

## Welcome Dr. Jyothi Gunta!

Dr. Jyothi Gunta is the new Director of the Florida Department of Health-Palm Beach County. She is a board-certified physician in Preventive Medicine/Public Health and Occupational/Environmental Medicine with expertise in family medicine, preventive care, and epidemiology. Dr. Gunta has played a significant role in COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring and has published her findings. She holds an MD from Russia and a Master's Degree in Public Health. Her interests include obesity medicine, occupational medicine, and health equity. She is fluent in multiple languages and enjoys tennis, traveling, and spending time with family.



## CHIP Update

Palm Beach County's new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving the health and well-being of its residents. The plan focuses on addressing the county's most pressing health issues, including chronic diseases, mental health, substance abuse, and access to healthcare. Through partnerships with local organizations and community members, the CHIP seeks to increase awareness, prevent health disparities, and promote healthy behaviors. The plan also includes initiatives to improve healthcare quality, enhance healthcare workforce development, and increase healthcare access for all residents. With a strong focus on equity, the Palm Beach County Community Health Improvement Plan is a critical step towards creating a healthier and more vibrant community for all.



**Palm Beach County  
Community Health  
Improvement Plan**

July 2022 - June 2027

### CHIP Priority Areas

- 01 **Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-Management**
- 02 **Mental and Behavioral Health**
- 03 **Access and Linkage to Health and Human Services**

**CHIP Objective: Reduce the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths among Palm Beach County residents from 50.4 per 100,000 population in 2020 to 40.1 per 100,000 population in 2027.**

Strategy: Increase partnerships and training related to drug misuse across the community and healthcare system

Activity: Narcan Distribution Events

Key action step: Promote Narcan distribution events within the county

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and the Health Care District are offering free Narcan nasal spray kits to the public. Narcan is a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses and can be administered quickly and easily by nasal spray. The initiative aims to combat the growing opioid crisis and save lives by making this life-saving medication more accessible. The distribution of free Narcan kits is part of a broader effort to address opioid-related overdoses and raise awareness about the importance of overdose prevention.



[Click here for a list of clinics offering Narcan](#)

## Community Partner Spotlight - Rebel Recovery

Rebel Recovery Florida is a low barrier recovery community organization that has been serving Palm Beach County since 2016. They provide recovery support services, education, and advocacy to people impacted by drug use and those living with or at risk of infectious diseases. All services are free.

Their mobile syringe and health service program, FLASH, offers harm reduction and a range of community-based prevention programs and services to people who use drugs. These include infectious disease testing with healthcare navigation, peer support, and sterile injection supplies to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

[Click here to learn more](#)



## Community Partner Spotlight - Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

Established in 1988 the Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization which administers public funds, private grants and donations to provide services to seniors, adults with disabilities and their caregivers in Planning & Service Area 9 which encompasses Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties. They provide programs and services that promote independence, dignity, health and wellbeing. By administering and ensuring quality for programs supported by local, state and federal funding, along with the generosity of individuals and organizations, we work to improve the quality of life for those whose lives we touch. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Ground Ambulances

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County proudly marked the official launch of the new LifeTrans Ground Ambulance Programs' two ground ambulances, Apollo and Atlas, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony January 27, 2023 at the District's acute care hospital, Lakeside Medical Center, in Belle Glade.

The ambulances serve Health Care District patients, providing 24/7 emergency advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) transport services, as well as secondary ALS transport services. One of the ambulances is based at Lakeside Medical Center to support the safe and rapid transport of hospital patients needing a higher level of care. The other is based at the District's skilled nursing facility in Riviera Beach, the Edward J. Healey Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. To learn more



Source: [Healthcare District](#)

## Palm Beach County Lowers Unemployment

**CHIP Objective: Reduce the unemployment rate from 6.1% in 2020 to 4.5% in 2027.**

Palm Beach County set a record in its unemployment rate early in 2022, and then broke that record to close out the year. On Friday, CareerSource Palm Beach County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity reported the jobless rate in December fell to 2.2%, an all-time low, beating the previous record set in April of last year.

“There has never been a better time in this county’s history to find a job,” Julia Dattolo, president and CEO of CareerSource Palm Beach County, said in a prepared statement. “We expect continued strong local job growth through mid-2023 with the most in-demand jobs in the hospitality/tourism, healthcare, and trades/transportation industry sectors.”



Source: [The Palm Beach Post](#)

# CHIP Clips

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The CHIP Clips Newsletter is your source for updates, news, and interesting facts relating to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in Palm Beach County.

The CHIP Advisory Council meeting took place May 24th, 2023. A big thank you to our community partners who were in attendance. The CHIP process only works because of your commitment and participation!



**Do you have Ideas for the next issue of the CHIP Clips Newsletter? Would you like your organization featured in our community partner spotlight? Please contact Rene Barajas Jr at [rene.barajas@flhealth.gov](mailto:rene.barajas@flhealth.gov)**

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## Acknowledgements



**Thanks to the Health Council of Southeast Florida, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, and all of our community partners in implementing our current CHIP!**

