



Togetherhood Initiative

A Community Health and Well-being Collaborative



CHILD AUTISM REPORT FOR COLLIER COUNTY

Prepared by the Core Health Partners Foundation

2023 PROGRESS REPORT

DRAFT



“

The only way we can drive change is to quit working in silos. This is why I am thrilled with the Togetherhood Initiative.

The success in Collier County only occurs when we co-produce the process and the results are what the community seeks and can change.”

Chuck Gillespie, MBA, CWP
CEO, National Wellness Institute



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FOREWORD

TOGETHERHOOD INITIATIVE IS THE EVOLUTION OF COORDINATION OF CARE FOR COLLIER COUNTY

Coordination of care in healthcare results in better patient outcomes and significant healthcare cost savings. Failures in care coordination account for \$27.2 billion to \$78.2 billion in waste per year in the United States. Coordination of care is defined as “deliberately organizing patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants concerned with a patient’s care to achieve safer and more effective care.” This includes determining the patient’s needs and preferences and communicating them “at the right time to the right people.”

In a community like Immokalee, FL, coordination of care becomes even more difficult because of a lack of services being available, plus the many other health and economic factors that underserved communities face. For this is why Togetherhood provides an ideal model to evolve coordination of care from a health model to a well-being model.

You see, shared vision and co-production are the critical success factors missing in most health and wellness initiatives deployed across the United States. Health and wellbeing programs, services, initiatives, and coalitions today are extremely siloed. Much of the siloed issues stem from a lack of a repository for projects that are easily assessable by the public. Because of the siloed nature of the offerings in health and wellness, the ability to scale programs and services across a large spectrum is greatly lacking. The inability to scale impacts the long-term sustainability of these offerings.

The Third Edition of the book *Lifestyle Medicine* has a chapter titled *Community as a Catalyst for Healthier Behaviors*. The chapter, researched and written by Drs.

Jane and Peter Ellery, both Sr Fellows with the National Wellness Institute, explain that the association between health, engagement, and community is apparent in initiatives that are focusing on systems and environmental changes. Changes that combine a salutogenic focus with community involvement and co-production models can be initiated by physicians, mayors, urban planners, worksites, and many others in communities. The Togetherhood Initiative allows for Immokalee, FL to not only serve its community with better care coordination, but this initiative becomes the national model for how care coordination can help drive community health and economic vitality.

In 2018, US Surgeon General, Dr Jerome Adams, released his Call to Action. The report outlined that to improve the health of Americans and help foster a more sustainable and equitable prosperity, “Community Health and Economic Prosperity” or “CHEP” for short uses a multipronged approach focused on:

- Engaging businesses to be community change-makers and forces for health in their communities
- Implementing solutions to help improve and sustain the health of communities.
- Strengthening communities to be places of opportunity for health and prosperity for all.

The Togetherhood Initiative meets the Call-to-Action items. But it further expands the capabilities of a health systems already contained, because with the offerings of

¹ 2019 study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*

² *The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*

what is under a single roof and nearby, the Togetherhood Initiative also elevates coordination of care, which in turn allows for a better patient experience, improved health for the community, and lower overall costs.

Further, care coordination like the Togetherhood Initiative enables providers to:

- **Work at the top of their credentials.** Physicians have more quality time to care for patients, since patient care coordinators (PCCs) can directly handle or facilitate with the physician's care team a wide range of patient care tasks.
- **Improve utilization management.** Care coordination allows physicians and other care team members to focus on proactive care, rather than react to expensive acute care episodes.
- **Engage patients in their own care.** As extensions of the physician and his/her care team, PCCs can stay closely connected to patients. Regular communications help engage patients and focus their attention on preventative actions.

Consider what can be accomplished within the Togetherhood Initiative and I urge you to consider proper funding to build it into a needed and self-sustaining offering.

