

Florida Department of Health Miami-Dade County

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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Vision-Mission-Core Values

Vision

Our desired future state

To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

Mission

What we do

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts

Core Values

The shared beliefs that define our culture and foster loyalty

Innovation

We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.

Collaboration

We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.

Accountability

We perform with integrity & respect.

Responsiveness

We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.

Excellence

We promote quality outcomes through learning and continuous performance improvement.

Partnerships

We believe public health is a responsibility of an entire community rather than one organization. That's why partnerships are a vital component of the work we do at the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. During 2013, the Health Department established strategic partnerships with several community partners.

One of the most important initiatives we launched, the Immunization Coalition, involved partners and organizations, from health care providers to government agencies. The coalition's main objective is to improve overall immunization rates among children in Miami-Dade County and to increase 2 year old, kindergarten and 7th grade vaccination coverage levels to reach state goals and increase influenza, pneumonia and TDAP immunizations among adults.

We also continued our work through the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, a Health Department initiative that last year celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Consortium was established in 2003 to address the increasing rates of chronic disease in the county and aims at being a major catalyst for healthy living in Miami-Dade County through the support and strengthening of sustainable policy, systems and environmental changes. The Consortium is made up of community partners whose leaders represent organizations that dedicate time, effort and personnel to the advancement of the Consortium's mission.

During 2013, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County collaborated with the Health Care Coalition and the Miami-Dade Health Action Network (MD-HAN), organizations that serve as convening platforms to address issues regarding the promotion of an integrated safety-net system and access to health care in our community.





From the Mayor

To the Community:

It is with great pleasure that I join the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County in presenting its Annual Report for 2013. When it comes to public health, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County continues to be a solid partner of local government. The services provided by the Health Department in our communities are vital for the uninsured or underinsured.

The dedication of the Health Department in promoting healthy lifestyles is of significant importance this year as it continues to raise awareness among our citizens about chronic diseases and how to prevent them with more physical activity and healthy nutrition.

Miami-Dade County government is committed to supporting public health initiatives. Our most recent joint venture is a new clinic in Liberty City construction funding provided by the state and the land by the county. This and other initiatives demonstrate that the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County are working together to protect, promote, and improve the health of the people in the County through integrated state, county and community efforts as we jointly continue to meet the challenges of an ever-changing community and its environment.

Miami-Dade County welcomes its partnership with the Florida Department of Health and the numerous initiatives in which we have collaborated. I would like to congratulate the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County's employees for their work in this community as we strive to make Miami-Dade County the healthiest county in Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos A. Gimenez'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'C'.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor



From the State Surgeon General

To the Citizens of Miami-Dade County:

It's an honor to join the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH-Miami Dade) in presenting its Annual Report 2013. The employees and leaders of this organization work hard to safeguard public health in Florida's most populated county, and we are proud of their efforts.

DOH-Miami-Dade has been an excellent partner in advancing the different health initiatives we have put in place at the State level, and fulfilling its mission of protecting, promoting and improving the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

In 2013, the infant mortality rate in Florida hit a historic low of 6.0 per 1,000 live births for all infants; most of the decrease has resulted from an 11 percent reduction in the black infant mortality rate. On another front, the annual cases of active tuberculosis declined by 10 percent to 679 cases in a population of 19.2 million. These are just two achievements among many other progresses we have seen in public health in recent years.

We encourage the communities of Miami-Dade County to pursue healthy lifestyles through Healthiest Weight Florida, an initiative launched in January 2013 to build collaborations and provide assistance to counties, community groups and other partners to implement programs that cover from physical activity to encouraging improved nutrition in schools.

I applaud the achievements of DOH-Miami Dade and the work done on this and other important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Armstrong MD". The signature is written in a cursive, professional style.

JOHN H. ARMSTRONG, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health



From the Administrator

To the Community:

During the year 2013 we put many initiatives in place to make Miami-Dade County a better place to live and work. Our work to safeguard public health in our community is tireless and last year it was reflected in several fronts: from the re-launch of an Immunization Coalition to the construction of a new health center in Liberty City.

Through the Immunization Coalition, we are striving to improve immunization rates among children and adults in Miami-Dade County. With this initiative we are bringing together a broad group of key players that include healthcare providers, physicians, academicians, government agencies and community organizations.

