



January/February 2020

Palm Beach County District Six



Addiction Stabilization Unit

Three years ago, after the overdose death of my Chief of Staff's daughter, I set out on a mission to bring awareness to addiction and the need for services to whomever would listen. The most ambitious portion of that mission was to create a safe, warm, caring place for those needing emergency care to go for help - an Addiction Stabilization Unit.

We put together our own local action plan, hired a drug policy coordinator, increased access to treatment beds, created pilot programs, implemented peer recovery programs, funded respite care beds, developed a prevention education program, participated in the Sober Homes Task Force, applied for state and federal funding, lobbied for policy change, filed a lawsuit against the parties who fueled this epidemic, and authorized the first needle exchange program outside of the pilot in Miami. We spoke to families with experience caring for a loved one battling addiction, families whose loved ones lost the battle, people in active recovery and people in active addiction. We formulated plans with doctors, public health experts, mental health providers, fire rescue, law enforcement, lawyers, treatment providers, and those with personal experience.

We came together as a community.

Inspired by my (former) Chief of Staff and fueled by personal experience from loving someone suffering from addiction....

Anchored by amazing women leading JFK North Hospital, the Healthcare District of Palm Beach County, and my own County Administrator and her team... (Gina Melby, Darcy Davis, Verdenia Baker, Nancy Bolton, and Jon Van Arnam -thank you all for your tireless efforts!)

Loved by my friends and family who've listened to me talk about this for the past three years....

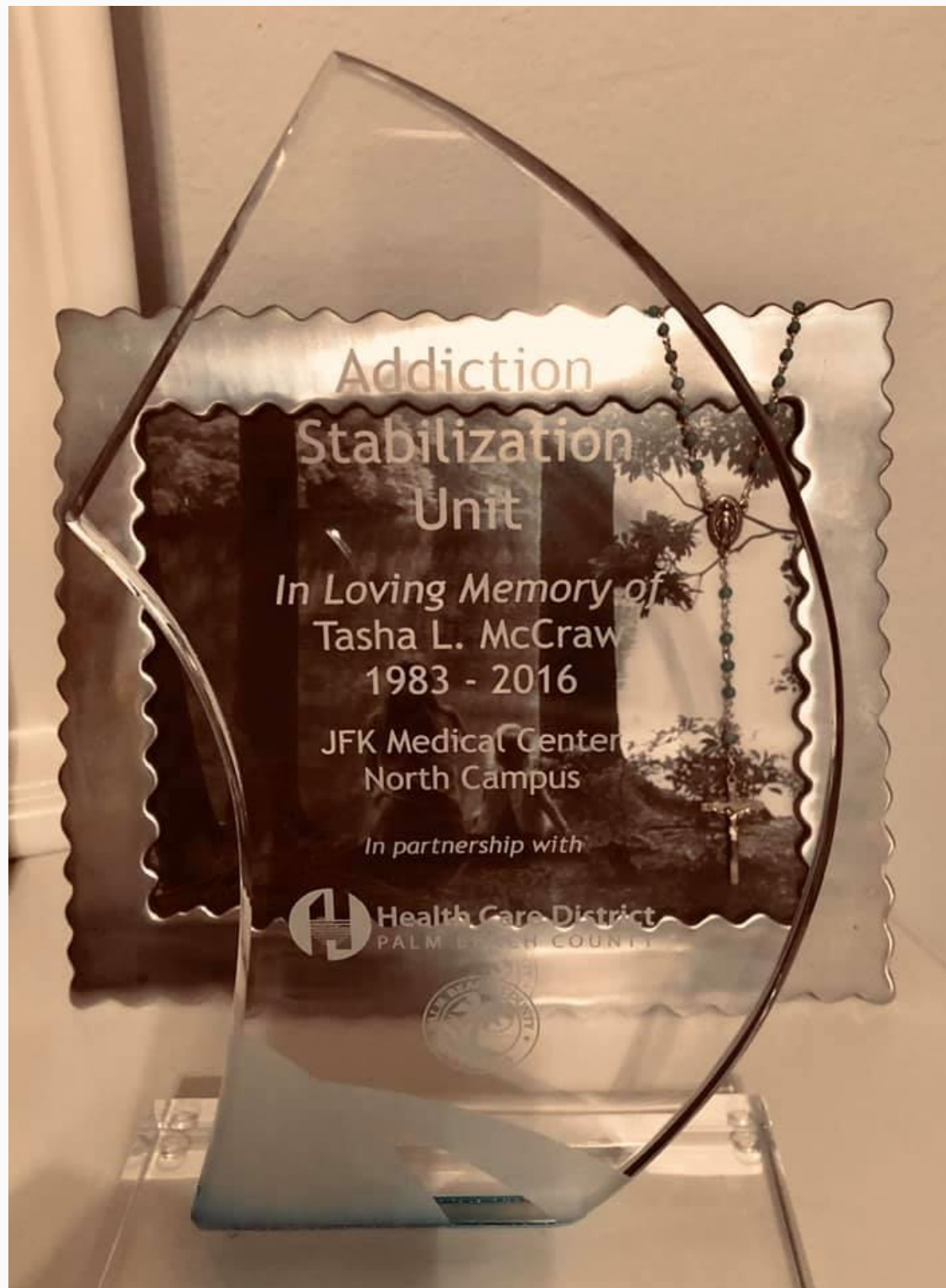
On February 5th, we cut the ribbon on Palm Beach County's first Addiction Stabilization Unit, a true public/private partnership that will provide medical detox, mental health counseling, assistance locating treatment programs, medical care, and other services a patient may need.