Very truly yours,



Chuck Gillespie, MBA, CWP
Chief Executive Officer
National Wellness Institute

Pictured left to right: Paul Thein, Core Health Partners; Chuck Gillespie, National Wellness Institute; Steve Popper, Meals of Hope; Joe Balavage, Help a Diabetic Child



About National Wellness Institute: The National Wellness Institute (NWI) drives professional standards, provides world-class professional development, produces practical application programming, and creates engagement opportunities that support individuals from a variety of disciplines to promote well-being for all. NWI has been the worldwide leader of the wellness promotion since 1977.

At the core of NWI's offerings are the Wellness Promotion Competency Model, the Six Dimensions of Wellness model, and the Multicultural Competency in Wellness Model, which guide the strategies for cultivating great champions, navigators, and leaders of wellness. The National Wellness Institute's Certified Wellness Practitioner (CWP) is recognized globally as the gold-standard credential for the industry.



The Gaps in Our Community Florida Department of Health in Collier County

The Healthy Collier Coalition

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) represents a summary report that provides a snapshot of Collier County community strength, needs, and priorities, as they relate to population health.

The goals of the CHA are to discover focal points for health improvement, contributing factors that determine health outcomes, and the most effective community assets and resources that can be mobilized to improve population health.

Through this effort, the Florida Department of Health formed the Healthy Collier Coalition as a partnership of community members and groups working in concert to protect, promote, and improve the health of our community. The Healthy Collier Coalition's goal is to develop a community health improvement plan that includes strategies to address and improve the health needs and those issues of priority as identified by the residents and visitors of Collier County.

Ten health categories were ranked over the past three years by the Collier community and the top five issues of priority focus include Mental Health, Access to Care, Chronic Diseases, Health of Older Adults, and Alcohol/Drug Use.

The (Healthy Collier) Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) prioritized chronic disease as one of the county's top four health priority areas for 2020-2023.

The chronic diseases workgroup was influenced by local pediatricians who were concerned about the number of overweight and obese children they were seeing in their medical practices. The workgroup formed a pediatric obesity sub-committee and decided to apply a health equity lens to this health issue to inform the current work of Collier County pediatricians and youth serving agencies, while providing insight for planning future interventions.

While this health issue is multifaceted and complex, the evidence suggests that the social determinants of health (SDOH) domain of social and community context is the largest contributor to the inequity because of the compounding effect that multiple policies, social norms, and cultural factors have on this domain.



Building a Sustainable Model of Care

The Togetherhood Initiative

www.togetherhood.org

The Togetherhood Initiative is a community, well-being collaborative that will utilize findings in the Collier County Community Health Assessment (CHA) as a tool to validate the need for implementing programs and services. The Togetherhood Initiative is a nonprofit partnership network that focuses on collaboration to leverage services and resources to support areas that are underserved. Through sharing expertise, knowledge, and resources, the Togetherhood Initiative will collectively provide benefits that will enable the community to learn the self-management lifestyle strategies needed for long-lasting, positive, and effective changes.

The Togetherhood Initiative concept was developed during discussions at the YMCA's Healthy Living Advisory Committee (HLAC). Often times the dialogue during these meetings centered on the financial constraints and limitations of any one agency to meet the needs in underrepresented areas such as Immokalee and Golden Gate. The concept of creating a new sustainable model of service to potentially address access through a collaborative medical model supported by non-profits and for-profits that assist in producing meaningful health outcomes was developed in 2021. Senior leadership of the National Wellness Institute (NWI) and a participant on the HLAC helped shape the vision for the well-being collaborative effort.

The concept of Togetherhood was formalized in 2021. Their mission includes leveraging assets of partner agencies such as; brick and mortar, labor skills, technology, transportation, training, knowledge of care, and data. Through the Togetherhood program, a pathway to new care models of service now becomes possible. By 2022 the IRS recognized the Togetherhood Initiative as a public charity earning the tax-exempt status required for any potential charitable donations.

The Togetherhood Initiative's first area of focus for Collier County includes introducing collaborative programs that focus on: nutrition education and services along with physical exercise; as well as education including providing resources and support programs for those living with or

caring for someone who lives with chronic disease. Health screenings, clinical education, medical therapy, physician support, medical wellness classes, supplies, technology and case management are available and enhanced through the partner agencies collaboration. Scholarships are available for those in need.

