

RONALD HENDERSON
Statewide Minority AIDS Coordinator



Mr. Ronald Henderson has served the state of Florida in the public health arena since 1989, beginning his public health career as a Health Services Representative with the Leon County Health Department. In 1999, he was selected to serve as the Statewide Minority AIDS Coordinator with the Bureau of HIV/AIDS in the Florida Department of Health.

As the Statewide Minority AIDS Coordinator, Mr. Henderson coordinates a variety of minority-focused prevention, care and early intervention projects and activities that bring awareness and assistance to minority communities. Along with being a leader in the development of the statewide media campaign utilizing television, radio and print ads to take the prevention message to minorities, he has taken a very active part in the following successful projects: the Black Leaders Consultation, the Latino Leaders Consultation, the Black MSM Consultation, the Black Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS, the Hispanic Summit on HIV/AIDS, the “Church as a Change Agent” seminar, capacity-building trainings, and oversees ten Minority AIDS Coordinators located throughout the state to implement and coordinate HIV/AIDS prevention, early intervention, and treatment programs in Florida minority communities.

Ronald Henderson is the co-author of *Silence is Death: The Crisis of HIV/AIDS In Florida’s Black Communities*. This publication started a mobilization effort among black communities around the state of Florida to organize against HIV/AIDS. Mr. Henderson has been instrumental in Florida’s black women’s initiative. Ron created the name for what is now known as Florida’s HIV mobilization project for black women, *Sistas Organizing to Survive (S.O.S)*.

Mr. Henderson had the pleasure of facilitating and coordinating the activities of the Minority HIV/AIDS Task Force, which had the task of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Health regarding strategies to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, early intervention and treatment efforts in Florida’s Minority communities and a member of the National African American Advisory Committee and the National Latino Advisory Committee. Mr. Henderson has received numerous awards and recognition, including the key to the city of Pensacola, Florida. Since his appointment as the Statewide Minority AIDS Coordinator in 1999, there has been a forty-two percent decline in HIV cases among blacks.

On a more personal note, Mr. Henderson is highly respected among his peers and possesses a great spirit of compassionate involvement in his work with minority-focus HIV/AIDS initiatives.

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Ebonnie Thorp

Area 12: Volusia and Flagler Counties



Ebonnie Thorp is a native New Yorker born in Brooklyn but raised in the upstate New York region. She has always had a passion for traveling and educating the public on healthy lifestyles. As a college graduate in Biology, her interest in Public Health was fed as she served an 18-month Humanitarian mission for her church in Peru. While in Peru she taught principles of basic sanitation, nutrition, and risky sexual behavior. Upon returning to the US she attended Eastern Virginia Medical School where Epidemiology became the focus of her graduate program.

As a Graduate Researcher, she conducted risk assessment studies to determine the sexual risk awareness of the community population, introduced an educational intervention on STD awareness and prevention, and increased staff understanding of the community needs in the Norfolk Virginia area through needs based surveys. As a Disease Intervention Specialist, she found her passion as she counseled individual patients on STD contraction and prevention.

Currently, Mrs. Thorp is the Minority HIV/AIDS Coordinator for Volusia/Flagler Counties for the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County. She is eager to continue helping the community to promote, awareness and prevention.

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Metris Batts
Minority AIDS Coordinator (Area 9, Palm Beach County)



Metris Batts believes she has the best of both worlds, city upbringing with southern roots, born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey. She attended an all girl parochial school for 13 years. She spent most holidays and summers working on her grandmother's tobacco farm in South Carolina. Metris Batts has participated and hosted cultural exchange programs which provided opportunities to travel extensively to the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Africa and the Caribbean.

Ms. Batts known for being a social networker knows how to mobilize the community to get involved. She has planned and coordinated campaigns, special events and meetings which includes: National HIV Observance Awareness Days, awards programs, back to school events, community marches, dance-a-thons, talent showcases, motorcycle charity rides, Christmas gift donations, Easter basket donations, volunteer recruitment events, hurricane relief donations, health fairs and community expos, workshops, business receptions, faith based events and Public Service Announcements.

Ms. Batts has an A.S. in Merchandise Buying, B.S. in Marketing and a Masters in Organizational Behavior Management from Johnson & Wales University. She has taken perquisite classes towards her doctoral degree. She has adapted her theoretical knowledge to work within the social services environment for 15 years providing direct services, program planning and implementation, coalition development, capacity building as well as being part of a grant writing team.

Her theoretical and practical experience allows for a greater understanding of community based organizations and community mobilizations. She is knowledgeable of evidence based models and best practice models for strengthening families and communities, as well as home grown interventions. She is certified to facilitate and has implemented seven evidence based intervention. She has also been certified to

conduct HIV Counseling and Testing. Ms. Batts is known for enthusiasm and willingness to talk about HIV/AIDS to her family, friends and the community and any one that will listen.

