

Positively Palm Beach



Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc., 600 Sandtree Drive, Suite 101, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 33403

Rise in HIV Infections Prompts Palm Beach County Awareness

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By Antigone Barton
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer
Sunday, March 30, 2008

Chris Lacharite never thought that in 2008 he would be asking an assembly of gay men to get the word out about the AIDS epidemic.

The HIV prevention manager for Compass thought that message was delivered a long time ago.

"I don't know when it stopped, but it stopped," he said last week.

The occasion was a "town hall" meeting last week to launch a drive to make HIV testing the norm for gay and bisexual men. The approach is Spartan, in the grand scheme of health education campaigns - word of mouth.

At the Tuesday meeting at the Lake Worth Playhouse, attendees were urged to take and sign pledge cards: "I, (blank), commit to encourage 10 friends to get tested for HIV. HIV is a serious issue and if we band together we can do something about it"

The impetus for the drive - at a time when dwindling prevention dollars from the federal government pose challenges to HIV-fighting efforts - was a rise in new HIV infections among men who have sex with men, documented in the state's *Out in the Open* report released late last year.

Statewide, the report said, at least one in 22 men who have sex with men are living with HIV/AIDS. In Palm Beach County, the report estimated, one in 13 black men who have sex with men is infected with the virus that leads to AIDS.

Because the data is based on an estimate more likely to be true in dense urban areas, such as Miami and Fort Lauderdale where one in 10 men is gay or bisexual, Lacharite thinks the estimates fall short of a more dire reality in Palm Beach County.

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Is Anyone Listening?

Lorenzo Robertson
Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council Member

As a Black Gay man living with AIDS in Palm Beach County I often wonder, is anyone listening? I've worked in the AIDS arena for a number of years and have seen the devastation it has wreaked on not only Palm Beach County, but the State of Florida, the United States and the World as we know it. Even with all HIV/AIDS has done to impact a generation, the question still remains for me is anyone listening?

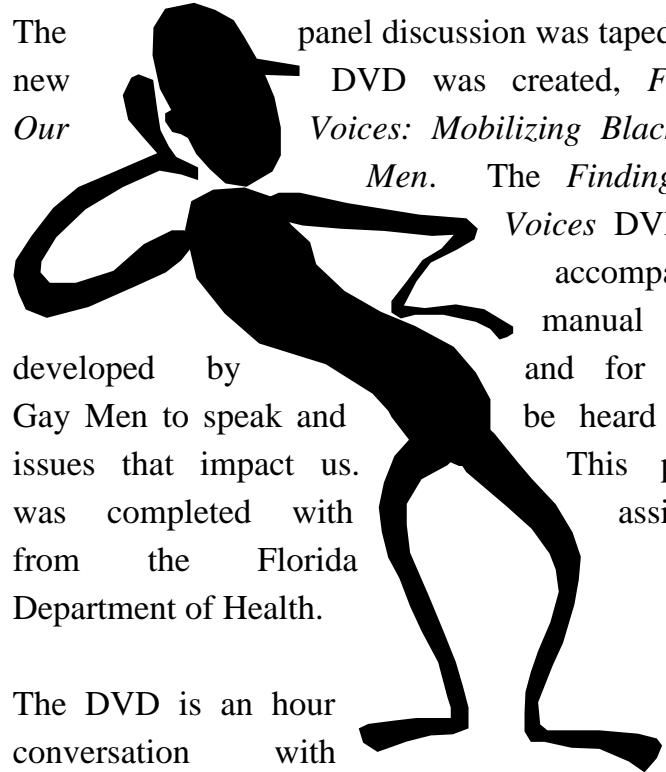


Recently, the Florida Department of Health listened and created documents that explored how HIV/AIDS has impacted the Black community with *Silence is Death* and the MSM community with *Out in the Open*. Both of these documents are reports that highlight the gravity HIV/AIDS has crippled these two populations, especially the Black Gay

community. To address the Black Gay, MSM, Same Gender Loving or homosexual community a panel was convened with statewide and national Black representation.

The panel discussion was taped and a new DVD was created, *Finding Our Voices: Mobilizing Black Gay Men*. The *Finding Our Voices* DVD and accompanying manual were developed by Gay Men to speak and issues that impact us. This project was completed with assistance from the Florida Department of Health.

The DVD is an hour long conversation with Black Gay Men having real talk about real issues. The DVD can be used by various populations like Men on the DL (down low), the Black Church. The DVD can also be used to open dialogue about different topics including HIV testing and preventions programs for Black Gay men, the lack of funding for Black Gay Men interventions/programs, and the list goes on.