And we memorialized it in honor of the inspiration behind it - Tasha.

Thank you to everyone who made this happen.

Johnnie Easton, a promise filled.





State Road 7

I am happy to report that the State Road 7 extension projects were voted back into the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by a 16-5 vote at the February 20th Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) meeting!

Thank you to all the members of the public who came to the meeting to express your strong support and share why the extension is so desperately needed! We must remain vigilant as we continue to push for this road to be built.

Fire Rescue Station 22 Grand Opening

In 2014 on the campaign trail, I made a few promises to our brave firefighters and to the Acreage:

1. That I would fight to get the men and women at Station 22 out of a strip mall and into a new station.

- On January 9th, we opened a beautiful new house #22, three years ahead of schedule!

2. Make sure that Station 22 was fully staffed at five firefighters instead of the three they had.

- We now have six firefighters at 22!

3. Make sure we returned to having 3 firefighters on every Rescue Truck (ambulance).

- In 2019, we added the requirement back into our comprehensive plan, and we are hiring as fast as we can to bring everyone up to three!

4. Make sure our stations are built and/or remodeled in a way to reduce the risk of cancer.

- The new 22 meets all the current cancer prevention recommendations! And the recent remodel at Station 19 does, too!

5. Make sure that our firefighters, who are at a significantly higher risk of developing cancer due to on-the-job exposure, are properly cared for in the event they get diagnosed with cancer.

- Last spring, Palm Beach County became the FIRST county in Florida to include a cancer presumption clause in its contract with the IAFF! The State Legislature then followed our lead and passed cancer presumption statewide.

Promises made. Promises kept.



Civil Justice Subcommittee Testimony

On January 22, I testified before the Florida House of Representatives Civil Justice Subcommittee, defending the right of cities and counties to sue big corporations over the opioid epidemic. Lawmakers are debating whether to limit local governments' ability to file suit against big companies such as opioid and vaping manufacturers. Over the past ten years, Palm Beach County has spent millions combating the opioid crisis. It doesn't look like preemption legislation on this will pass this year, but I am sure our fight is not over.