Ms. Batts is an active member of several civic and social organizations. She is an active member of Hosanna Community Baptist Church where she serves Chairperson of the Women's Ministry. Avid motorcycle rider, a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Ms. Batts' family has adopted a village in Ghana, West Africa. She serves on the Board of Directors for The Kuntu Village Nkosohen Committee-USA. Ms. Batts is currently serving her 2nd term as Treasure for the Miami Woman's Club. She has served nine years on The Miami Dade County HIV Partnership in some capacity as committee member or chair person. She is a volunteer host for the Miami International Visitors Council.

MICAELLE TITUS
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Micaelle Titus has been a Florida resident for the past 18 years. She devotes her time and expertise to organizations that share her commitment to educating and caring for the underserved and ensuring equal opportunities for all people.

Ms. Titus holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Service Administration from Barry University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare.

She is a devoted wife to Sr. Officer Ansler Titus with the Federal Department of Corrections and mother of two (2) daughters; Jasmine, 16 years old who is involved in her pre collegiate studies and Miannah who is 5 years old.

Micaelle Titus has been employed with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH) STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program since June 2009. Ms. Titus has shown much dedication through her tireless work efforts by serving as a public servant. She began her work with the program as a Disease Intervention Specialist,

she worked with the Strike Team which was a special unit created within the department to eradicate infectious Syphilis. This team offered a rapid response through testing and treatment of those infected with Syphilis and for those at risk of becoming infected with the disease. She displayed her compassion through her pursuit in reaching out to minority youths and by educating them through STD presentations at various community venues targeting STD & HIV/AIDS prevention. Additionally, her career includes her participation in leadership roles as the Coordinator for the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) which is a CDC founded research study for males infected with gonorrhea.

On March 2013, Ms. Titus took on the new role as The Minority AIDS Coordinator for the FDOH in Miami-Dade County where she continues to direct her efforts in HIV prevention and control. She has been instrumental in providing remarkable outcomes even in her short time in the position. Ms. Titus works closely with the Faith Based Organizations and the Sisters Organizing to Survive (SOS) initiative to broaden the spectrum of HIV education and prevention tools amongst the minority groups in Miami-Dade County. Ms. Titus has been inspirational in organizing and coordinating community health fairs and events to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Ms. Titus strives to continue educating our populations about STD/HIV prevention and control because it is vital for reducing and eradicating this dreadful virus.

Torrencia E. Shiloh
Area 4 Minority AIDS Coordinator: serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns County



Torrencia Shiloh a native of Jacksonville, Florida. She joined The Florida Department of Health Area 4 AIDS Program in 2009 as a volunteer where her interest in HIV/AIDS education lead to her professional career which began later that same year when she became a Community Health Educator. Torrencia was a part of the original planning

committee for the first Northeast Florida Women's AIDS Conference in conjunction with Sister Organizing to Survive (SOS) where she and colleagues mobilized efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among women of color in Area 4 through HIV education and testing.

Torrencia is a certified HIV counselor and is trained in a number of CDC approved Interventions. She is currently enrolled at Florida State College at Jacksonville; where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health with a minor in Business Administration.

She also serves as a certified Contract Manager for the Area 4 AIDS Program Office and maintaining 5 central contracts. Torrencia also serves on the Board of Directors for The DAB the AIDS Bear Project under the direction of Dab Garner, this is just one of her many community activities.

Torrencia strives to serve, educate, increase testing, and reduce new infections in minority communities of Northeast Florida. She is committed to promoting awareness by educating and testing, and working collaboratively with organizations and individuals in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. Her ultimate goal is to use all of her experience and knowledge in Public Health to become a leader that will affect change in the minority communities in which she serves.

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FLORENCE T. GREER, M.P.H., M.P.A.
Area 11A: Miami Dade



Ms. Greer is a former health teacher and currently serves as the Minority AIDS Coordinator/Area11-A for the Miami-Dade County Health Department. She has previously held positions with the United States Food and Drug Administration, School Health, Healthy Start, and The Children's Trust. Ms. Greer is also an adjunct faculty member with the Robert Stempel School of Public Health at Florida International University.

Ms. Greer received her undergraduate degree in natural science from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She completed her master's in public administration at Eastern Michigan University and her master's in public health at Florida International University.

She is committed to her community, promoting public health issues, and working collaboratively with organizations and individuals in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS.

