

In this Issue

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 President's Message | 4 JTCHS Expands School Based Health Services |
| Teaching and Research Annex Opening & Residency Program Launch | Back to School with JTCHS |
| 2 JTCHS Clinic set to open in Liberty City | 5 Spotlight: Joanne Pierre, RN, M.A, BSN |
| Stay Safe in the Summer Heat | JTCHS is Now an Age Friendly Health System |
| 3 National Health Center Week | Mental Health Matters! |
| Your Smile is an Important Part of Your Overall Health | 6 Events Snapshots Health |
| | 7 Wellness Calendar |

President's Message

Greetings,

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Community Health Newsletter. Thank you for your continued trust in the Jessie Trice Community Health System.

This past quarter marked a season of growth for JTCHS. We celebrated the opening of Serenity Liberty Square, where a new JTCHS clinic is set to launch later this year. We also unveiled the Annie R. Neasman Teaching and Research Annex and welcomed our inaugural class of Family Medicine Residents, important steps toward building a healthier future for the communities we serve. In addition, we received funding to expand our school-based health services across Miami-Dade County Public Schools and charter schools.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, our commitment to care and to providing you with top-notch, accessible health services remains strong. We encourage you to stay up to date with regular medical and dental visits, and stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, and X @JessieTriceCHS for health tips, events and more.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for being part of the JTCHS family.

Be Well!

Ryan R. Hawkins
President and CEO, JTCHS



Top News

JTCHS Opens New Research and Teaching Annex and Launches Family Medicine Residency Program



Photo by Ricardo Reyes, Sonshine Communications

The Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS), in partnership with the Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation (JTCHF), marked a new chapter in their commitment to advance primary care with the grand opening of the **Annie R. Neasman Teaching and Research Annex** and the official launch of the **JTCHS Family Medicine Residency Program**.

The residency program will be housed at the new Annie R. Neasman Teaching and Research Annex, located at our Dr. Fatima Zafar Health & Wellness Center. Named in honor of former JTCHS President and CEO Annie R. Neasman, the annex will serve as the hub for the Family Medicine Residency Program. It will also support ongoing research and quality improvement

initiatives, including projects focused on food security, diabetes care, hypertension management and other vital health needs.

The program's inaugural class features four outstanding residents who will receive hands-on clinical experience. This program is made possible through strong collaboration with multiple esteemed community partners, including the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Holtz Children's Hospital, Larkin University, Health Choice Network, Miami Jewish Health and many other longstanding community specialists.



Photo by Ricardo Reyes, Sonshine Communications
The inaugural class of the JTCHS Family Medicine Residency Program, from left, Dr. Sarah Wahman, Dr. Bethly Aubourg, Dr. Taelor Highland, and Dr. Mohammad Ferdjullah.

"This represents a major milestone in building a healthier tomorrow for the communities we serve."

Ryan R. Hawkins, President & CEO of JTCHS

JTCHS Set to Open New Center in Liberty City



(L-R) HUD Secretary Scott Turner with JTCHS President and CEO, Ryan R. Hawkins.

Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS), Florida's first federally qualified health center, will soon open a new clinic at Serenity Liberty Square, part of the ongoing Liberty Square redevelopment.

On April 10, JTCHS President and CEO Ryan R. Hawkins, joined HUD Secretary Scott Turner, Miami-Dade County officials, community leaders and residents for the serenity ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The upcoming JTCHS clinic will offer primary care and connect patients with specialized services, such as dental care. By bringing these essential services closer to home and placing a provider within walking distance, JTCHS aims to



HUD secretary Scott Turner (center), Miami-Dade County leaders and community members during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Serenity.

make it easier for Liberty City residents to access the care they need and deserve.

As we prepare to welcome the community to our new clinic, we encourage everyone to stay tuned to our social media channels for updates on opening dates and more information about this new facility. We look forward to serving the residents of Liberty City!

Stay Safe in the Summer Heat

Summer is here, bringing sunshine and plenty of opportunities for outdoor fun. However, with rising temperatures comes a higher risk of heat-related health issues. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause heat related illnesses and worsen existing medical conditions, making it crucial to take the right precautions. Here are some essential tips to help you stay healthy and safe this season.

Stay Hydrated – Drink plenty of water throughout the day to help your body stay cool and function properly. Proper hydration regulates your body temperature and lowers the risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises avoiding drinks high in caffeine, sugar, or alcohol, which can dehydrate you. To check your hydration, a simple method is to observe the color of your urine; if it is light yellow or clear, this signifies that you are well-hydrated.

Protect Yourself from the Sun – Wear lightweight, long-sleeved clothing and stay in the shade when possible. Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15+ every two hours, and wear UVA/UVB-blocking sunglasses for full protection.

Stay cool and safe this summer!

