf

Slide prepared by Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Division of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, Surveillance Section.

UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Upcoming NoFLAC Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our last meeting in April! At our meetings we go over updates for all the organizations in our area and discuss any changes within the HIV/AIDS community. Our next one-hour meeting will be held at 11am on July 16th at the UWF Archaeology Building in Pensacola. We will be preparing for our NoFLAC election in October—please join in and let your voice be heard!



Family Dinner



The Gay Grassroots group of NW Florida invites you to Happy China Restaurant, 4810 Mobile Hwy in Pensacola at 6:30 pm the *first Thursday of each month* for a family gathering. Come catch up with old friends or make new friends at this affordable buffet dinner.

Sacred Heart's Ryan White Case Management Agency Relocated

Sacred Heart's Ryan White case management agency has returned to their old location at 5150 Bayou Boulevard Suite 2J as of April 9th.

Healthy Relationship Workshops

OASIS will be resuming Healthy Relationships in the Safe Port Counseling meeting room in August. Men will meet August 7th-8th and women will meet August 14-15th. Contact Doug or Butch at 850-314-0950 for more information or to register!

Traveling this summer?

Check out these awesome events benefiting the HIV/AIDS community all around the country!

U.S. Conference on AIDS Thursday, Sept. 10th—Sunday, Sept. 13th in Washington, DC. USCA is the largest AIDS-related gathering in the U.S. bringing thousands of health care professionals, case managers, advocates, and consumers from all around the country to build national support workers, exchange the latest information, and learn about the latest tools to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Ride For Life Saturday, Sept. 12th in Ithaca, NY. Supporting the Southern Tier AIDS Program, this challenge (42, 85, or 100 miles) around Cayuga Lake will provide for one of the most memorable times of your life! Join for the fab food, the thrill, the mission, or the athletic challenge!

Find more information about these events and many more at www.poz.com/calendar.shtml

If you have questions or comments for the website staff or would like to submit an article to be posted in the NoFLAC newsletter, please email staff@noflacweb.org. We are always open to suggestions!

Do you live outside of Pensacola?

Are you having a hard time getting to your
doctor visits or labwork appointments?

AHF has options!



**We can
come to you!**

**Talk to your provider and
ask for Mellisa Barlow**

It's another way of showing
**WHEN NEEDED
WE'RE HERE!**



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