Recognizing Excellence and Innovation in Community Health

The 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards is scheduled for April 20-21, 2016 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, Florida. Registration is now open. Register today and enjoy early registration rates. The early registration discount ends on April 1, 2016.

CLICK HERE to register for the 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards

Florida Blue Foundation is committed to its mission -- help the people and communities of Florida achieve better health -- through strategic grant making to nonprofits that provide services to all 67 Florida counties.

The Sapphire Awards embody our desire to recognize and award excellence and innovation among organizations, programs and individuals that have made a significant, positive impact on health-related outcomes for Florida's at-risk people and communities.

The Sapphire Awards is a highly competitive nomination program. For the 2016 competition, a total of 117 nominations were received. A prestigious, external panel of experts in health and health care-related fields reviewed the nominations and selected the Finalists. Finalists selected include six individuals, three organizations, and four programs. In this e-newsletter, we present a brief summary on each of the Finalists by category.

The Sapphire Awards Honorees all embody thoughtful, creative and innovative leadership. They are
committed to using all resources possible to create improvements in the daily lives of the people of Florida who are underserved in health care. Their accomplishments and unselfish dedication to improving health care services and best practices for the people of Florida are laudable.

The Symposium will feature nearly two days of information sessions, discussions and networking. Speakers and presenters will include national, regional and Florida-based experts on a variety of issues including health, health care reform, oral health, child obesity and philanthropy, among others. Below we highlight some of the speakers and presenters.

Please join Florida Blue and Florida Blue Foundation at the 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards and help us salute the 2016 Sapphire Awards Honorees!

Questions can be directed to:
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Jacksonville, FL 32246

Highlights on a Few of the Speakers and Panelists

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Joseph R. Bentancourt, MD, MPH
Director of the Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital

*Improving Quality and Achieving Equity: Engaging Diverse Populations in Healthcare*

Dr. Betancourt will cover the evidence of racial/ethnic disparities in health care; the impact of disparities, cultural competence and patient-centered focus on health care quality; and provide organizational strategies to achieve cultural competence and patient-centered care and disparities.

Cara V. James, PhD
Director, Office of Minority Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

*Transforming Health by Working to Achieve Health Equity*

Dr. James will discuss how making sure care is equitable is often the forgotten core area of focus for ensuring that the health
system is meeting patient needs and delivering high quality care. Achieving health equity will lead to a transformation of the health system. She will discuss some of the steps CMS is taking to transform health and discuss the important role for health plans in this effort.

A SAMPLING OF SMALL TALKS

How to Develop Program Metrics and Evaluation

Huilan Y. Krenn, PhD
Director of Learning and Impact, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Dr. Krenn will provide information about how metrics have tended to look at outs (for example, number of people serverd), but are now increasingly looking at outcomes (for example, changes in behavior as a result of prescribed services). The term "impact" refers to the results that donors/funders ultimately seek as a consequence of the outcomes (for example, jobs created, people lifted out of poverty). While needed the most, organizations find that outcomes and impact are difficult metrics to measure and report in meaningful ways. She will also provide some tools that can be used back at your organizations when developing metrics and evaluation.

Workforce, Public Policy and Oral Health Equity

Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD
Founding Director and Professor, Community Voices Healthcare for the Underserved, Morehouse School of Medicine

Oscar Arevalo, DDS, ScD
Assistant Director, Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program, Nicklaus Children’s Hospital

Frank A. Catalanotto, DMD
Professor of Community Dentistry and Behavior Science, University of Florida College of Dentistry; and Chair of the Board of Directors, Oral Health America

The Presenters will discuss how access to an oral health home for all Floridians is affected by the numbers and composition of the workforce, by payment source and insurance, by age and gender, by geographic location and by existing regulations and policies. They will provide a comprehensive overview of options that policy makers, training programs and practitioners on the state and national levels can implement to assure that oral health care is an integral part of protecting community health and well-being while eliminating unnecessary pain and discomfort and expensive interventions.
2016 Sapphire Awards Finalists

Program Category Finalists

Monique Burr Foundation for Children

**MBF Child Safety Matters (TM)**

Jacksonville, Duval County

MBF Child Safety Matters (TM) is a comprehensive, research-based, primary prevention program designed to educate and empower students, parents and school personnel to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, digital abuse and all types of child abuse based on polyvictimization research and industry best practices.

Nova Southeastern University

**Smiles Across Miami**

Miami-Dade County

Smiles Across Miami brings oral health services (education, diagnostic, preventive and treatment) to underserved and primarily uninsured school children in Miami-Dade County through two programs: Schools Oral Health Services and HealthConnect in our Schools. The goal is to identify oral diseases early and improve access to vitally needed oral health care for Miami-Dade school children most at risk and their families, thereby reducing health disparities and improving health and social equity.

Sunsystem Development Corporation

**Bithlo Transformation Effort - Dental Care Access Program**
The Dental Care Access Program provides free, high quality, preventative, restorative and/or emergency-based dental care and education to the poor, uninsured residents of Bithlo. Services are provided through mobile dental clinic visits with licensed volunteer dentists and hygienists, and free preventative dental services and oral hygiene instruction to children in their schools - elementary through high school - including toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, topical fluoride and nutritional/tobacco counseling.