We are also very excited about the future opening of a new clinic that will bring needed health services to the residents of Liberty City. This facility will add to the list of health centers and community clinics that serve the underinsured in Miami-Dade County.

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County is optimistic about the future: when it comes to public health, our residents and visitors can count on the leaders and employees of our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lillian Rivera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator / Health Officer
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Community and Family Health

Immunization Services

Partnering for Success

The Immunization Program provides immunizations for children and adults. We have four clinic locations, three of which offer vaccines to both children and adults and one that only services children.

Our program is currently collaborating with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to reduce the amount of temporary medical exemptions for school age children. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the numbers of temporary medical exemptions in our public schools. Our program will continue to work with school health nurses and M-DCPS in reaching medical providers to ensure that the required immunization forms are properly filled.





School Health

Bringing Health to Students

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), in collaboration with The Children's Trust (TCT) and other community partners, provide school health services to students attending M-DCPS throughout the county. M-DCPS is the 4th largest school district in the nation and the largest in the state of Florida.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the following services were provided to students: health record reviews were conducted and 31,581 health conditions were identified, 137,297 First Aid interventions were administered, and 236,917 health screenings were conducted. A total of 760,750 health services and 12,327 social interventions were provided. In addition, school health program quality reviews were conducted in close to 60 randomly selected schools.

The school health program monitors the School Health Services Plan and continues to provide health services that are intended to meet student's health needs during the school day.



Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Helping Families

In 2013, the Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County WIC Program was selected to be the pilot local agency for implementing the new statewide FL WISE electronic benefits (EBT) data system. Staff worked to learn the new system, develop and implement new processes, and educate clients to use their new EBT cards in contracted grocery stores. State Surgeon General John H. Armstrong, MD FACS, gave the keynote address at the EBT launch. State Senator René Garcia and State Representative José Felix Diaz also addressed those in attendance.

The federally funded WIC Program improves the health and nutrition of participating families and reduces health care costs. In Fiscal Year 2012-2013, over 113,737 pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum mothers, infants and children in Miami-Dade County received the benefits that include a monthly package of healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support and education, and referrals to health and social services. Our clients

received over \$56,964,000 dollars in healthy food including low fat milk, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads and low sugar, high iron cereals.

Registered Dietitians, International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and breastfeeding peer counselors are on site Monday through Saturday at 16 locations across Miami-Dade County to answer client's nutrition and breastfeeding questions. Breast feeding assistance is available during extended hours by calling 786-336-1336.

The WIC program has trilingual appointment line that works from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The number is 786 336-1300.

Women's Health and Preventive Services

Healthier Families

Family Planning

The family planning program, one of the components of the Women's Health and Preventive Services program, continues to provide reproductive health services to the men and women of Miami-Dade County. The program provided services to over 25,000 clients accounting for over 200,000 services. Services provided in the program include preconception, pregnancy test counseling, STD screening and treatment, HIV testing and counseling. The six strategically located clinics are a "one stop" for all family planning needs.

MOMmobile

The MOMmobile is a full service prenatal and postpartum care van. The MOMmobile visits hard to reach locations in the southern region of Miami-Dade County where there are limited providers in obstetrics and gynecology. The MOMmobile provided services to over 2,000 uninsured, low-income women of Miami-Dade.

Preventing Cancer

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has been providing education to the community and breast and cervical cancer screening since 1996 to women aged 50-64 who are low-income, uninsured and have not been screened within the last year. The Program also exceeds its goals by increasing the number of providers and women screened each year. This is done by our continued efforts to form mutually beneficial community partnerships with providers both in the public and private sectors. Together with over 30 participating providers; this program was able to screen over 2,700 women in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Screening for Life

The Screen for Life Colorectal Cancer Control Program is in its 4th year and has been able to provide not only screening, but community awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screening.

The program offers free screening services to women and men between the ages of 50 and 64, who have low income at or below the 200% federal poverty level, have no health insurance, are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident for at least five years, and meet the average risk screening guidelines.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Program provided screening to 658 people and outreach to over 1,000 community members. The future goals of the Colorectal Cancer Control Program include increased emphasis on community education and outreach as well as meet the Healthy People 2020 target of 70.5% of people over the age of 50 being up to date with Colorectal Cancer screening.



Fast Track Clinic

In 2008, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County partnered with Jackson Memorial Hospital and other Federally Qualified Health Centers to decrease the inappropriate use of the Emergency Room (ER) by the community.