National Health Center Week 2025

National Health Center Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the vital role Community Health Centers play in strengthening the health of our nation. This year's theme, **"America's Health Centers: Celebrating Past, Present, and Future,"** honors the legacy of health centers, their commitment to innovation, and their vision for building a healthier future. Each day of NHCW will highlight a unique focus area:

Aug. 3: Theme Day

Aug. 4: Staff Appreciation Day

Aug. 5: Patient Appreciation Day

Aug. 6: Health Conditions Focus

Aug. 7: Population Focus

Aug. 8: Partner Appreciation Day

Aug. 9: Gratitude and Future Vision

Community Health Centers are the backbone of our nation's primary healthcare system. We provide high-quality, comprehensive, and integrated primary care. We focus on meeting the specific health needs of the communities we serve.

Source: healthcenterweek.org



Your Smile is an Important Part of Your Overall Health

Taking care of your smile is about more than appearance; it's an important part of your overall health. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), good oral hygiene can help prevent cavities, gum disease, and other health problems. Here are a few simple ways to keep your smile healthy:



- **Brush twice a day:** Brush your teeth twice a day for at least two minutes to help strengthen enamel and prevent tooth decay.
- **Floss Daily:** Flossing removes food particles and plaque that your toothbrush can't reach.
- **Limit sugary beverages and snacks:** Plaque bacteria use sugar for food and produce acids that can cause cavities.
- **Visit our dentist regularly:** Routine checkups help catch issues early before they become painful or require more extensive and costly treatments. Schedule your appointment today at the JTCHS Dental Facility and take the first step toward a healthier smile. Call us at **305-637-6400** to schedule your appointment.

Small habits make a big difference!

Expanding Health Services to 60 Miami-Dade Public and Charter Schools

Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS) is proud to expand its School Health Services to **60 Miami-Dade County Public and Charter Schools** starting in the 2025–2026 school year. This five-year expansion will bring vital physical, mental, and behavioral health services to thousands of students and families.

In partnership with The Children's Trust (TCT), the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD), and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), JTCHS has steadily grown its impact since 2006. From an initial 12 schools to 40 by 2023, the year

our School Health Services Program received the coveted Program of the Year Award from TCT.

The JTCHS School Health Services program places a multidisciplinary team of nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed clinical social workers in schools to deliver essential services. These include primary care, health screenings, mental and behavioral health support, nutrition counseling, first aid, chronic disease management, and immunizations. To view a complete list of participating schools, please visit jtchs.org/locations.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Prepare Your Little Ones for a Healthy Back to School with JTCHS

August 14, 2025, will mark the first day of school for thousands of students in Miami-Dade County. If you are a parent, you know how busy the back-to-school season can be, from shopping for supplies to picking out the perfect first-day outfit or uniform. But amid the hustle, don't forget one of the most important items on your checklist: your child's annual checkup and immunizations.

These visits do more than meet school requirements. A physical exam gives the pediatrician the chance to assess your child's overall health, including emotional

and developmental milestones, while vaccines help protect them from preventable illnesses, keeping them safe all year long.

At JTCHS, we're here to support your family. Our health services include comprehensive physical exams, vision and dental screenings, and required immunization all designed to give your child a healthy start to the new school year. For appointments, call 305-637-6400 or visit JTCHS.org for more information on services.

SPOTLIGHT

Joanne Pierre, RN, M.A, BSN /
School Health Director



Met Joanne Pierre, director of the School Health Program and a valued member of the JTCHS family for more than 10 years.

She oversees 40 school-based health suites, including two primary care sites and a mobile health unit, serving students throughout Miami-Dade County. With more than 27 years of pediatric nursing experience, she brings both expertise and compassion to her role. Joanne holds a Master of Arts in advanced practice nursing and a Bachelor of Science in nursing, both from New York University. She served as vice chair of the School Health Advisory Committee in 2021 and was appointed chair in 2022. Her leadership plays a key role in JTCHS's efforts to strengthen health outcomes for children and families in our community.

JTCHS is now an Age-Friendly Health System!

Jessie Trice Community Health System is proud to be recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. This national honor highlights our commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-based care tailored to the needs of older adults. At JTCHS, we've adopted the 4Ms framework of age-friendly care: **What Matters, Medication, Mentation and Mobility** — to ensure every senior receives

care aligned with their goals, safety, and well-being. Our integrated care team, including community health workers, peer mentors and medical scribes, helps support patients at every step. To learn more about our approach to senior care, visit the Chief Medical Officer's Corner on the JTCHS website.



Mental Health Matters

Although **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** is recognized in **July**, and Suicide

Prevention Month is recognized in September, at Jessie Trice Community Health System, mental and behavioral health is a priority, all year long. Our expert team of licensed counselors, therapists, and psychiatrists provides compassionate, evidence-based care for children, adolescents, and adults. From outpatient counseling and substance use treatment to school-based support, our programs meet diverse needs with a holistic approach. We also offer behavioral health assessments,

diagnoses and treatment for childhood and adolescent disorders, individual counseling and more. Call us at 305-637-6400 to schedule an appointment.

Event Snapshots!