So when I asked the question, is anyone listening? I would have to at least say that someone heard something that had been said and actually did something new. Is what was done enough? No, it is not enough and it barely scratches the surface of all the needs that exist. However, for the first time Black Gay Men were heard, our voices mattered. I am a Black Gay Man living with AIDS in Palm Beach County...is anyone listening?

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Here, he says, the number of HIV-infected gay or bisexual men probably represents a higher proportion of the total. It is possible,

he says, that as many as one in every seven black men who are gay or bisexual in Palm Beach County is living with the virus.

And many of these men are not getting tested, he and county regional AIDS coordinator Lorenzo Robertson said.

"Stigma and denial still play a large part in why black and Hispanic men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by the epidemic," said Robertson who also is the state's coordinator to reach black men who have sex with men. In addition, the facts of the epidemic continue to be widely misunderstood, he said.

Surveys have shown reasons people haven't been tested include they are afraid to find out and they think they haven't done anything to get infected.

"I personally would be more afraid not to find out," said county health department early intervention specialist Rob Scott. And, he added, if people who are infected don't think they were exposed to the virus, routine testing is all the more important. ■

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Minimum PLWHA Rates Among MSM, by Race/Ethnicity, 19 Counties, Florida, Through 2006*

White MSM	At Least One in...	Black MSM	At Least One in...	Hispanic MSM	At Least One in...
Miami-Dade	8	Miami-Dade	8	Miami-Dade	12
Broward	11	Orange	8	Broward	16
Orange	13	Hillsborough	12	Orange	22
Hillsborough	22	Duval	13	Pinellas	27
Pinellas	26	Palm Beach	13	Palm Beach	29
Duval	30	Sarasota	13	Sarasota	30
Palm Beach	34	Pinellas	14	Collier	33
Osceola	40	St. Lucie	14	Hillsborough	33
Sarasota	47	Manatee	15	Osceola	43
Volusia	51	Volusia	15	Duval	44
Lee	54	Broward	17	Manatee	47

MSM= Men Who Have Sex with Men

PLWHA= Person Living with HIV/AIDS (reported case), aged 13+ years.

* 19 counties are shown (those with at least 15 MSM PLWHAs and 500 MSM in each racial/ethnic group). The PLWHA rate is expressed as a "one in" statement. The one-in number equals the maximum MSM population aged 13+ years divided by the number of MSM PLWHAs. It is assumed that at most 10% of males aged 13+ years are MSM in each group.

Out in the Open, Division of Disease Control Florida Department of Health, 2007, page 6

The complete *Out in the Open* report can be found at www.carecouncil.org under Planning Activities.

Young Man's Life with HIV Helps Educate Inmates

By Antigone Barton
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer
Monday, April 07, 2008

SOUTH BAY — Born with the virus that leads to AIDS, the 19-year-old man who spoke to about 100 inmates at the prison here Friday knows more than most people about fate, chance and opportunity.

If Leon had been born a little sooner, the virus he got from his mother would have been likelier to kill him; a little later, he might not have caught it at all.

Small for his age and old for his years, he came up from Miami to tell inmates in the prison's HIV peer education program what he knows firsthand about living with the disease they're studying.

The disease has killed some of Leon's closest friends and shrouded his life in stigma and secrecy, which is why he asked to be called by his middle name for this story.

In spite of these tragedies and the near-certain expectation of more, his story is a hopeful one, Leon said.

"Except for when I'm taking my medicine, I can forget I have it now," he said.

Rows of blue-clad inmates applauded.

"Anyone who's ever been a success at anything will attest to the importance of mind-set," one prisoner told Leon. "I commend you."

The relatively normal life of teenage lethargy that Leon leads now is a stride from a childhood marked by nine surgeries and spent so largely in

hospitals that he knew nurses better than classmates.

"They always put me in the same room," he said. "Room 2."

Leon has an easy manner and a gleeful smile. He has told his story to teenagers wherever the organization he speaks for could find them.

The organization is called Charles' Crew, in memory of its founder, Charles Bowman of Royal Palm Beach, who was born with HIV and died at 20 in 2003.

It also is in Charles Bowman's memory that some of the inmates in this room sew quilts for donation to chronically ill children.



They were brought together in that endeavor by Coretha Smith, a Palm Beach County Health Department educator who organized the prison HIV program in the 1990s, and Charlene Bowman, mother of Charles, who now calls the prisoners "my gentlemen."

That is the point where Leon's life crosses the lives of these inmates, who know more about HIV than most people, because of a peer education program that is a national model.

