Agency for Community Treatment Services E-Newsletter

County Commissioner Visits Keystone

Pinellas County Commissioner Kathleen Peters, as well as other representatives from Pinellas County, toured ACTS Keystone Adult Residential Treatment Facility in Tarpon Springs in April. For 30 years, ACTS has run a treatment program at this location. Currently, up to 60 clients can receive both short term and long term treatment services at this location. "It was such a privilege to show

Commissioner Peters our Keystone program," said Asha Terminello, ACTS Chief Operating Officer. "We have new ideas on how to increase treatment services for this area, and can't wait to share with the community our expansion at Keystone." To find out more about the Keystone program, <u>click here</u>.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health conditions have 10 common warning signs that should be taken seriously. If you or someone you know experiences one or more of these signs, you should talk with trusted family, peers or mentors and seek assistance. ACTS is here to help – call us at 813.246.4899.

- 1. Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks
- 2. Severe, out-of-control risk-taking behaviors
- 3. Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason
- 4. Not eating, throwing up or using laxatives to lose weight
- 5. Seeing, hearing or believing things that are not real
- 6. Repeatedly and excessively using drugs or alcohol
- 7. Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality or sleeping habits
- 8. Extreme difficulty in concentrating or staying still
- 9. Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities
- 10. Trying to harm oneself or planning to do so

- Source, NAMI.

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May 2019

Meet Louise Solomon

Ever have to take care of 25+ teenagers at the same time? Welcome to Louise Solomon's world. Louise serves as the Youth Residential Programs Nurse, a position she has held at ACTS for 10 years now. She works at ACTS two different youth residential treatment programs – one in Mulberry, the other in Thonotosassa. Clients in these programs have a substance use issue and possibly a co-occurring mental health disorder. "I work directly with the youth on a daily basis," said Louise. "They help keep me young and in the know." For each resident, Louise works with them on their individualized needs. "I check in on the

residents on a daily basis, administer medicine, help with new admissions and then help with discharging and closing out files – it keeps me busy." To find out more about what Louise thinks has changed through her time at ACTS, <u>click here.</u>

USF Piloting Program at ACTS Outpatient Detox

Addiction treatment centers have long had trouble retaining patients in medication assisted treatment. Even if they are motivated, many have difficulty with transportation and cannot afford the cost of medications, which often leads to premature discontinuation. That's why the University of South Florida is exploring a new way of delivering medication assisted

treatment that can be accessed remotely – MySafeRx. Kathleen Moore, PhD from USF is recruiting clients with opioid addiction from the ACTS outpatient detox location in Tampa, the only locked detox facility in Tampa that also accepts patients admitted under the Marchman Act. ACTS detox is an ideal setting for this research because it is state-funded and provides a secured locked detox environment for some of the county's most vulnerable clients. To find out more about this program, <u>click here</u>.

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 so-cial 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.