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DEVEDA BELLAMY

Area 2A & 2B: Holmes Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, & Gulf/Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Liberty, Taylor, Franklin, Madison, & Jefferson



Ms. Bellamy joined the DOH, HIV/AIDS Prevention Team as a Minority AIDS Coordinator in 2006, to serve, educate, increase testing, and reduce new infections for ethnic minority communities. A graduate of "Boot-Hill", Madison County, Florida, she attended North Florida Junior College and University of North Florida. Ms. Bellamy has over 21 years of passionate experience with the State of Florida with ARC and Med-Waiver Services, specializing in programs for the developmentally challenged. These

programs provided growth and development training, and specialized services to normalize client lives within their desired communities. She continues to serve as a community volunteer assisting the elderly, PLWAs, and the developmentally challenged; and is an active youth mentor.

As highly favored AME Member, Ms. Bellamy serves as a Steward, Missionary, Choir Member, and Health Ministry Advisor. She is also a member of HPPI, GCHC, NAACP, Shared Services, McCEDA, Jefferson-Madison County Healthy Task Force, Safe & Nurturing School Team Committee (Whole Child), and various other organizations that address chronic disease, community development, civic, and youth involvement in Area 2. Ms. Bellamy is known to be a strong advocate for rural communities, and has great respect for religion and family.

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LORENZO ROBERTSON

Area 9/15: Palm Beach/St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, & Okeechobee



Mr. Robertson is the Minority AIDS Coordinator for Area 9 (Palm Beach County) and the Statewide Black MSM Coordinator for the State of Florida; in addition to being a tireless HIV/AIDS and Gay advocate and activist.

Mr. Robertson is an author, poet, and actor. He wrote his first novel, "Detached", which focuses on a man with the knack for helping people with their problems while his own life spirals out of control. Then he published first book of poetry eclectic essence: poetry for the mid, body and spirit will enlighten you. He also has a one-man show,

“Me, Myself, and I”, which weaves his poetry and monologues into compelling show about sex, drugs, and loving life.

He wrote for the Gazette Magazine in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area, *Clik Magazine* (National Black Gay Magazine) and the local newsletter column, “Is anyone listening” in *Positively Palm Beach*?

Lorenzo is also the co-founder and facilitator of BrothasSpeak, a discussion group for Black Gay men in West Palm Beach and Tampa, FL. Furthermore, Mr. Robertson is the conference coordinator for the Ujima Men’s Collective Conference for Black Gay Men.

Currently, Mr. Roberson is finishing principle filming and editing on a documentary, *Silence is Death: Unheard Voices* and was a producer on the recently released DVD *Finding our Voices*.

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ANDREW MALDONADO

Area 5/6/14: Hillsborough, Polk, Hardee, Highlands, Pasco, Manatee, & Pinellas



Andrew Maldonado, Minority AIDS Coordinator, is a native New Yorker, born in Brooklyn, New York. He became a professional musician working with artists such as, Tito Puente, Patti Labelle, Teddy Pendergrass, among others. He is a graduate of the International Center for Leadership and Training in Puerto Rico as a Drug Addiction

Specialist. Mr. Maldonado also attended the University of Puerto Rico majoring in Psychology in Human Behavior.

His professional career in HIV/AIDS began in 1991, when he became Director at the Hogar CREA, Inc. Substance Addiction Treatment in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Hogar CREA, Inc. serves HIV/AIDS patients thru Ryan White funding, by providing individual therapy, group therapies, and other services. In Puerto Rico, he was the HIV Prevention Skills Instructor for the Red Cross (Puerto Rico Chapter) as well. Mr. Maldonado also served as a supervisor for the Minority AIDS Initiative program at the Tampa Bay AIDS Network; which included case management, HIV testing and counseling, training, and prevention.

Currently, Mr. Maldonado serves as a member of the West Central Florida Ryan White Care Council and Co-Chair of the West Central Florida Rural Issues committee.

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TERESA WHITE

Area: 3/13: Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Citrus, Marion, Sumter, Lake, & Putnam



Teresa White came to the United States from Puerto Rico at the age of 5. She was raised in Irvington, New Jersey and moved to Interlachen, Florida as a teenager. She is currently living in Gainesville and has been working for the state for the last 10 years. Mrs. White is also a Desert Storm War Veteran where she served in the United States Armed Forces for 6 years and completed her Degree in Social Work upon discharge from the Military.

She currently serves as the Minority AIDS Coordinator for Area 3/13 which covers 15 counties. Furthermore, she assists the Alachua County Health Department and community based organizations with capacity building and retention; HIV testing activities and event coordination; availability and access to care; technical assistance; and community presentations. Prior to becoming the Minority AIDS Coordinator, Mrs. White was an HIV counselor for 3 years in the HIV Counseling and Testing Department located at the Alachua County Health Department. Notably, she created a character-based HIV prevention presentation called: "Spicin' up Prevention with Condom Miranda." Condom Miranda has presented at many venues in Florida and Georgia, she has been featured on TV20 in 2005, traveled with BET's Rap it Up Campaign and has received many awards from the community.

