



A personal note from Linda McKinnon, CEO.

**E-News This Week
July 1, 2013**



The Fourth of July is Independence Day.

This federal holiday celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. There were 56 signers to the Declaration and Thomas Jefferson (our third President), regarded as the strongest and most eloquent writer, wrote most

of the document. Other notable signers include Benjamin Franklin as the oldest and John Adams our second President. John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress, was the first signer. This merchant by trade did so in an entirely blank space making it the largest and most famous signature – hence the term “John Hancock” which is still used today as a synonym for signature. Ironically John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on the 50th anniversary of signing the Declaration (July 4, 1826).

As always, the most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks, and backyard cookouts across the country. In July 1776 there were approximately 2.5 million people living in the newly independent nation. Today's estimated population is 316.2 million. We join in the celebration with our nation, and our offices will be closed this Thursday, July 4 for the holiday. We also express our appreciation for the men and women serving our country in uniform and thank them for their sacrifice. May they return safely to their friends and family.

This week we E-Meet Board Member Terri Saunders. The complete Board Membership is on our website under a tab at the top of our home page. All Board Member profiles are housed there and you can also navigate to read the minutes of previous board meetings.

As always this week's E-News features timely information on special events that recognize people and issues we are passionate about. Here's hoping your week goes well!

CFBHN Announces Incentive Award Recipients of “5 Star Network”

Linda McKinnon personally extends congratulations to all awardees

(Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) is the Managing Entity for the SunCoast Region and Circuit 10. This geographic region extends from Pasco county in the north, throughout the Tampa Bay area, east through Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties and south down through Collier county. The range of services in the system of care include acute care, residential treatment, housing, medical intervention, outpatient, and recovery support services. Services are provided through contracts with community providers and include coalitions which identify and oversee prevention initiatives. “CFBHN holds the primary responsibility of ensuring great care, in the right amount, at the right time”, said Linda McKinnon, President and CEO. “We are responsible to our local communities, consumers, and tax payers, to ensure quality services are provided throughout the Network.”)



Ms. McKinnon personally congratulates all awardees for their dedication towards achieving a consistently high performance level over the course of fiscal year 2012-2013 which ended June 30. Linda said, "Our goal is to develop and maintain a 5 Star Network that offers the highest level of service and recognizes the consistent high performers providing those services. Network wide performance is at 98.6% and while all our contracted providers provide excellent service, these providers are performing beyond 100%. Funding for community initiatives and quality awards were established through a pool of dollars held from provider payments. The funds for quality awards total \$674,249 this year. CFBHN established five award categories based on performance

requirements with the top 25% of each category receiving awards.

Awardees are:

Baycare Behavioral Health, Inc.
C.E.Mendez Foundation
Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office, Inc. (DACCO)
First Step of Sarasota, Inc.
Hanley Center, Inc.
Inner Act Alliance
Jewish Family & Children's Services of Sarasota-Manatee, Inc.
Lee Memorial Health Systems, Inc.
Lee Mental Health Center, Inc.
Mental Health Community Centers, Inc.
Mental Health Resource Center, Inc.
NAMI Lee County, Inc.
Success 4 Kids & Families, Inc.
Suncoast Center, Inc.
Tampa Crossroads, Inc.
Tri-County Human Services, Inc.
Volunteers of America of Florida, Inc.
Youth Haven, Inc.
Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc.

The process itself produced a significant benefit to the system of care by clearly showing a steady growth in performance improvement for all provider organizations over the course of the year. A side benefit includes an enhanced data collection protocol that was developed to verify performance which will be used for future analytics to “fine tune” the system. A future challenge is to further refine performance measures so they truly reflect the work contracted provider organizations have ability to impact.

DCF Secretary David Wilkins and Aime’s Story

Becoming an American

Over the past few weeks the Department had been holding events in honor of World Refugee Day. More refugees flee to Florida than any other state, and DCF is charged with administering federal funding to refugees to help them acclimate to American culture and society. This unique population encounters many challenges—from learning English to becoming familiar with modern conveniences, such as indoor plumbing and electricity. Despite these obstacles many refugees living in Florida are not only getting by, they are thriving. Just a few weeks ago the Secretary had the privilege of meeting Aime Kalangwa, a young man from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Aime and his brother came to Florida in 2011 as the only survivors in their family of their country’s ongoing civil war. They were adopted by a supportive, loving family just as he was beginning his senior year of high school. With the help of his adoptive parents, Aime tackled cultural and language barriers head-on. He dedicated himself to his studies by working with tutors daily to pass his classes and learn English. Learning American history was particularly challenging because all the material was new. He had never heard of George Washington, the Bill of Rights, or the Civil Rights Movement—it was all new to him. But he didn’t just get by; he excelled. His dedication to learning the history of his new country was recognized when he received the award for Outstanding Achievement in American History at his senior awards night. Today, he continues to pursue his education at Broward College studying Criminal Justice. He is an activist, spokesperson, and mentor for other young refugees and is looking forward to becoming an American citizen when he graduates. Aime’s is just one of the many stories of refugees who flee from war and oppression, build a new life, and thrive. Their stories truly inspire and show us that the American dream is alive and well here in Florida.



