



# NoFLAC News

*The Official Newsletter of the Northwest  
Florida AIDS Consortium—Fall 2014*

## TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE

### OUR MISSION

To plan a comprehensive array of HIV/AIDS services spanning from prevention to early intervention and patient care through active, open and inclusive community planning processes that emphasize delivery of quality and effective services to all clients and communities affected by HIV/AIDS within the boundaries of DOH Area 1 (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties).

### OUR VISION

Public and private individuals and agencies working cooperatively in an atmosphere of mutual trust, dignity and respect to plan a seamless continuum of accessible, high quality services for all people of Area 1 affected by HIV/AIDS across the lifespan.

### **BANU PUGH, OASIS CASE MANAGER SUPERVISOR**



Hello. My name is Banu. I am a mother of two beautiful daughters who happen to both have birthdays on September 30th—Jasmine, 25 and J'La, 18, as well as an adorable granddaughter Jocelyn who is 3. I serve as the Ryan White Case Manager Supervisor at OASIS. Prior to becoming an employee for the agency I volunteered in Pensacola as an HIV/AIDS educator at the University of West Florida, then at UMAC with Leisha McKinley who later informed me about OASIS.

Upon graduating from the UWF with a Bachelors degree in Community Health/Health Education, I returned to the Fort Walton Beach area and began volunteering at OASIS. Shortly thereafter OASIS received Ryan White Program funding and I was hired as the first Ryan White Case Manager for the agency in 2000. I decided to get involved in the field of HIV/AIDS because a friend was diagnosed in the mid 80's after a blood transfusion. I didn't know much about the virus but I knew individuals living with HIV/AIDS were being ridiculed, ostracized, and abused. It hurt my heart as I thought of my friend. She had relocated due to stigma and I lost touch. I wanted to connect with individuals living with HIV to say "I welcome, admire, and love you." I feel blessed to have the opportunity to show those sentiments on a regular basis!

**WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU BANU!**

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR...

Good Fall '14 to all! I'm happy to say we survived summer NO storms of area significance. While our DOH is still in 'temporary officering' status due to our Spring floods, they hope to be in the Fairfield location soon. We continue to send ALL OUR BEST to our long time surveillance expert, Scott. One of our best news items is our Area 1's AIDS/OASIS' Positive Living 17. As usual, many great presentations, attendance of over 300 participants, TERRIFIC weather and warm gulf waters, and wonderful AIDS/OASIS hosts and host hotel. I will be adding many pictures posted by attendees and presenters to my 'NoFLACweb'org' Facebook page soon. I invite you to visit. Our local Prevention Committee's been working hard with medical care providers, UWF, and local stakeholder organizations on creating a emergency PEP plan. All MSM and at-risk adults should be made aware of treatment as prevention by avoiding unprotected and/or 'condomless' sex. One new way of being 'protected' is PrEP with proper testing, consultation, and adherence. We continue to strive for all who are now & may well be affected by HIV and AIDS. Barriers and all.

Thanks to ALL—James Talley



### THE MARTIN DELANEY POWER OF ONE AWARD

*Presented by Butch McKay, Executive Director at OASIS*

This award was given to Patricia Kelly from Orangeburg, SC. Pat is a renowned educator, advocate, activist and jewelry maker, aging gracefully and gratefully living well and positive since diagnosed in 1985 with HIV and AIDS in 1998. Pat is the Founder and President of "A Family Affair" HIV/AIDS (AFA) Ministry at Victory Tabernacle Deliverance Temple located in Orangeburg, SC. She is also Program Coordinator

for Minority AIDS Council of Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun Counties. A member of the steering committee of U.S. PLHIV Caucus and holds a BA in English from Claflin University. A 2009 graduate of Common Threads and a trainer for Microenterprise Circle (The Me Circle). In 2010 Pat was chosen and inducted into SisterLove 20/20 Leading Women's Society and is now an alumni for new inductees. She is a founding member of Positive Women's Network-USA and currently on the board serving as Co-Parliamentarian. A sister of change motivating women living with HIV to get involved in all levels of policy and decision making. Her message for women is to raise their voices and refuse to be counted out. "We need to groom women to become champions," says PWN-USA board member Pat Kelly in this month's A&U Magazine. "We have to stand up and be counted. If we don't, it will continue to be a male-dominated world."



## A NOTE FROM THE HAPC

*Submitted by Debbie Carty, Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator*

When I look back and reflect on my past year as HAPC, the one reoccurring theme that comes to mind is CHANGE. Some of our area's progress includes the addition of the Eligibility Specialists at all three of our Ryan White case management agencies. I welcome them to our HIV community and look forward to seeing a more streamlined eligibility process that allows clients to spend more quality time with their case managers. I'm happy to report that AHF is settling in to their beautiful new office at 4300 Bayou Blvd Suite 17D in the Madison Park office complex. As everyone knows, they are now our Ryan White Part B, ambulatory/outpatient care provider. Our Escambia County ADAP staff are now prepared for anything having been through the flood and subsequent relocation all the while ensuring our area's clients still received their medications without interruption. Now all ADAP staff are getting ready to assist their clients in understanding their new insurance options with the Healthcare Marketplace. More information to come about that.

