As I type these words, Florida has a record number of new COVID-19 cases. One projection model says the Sunshine State has “all the markings of the next large epicenter of coronavirus transmission” and risks being “the worst it’s ever been.”

By the time you read these words, things could be much worse. Or a little better. Or about the same. We just don’t know. That’s the way it’s been for much of the year.

But here’s what I do know: Whether the numbers go up, down, or remain the same, our team at DLC is ready. It’s an unwritten motto around here: We are always ready to meet the behavioral health needs of our community.

We launched our Virtual Care Center early during the pandemic, so we could continue serving neighbors via online counseling and appointments. Our methods have had to change, but our mission has not—and we haven’t skipped a beat.

The Virtual Care Center also plays a role in an ongoing rebranding process we launched in the spring. Three important pieces highlight these changes:

1) We’ve changed our name slightly. We’ve transitioned from David Lawrence Center (singular) to David Lawrence Centers (plural, or “DLC” for short). One, because we have facilities in several locations. And two, because we now feature six areas of focus, which we’re calling our Centers of Excellence. The Virtual Care Center is just one of these Centers, and we look forward to introducing you to the remainder in the fall.

2) We’ve changed our tagline. The previous one was, “For Mental Health & Addiction Recovery.” While we certainly still offer those services, we’ve broadened our scope in recent years—plus, more organizations today are putting “mental health” and “addiction” challenges together under the term “behavioral health”—thus sparking our new tagline: “David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health.”

3) We’ve updated our logo. It’s mostly the same but has a more contemporary look and feel. The individual reaching for the star still represents what we’re all about: Every person has the potential to reach for, and grab, the stars.

So, that’s what we’ve been up to lately—navigating a pandemic, expanding our services, and undergoing a brand change! It’s been a busy, challenging, and yet fulfilling season, and I’m incredibly proud of our team and the mission we’re advancing.

And most of all, I’m so very appreciative of your compassionate support.

Scott Burgess
President & CEO

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DLC Installs New Board Officers, Adds to Board Committees

David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health (DLC) is pleased to announce the installation of the following new officers of the Board of Directors as well as the appointment of a new board sub-committee member:

Russell Budd, the founding partner of PBS Contractors and Wall Systems Contractors, will serve as Chairman. Budd joined the Board in 2016 and previously served as Vice Chairman. He is currently a member of the Finance and Audit Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. In addition, Budd and his wife, Katie Paschall, served as DLC’s Sound Minds™ Mental Health Symposium co-chairs in 2016.

Budd also currently serves as a Board Member for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Collier County, the Collier County 100 Club, Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, and Drug Free Collier. He was a member of the Collier County Mental Health and Addiction Ad Hoc committee, which was charged with creating the County’s first-ever mental health strategic plan. Budd’s community involvement includes many other worthwhile causes, such as serving as past chairman of the Collier County Planning Commission and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, as well as past President of the Collier Building Industry Association. He was celebrated as a “Man of Distinction” by the Education Foundation of Collier County in 2014 and as a “25 over 50” by Naples Daily News in 2017.

Robert P. Magrann, a retired senior executive with extensive experience in the areas of sales, marketing, and strategic planning, will serve as Vice Chairman. Prior to his retirement, Magrann was the Executive Vice President of Del Monte Foods and prior to that he held leadership positions at Tetley, Nabisco, Borden, and other global brands. Magrann joined the Board in 2016 and previously served as Secretary. He is a member of the Board’s Clinical Operations Committee, Development Committee, and is Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Magrann previously served on the Board of Directors of St. Joseph’s University Academy of Food Marketing, St. Joseph’s University Food Marketing Education Foundation, and Medicore, Inc. After relocating to Naples, he most recently served as the President and CEO of Quail Creek Country Club’s Board of Directors.

Karen Mosteller, the Strategic Medical Healthcare and Dental Consultant with Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A., will serve as Treasurer. She joined the Board in 2019 and is Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. She has more than 30 years of public accounting experience in the medical, construction, retail, and professional services industries. She is an award-winning Certified Public Accountant and Certified Healthcare Business Consultant.