She is an active volunteer for the Gainesville Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Committee where she serves as the secretary for the committee; a member of the local NAACP branch in Gainesville; chairperson for the Alachua County Health Department Linguistic Access Resource committee; Sunday School Teacher at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Flemington, Florida; and an adjunct medical Spanish instructor for University of Florida Medical School. Mrs. White is also the founder and facilitator of Positives Empowering Positives HIV/AIDS Support groups that meet in Alachua, Putnam, Marion counties

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SANDRA ESTEVEZ, B.A.
Statewide Latino AIDS Coordinator



Sandra Estevez currently serves as the Statewide Latino AIDS Coordinator. As the Statewide

Latino AIDS Coordinator, Mrs. Estevez is responsible for disseminating HIV/AIDS projects for Latinos in Florida; and implementing and managing the CDC project “*Miami-Business Responds to AIDS*” in Spanish-first time Nationwide.

In addition, she has been a campaign creator/scripter and producer for: “*25 Mitos/25 Realidades*” (25 Myths/25 Realities), a HIV/AIDS Latino Public Service Awareness Campaign; Daniela Mercury - HIV/AIDS Public Service Announcement in Portuguese featuring Daniela Mercury Latin Grammy Award-winning Brazilian axé, samba-reggae and MPB singer, songwriter and record producer; “*Positivo SOY,*” A Documentary Short Video for HIV positive Latino man; “*PaiSANO,*” a companion video for the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) intervention ‘Voice/Voces’ and it targets the migrant/farm worker community; and LUCES DVD Project based on “*Organizing to Survive: The HIV/AIDS crisis among Florida’ women*” report; to share best practices and offer tools to enable Latina women to educate others confront and overcome their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

Mrs. Estevez has 4 years of experience in HIV/AIDS, and her prior work experiences were in the private sector as a media assistant. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Advertising.

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TAI JOHNSON

Area 7: Orange, Osceola, Seminole, & Brevard



Tai Johnson is originally from New York where she worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for 10 years. She moved to Orlando in 2002 and was employed by Orlando Regional Hospital at the HUG-Me program as a Family Health Counselor, covering the Osceola and Lake Counties off-site clinics. She enrolled clients to the Ryan White services and provided information, guidance and comfort to those newly diagnosis. Tai provided pre and post HIV testing and counseling for all walk-in clients in Osceola County.

In 2006, Tai was hired by the Orange County Health Department as the Human Services Counselor II to perform HIV and Hepatitis screening at their newly open facility at the east side of Orlando. In 2007, she was promoted to Disease Intervention Specialist with the STD program office where she would ensure quick and effective notice to those having a reported positive result of a STI. Also, to assist newly HIV infected patients with partner notification.

In 2008, Tai joined the Area 7 HIV/AIDS program office team as the Minority AIDS Coordinator. Area 7 serves Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Brevard Counties with prevention and patient care services. Tai is an associated member to the Orlando EMA Ryan White Health Services Planning Council and is assigned to the Planning and PR & Marketing Committees. Tai is also a member of the Central Florida AIDS Planning Consortium, Latinas Unidas Contra El SIDA (L.U.C.E.S) Statewide Advisory Group, the Florida AIDS Latino Advisory Group (FLAAG), and the Café Latino of Central Florida a local Area 7 coalition emphasizing in HIV awareness in the Latino community. Tai assists with ongoing mobilization efforts and implementation of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Minority Initiatives.

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KIMBERLY POUGH
Minority AIDS Coordinator
Area 1: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton



Kimberly Pough, while a native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, has resided in Pensacola, Florida for 12 years. A graduate of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, Kimberly began her career with the Department of Juvenile Justice as a counselor. While in Hampton, Virginia, Kimberly met and married her husband. They have been married for 16 years. Although Kimberly doesn't have any children, she is a mother to many.

In 1999, Kimberly relocated to Pensacola, and became employed by the State of Florida as a Child Protective Investigator with the Department of Children and Families. After two years, Kimberly transitioned to services. It was in this position that Kimberly, while experiencing her own personal tragic events, began to develop a heart for Women who were lost and hurting. Working with families long term, gave Kimberly the opportunity to connect with young women and prayerfully impact their lives in a positive way. Kimberly was a family services counselor for approximately 8 years.

Kimberly is presently pursuing her Master's of Social Work at the University of West Florida, as well as working towards her Bachelors Degree in Christian Theology at the International Miracle Institute. Kimberly is firm believer that her life is not her own, and

that she was born with a purpose. It is her desire to open homes for women in transition. "They come in sad and broken, but will leave happy and whole."

Although she is the "New Kid on the Block" at the Escambia County Health Department, she has made herself at home and has already got to work. She maybe new to the HIV/AIDS program, but has a host of experience; a zeal to learn; and a love for people. She hopes to be an asset to the team!

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