On Friday, Smith introduced the inmates of the South Bay Correctional Facility to Leon and Will Noel, a social worker who distributes the quilts to children.

"I wanted to bring the whole thing together," Smith said. "The quilt and everything."

It was the first time Leon has told the story to prison inmates.

Young Man's Life continued on page 7

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 MEMORIAL DAY	27 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	28 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	29 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	30

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	3 10:00 a.m. Planning Committee 600 Sandtree Dr. Ste 101 Palm Beach Gardens TCHC 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	4 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	5 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	6
9 5:30 p.m. CAP Treatment Ed Series (RSVP) Palm Beach Airport Hilton Hotel Southern Blvd at Australian Ave. 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	10 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	11 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	12 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	13
16 12:00 p.m. Client Education Luncheon DOH, 7289 Garden Rd. 2 nd Floor, Riviera Bch 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	17 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	18 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	19 11:30 a.m. Client Education Series Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	20
23 1:30 p.m. PUBLIC FORUM United Deliverance, WPB 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	24 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	25 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group Calvary Methodist Church S. Federal Hwy at SE 2 nd Ave Lake Worth 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	26 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	27 NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY
30 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass				

HOTLINES

A.G. Holley State Hospital TB Hotline.....	1-800-482-4636
CDC Info Hotline.....	1-800-342-2437
Crisis Line (Center Line).....	211
Drug Abuse Hotline.....	662-4357
Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline.....	1-800-352-2437
Gay and Lesbian Hotline.....	1-888-843-4564
Medicare Hotline.....	1-800-638-6833
National Deaf AIDS Line.....	1-800-AIDS-TTY
Project Inform Treatment Hotline.....	1-800-822-7422
STD Hotline.....	1-800-227-8922

EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Accessible Life Saving Education for at Risk Teens (ALERT).....	966-4288
American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR).....	1-800-392-6327
CDC HIV/AIDS Treatment Information.....	1-800-448-0440
Children with AIDS Project of America.....	1-602-973-4319
Children's Case Management Org., Inc.....	804-9441
Clinical Trials Information.....	1-800-Trials-A
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida AIDS Action Council.....	1-800-779-4898
Glades Health Initiative, Ind.....	996-0500
National Minority AIDS Council.....	1-202-483-6622
PBC Health Department.....	540-1300
PBC HIV CARE Council.....	844-4430
Red Cross, American.....	833-7711
Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP).....	586-4843
Treasure the Children/Charles' Crew Adolescent Speakers, Inc.....	790-6291

HIV/AIDS TESTING

Compass, Inc*.....	533-9699
Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP)	
West Palm Beach*.....	472-2466
Delray Beach*.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach*.....	844-1019
Belle Glade*.....	996-7059
Glades Health Initiative, Inc.....	996-0500
Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA).....	844-3556
Hope House of the Palm Beaches, Inc.....	697-2600
PBC Health Department	
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5465
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3105
Lantana Health Center.....	547-6805
C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1625
Planned Parenthood of GMPBTC	
West Palm Beach.....	683-0302
Lake Worth.....	641-0300
Riviera Beach Family Resource Center.....	840-1888
True Fast Ministries.....	659-4500
United Deliverance Resource Center*.....	659-7988
*Rapid HIV Testing Available	

DENTAL CLINICS

C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1636
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3111
Riviera Beach Health Center at 45 th Street.....	541-5306
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5310

PHARMACIES

Department of Health	
Belle Glade.....	996-1637
Delray Beach.....	274-3107
Riviera Beach.....	804-7940
West Palm Beach.....	514-5380
Commcare Pharmacy.....	615-0564
BioScrip Specialty Pharmacy (Spanish speaking).....	683-0001

HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGENCIES

Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)	
West Palm Beach.....	472-2466
Belle Glade.....	996-7059
Delray Beach.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach.....	844-1266
Pahokee.....	924-7773
Care Resource	
Coral Gables.....	1-305-667-9296
Fort Lauderdale.....	1-954-567-7141
Miami.....	1-305-573-5411
Compass.....	533-9699
Youth Line.....	533-9699
Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.	
North/Central Palm Beach County.....	832-6185
Southern Palm Beach Count7.....	995-0490
Farmworkers Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida Lighthouse.....	499-1442
Gratitude Guild, Inc.....	833-6826
HIV Pastoral Care.....	1-305-858-4649
Hope House of the Palm Beaches.....	697-2600
Hospice By the Sea.....	395-5031
Hospice of Palm Beach.....	848-5200
Integrated Healthcare Systems.....	586-7404
Latin American Immigrants & Refugee Org.....	966-4515
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.....	655-8944
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.....	296-5722
Palm Beach County Home.....	842-6111
Palm Beach Research Center.....	689-0606
Planned Parenthood.....	848-6300
Oakwood Center.....	844-9741
Social Security Administration.....	722-1213
Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.....	844-4220

