



Message from our CEO

As the summer comes to an end and we approach the start of a new school year, it is hard to believe we are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases, we find ourselves returning to universal masking at all locations regardless of vaccination status for all employees and individuals served. In other news, we look forward to our new partnership with Tampa Police Department – check out the story later in our newsletter for more details. This Law Enforcement Co-Responder Pilot Program will utilize a Crisis Intervention Response Team to assist high need individuals in the community. Licensed clinicians will accompany law enforcement officers on crisis calls. As an essential agency, we are proud to offer our community a full array of behavioral health services. Please continue to stay safe and well.



Asha Terminello
ACTS CEO

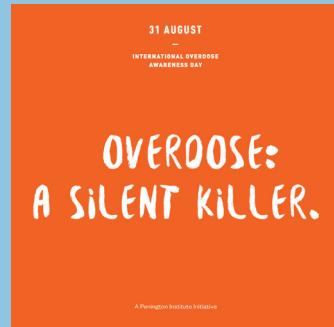
Do You Know What an Overdose Looks Like?

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day. [93,331 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2020](#),

including illicit drugs and prescription opioids—compared to 16,849 drug overdose deaths in 1999. Here are common signs of overdose for opioid drugs:

- No response to stimuli
- Shallow, labored or no breathing
- Cannot be woken up
- Snoring or gurgling
- Blue/grey lips or finger tips
- Floppy arms or legs

Overdose symptoms vary depending on the substance used. Click to see common overdose signs for [alcohol](#), [depressants](#), [opioids](#), [psychoactive substances](#) and [stimulants](#). If you or a loved one have a substance use issue, call us at 813.246.4899 for help.



Meet Lori Provenzano

In August, [Amethyst Respite Center](#) (ARC) celebrates its 12th anniversary from its initial opening. Started as initially as a place for law enforcement to bring people who were inebriated to dry out, the ARC has evolved through the years, said Program Director Lori Provenzano. “Originally, the ARC was used for police to bring people to avoid taking them to hospitals and other stabilization units and clients stayed for 3-10 days,” she said. “Now, the ARC is licensed as a Level IV Residential Treatment program, so we typically have clients stay for 30 – 45 days getting the help they need in a safe environment.” In the past, people had to be brought in by law enforcement, but now anyone can admit to the ARC which currently has 26 beds in a secure facility. In addition to the traditional ARC program, Lori oversees the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program and the Comprehensive Opiate Abuse Program, which is a partnership with Tampa Police Department. To find out additional services available through the ARC, [click here](#).



Tampa Police Department Partners with ACTS on Behavioral Health Unit

On July 15, Tampa City Council approved a contractual agreement between ACTS and the Tampa Police Department to move forward with a Behavioral Health Unit. The unit will include four officers and four mental health professionals, where they will work in teams to respond to mental health calls. This is a one-year pilot program with the anticipation of expansion in the future. The unit is still searching for additional licensed mental health professionals to join the team.



Check out this news stories that appeared on [WFLA](#) and [Bay News 9](#) talking about the unit and recruitment of the licensed clinicians. To apply, [go here](#).

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.acstsfl.org.