Terri Saunders is a CFBHN Board Member

E-Meet Terri



Terri Saunders is a 20 year resident of Winter Haven, Florida. Ms. Saunders has a strong interest in promoting health and wellbeing in her community. She is the CEO of Heartland for Children, a not-for-profit organization serving children and families in Polk, Highlands, and Hardee Counties. In addition to the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Board, Ms. Saunders serves on the Winter Haven YMCA Advisory Council, the Warner University Social Work

program’s advisory group, and the Polk Vision Quality of Life Task Force. Additionally, Ms. Saunders was appointed by Secretary David Wilkins of the Department of Children and Families to the Independent Living Services Advisory Council, and was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve on the Florida Council on Homelessness.

Crisis Center of Tampa Bay Achieves Positive Results for Children

Partnership with USF Child Trauma Research Study

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay recently announced that initial results have been published for a multi-year research study being implemented in conjunction with the University of South Florida. The study, which is now in its second year, pertains to treatment of trauma in children ages 3 to 7. Phase 1 results showed that 83% of the children who completed treatment responded positively to the program. The study is a novel trauma treatment program that uses trained counselors and a written program guide. The focus of the study is to teach parents how to help a child who has experienced serious trauma to feel safe again, overcome anxiety and other emotional problems, and reclaim his or her childhood. The child's trauma can be the result of abuse, an accident, the death of a parent or loved one, domestic violence, medical events, or other traumatic experiences. "Our first priority at the Crisis Center," according to David Braughton, President and CEO, "is ensuring that our clients get the help they need to make tomorrow a better day." This joint research project with Dr. Alison Salloum and USF aims to provide children and their families a highly effective, low cost alternative to traditional counseling when dealing with the aftermath of serious trauma. What's equally important is that parents and children report that their relationship also improves after going through the program. The six to eight week program is provided free of charge and compensation is offered to families who complete the initial assessment and commit to participate in the program. All children in the study are under the supervision of Dr. Salloum and a team of highly trained and skilled therapists. Interested individuals can learn more by calling (813) 264-9955 or by visiting: <http://www.crisiscenter.com/files/dsp/Stepped%20Care%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf>

Manatee Glens Wins 2013 Non Profit of the Year

[Tampa Bay Business Journal selects winner in the crisis resource category](#)

A specialty hospital and outpatient practice based in Bradenton, Manatee Glens was a finalist in this category last year as well. "This is an incredible honor and we are grateful for the recognition. There are so many excellent nonprofits in the Tampa Bay area that it is truly humbling to be singled out," stated Manatee Glens Chief Operating Officer Deborah Kostroun, who accepted the award. "We have been helping families in crisis for almost 60 years and rely on the support and generosity of this community to continue serving one out of 30 families here." Manatee Glens was commended for treating mental illnesses and addictions and providing innovative in-patient and out-patient care. Manatee Glens offers counseling, therapy, interventions, medication management, and psychiatric services for adults, children, and families with a mental health, emotional, substance abuse, or sexual assault crisis. Services are available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week for anyone in a mental health crisis. Two of the dedicated crisis services are MCIS and Access Center. The Manatee Glens Mobile Crisis Intervention Services (MCIS) provide timely individual and family mental health intervention to anyone in crisis in Manatee County. MCIS assists law enforcement, schools, and agencies by responding to locations where a crisis is occurring and helping de-escalate the situation. The Manatee Glens Access Center serves as a 24-hour emergency room for psychiatric, behavioral, and substance abuse crises. The Access Center screens every individual, voluntary or involuntary, for mental health and/or addiction issues. *For more information or to schedule an interview, please call 941- 782-4320, e-mail Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org, or visit www.manateeglens.org.* (Manatee Glens is a contractor for DCF funded services through CFBHN).

Spotlight on Liberty Manor CEO Connie Henderson Blaney

[Awarded 2013 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award for Significant and Meritorious Service](#) Blaney

originated the first program with its unique modality designed to lead homeless veterans into self-sufficiency. Sertoma is a service-oriented club that has been in existence for over 45 years. Without a doubt, it's the personalities and dedicated spirits of its members that make the club succeed. Tampa East Sertoma is a versatile group of guys from all walks of life. Ranging in age from 35 to 85+, they are an unlikely group in many ways, but they have something in common that binds them together – a desire to help others and give back to the community. Giving back to the community takes many forms for this organization that holds fundraising events throughout the year to support a number of other charitable organizations. What makes this club different is that while they work hard to help others, they do it with laughter, tomfoolery, and lots of genuine fun. The camaraderie and friendship the members share is special, and they all say it's something they find nowhere else. No matter what the project or event, the members of Tampa East Sertoma give unselfishly of their time and abilities, and they enjoy every minute of it. For more information about joining this great service organization, contact us at TampaEastSertoma@gmail.com.



