



Health Care District of Palm Beach County Newsletter February 2026

A Message from Our CEO: Celebrating a Great Year and Looking Ahead to 2026



As we close the chapter on 2025, I cannot help but pause and take a deep breath — partly out of pride, and partly because this year truly kept us moving.

Across the Health Care District, our teams showed up in ways that mattered. We expanded access to care, strengthened partnerships, launched new programs, earned national recognition, and continued building services designed around the needs of our community. From our rural, teaching hospital and Community Health Centers to trauma services, school health, mental health, and beyond, 2025 was a year defined by growth, innovation, and impact.

Just as important, we showed up for one another. We supported our communities on and off the clock, stepped forward during moments of need, celebrated wins big and small, and continued to live our mission of caring for all, together.

As we look ahead to 2026, the momentum is undeniable. We have bold plans, important work underway, and even more opportunities to strengthen how we serve Palm Beach County.



You'll read more about many of this year's accomplishments in the pages ahead. And because some moments are better seen than read, be sure to scan the QR code to watch our Year in Review video for a behind-the-scenes look at what made 2025 so memorable.

Fair warning — if we tried to include everything here, this newsletter would need an intermission and snacks.

Thank you for an incredible year. I cannot wait to see what we build together next.

Onward to 2026!

- Darcy J. Davis - President and Chief Executive Officer



 Scan for Video

Protecting Young Hearts

School Health Update



As the new school year began, our School Health team partnered with Who We Play For at an event to offer free heart screenings for youth across Palm Beach County, helping identify undetected heart conditions before they become emergencies. In addition to the screenings, families had the opportunity to learn CPR and how to use an AED, equipping them with lifesaving skills and the confidence to act in critical moments.

We are proud to support this vital initiative and help keep our students, families, and communities safe, informed, and heart healthy. For the 2025-2026 school year, our School Health team will care for more than 160,000 students across 173 Palm Beach County schools, helping students stay focused on learning, with more than 75% of visits resulting in a safe return to class.



Community Health Center News



Meet Our New Community Health Center Providers



Dr. Dianoris Lora is a pediatric dentist, providing dental care for children and helping families learn healthy habits for brighter smiles at our West Palm Beach Community Health Center. She speaks English and Spanish.



Alexandr Socrovisciuc is a board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, providing mental health treatment for adults at our Mangonia Park Community Health Center. He speaks English, Romanian and Russian.



Michele McKenzie is a board-certified women's health nurse practitioner, providing women's health services at our Atlantis Community Health Center.



Dr. Michelle Silva is a general dentist treating adults at our West Palm Beach Community Health Center. She speaks English, Spanish and Portuguese.



Dr. Shalom Chege is a board-certified family medicine physician providing primary care to adults at our Jupiter Community Health Center.



Dr. Nadia Pierre is a board-certified OB-GYN providing women's health services at our Belle Glade Community Health Center.

Call **561-642-1000** to make an appointment at one of our Community Health Centers. We're accepting new or established patients for medical, dental, mental health, women's health, and outpatient addiction treatment. We care for all, with or without insurance.

Follow Us on Social Media



Celebrating Gold: Quality and Heart Health Honors

For the seventh consecutive year, our Community Health Centers have been named a Gold-level Health Center Quality Leader by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This distinction places our health centers among the top 10% nationwide — one of only five in Florida and the only health center in Palm Beach County to earn this recognition.

In addition to the Gold Quality Leader designation, our Community Health Centers received several national honors, including 2025 National Quality Leader – Behavioral Health, 2025 Improving Health Care Access, and 2025 Advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality awards.

Our teams were also once again recognized with Gold Achievement Awards from the American Heart Association for excellence in reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke by improving the management of cholesterol, diabetes, and blood pressure.



From Vision to Reality: Crisis Center Construction Begins

Construction is officially underway on our future Crisis Center. To mark this important milestone, executive leaders donned hard hats, safety vests, and tool belts to celebrate the start of the construction phase. This next step brings us closer to filling a critical gap in mental health services and expanding access to care for our community.



Starstruck: Our Medical and Dental Teams Receive Radiant Reviews

From exceptional service to heartfelt care, our team members are the reason behind the glowing stars and enthusiastic comments on Google.