Jeffery Yun, the Managing Director of Wasmer, Schroeder & Company, Inc., will serve as Secretary. He joined the Board in 2018 and also serves on the Board’s Finance Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the financial services industry. He is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Collier and volunteers with St. Matthew’s House and Physician Led Access Network (PLAN) of Collier County.

Jonas Weatherbie, is a trust and estate planning attorney at Wilson & Johnson. He is serving on the Board’s Development and Clinical Operations Committee. He is also a devoted supporter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Autism Awareness.
“I Watched Myself Die”

Death on a dash cam

It was December 13, 2017. I had overdosed while driving down Interstate 75, blacked out, and ran off the road and into a fence. A Florida Highway Patrol trooper stopped a few minutes later. My doors were locked and I was unresponsive, so he broke through the window. When he found out I didn’t have a pulse, he pulled me out through my window and started yelling, “Ma’am, please wake up! Please, God, wake up!”

He gave me CPR, and I came back to life. “She’s breathing,” the state trooper said.

The whole thing was recorded on his dash cam. A few days later, I saw the video, and it changed my whole perspective. I knew I had to make some changes.

I got a DUI and spent another 30 days in jail. After that, the local drug court program sent me to DLC to get the help I desperately needed.

By then, I was tired of fighting. So I just surrendered to the process and did everything they told me—group therapy, individual therapy, trauma therapy, all of it. I was at DLC almost every day for six months. They held me accountable, and they encouraged me. They helped me build a strong foundation for my recovery.

While in the program, I chose to live in a sober house to set myself up for success. I didn’t want to go back to my old ways. My whole attitude has changed, and now I’ve been sober for more than two years.

I’m really focused on giving back. I sponsor women in a 12-step program. I tell my story in different places. I’m a peer mentor at my sober house, where I also lead a spirituality workshop and teach yoga classes.

I’m also an instructor at Yoga Lab, and I feel happier and healthier than ever, thanks to DLC. If it weren’t for them, I don’t know where I’d be. But because of them, I’ve found my life’s purpose, which is to help others.

Supporters like you make success stories like Cory’s possible.

Thank you for your support!
Local Drug Court Team: One of the Nation's Best

The National Drug Court Institute (NCDI) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance recently named the Collier County Drug Court Team into its 2020 Mentor Court Network. The team, in which DLC plays a significant role, was one of just eight nationwide to receive this recognition.

Beverly Belli, DLC’s Director of Adult Community Services, says the recognition is a nod to the team’s “level of professionalism and clinical services provided.”

Collier County Judge Janeice Martin says Drug Court—and other problem-solving courts like Mental Health Court and Veterans Court—is thriving mostly because of DLC’s help.

“They have stepped up to lead the way in the evolution of these courts,” she says. “Even when a federal grant expired for this, DLC remained committed, and they’ve always found a way to keep it going. We wouldn’t have this at all without DLC.”

Judge Martin’s courtroom and DLC are joined on the Drug Court Team by the Sheriff’s Office, Probation Office, State Attorney, and Public Defenders Office. The Drug Court program also receives support from Collier County’s Health and Human Services Division.

As a Mentor Court, the Collier team will train teams from around the nation that want to learn how to start or improve their own drug courts. Teams will come to Collier County, observe its drug court practices, and take what they’ve learned back to their communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DLC’s Ribbon of Hope Virtual Fundraiser

This July, DLC invites the community to share a message of hope for those with mental health or substance use challenges and all frontline workers, medical professionals, first responders, and hospitality workers through its Ribbon of Hope virtual fundraiser.

For a minimum donation of $25, you can share your message of hope and it will be represented by a ribbon tied to the banyan tree on DLC’s Golden Gate Parkway campus. The colorful ribbons tied to the tree will showcase how a strong community of supporters are essential to spreading hope to those who are struggling. For more information on DLC’s Ribbon of Hope fundraiser and to make a donation, please visit DLCTreeofHope.org.