The motto for the Togetherhood Initiative is "find your pathway to wellness" and by following this pathway the first proof of concept of measurable outcomes are now being realized. Through the leadership of Meals of Hope and funding by the American Recue Act, the Togetherhood Initiative movement was able to secure and renovate the David Lawrence Building in Immokalee as the service hub for their County wide programs. Several other sites including the YMCAs (Marco Island and Naples) and Grace Place for Families and Children in Golden Gate became auxiliary locations for program services. Scheduling for Togetherhood services is managed from the new Immokalee location but services provided at each site may differ depending on community needs. There are seven sites licensed for outreach services across Collier County and this number is expected to grow.

Bringing the Clinic to the Community

www.mycorehealthpartners.com

Core Health Partners (CHP) operates as a Florida licensed Health Care Clinic under the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). CHP has intentionally created a unique community model of service that focuses to meet the needs of those who live with chronic disease or those who may have a need of a health screening or evaluation of a particular ailment such as a developmental delay or Autism. Many of CHP's licensed locations are medical deserts or areas where the underserved population requires navigation to better understand how to receive the care they desperately need to live well.

CHP has earned, and successfully reaffirmed, their licensed status with Florida's division of Health Quality Assurances and the American Diabetes Association. CHP maintains contracts under Medicare and Medicaid and most all commercial insurance payers to offer medical therapy,

autism testing, and clinical education that includes diabetes self-management.

Core Health Partners employs a licensed and credentialed medical staff in the fields of physical and occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, dietary and nutrition therapy, behavioral health, and sports medicine. CHP's unique model of service goes well beyond the traditional

medical approach as they chose to intently emerge their clinical model into environments and spaces that offers convenience to a community in need. CHP focuses on initiating support programs that have the ability to advance positive health outcome during and after the patients' traditional clinical care.

Serving the Needs of a Multiple Language Referrals System and Collecting the Data

Core Health Partners Foundation

The Core Health Partners Foundation (CHPF) was established in July of 2021 to help support and manage the clinic to community partnerships and the model of screenings and navigation guiding the person in need to their individualized path of wellness. The oversight includes the health screenings, developmental milestone screenings, testing, evaluation, and managing supportive interns and volunteers.

The Core Health Partners Foundation has created an HIPAA compliant intake processing system that includes a phone operations system with a trilingual auto attendant with a live bilingual support staff. The system of intake is designed for both medical referrals and non-medical programs following a protocol that first attempts to validate insurance coverages before utilizing scholarship funds for those who qualify and are in crisis. This unique intake process has accommodated thousands of patient visits for over 230-referring physicians and is able to schedule to the nearest or desired location in the language of the person in need. The Togetherhood Initiative program location is the newest location of service that uses this process of intake.

The Core Health Partners Foundation also is responsible for collecting the legally required Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) forms and the necessary legal releases that allows the consent to provide the screenings, therapies, and education. Core Health Partners Foundations

also collects the data and reports the matriculation measures to the Togetherhood Initiative partners and stakeholder.. Reports are generated quarterly on barriers and success of the health outcomes. This data is reported as key performance indicators (KPIs) and shared with the partners in the effort of wellness and interested community stakeholders. The purpose of sharing the outcomes data is for analysis and adjustments to strategies, if needed, to achieve desired health outcomes. Core Health Partners Foundation mission and scope of work was approved by the IRS as a public charity in July 21st of 2021.



Heredia, Costa Rica: Virtual office bilingual support team schedules the Togetherhood sites. **Picture in back:** Marilyn Porras, SME Subject Matter Expert, William Molina, Senior Team Lead. **Pictured in front:** Francinny Zamora, Patient Benefit Coordinator



The Pathway to Wellness

The Togetherhood Initiative offers solution pathways for our community to learn how to improve their health and wellness. The Togetherhood Initiative pathway programs focus on providing health screenings that directly lead to early intervention, that may include offering the necessary education, therapies, and technology for managing developmental delays, or chronic diseases.

