

## NEW TELEHEALTH PROGRAM INCREASES ACCESS TO CARE



*Nutritionist Melissa Somers reviews a student's nutritional plan via telehealth. The computer's camera and speakers allow the student and Somers to see and hear each other although they are in different locations.*

When Nutritionist, Melissa Somers meets with her patients it is usually in her office. But thanks to a new telehealth program at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) those sessions are now virtual. Technology is giving greater access to care at CHI under the new program that offers nutritional services and behavioral health evaluations at four Miami-Dade Public Schools.

Students at R. R. Moton Elementary, Cutler Bay Middle, COPE South and Homestead Senior High Schools can speak to Somers about their nutritional needs from the convenience of their school health suite. The nurse in the suite will weigh the student and check their vitals and then set up the remote camera and monitor so the student and Somers can see and speak to each other for the session.

“We are able to help more children and more people and that is so rewarding,” said Somers. “It’s wonderful when

technology can help open the door to healthcare for a greater population.”

It is also addressing a critical issue as the need for mental health services in the schools has been highlighted with our nation’s increase in school shootings and violence in academic settings.

The need is great in the Keys as well, where CHI’s new telehealth program is helping to relieve a shortage of behavioral health professionals. Now patients can go into the Marathon Health Center at 2805 Overseas Highway MM 48.5, Marathon, FL 33050 and virtually have a therapy session with a CHI therapist or meet with a psychiatrist.

“We wanted to make sure our patients in the Keys have the same high-quality behavioral health services as the patients in Miami-Dade County,” said Jean Pierre, LCSW, Vice President and Chief Behavioral Health Officer. “There is a shortage of psychiatrists and behavioral health professionals

nationwide. So, telehealth allows us to optimize the team that we have.”

The new telehealth behavioral health service is for both adults and children in the Keys. It will help patients with a variety of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, ADHD and much more.

CHI is focused on comprehensive care with integrated primary care services, pediatrics, OB/GYN, dental and a pharmacy also at the Marathon Health Center. This allows patients to have the convenience of caring for their entire families’ needs in one place. After a telehealth behavioral health session, the patient can also see their primary care physician and get all their medications filled in the same place.

Patients can call (305) 252-4820 to make an appointment at the Marathon Health Center.

# A Message from the President



Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones. May the new year bring you happiness and good health! That's not always the case for everyone. For some, it is a difficult time. Many hide depression and other significant problems, despite the holiday lights and festivities. I want you to know that your medical home is always here for you. Our comprehensive behavioral health department is integrated with primary care teams working together to chase away the holiday blues and keep you healthy. Don't ignore the signs and symptoms. You're not alone. Due to a high demand for mental health experts, Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) has added a new telehealth service in Monroe County for behavioral health to make sure everyone gets the help they need.

The new year brings new growth for CHI. Starting January 5th, we will begin renovations on our Coconut Grove Health Center. The facelift will provide more space at the 3831 Grand Avenue, Miami FL 33133 location. The new center will have a clean and modern design with a Caribbean-style exterior. There is a rendering below of the newly renovated site. During the year of construction, we will welcome our Coconut Grove patients to use our South Miami Health Center just a few miles down the road. The team from Coconut Grove will be based at South Miami to treat you. Transportation is available to those who need it.

We also recently finished painting the exterior of all our health centers. We want to make sure our facilities are welcoming.

Finally, I'm excited to announce on January 7, 2020 from 5pm-7pm, we will host the Grand Re-Opening of our Marathon Health Center. The new facility is a beautiful health center for the patients in Monroe County. It is state of the art and offers comprehensive care. I encourage you to bring your families to the celebration. Everyone is invited. We will have local island food, drinks and entertainment.

Tis' the season for celebration and at CHI we have so much to celebrate!

Greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brodes H. Hartley, Jr." in a cursive style.

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr.  
President/CEO



*A brand new look for  
the Coconut Grove  
Health Center*

# NEW LEADERS



Marianne Finizio, Vice President of Community Relations and Business Development

**Marianne Finizio**, Vice President of Community Relations and Business Development, is new to the Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) leadership team. She is a seasoned healthcare executive with comprehensive experience that includes business development, operations, technology, and marketing and promotion of value driven healthcare solutions. Her most recent positions have been with leading payers and academic institutions that focused on domestic and international markets. Finizio's passion is serving others through her commitment and work with various non-profit organizations and institutions.

In her new role, she will be based in the Keys and serve as CHI's community liaison expanding partnerships, alliances, promotion of the Marathon Health Center, Tavernier Health Center and new business development.

"Marianne brings a wealth of experience to the table," said Brodes H. Hartley, Jr., President and CEO. "I am confident she will continue to build upon strong partnerships in the Keys and be a great advocate for our service promotion."



Carol Blackwell-Curry, Director of Volunteer Services and Event Coordination

**Carol Blackwell-Curry**, Director of Volunteer Services and Event Coordination was recently promoted to the corporate staff. Since 2014, she has successfully grown the CHI volunteer services department into a vibrant support staff for CHI operations. During her tenure, volunteers have served the equivalent of 28 full time CHI employees (58,368 hours) adding a value of \$1,332,541 to the mission. Blackwell-Curry is particularly proud of the creation of the CHI Summer Youth Volunteer Program. It selects 15-25 teens for 8 weeks of learning and serving in CHI health centers.

of all CHI events. Prior to CHI, she worked serving other community-based organizations such as school districts and a Head Start program.

"Carol is a gem of a leader," said Tiffani Helberg, VP for Communications. "She is organized, creative and dedicated. She has done tremendous work with our volunteer services and has produced some engaging, exciting events for us over the years."

In addition to volunteer services, Blackwell-Curry now assumes responsibility for planning and management

# CULTURAL AWARENESS DAY PHOTOS

Community Health of South Florida, Inc. celebrates the diversity of its staff with cultural awareness day festivities. Employees shared their customs, food, dance, clothing, art and more with each other.



Guisella Lozano, Human Resources Clerk, dressed in a traditional Nicaraguan outfit



The Jamaican team watches and records as a patient sings "One Love," by Bob Marley.



A balloon drop wrapped up Cultural Awareness Day festivities.



Stilt dancers representing the Bahamas team liven up the crowd.



Columbian dancers twirl around to entertain the crowd. Left to right: Mariana Cardenas-Gil, Health Information Management Specialist, Margarita Sarmiento LPN II Care Coordinator, Sandy Morales, Referral Coordinator.



Dr. Rosalyn Johnson, Coordinator for Therapeutic Services wears a beautiful dress and headwrap representing the African American culture.

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