



Message from our CEO

We closed January here at ACTS with my semi-annual Town Hall Meeting for the workforce. They are always well attended and a pleasure to engage directly with our most valuable asset – our amazing staff. The biggest news shared at the meeting is our plans to add a DCF Level II, adult residential program in Tampa. Also, I shared news of the co-location of our two housing shelter programs to the Drew Park campus starting March 2. This move will allow for staff to work together to provide the best possible support for residents in this 90-day program. I was happy to share with our team the status of the construction for the first psycho-social clubhouse for Hillsborough County, which is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2023. We are excited to provide this much-needed resource to our community - if you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a member of the Clubhouse, please email clubhouse@actsfl.org. Finally, we discussed the upcoming Therapeutic Group Home. This new child welfare program is a new line of business for ACTS in Hillsborough County. There is a fair amount of excitement amongst the team in regard to our growth and continued success, which would not be possible without the hard work of this remarkable team. ACTS remains committed to providing the most comprehensive array of treatment services to the most vulnerable individuals in the communities we serve, now more than ever. I feel that commitment shines through in our dedicated team members and for that, I am most grateful.



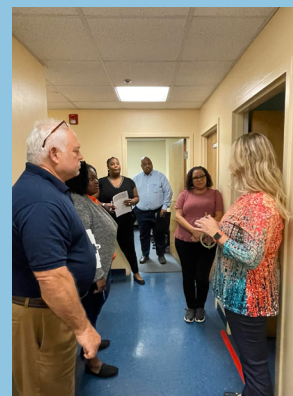
Asha Pereyra
ACTS CEO

Good News from Housing



Program Administrator for Housing Hayward Davis shared the good news that one of the housing shelter program clients moved into a brand new apartment. According to Hayward, this person came to ACTS with NO income, NO work experience...and just out of prison. Hayward thinks this is one of the biggest success stories he has seen at the program ever. Photographed in the new apartment here is Lonnie James, the Resource Coordinator of the housing shelter program, after the resident got the keys to the place.

ACTS Starts CRT For 2023



ACTS began its Comprehensive Review Team (CRT) process for the year in January at the Hillsborough Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). Team members from different programs and departments visit each program during the year to perform an internal audit to ensure we are providing the highest quality of care while meeting all health and safety standards. This is a great way to prepare for future external audits and surveys. All locations are visited during the calendar year by CRT, and afterwards each program receives a detailed report of its findings. Here the CRT goes on a tour of the JAC led by Kerry Bittrich, Program Director.

Meet Hayward Davis

Hayward Davis is the second longest tenured employee at ACTS and will have 35 years of service this upcoming September. Through the years, Hayward has held a variety of positions with the agency, and currently serves as Program Administrator for Housing. In this role, he oversees all of ACTS Housing Programs including housing service program shelters, permanent supportive housing, scattered sites and more. “ACTS houses more than 250 people on any given day across Hillsborough County and Polk County.” Through the years, Hayward said the biggest change he has noticed is the development of different programs and services at ACTS. “ACTS has you covered coming and going – we offer outpatient, detox, residential treatment – and once you complete the program and need housing, ACTS has that too – we have all of the bases covered.” ACTS works closely with the Housing Continuum of Care in the areas it serves, as well as other agencies. “For our permanent housing programs, we get clients through THHI, but for our Bridge shelter, we have people come straight to our program on Nebraska Ave on Tuesday morning to get more information and get on the wait list if we don’t have a bed available that day.” Hayward recently shared a story about a resident that went through ACTS shelter program and transitioned to permanent housing featured above in the newsletter. Hayward started at ACTS working in the youth division and he said that some of the highlights of his career is seeing the youth become successful after completing the program. Thank you for all that you have done for ACTS through the years, Hayward!



Heart Health and Effects of Illegal Drugs

February is National Heart Month, so we want to highlight some adverse cardiovascular effects from using illegal drugs, ranging from abnormal heart rate to heart attacks. Injecting illegal drugs also can lead to cardiovascular problems, such as collapsed veins and bacterial infections of the blood vessels and heart valves. Many drugs, such as cocaine, heroin and various forms of amphetamine, affect the central nervous system and can alter a user’s consciousness. In addition to addiction, the side effects and risks associated with use of these drugs include:

- changes in body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure
- headaches, abdominal pain and nausea
- impaired judgment and greater risk of some sexually transmitted infections
- the possibility of added substances (such as talc, poisons, herbicides or other particles) which may cause a toxic reaction
- heart attacks, seizures and respiratory arrest

If you or a loved one need help with illegal drugs, call ACTS at 813.246.4899.

For More Information

ACTS, Agency for Community Treatment Services, Inc., is a non-profit serving the Tampa Bay area since 1978. As a comprehensive, community-based behavioral health organization, ACTS mission is to apply the best of contemporary physical and behavioral health interventions and social support services available to assist individuals and families to engage and succeed in recovery. Call us today to find out how we can help you - 813.246.4899 or visit us online at www.actsfl.org.