New Merger Creates SalusCare

[Southwest Florida Addiction Services and Lee Mental Health join forces](#)

Former SWFAS CEO Kevin B. Lewis (pictured) will continue at the helm of the new agency. David Winters, former CEO of Lee Mental Health, will be second in command as chief administrative officer. The agencies combined represent 17,000 patients annually and 450 employees with budgets of nearly \$30 million total. Talks between the agencies' boards began in October 2011, Lewis said. "Cost efficiencies were not the driver here, and they are expected to be minimal," said former SWFAS board chairman Marshall Bower. "One seamless system of services and increased integration of care through primary physicians and other services were the

goals”, said Bower, who will head the board of the new organization. The name, SalusCare, is derived from the Latin "salus," meaning health, prosperity, and safety. It is pronounced SAIL-us.

Florida Senate Declares July 5th Liberty Day in Tampa

[Open invitation to Liberty Manor for Veterans celebration](#)

Recognized in the Florida Senate by State Senator Arthenia Joyner, District 19, all persons are invited to come celebrate the implementation of the highly successful initiative called Liberty Manor for Veterans, Inc. Liberty Manor was founded in 2006 with the mission of promoting the developmental and social needs of honorably discharged veterans by providing transitional, supported housing and establishing objectives designed to attribute to self-sufficiency. Come meet some of the Heroes at Liberty Manor during this joyful event. Enjoy the Cookout, Games, and Music Friday night, July 5th from 4pm-10pm. What a great way to begin the weekend and close the Independence Day celebration! Any questions call Jeff Luddeke (813) 352-7856 or Connie Henderson-Blaney. Location is 10015 N. 9th Street; Tampa, FL 33612.



“Pay It Forward” Program Partnership

[Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and Fifth Third Bank launch innovative program](#)

Designed to provide no-interest loans and financial empowerment to working families in the Bay area, this joint program targets family whose poor credit record often puts them at the mercy of high interest lenders. Its goal is to promote self-sufficiency by enabling families to borrow money for essential needs – such as a car repair so they can get to work – benefit from banking services, and open a pathway to rebuilding positive credit. The Pay It Forward program is funded by gifts and contributions to the Crisis Center. As families pay back the money they have borrowed, the funds become available to help more families in similar situations. “The Pay It Forward loan program was first conceived by members of our Board of Directors to assist hard working families who are facing unique financial obstacles,” said David Braughton, President and CEO of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. “This program represents our commitment to finding new and innovative ways to help people help themselves through a financial crisis.” The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay is responsible for reviewing loan applications and approving loans. Fifth Third Bank (Tampa Bay) provides financial guidance with the loan recipients to provide them with life skills and resources that will help them make sound financial decisions long into the future. The initial goal of the program is for the Crisis Center to provide loans to 10-15 families per year. Loan applicants must be a client of the Crisis Center, agree to attend a Money Management class, and receive case management services for the duration of their loan repayment period. “We are excited to partner with the Crisis Center on the Pay It Forward program that will positively impact the well-being of these individuals in our community,” said Brian Lamb, President and CEO of Fifth Third Bank (Tampa Bay). “The financial empowerment opportunities Fifth Third will offer through this program will hopefully help these families reestablish their credit and enhance their ability to live without uncertainty.” Two Pay It Forward loans were issued in June. The first was made to a family to replace their air conditioning unit so that the husband, who is in a wheelchair and has a medical condition exacerbated by heat, is able to remain safely at home while the wife is at work. The second loan was issued to a single mother with two young children, one of whom is severely disabled. The loan will be used to purchase a reliable car so the mother can continue to work and support her children. For more information on Pay It Forward or the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, visit www.crisiscenter.com or call Ken Gibson at 813-410-4129. For more on Fifth Third Bank, visit www.53.com or call Vanessa Tostes at 407-657-4818.

Recent Meeting with Congressman Gus Bilirakis Staff

[Linda McKinnon, CFBHN President/CEO and James Grenelle meet to discuss Medicare Part D Benefits](#)



Along with Rebecca Mahoney of the Moore Communications Group, Linda met with the Congressman’s caseworker to discuss Medicare Part D benefits as well as highlight the services CFBHN provides in Pasco County. It was noted in the conversation that the Medicare Part D program had succeeded beyond expectations in delivering needed prescription drugs to Medicare beneficiaries at a far lower cost than expected. Congressional Budget Office data shows that costs are at a full 45% lower than projected from the initial 2004-2013 forecast period. Additional, the CBO has continued reducing

its cost projection as the program has gained experience, cutting Part D spending estimates by over \$100 billion each of the past three years. However, as part of deficit reduction negotiation occurring at the Presidential and Congressional level there are two pending proposals (repealing non-interference and imposing Medicaid-style rebates for this benefit) under consideration. Both of these proposals could threaten to disrupt Part D’s unique market-based approach and destabilize the program.

