



NEWS

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Heart of Florida United Way and Orange County Government Merge Planning Bodies for Local HIV/AIDS Prevention & Care Services

\$12 million in support streamlined in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake & Brevard Counties

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 26, 2018) – Through a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Ryan White Part B HIV/AIDS Consortium and the Orange County HIV/AIDS Planning Council have joined forces to streamline prevention and patient care efforts for consumers living with HIV/AIDS in the Central Florida region. Historically, Ryan White Part B administered by Heart of Florida United Way focused on patient care and prevention, whereas the Orange County Planning Council solely focused on patient care. Previously operating independent of each other, the two planning bodies now account for combined \$12 million directed to HIV/AIDS patient care and prevention services in the five-county region.

“Prevention is the ultimate goal for residents in our area, as well as ensuring that those who are living with HIV/AIDS have access to the support and resources they need,” said Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs. “Orange County is proud of this collaboration and applauds all those who are working to make Orange County the best place to live, work and raise a family.”

On a local basis, Orlando/Sanford/Kissimmee region is fifth in the nation for new HIV cases, as released in a [2017 CDC report](#). These statistics expedited the decision to merge the two planning bodies.

“This is uncharted territory being pursued all with one guiding principle – providing the best experience and quality care for Central Floridians living with HIV/AIDS,” said Jeff Hayward, President & CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. “The partnership between the two planning bodies allows for our community to offer a more streamlined and efficient system of care.”

Officials believe that these changes will positively impact the patient experience. Following a “no wrong door” approach, current and future efforts will enable providers to serve more clients in one place as opposed to clients going to various locations to access different HIV/AIDS services.

“It should save clients time in the waiting room and give them more to live their lives,” added Hayward.

For more information about prevention and patient care services for consumers living with HIV/AIDS, visit www.HFUW.org/RyanWhite.

About Heart of Florida United Way

Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year, it raised and managed \$28 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Central Florida. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's information and assistance, crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Gifts In Kind Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White program, which administers nearly \$4 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 450,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. United Way partners with local businesses, government, other charities to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for people in need. Visit www.HFUW.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.