Here's a glimpse of the recent patient reviews at our Community HealthCenters throughout Palm Beach County.



The staff and hygienists are absolutely wonderful! I really love the warm atmosphere, and it feels like family. They're so attentive to my needs and always create a special moment of care."



"The entire staff presented themselves in a professional manner. From the second I walked in, they greeted me in a pleasant and 'what can I do for you' attitude. The facility was immaculately clean. What impressed me the most was the state-of-the-art equipment and the most pleasant staff possible."



"I had a wonderful experience at this dentist's office! The staff were very professional and kind, and they truly seem to enjoy what they do. They were attentive, explained everything clearly, and kept a smile the whole time. I highly recommend this place for anyone looking for quality dental care and a comfortable experience!"



"Outstanding quality! The attention to detail and care shown throughout the process was impressive. She listened to all my concerns. I was very pleased and will definitely recommend the Health Care District to all my friends."



"I couldn't be happier with the level of service I received. The work was done to perfection, and everything exceeded my expectations."



"One of the few healthcare institutions that actually cares about the people in the community. Saved my life."

Health Care District Team Gives Back

Giving back is part of how we live our mission of caring for all. Each year, our team members come together to support causes that strengthen our community, turning compassion into action and making a lasting impact across Palm Beach County.

That spirit of generosity led the way with our annual giving campaign, where team members raised more than \$103,000 to strengthen heart health, fight hunger, reduce homelessness, and support mental health resources and stigma reduction efforts. At the September Board meeting, we were proud to recognize four

community partners whose missions were directly supported by this generosity: the American Heart Association, Palm Beach County Food Bank, the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, and NAMI Palm Beach County.



Building on that momentum, team members across our healthcare system came together in August to support local families through back-to-school drives. Donations of school supplies for the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County and food items for the Palm Beach County Food Bank resulted in 859 pounds of food, providing 716 meals, along with nearly \$6,000 in school supplies, helping students, parents, and teachers start the school year strong.

That commitment carried into the fall, when team members, along with family and friends, stepped out for two meaningful community walks. More than 175 participants joined NAMIWalks Palm Beach County in Lake Worth November 1 to support mental health awareness and reduce stigma. One week later, more than 250 walkers participated in the American Heart Association Heart Walk in downtown West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to fight heart disease and stroke.

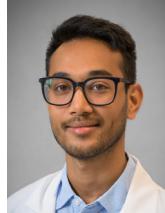


Spotlight on the Glades

Meet Our New Family Medicine Residency Class of 2027

As Florida's only rural teaching hospital, Lakeside Medical Center plays a vital role in training the next generation of physicians. Our Family Medicine residents provide care to patients at Lakeside Medical Center and the Belle Glade Community Health Center, gaining hands-on experience in rural medicine in the underserved Glades communities.

Over the next three years, these physicians will treat patients, build lasting relationships, and learn what it truly means to practice comprehensive, community-centered rural health care. We are proud to welcome the Family Medicine Residency Class of 2027.



Dr. Biswash Dahal brings a strong passion for preventive medicine, communication, and patient-centered care to our residency program at Lakeside Medical Center. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family, hiking, cooking, and catching a few soccer matches.

Dr. Vijay Dahal is a proud father of two and a Wellington resident who is grateful to have matched with the Lakeside Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program. Over the next three years, he looks forward to developing into a well-rounded, confident primary care physician.



Dr. Yousef Idies joins the Lakeside Family Medicine Residency Program with a passion for delivering high-quality, compassionate care and building long-lasting relationships with patients. When he is not at the hospital, you may find him enjoying soccer matches.



Dr. Ahmed El Guindi is excited for his residency at Lakeside Medical Center, where he looks forward to gaining hands-on experience and absorbing as much knowledge as possible throughout his training. Outside of medicine, he enjoys tackling projects with power tools.



Dr. Nisha Varughese joins the residency program at Lakeside Medical Center with a deep commitment to compassionate care and advocacy for underserved communities. A self-proclaimed mystery lover — from books to shows and movies — she is dedicated to becoming a physician who truly listens and supports her patients.



Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



Our team of more than 1,400 professionals keeps this community healthy and safe in countless ways — and sometimes that commitment means stepping outside the job description.