In December 2010, a three year grant in the amount of \$1.5 million from the Low Income Pool was allocated through the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration to provide medical services free of charge to clients meeting specific triage criteria.

These services include hemoglobin, urine, Rapid HIV, and pregnancy testing, in addition to the medical concern of their ER referral. The intent of the project is to discharge the client at the end of the process with an appointment to a permanent medical home at a Federally Qualified Health Center. Since November 2012, the Fast Track Clinic has provided services to more than 934 clients.

Seals on Wheels

The "Seals on Wheels" dental program is a school-based mobile dental sealant program. This program provides preventive dental services to low income and underinsured children enrolled in public schools throughout South Miami-Dade County. Last year over 6,000 dental services and 1,700 dental sealants were provided to children through this program.

The dental program was a proud recipient of a Maternal and Child Health Block grant. The major program goal was to promote optimal well-being for both mother and child as it relates to improving birth outcomes and preventing early childhood caries. Through this grant the mobile dental program partnered with the MOMmobile and provided primary dental services to 175 WIC certified pregnant and postpartum women.

Protecting the Community

Epidemiology and Disease Control

Preventing disease through surveillance and action

The Epidemiology and Disease Control Program monitors and investigates infections for more than 80 different diseases, animal bites, outbreaks and other threats to public health. This year alone, there have been over 6,000 animal bites in Miami-Dade County, with one animal actually testing positive for rabies. Over 30 people received the medicines to prevent rabies from occurring. There have also been 32 disease outbreaks in hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, schools, and correctional facilities that have been investigated and controlled. Our program partnered with the Environmental Health division and the Lead Poisoning and Prevention unit to deal with the discovery of dangerous levels of lead in a neighborhood park.



Vital Records

Fast Track to Accurate Records

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County has three offices of Vital Records conveniently located in different parts of the county. During 2013, a total of 173,221 records, of which 68,486 were death certificates were issued.

With the implementation of the Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS) by the State Office of Vital Statistics, 98% of the Miami Dade funeral establishments are processing their records online. The families are able to receive the records faster. In 2013, birth rate in the County has slightly decreased by 0.9%: 12.0 births per 1,000 population compared to 12.4 the previous year. A total of 29,233 babies were born in maternity centers in Miami-Dade County.

The death rate has increased to 7.6 per 1,000 population from 7.1 the previous year, with 19,035 deaths. According to statistical reports, cancer and heart disease remain the leading causes of death.

Vital records are available at the Health District Center/Headquarter, the Hialeah/Miami Lakes Office, and the West Perrine Unit. The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County accepts online applications for birth and death certificates at www.miamivitalrecords.com, or by mail.



Community Health and Planning

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

The Community Health Action Team responds to requests from the community for health fairs, health promotions and educational services related to chronic disease prevention. Services provided include biometric screenings, immunizations, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and HIV/AIDS education, condom distribution and disaster response.

During 2013, the team provided health education to 11,995 individuals, distributed 25,130 health education brochures, participated in 29 health fairs and over 145 health promotion activities. The team performed 6,517 biometric screenings, distributed 4,045 condoms, and educated 563 individuals on the topic of HIV/AIDS and STDs.

Consortium of a Healthier Miami-Dade

The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, which celebrated its 10th year anniversary in 2013, was established in 2003 by the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County to address the increasing rates of chronic disease in the county. Its mission is to be a major catalyst for healthy living in Miami-Dade County through the support and strengthening of sustainable policy, systems and environmental changes. Its vision is to create healthier environments, lifestyles and communities. The Consortium uses a community-based planning approach and its committees are aimed at reducing chronic disease risk factors and improving community health. Its initiatives are guided by goals and objectives established in Healthy People, the national blueprint for health.

The Consortium is made up of community partners whose leaders represent organizations that dedicate time, effort and personnel to the advancement of the Consortium's mission.

The Consortium has had successes that will have a long term impact on the



health of the community. In the years to come, it will continue to create environments that are conducive to healthy lifestyles at every age to reduce chronic disease and create healthy places to live, learn, work and play.

Healthy Start

The Healthy Start Program works closely with community providers to reduce infant mortality and decrease the number of low birth weight babies. The program also provides services that lead to good health and developmental outcomes. In 2013, the program processed 28,431 prenatal and 31,145 postnatal screenings, and offered services to at risk women, infants and fathers.

