



Glades PATCH Board Meeting

November 18, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Held via Zoom and in person

Board Members Present:

Jerry Leakey - Legal Aid Society	jleakey@legalaidpbc.org
Marilu Baltazar - The Glades Initiative	mbaltazar@gladesinitiative.org
Annie Ifill - Healthier Glades	annie.glades@htpbc.org
Marcia Bahia - PBSO	bahiam@pbso.org
Dr. Lisa Kirk Wiese - FAU College of Nursing	Lwiese@health.fau.edu
Patrice Schroeder - 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	patrice.schroeder@211pbtcoast.org
Sharonda Crawford - Families First	scrawford@familiesfirst.org
Ron Dixon – Palm Beach County Public Safety	rdixon@pbc.gov

Guests Present:

Catherine Figueroa—The Glades Initiative	figueroa.catherine5503@gmail.com
Andres Torrens—Trustbridge	atorrens@empathhealth.org
Elea Dean--Brides at Pahokee	edean@cpsfl.org
Dulce Diaz--The Glades Initiative	ddiaz@gladesinitiative.org
Susan Foley--Palm Beach County Behavioral Health	SusanFoley@PBCBHC.org
Lindsey Estinfort--Bridges at Belle Glade	
Linquetter Jolly—Foundcare	ljolly@foundcare.org
Lashaunda Harris--Federation of Families of Florida	lashaund@flfamilies.net
Sheree Wolliston – AHA	sheree.wolliston@heart.org
Perla Lazaro—CareerSource	plazaro@careersource.com
Craig Grant—The Lord’s Place	cgrant@thelordsplace.org
Jeffrey Lucas—CARD	jlucas11@fau.edu
Maria Granado—Center Campus Farm Worker Center	
Denise Schoburgh-- Hospice	
Addy Guerra—PBCBHC	addys@pbcbhc.org
William Freeman—People of Purpose	wfreeman@peopleofpurposefl.org

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- 1. Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Marilu Baltazar at 9:03 AM.

2. **Introductions:** All attendees (in-person and virtual) introduced themselves.
3. **Approval of November 18th AGENDA:** Marcia Bahia made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Annie Ifill.
4. **Approval of the October 21, 2025, MINUTES:** Elea Dean made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Annie Ifill.
5. **SPEAKERS:** November Speakers were not present.
6. **No New Business.**
7. **No Old Business.**
8. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Nominating Committee:** Nothing to report.
 - b. **Communication Committee:** Annie presented a list of PATCH members, highlighting the need for updates and additions, including Franklin Vaquero and Mr. Grant. She also requested that anyone interested in presenting at future meetings notify her, as up to three presenters could be accommodated.
 - c. **Teen Parent Connection Committee:** Nothing to report.
 - d. **Health & Wellness Committee:** Lisa provided updates on upcoming health and wellness events, including a successful event at Silvertree and future events at Glazed Initiative and the City of South Bay. Dean reported a successful CARE Dad event, noting a significant increase in community participation from the previous month. Lisa also shared information about a webinar on rural health and encouraged participation.
 - e. **Policies & Procedures Committee:** Nothing to report.
9. **Announcements**
 - a) Partnership with Silver Tree for health screening and Lakeside Medical Center's mobile unit visits.
 - b) Marcia announced an upcoming community fellowship event on December 21st in Belle Glades, while Annie shared her upcoming presentation with the Ripple Foundation on rural health stewardship.
 - c) Jeffrey promoted a Tackle for Autism Family Fun Day at Florida Atlantic Card on the 22nd, which has opened registration for an additional 300 participants.
 - d) Jeffrey discussed water safety training efforts in the Glades area, including presentations at libraries and availability of resources like Project Lifesaver and Safety Boxes for families with children on the autism spectrum.
 - e) Lisa clarified that while Alzheimer's wandering is not a significant issue in the area, the Alzheimer's Communicator offers a watch alert program for day center attendees in Pahokee.
 - f) Brittany introduced a study seeking to recruit Hispanic and Latino adults 18 and older in Florida to examine sleep's impact on cardiovascular health, with plans to enroll 230 volunteers.
 - g) Craig Grant introduced efforts to increase presence for homeless services and benefit applications.
 - h) Annie provided recommendations for community engagement, including setting up tables at local spots like the Lighthouse Cafe and Belle Glade Library, and participating in health outreach events.

- i) Lisa and Brittany discussed promoting a Spanish-language resource, with plans to distribute flyers at Silver Tree.
- j) Addys announced a school bus media contest offering scholarships.
- k) Sheree announced the Healthy Communities Council meeting, focusing on metabolic syndrome and its impact on communities, particularly in the Glades area. She highlighted their efforts in raising awareness and providing education through outreach events and collaborations. Sheree also mentioned the continuation of work in rural communities through the Rural at Heart program, despite the loss of AmeriCorps support, with new service member positions available at Empower Healthcare and Florida Community Health Centers.
- l) Sheree announced plans to finalize and distribute community health education materials.
- m) Sheldon shared updates on two programs: a crisis stabilization and reentry initiative for individuals with mental health and drug use histories in the Glades area, and a planned mental health pop-up event at Pahokee Marina.
- n) Michelle promoted FoundCare's World AIDS Day event at Lighthouse on December 1st, which will feature medication information and educational activities.
- o) Ms. Dean from Bridges at Pahokee invited new members for families with children aged 0-8 and pregnant moms, and announced a turkey giveaway event in partnership with Marketing Mission Matters Incorporated.
- p) TrustBridge is organizing several community events, including a free food distribution with a bounce house and pop-up shop offering household and clothing donations on November 22nd at Bridges in Pahokee.
- q) Andres Torrance announced the success of their Camp Good Grief program and plans for a smaller-scale therapeutic horse event at Vinceremos in Loxahatchee, likely during spring.
- r) TrustBridge is hosting an angel ceremony on December 6th in Lake Park and a workshop on December 9th at the library to introduce bereavement and grief care services, with the workshop focusing on navigating grief during the holidays.
- s) Lisa discussed the importance of including underrepresented communities in research, highlighting how studies of diverse populations have led to significant medical discoveries, such as the reaction of African American males to ACE inhibitors. She emphasized that social engagement, rather than income or education, can influence cognitive health.
- t) Dulce announced a community potluck on December 1st, including a gift exchange, and shared details about a Thanksgiving celebration and a list of locations offering turkeys or gift cards.
- u) The group discussed the Glades Community Updates newsletter, which disseminates information to over 2,500 people, and Annie updated her contact number. The conversation ended with holiday wishes and plans for future events.

The next PATCH meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2025. This meeting will be both in-person and via zoom.