We have a new dental provider in Okaloosa County, Dr. Jean Woo DDS, our new HIV contract manager, Kaitlyn Winter, and several new case managers—not to mention our new HIV/AIDS Section Administrator at the Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Marlene LaLota, MPH. Most of you know her as the former HIV Prevention Director for the Bureau. Speaking of prevention, the Community HIV Prevention Partnership and the Red Ribbon Charitable Foundation sponsored a very successful presentation given by J. Wesley Thompson to increase awareness and education about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Treatment as Prevention (TASP) in the MSM community. This same Prevention group also organized an F/C-AETC sponsored grand rounds training presentation given by Dr. Juan Mosley with assistance from J. Wesley Thompson. The purpose was again to provide awareness and education on PrEP and PEP among our area's clinicians. Both PEP and PrEP are important tools in the HIV prevention toolbox that ought to be utilized as often as possible. In fact, with PrEP and TASP, there is more hope than ever of ending this epidemic by reaching that "tipping point" where more people are on therapy than are newly infected. We still have a lot of work to do in the fight against HIV but we can all take comfort in the knowledge that there is progress being made.



**Healthy Relationships** is an inter-active, multisession, small-group, skills-building program for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Whether you just learned you are HIV positive, are just beginning to absorb this information, or it's something you have been living with for a while, there are many situations where the decision of whether or not to disclose your HIV status must be made. In a number of circumstances that means trying to balance honesty with protecting the right to privacy. There are no absolute answers that are right for everyone. **It really is a fun time—and we feed you!**

- The cycle for **women** will meet at the OASIS, 1825 Hurlburt Rd, Suite 14, Fort Walton Beach, FL. The dates and times are beginning Fri. Oct. 10th from 6-9pm and finishing on Sat. Oct. 11th from 9-3pm.
- The cycle for **heterosexual men** will meet at the OASIS, 1825 Hurlburt Rd, Suite 14, Fort Walton Beach, FL. The dates and times are beginning Fri. Oct. 17th from 6-9pm and finishing on Sat. Oct. 18th from 9-3pm.
- The cycle for **gay and bisexual men** will meet at the HIVolution, 25 E Wright Street, Pensacola, FL. The dates and times are beginning Fri. Nov. 7th from 6-9pm and finishing on Sat. Nov. 8th from 9-3pm.

***IF YOU LIVE IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA AND ARE INTERESTED  
CALL DOUG AT OASIS @ 850 314-0950***

## **NUTRITION**

Looking to put on some lean muscle? This Mexican casserole will help you do just that. The right amounts of protein, fat and carbohydrates will help with that weight gain you're looking for.

### Ingredients (makes 4 servings)

2—16 oz cans of pinto beans, drained	1 cup salsa
1.5 lbs of skinned, rinsed, and drained chicken	1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 avocado	

### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F
2. Place the beans in a 9X13 inch baking dish. Place the chicken on top of the beans and cover with salsa.
3. Bake, covered, for 45-50 minutes, or until the juices run clear when the chicken is pierced with a fork. Sprinkle the cheese on top and allow to melt.
4. Just before serving, top the casserole with sliced avocado.

Each serving contains 610 calories, 27 grams fat, 40 grams carbohydrates, and 54 grams protein.





Maurice Moody & Tiffany McDaniel, DOH, teamed up with friend, Jermaica, to record a PSA broadcast by WRNE to advocate HIV testing!

## SEE WHAT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS HAVE BEEN UP TO IN 2014!



Wesley Thompson, MHS, PA-C, AAHIVS, DFAAPA, from Rosedale Infectious Disease in N.C. and Juan Mosley II, Pharm. D., CPh, AAHIVP, from Crestview, came to speak with both clinicians and the community about PEP and PrEP for National HIV Testing Day!



Kaitlyn Winter, from the DOH, teamed up with Robert Bolling and Jenny Thomas from AHF to do a testing event in April for UWF sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma. 31 girls were tested in 3.5 hours!

## REMEMBERING JOAN RIVERS

*As written on POZ.com*

Can we talk? Joan Rivers was loved and loathed for her mean-spirited humor. But her crass jokes often overshadowed her charity work for HIV/AIDS. Here she's wearing a hairnet and apron because she was helping prepare the 15th million meal for God's Love We Deliver, which provides much-needed meals for New Yorkers living with severe illnesses, including HIV/AIDS. Rivers, who died on Thursday, September 4, at age 81, was one of the first celebrities to headline in AIDS fundraisers and was as comfortable working for HIV causes as we was walking the red carpet. A 20-year board member of God's Love We Deliver and an even longer time supporter, she famously won \$250,000 for that charity when she won *Celebrity Apprentice* in 2009. While most folks will be remembering the comedian for her recent antics on *Fashion Police* and for her Botox and bitchiness, there beat the generous heart of true ally for the HIV community.