The services provided through our community partners include outreach, care coordination, childbirth education, parenting education and support, nutrition counseling, psychosocial counseling and tobacco education and cessation.

Tobacco Prevention and Control

The Tobacco Prevention and Control program works with the community in developing policies and programs aimed at reducing the use of tobacco products. Some of our accomplishments during 2013 were:

- Over half of the cities in Miami Dade County have supported and passed resolutions to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.
- The Tobacco Free Multi-Unit initiative has been very successful in the passage of voluntary smoke-free policies. More than 100 surveys were conducted and as a result several other multi-unit buildings are interested in establishing smoke-free policies.
- Through the Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade and the Consortium's Tobacco-Free Workgroup, assistance is being provided to several hospitals and universities to become smoke free with several already having achieved smoke free status.
- The Miami-Dade County Public School adopted a tobacco policy that became effective July 1, 2011, replacing the 21 year old policy and technical guide in use. The workgroup was successful in making the policy as comprehensive as possible. As a result the Miami-Dade County Public School system endorsed the Great American Smoke Out as a kickoff event to raise awareness of the policy in place and also about cessation services for employees and students.
- The employee cessation coverage initiative, although fairly new had encumbered many successes. With the assistance of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County staff, five major employers established a smoke free policy while staff continue working with employers in the county.



Tuberculosis Control and Prevention

Stop TB in my Lifetime

The Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program (TB Program) works to identify, treat, and prevent the spread of tuberculosis disease in Miami-Dade County. This is accomplished through the operation of clinical, investigative, surveillance, community partners' education and outreach services.

The TB Program continues to reduce the number of TB cases in the county over the last 10 years. Cases are down from a high of 242 in 2003, to 135 in 2013, which represents a 44% decrease.

The TB program developed "Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Guidelines for Homeless Service Agencies in Miami Dade County, Florida". These guidelines are to provide the management and staff who work at homeless shelters in Miami Dade County with the tools for making appropriate decisions about persons seeking shelter at homeless facilities who may be suspected of having tuberculosis.

Co-infected TB and HIV patients are treated collaboratively with Jackson Memorial Hospital and provide radiological services to the inmates of the five county jails. We continue to provide transportation as well as incentives and enablers to TB patients to improve the treatment completion. Our clinical and nursing teams work collaboratively with the private care providers in treating TB cases and ensuring treatment compliance.

The TB program manages 100% of all reported cases of Tuberculosis in Miami-Dade County. The Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program has three clinic sites where 5,777 unduplicated clients received over 58, 413 TB related services in 2013.

STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program

A Broad Strategy with Many Facets

The STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program serves our community and visitors by reducing the incidence of those diseases by testing diagnosing, treating and linking to care infected individuals and their partner(s). Prevention activities, training, interventions, and special events are made available through our Program and with our community partners.

Some highlights for 2013 include:

Take Control

- o An initiative developed to increase the number of HIV and STD tests performed in non-clinical settings such as community health fairs that provide free information and screenings that range from glucose screenings to HIV testing in target communities.

- o This project has gained such acceptance in the community that we have expanded our partnership with the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and the Miami Dade Transit Department to offer HIV/STD screening at metro rail stations, the Government Center and at various districts/cities activities.

- o During 2013, 2,926 persons tested for HIV with 8 new positive individuals identified and 12,665 received education and information thru outreach services. During the same period, 785 STD tests were conducted with 96 reactive tests.

- o The success of Awareness Days and Take Control Events with Miami-Dade County Public Schools is also its greatest challenge. STD/HIV Prevention presentations and health fair materials motivate the students and their friends to get tested. Structural changes were implemented to allow for HIV/STD testing within school grounds.

We worked with Miami Dade County Public Schools to target approximately 20 schools including alternative and charter schools in high incidence areas of Miami Dade County.



Test Miami

- o The goal of the Test Miami campaign is to promote the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation of integrating HIV testing as part of routine clinical care in all healthcare settings. In addition, it aims to encourage individuals to know their HIV status and seek treatment if needed. The campaign also seeks to eliminate perinatal transmission.

- o Seventy eight physicians were recruited in 2013 to become Test Miami members by routinizing HIV testing in their offices/centers.

- o The website www.testmiami.org was launched to provide information on HIV/STD testing site locations and events, prevention information and personal protection packages, and information for providers.

Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Community Screening for Young Females 15-24

- o Memorandums of Agreement were initiated with community partners to provide Chlamydia/Gonorrhea screening for young females 15 – 24 years of age in non traditional locations during non traditional hours.



Condom Distribution

- o Our program distributed over 6,000,000 condoms throughout the county between 2011 and 2013.
- o Community-based organizations and businesses were recruited to become condom distribution sites to best meet the needs of the community.

Clinical Services

- o A contract was finalized with Florida International University Medical School to provide all Department of Health in Miami-Dade County STD clinical services.
- o Our program participated in a Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) study with the University of Miami which is a prevention option for people who are at high-risk for becoming infected with HIV.



Clinical Laboratory Services

Over 350,000 Patients Served

Laboratory professionals help reduce morbidity and deliver the right care to patients and clients. During 2013, clinical laboratories of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County provided more than 350,000 lab tests related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tuberculosis, Women's Health and Refugee Health.

Over 120,000 tests were performed in-house during patient visits. We continue to add new technologies, methods and instrumentation, such as the Immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood Tests, offered through the Colorectal Cancer Control Program and performed at the Health District Center laboratory. This test helps identify people who are more likely to have early stage colorectal cancer, which is the second leading cause of death in the United States. This is a type of cancer for which screening is particularly effective. In 2013, our clinical laboratory performed this screening test for about 700 clients. More than 29,000 clients have been screened for Tuberculosis infection using blood test interferon-gamma releasing assay, and more than 18,000 were tested for HIV infection using the most advanced technology.



Public Health Preparedness

Preparing to Respond

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH Miami-Dade) continues to grow as the lead agency for Health and Medical response in the County. The Public Health Preparedness Program is developing partnerships and growing relationships with response partners throughout Miami-Dade County and the region; these efforts are leading us to become more prepared than ever to respond to a public health emergency or disaster.

Healthy Start

The Miami-Dade Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) continues to grow and receive outstanding evaluations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for our ability to manage the deployment of Strategic National Stockpile assets and dispense medical countermeasures to our population. A proficiency score of 99% is attributable to the hard work and dedication of the CRI team and partners in emergency management, municipalities, local and county law enforcement, fire/EMS, and other community partners who work together

toward success. Trainings in distribution and dispensing site operations have been led by our CRI team and attended by partners throughout the county and region. Individual partners recruited as closed Points of Dispensing are now developing their own plans with our support.

Medical Reserve Corps

Our Medical Reserve Corps is developing a cadre of highly skilled, dedicated volunteers with training in mass prophylaxis, radiation monitoring, and special needs evacuation support, among other skills. The Miami-Dade unit continues to be one of the largest in the state yet recruitment remains a primary focus for our staff. Partnerships with major universities have allowed us to grow our ranks and develop a new generation of volunteers as students are engaged and trained to respond with us side by side.



Miami-Dade Healthcare Preparedness Consortium

The Miami-Dade Hospital Preparedness Consortium successfully transitioned into the Miami-Dade Healthcare Preparedness Coalition. The coalition is building on the success of the consortium and inviting new partners from throughout the healthcare and response communities to share their knowledge and resources. All of the original hospital partners remain active in the coalition and are now joined by emergency management, law enforcement, fire/EMS, pharmacies, laboratories, and others from both the public and private sectors. The development of this coalition is a milestone in health and medical preparedness and the continued development will result in a more capable and more resilient healthcare response infrastructure for our community.

Public Health Preparedness receives and approves comprehensive emergency management plans for home health agencies, nurse registries and hospice. In 2013 alone, 710 agency plans were reviewed and approved and agencies received personal assistance to ensure they are in compliance with Florida

Statute. These activities help to ensure our vulnerable populations served by these agencies will be cared for regardless of disasters that may affect our community.

Public Health Preparedness works closely with our internal stakeholders and the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management to prepare for the operation of Special Needs Evacuation Centers. These shelters are designed to serve our vulnerable populations who will need care should a disaster force them to evacuate their homes. In 2013, a just-in-time training guide was developed to help our responders and volunteers efficiently respond. We hosted several training sessions, visited each of the identified shelter sites, and further developed relationships with our response partners to ensure we are prepared to meet the demands should we be needed.