On the rainy night of August 29, two members of our ground transportation team, based out of Lakeside Medical Center, were returning from a transport when they noticed a woman walking alone along busy Southern Boulevard. Paramedic Tony Camejo and EMT Tre' Lawrence stopped to check on her and saw that the 70-year-old woman was confused and disoriented.

With compassion and quick thinking, Tony and Tre' welcomed her into the ambulance, helped calm her, and charged her phone so she could reconnect with loved ones. Working with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, they learned the woman had been reported missing. Thanks to their actions and coordination with law enforcement, she was safely reunited with her grateful family.

Tony and Tre' were recognized by the Health Care District's Board for going the extra mile in their public safety efforts.

Lakeside Medical Center Hosts Leadership Glades Class of 2025-2026

In December, our Lakeside Medical Center team welcomed participants from the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Glades program. Glades-area leaders learned about Lakeside's role as Florida's only rural teaching hospital, our partnership with Tampa General Hospital, and how we're expanding access to care in western Palm Beach County. The visit included a hospital and Community Health Center tour, highlighting how collaboration strengthens a healthier Glades community.



What's Cooking at Lakeside

There's something new cooking at our hospital. Our dietary team and Lakeside chef unveiled the redesigned patient menu, hosting a tasting expo for team members to try some nutritious and delicious eats. From fresh flavors to comforting favorites, this new menu is all about nourishing our community with care.



Community Partnership in Action

Serving our community goes beyond the walls of our facilities. Across the Glades, our teams are regularly out in the community meeting people where they are, building trust, and supporting the health, safety, and well-being of those we serve through outreach, education, and strong local partnerships.



Lakeside Medical Center team members joined the Pink Walk in Pahokee in October to raise awareness for breast cancer and honor survivors. Proceeds support the Pink Warrior Fund, helping to provide vital screenings and care for women in the Glades — including mammograms, screenings, and biopsies.

Team members from Lakeside Medical Center and Belle Glade Community Health Center brought our “clinic on wheels” to the Tea and Conversations About Women’s Health event in Pahokee. Two of our providers shared education on breast cancer screening, answered health questions, and connected with attendees, empowering women to take an active role in their health and wellness.



That same commitment was on display in recognition of National Rural Health Day, when our mobile clinic traveled to local events to provide health screenings and wellness education. Partnering with the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County and Healthier Glades, members of our Lakeside Family Medicine Residency Program focused on helping Glades residents prevent and manage diabetes while promoting overall health.

Our teams also partnered with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office during a community event at Gove Elementary School in Belle Glade. Lakeside team members, Family Medicine residents, and our chef helped serve lunch and shared fresh cookies with students and staff, while students enjoyed exploring the PBSO Mobile Education and Fun trailer.



Trauma Agency News

Preventing Falls Before They Happen



Falls are the leading cause of traumatic injuries in Palm Beach County, particularly among older adults. To reduce fall-related injuries and help residents stay safe, the Health Care District’s Trauma Agency has expanded its fall prevention efforts with new clinical and digital resources designed to address risk before an injury occurs.

A key part of this work is the launch of a new Fall Prevention Clinic, offered in partnership with the FAU College of Medicine. Through the clinic, individuals who have experienced a fall or may be at risk can meet one-on-one with a board-certified geriatric physician for a comprehensive, one-time evaluation. Visits include a physical exam, a fall-risk assessment, and personalized guidance and treatment recommendations to help reduce future risk.

The Fall Prevention Clinic is offered once a month at the Delray Beach Community Health Center. Thanks to grant funding, assessments are provided at no cost to patients. To schedule an appointment, call 561-642-1000, follow the prompts to reach the primary care clinic, and ask for the Falls Clinic.



In addition to in-person care, the Trauma Agency continues to expand access to fall prevention tools through technology. Scan the QR code to download the Prevent Fall PBC App or visit PreventFallsPBC.org to check out the new home safety challenge video game and watch new Tai Ji Quan class videos, allowing access to the full Tai Ji Quan class program from anywhere. The app also includes schedules for in-person classes. These tools help individuals strengthen balance, improve mobility, and reduce fall risk to keep residents safer, healthier, and more independent.