Here's a look at what we've been up to:

31st Annual Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Umbrella Awards & Recognition Luncheon



Photo by the Metropolitan Dade County Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.,

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Metropolitan Dade County Section, Inc., honored our President and CEO, Ryan R. Hawkins, along with other "Men of Honor" at the 31st Annual Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Umbrella Awards & Recognition Luncheon, held on May 5 at the InterContinental Hotel in Doral. Pictured here is Ryan R. Hawkins (left) with Metropolitan Dade County Section NCNW President Shaquellia M. Holmes (center) and fellow "Men of Honor" Umbrella Luncheon honorees.



Photo by the Metropolitan Dade County Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.,

JTCHS executive leadership and board members, from left: Dr. Fabian Thurston, Jasmine Vargas-Alexander, Sherwood DuBose, Deborah Rice-Lamar, and Leonora Yates, at the 31st Annual Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Umbrella Awards & Recognition Luncheon.

Adopt an Employee Initiative



Photos by @prosperitysocial via Facebook

Melonie Georges, senior revenue cycle manager at JTCHS, is pictured with a summer intern participating in the Adopt an Employee initiative, organized by Prosperity Social & Community Development Group, Inc. JTCHS is proud to support this effort to provide mentorship and real-world experience to future professionals.

Community Health Fair at Ophelia E. Brown-Lawson Head Start Center

Photos via Sydoney Hepburn



Dr. Fabian Thurston, EVP/Chief Operating Officer of JTCHS, engages with families during the Community Health Fair held at the Ophelia E. Brown-Lawson Head Start Center in Miami Gardens this May.

Families received care and resources aboard JTCHS's Pediatric Medical Mobile Unit during the recent Community Health Fair at Ophelia E. Brown-Lawson Head Start Center.



The JTCHS team pictured with the Pediatric Medical Mobile Unit at the recent Community Health Fair held at Ophelia E. Brown-Lawson Head Start Center in Miami Gardens.

Health & Wellness Calendar

Here are some special dates to call your attention from July to September 2025 to keep you in the know.

JULY

National Minority Mental Health Month

UV Awareness Month

4 Independence Day

28 World Hepatitis Day

AUGUST

National Breastfeeding Month

National Eye Exam Month

1-7 World Breastfeeding Week

3-9 National Health Center Week

SEPTEMBER

National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Healthy Aging Month

1 Labor Day

25 World Pharmacists Day



Jessie Trice
Community Health
Foundation, Inc.

"Reaching the Community through Partnerships"

The **Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation** is committed to expanding access to quality care where it's needed most. Your support powers innovative programs, vital services, and community outreach.



Help us Build
a Healthier
Tomorrow!

Visit JTCHF.org to learn more.



Visit us at one of these key locations:

JTCHS – Dr. Fatima Zafar Health & Wellness Center

5361 NW 22nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Barbara J. Jordan Health & Wellness Center

20612 NW 27th Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

JTCHS – Children's Wellness Center

1190 NW 95th Street
Suite 304
Miami, FL 33150

JTCHS – Dental Health Center

5607 NW 27th Avenue
Suite 2
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Health Center at North Shore

1190 NW 95th Street
Suite 100
Miami, FL 33150

JTCHS – Flamingo Center

901 E. 10th Avenue
Bay #39
Hialeah, FL 33010

Frederica Wilson/Juanita Mann Health Center

2520 NW 75th Street
Miami, FL 33147

Jefferson Reaves House

Women's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center
2985 NW 54th Street
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Opa-Locka Youth and Children's Wellness Center

490 Opa-Locka Boulevard
Suite 100
Opa-Locka, FL 33054

JTCHS – Main Pharmacy Services

5607 NW 27th Ave
Suite 1
Miami, FL 33142

Mobile Unit #1

5361 NW 22nd Ave
Miami, FL 33142

OFFICERS

Irene Taylor-Wooten
Board Chair

Paul Roberts
Board Vice-Chair

Carla Jones-Brown
Treasurer

Angel D. Lightfoot
Secretary

Isabella Rosete
Member At-Large

BOARD MEMBERS

Olga Connor
Sherwood DuBose

Pedro Gassant

Clara Gonzalez

Ivette Klein

Thamara Labrousse

Tishria Mindingall

Sherkila Shaw

Robert Thomas

Terrell West

Lenora Yates

David Williams Jr.

Ryan R. Hawkins, MSW, MPA, MBA
President & CEO, Ex-Officio



Corporate Office

5607 NW 27th Avenue, Suite 1
Miami, Florida 33142
305-805-1700



@JessieTriceCHS

JTCHS.org

WE KNOW PHARMACY...

- GET YOUR PRESCRIPTION FILLED BY YOUR PROVIDER
- FREE HOME DELIVERY
- SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS
- AUTO REFILLS
- EMAIL AND TEXT REMINDERS

JTCHS – Barbara J. Jordan Health & Wellness Center
20612 NW 27th Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33056
305-835-1615

JTCHS – Corporate Office Complex
5607 NW 27th Ave Suite 1,
Miami, Florida 33142
305-499-1928

JTCHS – Flamingo Center
901 E 10th Ave #39,
Hialeah, FL 33010
305-835-1578

JESSIE TRICE COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM
Since 1967