Environmental Health and Engineering

Environmental Safety

Working to Prevent Hazards

The Division of Environmental Health and Engineering is responsible for protecting the community from all environmental hazards. From July 2012 to June 2013, highly skilled Environmental Health staff conducted 380 sanitary nuisance complaints, 25,266 facility inspections, and 186 sanitary surveys. In addition, we issued 2,366 Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems permits.

We also collected 6,000 water samples for local laboratory testing and analysis. A great emphasis was placed on beach monitoring and drinking water quality. Approximately 1,316 beach samples were collected and tested. Safe drinking water was provided for more than 2.5 million residents due to Environmental Health staff's continuous efforts of enforcing the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts.

Environmental Health and Engineering continued its active role in education and research by advancing its partnerships with universities, regulatory agencies and other partners.

The department also collaborated with the University of Miami on a new beach water quality research project and gave several interviews to the media because of environmental health concerns in the community.

Two parallel Quality Improvement projects were successfully implemented to improve Employee Satisfaction and to enhance the quality of services.

Financially, Environmental Health and Engineering achieved financial self-sufficiency through improvement in processes.



To reach this goal, expenditures were limited and a more aggressive approach with revenue collection was undertaken.

Community Relations

Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs

Informing the Community

The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs is committed to keeping the public informed through persistence and innovative methods. We are dedicated to promoting public health in an effective and timely manner.

Through our strong relationship with many of the local media outlets, we have been able to continuously achieve our goal of informing the public by delivering pertinent information and preventative messages.

The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs also works closely with the Miami-Dade County Emergency Operations Center, and serves a critical role in emergency response efforts of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.

Legislative Affairs

The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs also works closely with both elected and appointed officials at the local and state levels, to assist in the expansion of public health resources.



Volunteers Expand Reach

\$47 million in services

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County works with an extensive network of volunteers and organizations who provide medical and dental services to underinsured persons. From July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, the value of health-related goods and services provided by those volunteers totaled more than \$47 million.

In many areas, volunteers, providers and civic organizations have joined forces to develop extensive collaborations to support a complete uncompensated healthcare network and medical homes for many residents in their communities.

During FY 2012-2013 the program was able to increment the number of clinics and services. Two new free clinics were opened in the southern part of the county and other clinics expanded their hours of services. In addition, the Florida Baptist Convention Dental Unit expanded its services to the residents of Monroe County during the month of September.

Highlights

Immunization Coalition

Partnering with community organizations and agencies, an Immunization Coalition was relaunched in October 2013 to improve immunization rates among children and adults in Miami-Dade County.

Liberty City Health Center Groundbreaking

Liberty City residents will soon be able to obtain comprehensive health services at a new clinic being built in that part of town. Organized by the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and other local organizations and community partners, the groundbreaking ceremony of the Liberty City Health Center took place in September 2013.

Florida Walks

The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners declared November 19, 2013 as "Florida Walks! Day." Dr. Lillian Rivera, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County received the proclamation at the Commission Chambers.

Social Media on HIV/AIDS

The impact of social media and marketing on HIV/AIDS education and prevention was the chief topic of an event celebrated in January. The meeting gathered public health and elected officials, who analyzed and debated how social media and marketing could be used as effective tools to eradicate the spread of HIV/AIDS and educate the public about the disease and establish effective methods of prevention.



Senior Leaders

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD

Administrator / Health Officer

Heather Beaton, Esq.

Chief Legal Counsel

Thomas Burns, MPH

Director, STD HIV Prevention and Control Program

Olga Connor, BA

Director, Office of Communication & Legislative Affairs

Samir Elmir, MS, PE, DEE, CEHP

Director, Division of Environmental Health and Engineering

Reynald Jean, MD, MPH

Director, Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program

Pamela Toomer, RN, BSN, MPH, NCSN

Director, School Health Program

Yesenia D. Villalta, MSN, ARNP

Director, Women's Health & Preventive Services

Karen Weller, RN, BSN, MBA-HSM

Director, Office of Community Health and Planning

Denise West, RD, LD/N, MPH

Director, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Rene Ynestroza, MBA, MSMIS

Senior Public Health Services Manager

Maribel Zayas, BPA, JD

Financial Administrator

Credits

Rick Scott - Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS - State Surgeon General and Secretary

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José “Pepe” Diaz – District 12

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IT'S A NEW DAY IN PUBLIC HEALTH



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