Pathway to wellness programs is often medically integrated with community programs that best support living and managing, sustaining and/or improving the identified condition. Many of the programs offered are hybrid partnerships with area non-profits or education and/or clinical programs held at the non-profit community centers, government centers, churches, early education centers and local parks.. Together, the partner agencies provide the access and support necessary to serve the

needs that are intended to keep the participants on track while reporting their touch and data points for purposes of outcomes measure. Togetherhood’s goal is simply for agencies to work in tandem so that the resources of the participating entities can be leveraged while sharing in costs. The Togetherhood Initiative’s method of collaboration is designed to provide outcome data that advance funding opportunities and the philanthropy needed to sustain the programing and keep access open in areas that would otherwise be unserved.

In this report, we examine the efforts of the Togetherhood Initiative in addressing the issue of Autism. Our partners in this endeavor are exceptional, and this report is intended to offer metrics to aid non-profits and other stakeholders in concentrating on key success factors that can enhance health outcomes, benefit our community, and promote the sustainability of our work.

The Concerns of this Initiative

A Comprehensive Look at Autism in the United States, Florida, and Collier County

Autism is a developmental disorder defined by the presence of certain behavioral characteristics including difficulty with communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors. Those on the autism spectrum often experience challenges in learning and processing information, as well as sensory processing issues.

In the United States, the prevalence of autism has grown significantly in recent years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 54 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). While autism is more common in boys than girls, it is important to note that autism is diagnosed in both genders.

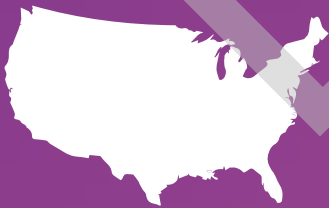
In Florida, 1 in 42 children have been diagnosed with autism. The prevalence is even higher in Collier County, where 1 in 35 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder. As the understanding of autism continues to grow, it is important to be aware of the prevalence of this disorder in communities throughout the state and country.

By understanding the facts and statistics about autism, we can work together to create a more inclusive and supportive society for those on the autism spectrum.

Research indicates that the prevalence of autism in Hispanic populations is increasing and continues to be underdiagnosed. Recent studies suggest that Hispanic children are underdiagnosed as compared to non-Hispanic white children. This discrepancy in diagnosis rates can be attributed to several factors, including language barriers, cultural differences, and a lack of access to healthcare services.

When it comes to autism prevalence in underrepresented and low-income communities, there has been a lack of attention and funding for research and intervention programs. Furthermore, due to economic disparities, low-income Hispanic families in Collier County are often unable to afford diagnostic assessments and therapy services, leading to further underdiagnosis and limited access to care. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by Hispanic families in underrepresented and low-income communities, the Togetherhood Initiative will create a more inclusive and equitable system that supports all families affected by autism.

Autism Prevalence Among Youth



1 in 54
children in the US
daignosed with ASD



1 in 42
children in the FLORIDA
daignosed with ASD



1 in 35
children in the
COLLIER COUNTY
daignosed with ASD

Autism: Understanding the Factors, Functioning, Treatment, and More

The Autistic Mind

Autism is a lifelong neurological disorder that affects individuals in unique ways. It can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetics, environmental factors, and early brain development. Although multiple factors can contribute to a diagnosis of autism, the characteristics vary from person to person.

The severity of autism also varies, but people with autism can still achieve significant milestones in their lives. Some children with autism may require special education and case management to do well in school, while others may succeed without additional support. Autistic individuals can also thrive in the right work environment, with appropriate adjustments and support.

Unfortunately, there is no known cure for autism. However, there are various therapies and treatments to help alleviate symptoms and improve long-term outcomes. Applied Behavior Analysis, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Sensory Integration Therapy are some of the most common programs available for autism. While medication has helped alleviate some symptoms like aggression and anxiety, it is controversial, and a professional doctor's assistance and regular evaluations are advisable.

Although there is no cure for autism, people with autism can live fulfilling lives and contribute to society. With timely intervention and the right support, individuals with autism can lead productive, happy lives.