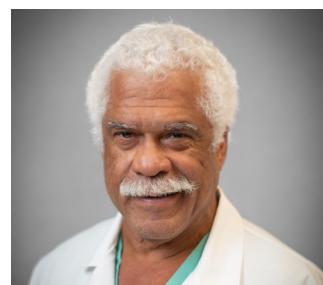
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Meet Robert Borrego, MD, FACS, Our Trauma Agency Physician Advisor

Dr. Borrego is board-certified in General Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care. An army veteran, Dr. Borrego served as the Trauma Medical Director at St. Mary’s Medical Center’s Level 1 Trauma Center in West Palm Beach for more than 34 years where he remains an active trauma surgeon. Dr. Borrego also serves as a subject matter expert on emerging trauma care practices and mentors trauma education leaders, EMS medical directors, and hospital teams to strengthen trauma care and outreach countywide. We’re grateful for his leadership as we continue strengthening trauma care for our community.



Round of Applause: Employee Recognition

Your vote counts! Help us recognize our outstanding team members who make a difference every day. These awards celebrate excellence in patient care, going above and beyond, living our core values, and strengthening teamwork across our healthcare organization.



Have you had a great experience with one of our nurses or other team members?
Scan the QR code or visit hcdpbc.org/Recognize to tell your story and nominate one of our employees.

Meet Our DAISY Award® Winners

Congratulations to our latest round of DAISY Award-winning nurses!



Carmen Ramsey, RN, Lakeside Medical Center

Carmen was nominated by a colleague for the extraordinary compassion and professionalism she brings to every patient interaction in the emergency department.



Beatrice Heastie, RN, School Health

Beatrice was nominated by a grateful parent of an eighth-grade School Health student for the life-changing compassion she showed during a critical moment and for helping the student receive needed support.



Sharon Burrowes, APRN, Community Health Centers

Sharon was nominated by a patient for her compassion, empathy, and support during a vulnerable moment, meeting the patient with dignity, understanding, and care that created a safe, judgment-free space when they felt fearful and alone.

Meet Our Hummingbird Award Winners

Congratulations to our latest round of Hummingbird Award winners, recognized for their efforts in supporting patient care.



Whitney McCarthy, Lakeside Medical Center

Whitney, a registered respiratory therapist at our teaching hospital in the Glades, was recognized for going above and beyond for a patient during a challenging time, advocating for her needs and providing care and support.



Rachael Cole, School Health

Rachael, a school health aide, was recognized by one of her colleagues for staying calm and focused during a student emergency, providing skilled care while reassuring the student, classmates and family and turning a stressful situation into one of comfort and support.

C.A.R.E. Award

Celebrating And Recognizing our Employees

Congratulations to the latest winners of our C.A.R.E. Awards.



Excellence in Leadership

Zorica Lakovic

Patient Access Supervisor, Delray Beach Community Health Center



Excellence in Clinical Support

Jessica Linan

Pharmacy Technician

Two Honors. One Exceptional Leader.

Congratulations to our president and CEO, Darcy J. Davis on receiving two prestigious leadership honors that reflect her lasting impact on health care and our community. Darcy was named one of the South Florida Business Journal's Power Leaders in Health Care for the 10th consecutive year, recognizing her sustained influence and leadership in advancing health care across the region. She was also selected for The Palm Beach 100 by Palm Beach Illustrated, an honor that highlights visionary leaders from across industries whose work positively shapes Palm Beach County.



Darcy's dedication to innovation, patient-centered care, and strengthening health and public safety continues to inspire our teams and guide our mission of caring for all.

HR Team Recognized for Excellence



A big congratulations to our Human Resources team on being named Best HR Team of the Year by the Society for Human Resource Management Palm Beach County

Chapter. This recognition celebrates the dedication and expertise of our HR professionals, whose work drives results through best practices while fostering a supportive, engaging workplace culture. Their commitment plays a vital role in supporting our teams and strengthening the organization.

Building Our Team, Strengthening Our Mission

Thank you to everyone who joined us on February 3 for our latest Career Fair. It was a great opportunity for attendees to connect with our recruiting team, explore current career opportunities, and learn more about our culture and mission to care for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team of professionals, visit www.hcdpbc.org/careers to apply today or sign up for email alerts about new opportunities.