Friendship Program Earns Listing in National Registry

[Coastal Behavioral Healthcare \(Coastal\) announces Compeer has met stringent requirements](#)

This program that was recently added to the services Coastal offers in Sarasota and Manatee counties has

met the stringent requirements for inclusion in the National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practices (NREPP). The Compeer program was founded more than 40 years ago in Rochester, NY by Longboat Key winter resident, Bernice W. Skirboll, who serves as the Chair of the Advisory Board of Coastal's affiliate program in Sarasota. NREPP is a searchable online database of mental health and substance abuse programs that have been rated for the quality of research that supports intervention outcomes and for the availability of training and implementation materials. The purpose of NREPP is to help the public learn more about evidence-based mental health and substance abuse programs and determine which of these may best meet their needs. "Compeer has brought healing friendships to thousands of people around the world," said program founder, Bernice Skirboll. "The inclusion of our model in the NREPP supports our efforts to improve the lives of individuals and families living with mental illness." Compeer is guided by a simple premise validated by research – that the support of friends is healing. Compeer matches community volunteers with individuals who are receiving mental health services from community mental health providers or through private practitioners. Volunteers provide the gift of friendship for one hour per week by engaging individuals in fun, social, and leisure activities. The Compeer Model is used by 53 affiliates in the United States, Australia, and Canada, and is adaptable to meet the needs of various communities and different demographics. To volunteer and bring the gift of friendship to someone in need in Sarasota or Manatee counties, contact Kathy Maybee at Coastal Behavioral Healthcare at (941) 927-8900, extension 3323. To learn more about the internationally established Compeer model, visit www.compeer.org.

Mental Health Community Centers Announces Openings

Kevin Chinault is the contact at 941-953-6477



They have been helping adults with mental illness for over 40 years. With centers in Sarasota, Venice, Northport, and Arcadia, daily programs

and activities are offered that bring the members back into the mainstream of life. Additionally MHCC serves as an important resource in the community. Their commitment to the community is to continue to expand their staff and facilities to narrow the gap between the members they now serve and those who could benefit from their services. They will continue to expand programs to better enhance the quality of life of members and will also expand efforts to reach out with awareness and education to the community to erase the stigma of mental illness. They promote a safe and healthy lifestyle, not only for members, but for caregivers and family members of the mentally ill, for education empowerment efforts and support group services. They currently have openings for a Supportive Employment Specialist Supervisor and two Certified Recovery Peer Specialists. If interested, send a resume and letter of interest including salary history to hr@mhcci.com.

Lee County Coalition Sponsoring Free Lunch & Learn

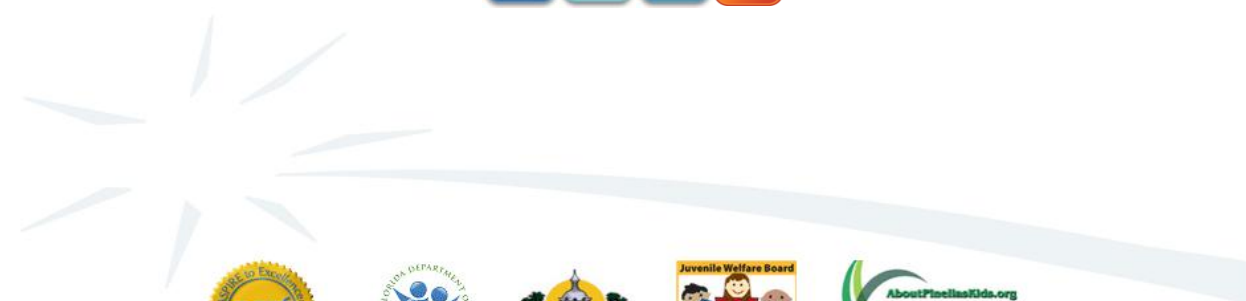
At noon on July 10 bring your lunch and participate in dialogue about "Marijuana: Keeping Kids Safe"

Location is Park Royal Hospital, 9241 Park Royal Drive, Fort Myers. Guest speaker Dr. Omar Rieche will discuss "Synthetics – A Continuing Threat" and Sheree Beau Wells will talk about "Marijuana Prevention: A Statewide Focus". Participants can receive up to one Continuing Education Hour. RSVP to executivedir@drugfreeswfl.org.

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