Identifying Autism

The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) is an objective evaluation method that measures communication, social interaction, and play skills in individuals with suspected autism. The ADOS includes specific activities that mimic real-life situations, such as structured interviews, storytelling, and interactive games. Professionals who are trained in administering the test will assess and score the participant's performance based on standardized criteria.

In compliance with Florida statute 393.063, children under the age of six who display developmental delays and require

early intervention services must undergo a comprehensive evaluation, which includes standardized instrument assessment like the ADOS, for diagnosing autism.

It is imperative to have the ADOS test administered by licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers or counselors, and board-certified behavior analysts who have special training in diagnosing ASD.

Medicaid covers ADOS testing and subsequent evaluations to assess treatment effectiveness if the child is identified as having ASD and meets the medical necessity criteria. However, it is important to note that not all insurance providers may cover ADOS testing, so families should consult their insurance providers to confirm coverage.

The Children's Medical Services program is available statewide in Florida and provides assistance to children with special healthcare needs, including those with ASD. The program offers comprehensive services that range from assistive technology to financial aid and care coordination for children with multiple medical conditions. The CMS program is designed to help children improve their health, development, and quality of life.

To be eligible for CMS insurance, children must be between the ages of 0 to 21, residents of Florida, and have a medical condition that significantly affects their daily activities or require medically necessary durable medical equipment or supplies. Eligibility is also dependent on income and family size. Parents can apply for the CMS program either by contacting their local county health department or by reaching out to the regional CMS care coordinator.

The Department of Education and the Florida School System

In the United States, every child has the right to education without discrimination. Public schools are required by federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities. Florida's Division of Early Learning, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services ensures educational opportunities for children with

disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, to learn and participate in society.

Timely intervention is important for children with ASD. At a younger age, they tend to display significant improvements in communication and social skills when therapy is started. ASD intervention services are available through Florida's Early Steps program, which includes speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral therapy. Mental health counseling is also crucial for parents and families of children with autism, to support them in managing stress and caring for their child with ASD.

Recent research suggests that nutrition may play a role in Autism Spectrum Disorder. The gluten-free and casein-free diet may aid in reducing autism symptoms for some children. Gastrointestinal problems and food sensitivities are common in some children with ASD. Parents can develop a meal plan with their healthcare providers that meets their child's nutritional requirements and accommodates any food sensitivities.

Physical exercise and socialization are vital to supporting children with autism. Exercise activities can improve their

physical health, which can positively impact their emotional and mental well-being. Social skills, self-awareness, and confidence development benefit from socialization. Participating in sports activities, joining social groups, and spending time with peers can help children with ASD improve their socialization and communication skills.

As a parent with a child living with autism in Florida, it's important to know that your child has legal rights in the school system. Per state regulations, schools are mandated to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education that caters to children with autism, which includes reasonable adjustments and accommodations. Early detection and treatment, mental health counseling, nutritious diet, regular exercise, and socialization all contribute significantly to the outcomes for children living with autism. Therefore, it's crucial to build a good working relationship with your child's school and healthcare providers and advocate for their unique needs to secure their education and overall well-being.



**Space has been left open
for local initiative program
information.**

DRAFT

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for local initiative program
information.**

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for local initiative program
information.**

DRAFT

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The Togetherhood Initiative is a great example of how when several different agencies come together, they can create something that can really make an impact in the community.”



John M. Drew
Organizational Planning & Development
Program Consultant, FDOH Collier County



Togetherhood Initiative
A Community Health
and Well-being Collaborative

Partner Agencies in Phase 1 of the Togetherhood Autism Pathway

The pathway leads children and families in need to a community-based prevention programs that delivers evidence-based prevention services to at-risk infants, toddlers, and school-aged children.



Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF)

NCEF’s unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.

Grant funding by NCEF facilitated UF Health bring telemedicine program for obese and diabetic children to underserved area of Collier County.