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHYSICIANS

<u>Central County</u>	
<i>Riviera Beach Health Center</i>	
Manochehr Khojasteh, MD.....	804-7900
Celeste Li, MD.....	804-7900
Kleper de Almeida, MD (Spanish Speaking).....	967-0101
Kenneth Ness, MD.....	655-8388
Olayemi O. Osiyemi, MD.....	832-6770
Donald Watren, MD.....	655-9660
Larry Bush, MD.....	967-0101
<u>Northern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Associates- Leslie Diaz, MD.....</i>	776-8300
<u>Southern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Consultants.....</i>	
Hamed A. Komaiha, MD, Jose C. Villalba, MD,	
Jaroslav F. Ondrusek, MD, Cesar A. Randich, MD, Melvin S. Kohan, MD	
<i>Delray Beach Health Center</i>	
Snehprabha Samant, MD.....	274-3178
<i>Guadalupe Medical Center (Spanish Speaking).....</i>	642-0768
<i>Infectious Disease Associates</i>	
Julio Cardenas, MD, Ines Mbag, MD, Susan Saxe, MD, Jill Howard,	
MD, Sanda Cebular, MD, Kurt Weise, MD	
Delray.....	496-1095
Boca Raton.....	393-8224
<u>Western County</u>	
Lyonel Jean Baptiste, MD.....	992-9216
Juan Carlos Rondon, MD.....	924-7788

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

VA Medical Center (for veterans only).....	422-7522
Palm Beach County Health Department	
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
C.L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade).....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3100
West Palm Beach Health Center (pediatrics).....	514-5300

Young Man's Life continued from page 4**Prisoners offer support**

Hardened and chastened by their own mistakes, members of this audience had less room for excuses, if more for forgiveness, than the average teenage audience.

Leon discovered this with the gentle scolding he got in response to describing his eating habits, late rising and the fact, he acknowledged, that he gets tired of taking his medicine and sometimes stops.

Doing that could make him resistant to the medicine, so he would need more in the future or even die, the inmates explained to him patiently.

He has too much to do that needs to be done to let that happen, one pointed out.

"You mean a lot to everyone, even to us," another prisoner told him. "If something were to happen to you, it would hurt us."

If it would help, they could write letters to teenagers tempted to go off their medication, one prisoner volunteered. "I know it makes me feel good to hear my name called when the mail comes." ■

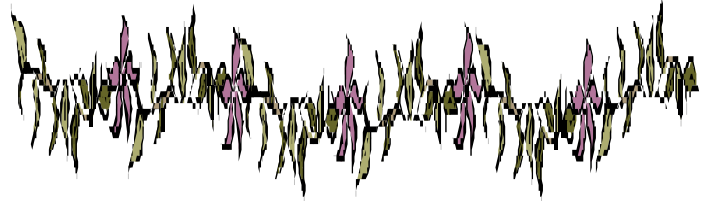
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FOOD RESOURCE

Florida Association for Community Action, Inc. has numerous listings for food sources on their website www.FACA.org. On the right hand side of the webpage under "Community Action Resources", click on the listings and look for District 9-Palm Beach County.

THE CARE COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT

**ANNETTE MURZIKE DUNN,
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
561-844-4220 EXT. 21**

**SHARE PROGRAM'S
MAY MENU**

BASIC PACKAGE: \$18.00

2.6 lbs Chicken Thighs
1 lb All Beef Mini Corn Dogs (State Fair)
1.7 lbs Split Chicken Breast
1.2 lbs Ham Steak
1 lb Bacon

SPECIALS:

Chicken Cordon Bleu: \$13.50
8 ~ 6 oz

Pasta Pack: \$16.50

13 oz Cheese Ravioli
16 oz Tri Color Tortellini
18 oz Stuffed Manicotti
18 oz Stuffed Shells
12 oz Sun Dried Tomato Rigatoni
13 oz Cheddar Pierogies
13 oz Monterey Jack & Swiss Pierogies

Grill Box : \$16.00

1.5 lb Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
1.5 lb St Louis Ribs
1 lb Ground Beef
1 lb Italian Sausage

Questions? Call the Share Florida Food Network
1-800-536-3379