Coffee with the Commissioner

On February 12, I held a Coffee with the Commissioner event in Belle Glade. Friends from Belle Glade, South Bay, Lake Harbor, and Pahokee joined me at McDonald's to chat. I appreciated hearing their thoughts, particularly the concerns about State Road 80 lighting. I provided updates on County support for the Glades, the Glades Regional Master Plan, the Rural Development Grant opportunity, and an update on the Okeechobee Center. Thank you to PBSO for attending, and to McDonald's for providing coffee to the constituents! I look forward to doing more of these throughout District 6!



Place of Hope Illumination Award

Place of Hope is one of Florida's most respected child welfare community organizations. But they are also one of the leaders on illuminating the hidden atrocity of modern day slavery, the sex trafficking of children and young adults. It was an honor to be among such a prestigious group of leaders receiving an Illumination Award at the 2nd Annual Human Trafficking Prevention & Education Luncheon on January 28th.

My team at Palm Beach County, including Victim Services, Code Enforcement, County Administration, and Fire Rescue, is the reason why we've been at the forefront of this issue for the past few years. Every County employee

receives mandatory training on recognizing the signs/symptoms of sex and labor trafficking. They then implement this in their daily duties serving the people and visitors of Palm Beach County.

I encourage you to please pay attention to those around you. If you see something, say something by calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 (TTY 711) or Text 233733. A child's life - a person's life - depends on it.



BCC Briefs

Some highlights of recent Board of County Commission actions:

Homelessness/John Prince Park – directed staff to develop and present a written action plan for the assessment of homeless people living in John Prince Park and approved a temporary homeless shelter at the former county stockade.

Youth homelessness – accepted a HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant agreement in an amount up to \$147,970, to support development of a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in Palm Beach County. Two full-time equivalent grant-funded positions with a required 25-percent in-kind match of \$36,993 were approved. These positions will be eliminated if federal funding is discontinued. No additional county funds are required

Project Jacobson – approved a cash grant of up to \$1.9 million over a 10-year period and an ad valorem tax exemption of up to \$400,000 over a 10-year period for Project Jacobson. The company is considering locating a manufacturing facility in Belle Glade, investing \$45.5 million to acquire approximately 85 acres of land and construct

and equip a 140,000-square-foot facility. The project would create 200 new jobs at an annualized average wage of \$38,000 and an annualized median wage of \$33,000 over a five-year period. The estimated five-year economic impact is \$272 million.

HOME – approved five HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) awards totaling \$2.55 million for loans to developers of affordable housing. These are federal grant funds that require a 25 percent local match provided by state SHIP grant funds: 1) \$550,000 to build Flagler Station, a 94-unit multifamily rental project, including 10 HOME-assisted units in West Palm Beach; 2) \$1 million to build Quiet Meadows, a 132-unit senior and disabled multifamily rental project, including 20 HOME-assisted units in Belle Glade; 3) \$500,000 to build Heron Estates, a 79-unit townhome-style rental project, including 10 HOME-assisted units in Riviera Beach; 4) \$185,000 to construct two HOME-assisted single-family homes located at 3974 Dale Road in Palm Springs; and 5) \$315,672 to construct three HOME-assisted single-family homes in western Palm Beach County, one in Belle Glade and two in Pahokee.

Legislative agenda – approved the proposed 2020 federal legislative agenda to be lobbied during the upcoming 2020 federal legislative session in Washington. New agenda items include net neutrality, the Davis Bacon Act, coral reef protection and restoration, Lake Okeechobee operations, derelict vessels, Next Generation 911, opportunity zone designations with the US Treasury, veterans homelessness, the Mental Health Parity and Substance Use Disorder Act, e-rate and universal funding.

Memorial – directed staff to prepare a resolution to rename a section of State Road 715 near the Palm Beach County Glades Airport in Pahokee in memory of Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Wallace and Deputy Sheriff Donta J. Manuel who were killed in the line of duty in 2007.

Upcoming Dates

- BCC Meeting. Tuesday, March 10, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.
- BCC Meeting. Tuesday, March 17, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.
- BCC Zoning Meeting. Thursday, March 26, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.

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