The University of Florida

UF Health Metabolic & Obesity Clinic is addressing complications of excess weight and obesity in high-risk populations. UF leads by offering multidisciplinary team that combines provider resources, comprehensive metabolic screening, physical fitness assessments and innovative use of cutting-edge pharmacotherapy



Meals of Hope

Offers access to nutritious food, including prepackaged meals that meet the nutritional standards and correct proportioned size. The food offered by Meals of Hope is used in the medical nutrition therapy program by the registered licensed dietitians. Serves as the Immokalee Together Initiative Center tenant and liaison with the landlord David Lawrence Behavioral Health.



Core Health Partners

Operates the HIPAA compliant intake process system that facilitates the dissemination of information in multiple languages and processes scholarships, bridges the person in need to their best path to wellness through answering question in their native language and, if needed, schedules and appointment with a medical provider.

Core Health Partners also serves as a clinical provider for medical nutrition therapy, meeting with the child and or family to discuss nutritional health. Documentation notes from the clinical sessions are copied and delivered, through the HIPAA compliant electronic health records system, to the referring pediatric providers for meaningful follow up at the child’s ongoing well visits. Matriculation and health outcomes records are kept on file for reporting purposes.



University of Florida Dental

Provides oral hygiene services and sealants to children in need.



Area Pediatricians

Refer children in need of child obesity support and services to the program.



**Help A
Diabetic
Child™**

Help A Diabetic Child (HADC)

HADC Purchases diabetes medical supplies, insulin and services which include endocrinology, mental health, and educational visits to underserved, uninsured, and underinsured children and young adults who live with diabetes and cannot afford these life saving services and care.



Bikes for Tykes

Offers a bicycle as a motivation tool to those children referred to the child obesity program that follow the program plan assigned.



Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida is a leader in prevention and education and is a champion for the child obesity prevention movement for Collier County and Dr. Salvatore Anzalone, the medical director of pediatrics is helping shape the Child Obesity model.

An Expert's Review of the Togetherhood Initiative and the Clinic to Community Model.

Dr. Robert Gillio

Member Society of Physician Entrepreneurs

Childhood Obesity will bankrupt the health care system in the United States. It's not that it is that expensive in the short term to care for or ignore these patients. It's that over 50% will go on to become very expensive patients with multiple chronic health issues earlier in life. These include diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, worn out joints, and some cancers.

The return on investment is estimated by the CDC that a \$1 investment in prevention will save \$6 in costs and that an increase in exercise in sedentary teens and adults can save \$61 billion dollars in health care costs, annually. Health care payers with the most to gain in addressing this problem are sabotaged by the fact that a 16% of child's coverage may change annually years and almost certainly, will not be with the same carrier 20-30 years from now. Therefore, we cannot rely on our payers who are in the business of making a margin on paying for programs and services with the money they get from collecting taxes or premiums or capitation fees, to see a direct investment

in this problem now, as a good investment, because that person will be in a different plan.

I care a great deal about this as a father of 5 daughters that are becoming mothers. I worry that those children and grandchildren, even if healthy and not obese, will have to finance a sick care system caring for the current youth that will be sick adults. The system is set up to profit off sick care. In addition to health care sick care business reform into a true health care system, families, organizations, and providers need to start right now creating a "Pathway to Wellness".

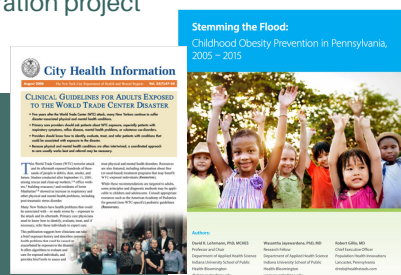
In my experience I have attempted to use my entrepreneurial skills to invent solutions, share them with the world, and be mentored and then mentor others. I have changed careers from treating preventable chronic disease to finding ways to prevent or delay the morbidity and mortality thereof. I have worked with and found solutions collaborating with White House officials, Surgeons General, Secretaries of Health, for-profit companies, not-for-profit agencies, and leaders in local government, schools, YMCA's, gangs, and faith sites. Now I chose to

About Dr. Robert Gillio:

- Happily married father of 5 daughters
- Population Health and Pulmonary Physician
- 2001 September 12 Foundation "Hero Award" for work on and after 911 including helping create the Ground Zero Clinic and World Trade Center Registry and securing about 10 billion dollars in funding
- 2006 New Orleans Best Partner in Education for creating Force for Health with New Orleans teens as health advocates in their family
- 2012 National Distinguished Service to Health Education Award
- 2005 -2015 PA Health eTools Childhood Obesity project
- 2019 PA Rural Health Value Based Care demonstration project implementation plan author

Dr. Robert Gillio

Member, Society of Physician Entrepreneurs
Chief Medical Officer
CMO, The Force for Health Network



continue to address obesity, and other mental, physical, and safety issues and harness the efforts of my colleague with their social and health care creativity as a member of the Society of Physician Entrepreneurs (SOPE) and their active chapter in your area.

That is why the rest of us need to take the lead and work together in our community and surround the child with a togetherhoo philosophy and approach. Using unconventional community partners working together with the providers, creates an intake, care, and intervention capability that can touch all children, and the client children, with support and teamwork and a pathway to staying healthy or regaining a healthy status. I learned this with my work with the Highmark Foundation, and funding from Blue Cross in PA where our Health- e-Tools Coordinated School Health portal, attempted to use the school setting as a supportive community with screening, referral, and program. The “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” (WSCC) program from the ACS was derived from the work of our advisor and my co-publisher of *Stemming the Flood*, about childhood obesity in a 10-year tracking of the same children. The Force for Health Network we are creating is a direct result of that experience where the child, family, organizations, and the community can work together of health issues as empowered health literate partners striving for the same outcome.

The data shows that early identification, referral, family intervention, organizational, community, gamification and incentives, and health care support can work. What excites me and why I wish to volunteer to assist this county, is that you are creating a model for the state and nation. Your Togetherhoo initiative with Core Health Partners is starting to show that their “Pathway to Wellness” work with multilingual intake engine for referral and care services, is inviting and overcomes barriers to making healthy decisions. The primary care doctors need to keep referring patients as they have begun to do. Now it is time for the rest of the folks around this table and the county, to join in and share what they can offer on the referral or intervention side. This includes specific services for the client’s child and family, and also addressing the social determinants, such as lack of safe exercise facilities, park access, food desserts, costly food, transportation issues, and

other barriers. It also means helping advance health literacy and access across the entire community.

Togetherhoo is all of us creating a community where the healthy decision is the easy decision, and where there is a pathway to wellness that is supported and used. As a proud member of SOPE and one that has been focused on the health of children and communities for my career, I am here to learn from and endorse this Togetherhoo initiative and its Pathways to Wellness intake engine, and the work of Core Health Partners. I urge all interested community partners to join the hood and work together with the leadership.

Thank you on behalf of the overweight children that need assistance.

Respectfully,



Robert Gillio, MD

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Medicaid Enrollment Churn and Implications for Continuous Coverage Policies

Bradley Corallo Follow @BradCorallo on Twitter , Rachel Garfield , Jennifer Tolbert , and Robin Rudowitz Follow @RRudowitz on Twitter

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Dr. Angelina Bernier
Pediatric Endocrinologist, University of Florida



Key Community Committees

Collier County CHIP

Pediatric Obesity Subcommittee Membership

Lindy Abed, Registered Dietitian
& Nutritionist for Diabetes and Prediabetes
Core Health Partners

Lisa Adamczyk RN, Director Community Health,
Nursing, Family and Personal Health
Department of Health, Collier

Dr. Salvatore Anzalone, Medical Director
of Pediatrics
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Joe Balavage, President
Diabetes Alliance Network

Tami Balavage, President
Help a Diabetic Child

Dr. Angelina Bernier
University of Florida Pediatric Endocrinology

Dr. Dawn Bertram Stewart, Pediatrics Specialist
Apple Pediatrics

Dr. Susanna Boker
PANIRA Health Care Clinic

Tracy Bowen, Coordinator Health
& Physical Education
Collier County Public Schools