University of Miami
Pediatric Mobile Clinic
Miami-Dade County

The Pediatric Mobile Clinic, established in 1992, provides access to year-round, comprehensive, quality medical and mental health care, social service assistance, and case management services, regardless of ability to pay, to underserved children and families in Miami-Dade County; promotes health education and healthy living in the communities served; and trains future health care providers for careers that will reduce health care disparities. The telemedicine program provides remote consultations with physician faculty specialists in dermatology, cardiology, endocrinology, nutrition and hematology. Internet connectivity allows for the use of electronic medical records to facilitate improved quality of care, reduced medical errors, tracking of health trends, outcomes and reporting methods.

Organization Category Finalists

Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Tampa, Hillsborough County

Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative’ s mission is to advance health care quality and patient safety for all of Florida's mothers and babies through collective quality improvement efforts with state and hospital partners. This collaborative approach monitors and assesses state and hospital health care quality indicators, develops and implements joint quality improvement initiatives, advances data-driven evidence-based clinical practices, and promotes provider and patient education and training.

HANDS of St. Lucie County
Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County
St. Lucie County Health Access Network (HANDS of St. Lucie County), a Volunteers in Medicine affiliate, provides primary health care services and access to a continuum of health care to qualified, low-income, uninsured, adult residents of St. Lucie County. Services provided include primary medical care, adult dental clinic, vision care, mental health assistance, patient prescription program and health education on diabetes management and nutrition, smoking cessation, chronic disease self-management and pediatric dental checks and screenings.

**Osceola County Council on Aging**
Kissimmee, Osceola County

It is the mission of the Osceola County Council on Aging to administer programs and services that enable independence and self-sufficiency for seniors, disabled adults, the disadvantaged and families in poverty in Osceola County, Florida, through the following services: OCOA Health Clinic, Wellness Programs, Adult Day Health Care, Health & Wealth Initiative, In-Home Services, Respite, Building Strong Families, Case Management, Emergency Assistance, Guardianship, Home Rehabilitation, Housing, Osceola Financial Pathways, Asset Building, Center for All Generations, Transportation, Weatherization Assistance, and Nutrition Services.

**Individual Category Finalists**

**Bakari F. Burns, MPH, MBA**
President and Chief Executive Officer
Health Care Center for the Homeless (dba Orange Blossom Family Health)
Orlando, Orange County

Bakari F. Burns has made his life mission to ensure that affordable quality health care is available to all members of the community. Under his leadership, the Health Center has experienced significant growth from a $1.9 million operation in 2003 to nearly $8 million in 2015, caring for over 14,000 unduplicated patients annually. He effectively mobilizes individuals, resources and organizations to improve access and the quality of care provided to homeless and medically indigent members of the community.

**Richard C. Christensen, MD, MA**
Director, Behavioral Health Services
I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless
Jacksonville, Duval County

Since coming to the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless in 2000, Christensen single-handedly changed North Florida's approach to providing behavioral health services to those experiencing homelessness. Initially by himself, and later leading a behavioral health team of four professionals, he conducted 41,500 patient sessions, not including those treated during his twice-weekly street psychiatry sessions. In 2014 alone, Christensen and the behavioral health team treated 387 patients during 1,952 patient visits.

Douglas M. Kent, MPH
Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Bay County
Panama City, Bay County

Douglas Kent's distinguishing achievements during his 40 years of public health service encompass many impactful and innovative programs across two Florida counties. His vast experience, success, vision and diligence have been ongoing assets; however, equally remarkable is his ability to bring community leaders and partnerships together to join his vision and mission in improving public health issues. His leadership and collaborative efforts accomplished major projects, acquired funding sources, fulfilled facility needs, and developed impactful public health programs.

Aggie A. Pappas, MSW
Executive Director
PACE Center for Girls Broward County
Wilton Manors, Broward County

For over 30 years, Aggie Pappas has dedicated her career to providing quality mental health and case management services to socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved populations -- from her early career as a social worker serving homeless individuals, to serving homeless, runaway, foster care, and at-risk youth. She is dedicated to improving the quality of life for underserved and disadvantaged girls in Broward County and throughout the United States.

Jasmin D. Shirley, MSPH
Senior Vice President, Community Health Services
Broward Health
Fort Lauderdale, Broward County
Jasmin Shirley's achievements span 32 years of dedication to the most vulnerable and forgotten who are most in need. Shirley currently oversees Broward Health's Community Health Services (CHS) division, inclusive of 10 primary care centers, a Federally Qualified Health Center for the Homeless, a home health and hospice agency, and urgent care center. She is known for her early and continuous work in HIV/AIDS and for her dedication, passion and never give up attitude in providing quality health care to the most vulnerable.

Bret A. Smith, DEHP, MBA
Environmental Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Osceola County
Kissimmee, Osceola County

Bret Smith has worked as a public health servant for over 20 years and is a leader in addressing the environmental issues that contribute to poor health. Because of the work he initiated and the partnerships he cultivated, improvements, totaling over $4 million, have been realized to help improve the health and quality of life for very low-income residents in an impoverished community affected by crime and a polluting business.

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Help people and communities achieve better health.

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