## **HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE “STATE OF THE EPIDEMIC” 2013—AREA 1 FLORIDA**

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

### **AIDS Cases**

In 2013, Escambia County ranked in the top 20 out of 67 Florida counties at 15th in the number of reported AIDS cases. 74% of AIDS cases reported in Northwest Florida during 2013 (n=66) were in Escambia County, 15% in Okaloosa, 5% in Santa Rosa and 6% in Walton. Black non-Hispanic persons represented 48% of reported cases, 39% were White non-Hispanic, 6% Hispanic and 6% were other racial-ethnic groups. The majority of AIDS cases were reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) at 59% of male cases and 41% of all cases. 11% of all AIDS cases were due to injection drug use, 44% were attributed to heterosexual contact (22% of male and 95% of female cases). 8% were due to other modes of exposure or were missing risk information.

### **HIV Cases**

In 2013, 109 HIV cases were reported in Northwest Florida. 65% were reported in Escambia, 17% in Okaloosa, 14% in Santa Rosa and 5% in Walton County. Escambia County ranked number 13 in HIV cases. 46% of cases were White non-Hispanic, 40% Black non-Hispanic, 8% Hispanic and 5% belonged to other racial-ethnic groups. 59% of all reported HIV cases were among MSM. This mode of exposure represented 76% of all male HIV cases. 34% of all HIV cases were due to heterosexual contact—18% of males and 88% of females. 6% of cases were due to injection drug use.

### **Comparison of Data**

One of the most striking comparisons of data is race-ethnicity. Black persons represented 48% of AIDS and 40% of HIV cases and make up 14% of the entire population in comparison to White persons which represent 39% of AIDS and 47% of HIV cases and make up 57% of the population. This disparity is a persistent one with Black people overrepresented in our local AIDS epidemic. Black persons are more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS, indicating a trend of late identification. Late diagnosis of HIV (often with a concurrent AIDS diagnosis) can mean poorer response to therapy, greater damage done by HIV, a shortened lifespan and greater probability of disease spread to others. Further analysis of this data reveals a growing infection trend among MSM (41% of AIDS versus 59% of HIV). Since HIV cases tend to be more recent, it appears that new infections are on the rise among MSM. This is a good example of how we use data to set our priorities and steer our current prevention efforts.



## UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### Upcoming NoFLAC Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our last meeting in July! 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 October 16th at St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach. For directions call 595-0050. Please join us and let your voice be heard!



### AHF Has Moved!



AHF is now located at 4300 Bayou Blvd Suite 17D in Madison Park office complex in Pensacola. All patients of Dr. Wade, Ethan, Will, Jennifer, or the AHF Pharmacy will now be seen at this address. Phone and fax numbers have remained the same.

### World AIDS Day Planning Committee

It's that time again—please join us in planning and creating new ways for observing this national day that has become a tradition in Pensacola. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988 and it is observed each year on December 1st. All meetings are held from 10-11am at the Ever'man Community Center, 315 West Garden Street Downtown Pensacola. The dates are as follows:



September 11 & 25th  
October 9, 23, & 30th  
November 6, 13, & 20th

### 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.

### Florida Department of Health in Escambia County

Progress is still being made to ensure the reopening of The FDOH—Escambia (Fairfield location) in a timely manner. Clinical/dental staff are *hoping* to relocate and resume services on November 3rd. ADAP will be relocating later in the month. Stay tuned for more information regarding services at the Fairfield location.

***Welcome Ebony Brustie, Eligibility Specialist at Sacred Heart,  
Mallory Amrhein, Eligibility Specialist and Ashley Smith, Case Manager  
at OASIS, Jill Drake, Eligibility Specialist at LSF,  
and Kaitlyn Jordan, receptionist at AHF!***



## **AREA 1 HIV/AIDS SERVICES**

*All numbers are in the 850 area code unless otherwise specified*

### **AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)**

470-8071

### **Appetite for Life**

470-9111

### **Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program**

595-6345

### **Case Management Services at Sacred Heart Hospital**

416-6833

### **CDC – AIDS Information**

1-800-232-4636 and 1-800-232-6348 TTY

### **Children's Medical Services – ID Clinic**

484-5040 (Pensacola)

### **HIV Care Center, Inc.**

### **Center for Prevention & Treatment of Infections.**

476-3131

### **A Safe Port Counseling Center**

850-723-0042

### **HIVevolution**

429-7551

### **Lutheran Services Florida**

497-7157

### **OASIS**

314-0950 (Ft. Walton Beach)

### **Okaloosa County Health Department**

### **Ryan White Part C Clinic**

833-9240 ext. 2153 (Ft. Walton Beach)

### **SHAPE Program of Lakeview Center**

494-7171

### **The Florida AIDS Hotline**

1-800-FLA-AIDS (352-2437)

### **The Seton Center (OB/GYN)**

416-2400

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Submissions may be sent via email to [staff@noflacweb.org](mailto:staff@noflacweb.org).

**NoFLAC News staff reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.**