Dr. Krista Casazza, Associate Dean for Research
and Scholarship
Florida Gulf Coast University

Zachery Casella, Health & Wellness Specialist
University of Florida/YMCA of Collier County

Carmen Dawson, Chapter President
South Florida Society of Physician Entrepreneurs

Dr. Corin Dechirico, Chief Medical Officer
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Frank Diaz
Department of Health, Collier

Paula DiGrigoli, Director Women's & Children's
Services of Collier County
Naples Community Hospital

April Donahue, Executive Director
Collier County Medical Society

John Drew, Organizational Planning
& Development Program Consultant
Department of Health, Collier

Chuck Gillespie, CEO
National Wellness Institute

Dr. Robert Gillio, Chief Medical Officer
Force for Health

Jennifer Gomez, Community Health
Promotion Director/ Environmental Health
Department of Health, Collier

Megan Greer, Executive Director
Blue Zones Project

Dr. Douglas Edward Halbert, Pediatrician
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Lucy Howell, CEO and Co-Founder
Force for Health

Taylor Jaskulski, Health Educator
Department of Health, Collier

Julie Johnson, LCSW, Clinical Director
Department of Health

Elda Laforet, Licensed Practical Nurse
Department of Health, Florida

Melissa Lamont, Healthcare Director
Naples Children and Education Foundation

Kathleen Morales-Perez
*University of Florida Institute of Food
and Agriculture Sciences*

Julissa Moreland, Health Improvement
Planning Program Manager
Department of Health, Collier

Carla Narvaez
Department of Health-Collier

Mauricio Palacio, Office of Minority Health
and Health Equity
Department of Health

Dave Pascale, Vice President
Bikes for Tykes

Steve Popper, CEO
Meals of Hope

Dr. Debra Shepard, Pediatrics Specialist
Lighthouse Pediatrics

Madison Smith, Community Engagement
Manager
Naples Children & Education

Richard Tamer, Operations Director
YMCA of Collier County

Tara Tallaksen, Diabetes Navigator,
Pediatric Endocrinology
University of Florida Health

Paul Thein, ED.S. President
Core Health Partners Foundation

Dr. Lisandra Torres Aponte- Behavioral Health.
Licensed Psychologist
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Dr. Val Torres, Florida State Co-Director
Force for Health

Coral Vargas, Coordinator
*Naples Community Hospital Safe & Healthy Children's
Coalition of Collier County*

Dr. Todd Vedder, Pediatrics Specialist
Lighthouse Pediatrics

Diana Vittorio, Registered Dietitian
& Nutritionist for Diabetes and Prediabetes
Core Health Partners

Samantha Watson, Family Nutrition
Program Manager
*University of Florida Institute of Food
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Kristen Waight
University of Florida Health

Dr. Courtney Whitt, Director of Behavioral Health
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

Elizabeth Wipf, Director of Health Services
Collier County Public Schools

Renee Williams, Registered Dietitian & Nutritionist,
Public Health Nutrition Program Director
Department of Health

Kelly Wilson, Extension Program Specialist
*University of Florida Institute of Food
and Agriculture Sciences*

Reggie Wilson, Healthy Communities Coordinator
Department of Health, Collier

Kim Woodrow, Director
Naples Community Hospital School of Nursing

Sarah Zaiser-Kelly, Grants Director
Naples Children and Education Foundation



Togetherhood Initiative Center
429 N 1st Street
Immokalee, Florida 34142
(239) 932-0180
info@togetherhood.org



Togetherhood Program Outreach Sites

Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida
12655 Collier Blvd
Naples, FL 34116

Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida
1454 Madison Ave W
Immokalee, FL 34142

Bloom Day School
15300 Tamiami Trail N
Naples, FL 34110

Grace Place for Children & Families
4300 21st Ave SW
Naples, FL 34116

YMCA of Collier County (Naples)
5450 YMCA Rd, Naples
FL 34109

YMCA of Collier County (Marco)
101 Sand Hill St
Marco Island, FL 34145

Emilio Sanchez Academy Florida
2035 Sanchez-Casal Way
Naples, FL 34105