

**2021**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**|** New Behavioral Health  
Challenges Emerge



**DATA**

Behavioral Health Services  
for Children and Families



## WHO WE ARE



### OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that all children are good; and if given appropriate opportunities, they will become productive, contributing members of society. Since 1980, DATA has developed a range of prevention, intervention and treatment services designed to address the child as an integral part of his or her family and community. Our goal is to provide these children with the skills and competency necessary to achieve these positive outcomes.



### OUR MISSION

DATA provides effective quality programs for children, adolescents and their families experiencing behavioral health problems and/or juvenile delinquency. We provide services in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. We are committed to providing programs that foster the skills necessary for individuals to be responsible, productive members of their communities.



### OUR VISION

We envision a community that instills the importance of education and respect for self, life, and property, which empowers children and their families to reject drugs, violence, and other criminal activity. DATA recognizes that substance use affects every aspect of an individual's life, and that effective programming will foster self-reliance, social competence, and abstinence from substance use.

## From the Board Chairman

### JEFFREY WHITE



Dear Friends, Supporters and Staff of DATA,

Her mother used drugs. Her father sold drugs.

Ashley started using drugs when she was 12.

Her gut-wrenching story is, sadly, not uncommon.

My first exposure to DATA was a visit to the Walter D. Kelly Treatment Center in West Palm Beach. It was during that visit that I was smacked right in the heart, by a girl very much like Ashley.

The young girl I met, told us how she ended up at the Kelly Center and what being there meant to her. I was speechless. I had teenage girls about the same age. They looked the same, and probably would have been friends in other circumstances.

I was truly impacted by her story. It was then that I decided to join DATA's Board of Directors.

In this annual report, you can read Ashley's story. She is 14 now, and after facing incredibly difficult challenges, DATA has guided her in a better direction.

You can also read about Christine Ranieri, a School Based Intervention Counselor, who is dedicated to helping students struggling with depression and anxiety.

And then, there is Walton Stoudenmire. Walton took me on that first visit to the Kelly Center. Through him, I saw the challenges, determination and caring that opened my heart to DATA. Walton retired at the end of 2021 and we will surely miss him. I hope he knows what an impact he has had on everyone involved with DATA – including me. Please take a moment to read Walton's story.

Finally, I want to thank DATA's President and CEO John Fowler, and the entire staff of DATA. Despite exceptional challenges in recent years, you have kept DATA moving forward while helping countless children, teenagers and families improve their lives.

Also, thank you to our Board of Directors. Your support has been invaluable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey White'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'J' and 'W'.

Jeffrey White  
Board Chairman

## From the President and CEO

### JOHN FOWLER



Dear Friends and Family,

As an Agency and Community, we have faced tough times. The pandemic, political polarization, workforce problems, and associated issues have resulted in both direct and collateral consequences. The impact of the past two years on our children is resulting in increased behavioral health problems including anxiety, depression, and substance use. The Opioid crisis is exploding with increasing numbers of addicted and overdoses. Suicide is on the rise in both children and adults, and crime rates are rising as well. Community providers are beginning to see the impact of increasing behavioral health problems and needs. Workforce shortages are at levels never experienced. This significantly impacts our ability to meet the increasing behavioral health needs of the community.

I want to thank the State of Florida, the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, and all our funders for everything they have done to support our agency in these challenging times. Their leadership, flexibility, and hard work have assisted community-based agencies in navigating this new normal, allowing us to continue providing a powerful system of care.

You all know how I feel about our most precious resource - the staff and families that make up this great company. During these tough times, the workforce crisis has struck all professions. It has been particularly harsh for behavioral health providers. In 2021, DATA experienced a 25 percent vacancy rate, consistent with the field. Behavioral health professionals have historically been on the low side of the compensation spectrum for the equivalent credentials in other professions. This must change immediately. The time is now.

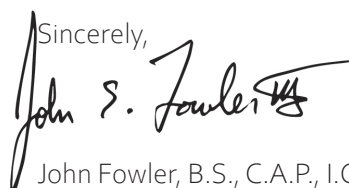
As we witness the rapid escalation of behavioral health problems in our children and families, there is recognition - as evidenced by funding - to meet those needs. Legislators and funders are prioritizing behavioral health services. You can have all the funding in the world; however, without a healthy, happy workforce to implement the services, the needs will go unmet. It is time for parity in compensation across the board.

Our workforce has been our highest priority. Our staff are the backbone of what we do. They are the heroes saving lives every day. Behavioral health services are more important than ever.

We have negotiated, advocated for, strategized, and made every effort to get our people recognized. Legislators, funders, and communities are listening. We have increased salaries across the board at DATA. Our people know they are valued. Our vacancy rate now is less than 6 percent. We will not stop. Our workforce is the core. It is time to recognize our professionals. It is time for parity of compensation for the workers in our field.

The State of Florida just approved the new fiscal year budget. The increase in recurring funding for Behavioral Health services is the highest in many years. Behavioral health needs and services are recognized as one of the highest priorities. Let us continue this trend by recognizing our workforce and compensating our professionals accordingly.

On that note, I want to acknowledge Walton Stoudenmire (who you'll read about on pages 10 and 11) for his many years of dedication to the profession. Walton has retired after running our residential programs for 25 years. He saved so many children and families over the years. I wish him all the best as he moves to this next part of his journey. His legacy lives on in our mission every day.

Sincerely,  
  
John Fowler, B.S., C.A.P., I.C.A.D.C.  
President and CEO





# PROGRAMS



## RESIDENTIAL

The Walter D. Kelly Treatment Center in West Palm Beach and the Norman C. Hayslip Center in Fort Pierce serve as temporary homes for adolescents struggling with addiction and behavioral health problems. Both centers operate year-round, with 24-hour supervision and includes treatment programs and on-site education programs enabling residents to continue their studies toward high school graduation. The average length of stay is three to six months.

Residential treatment uses multiple evidence-based strategies including A-CRA (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach) for individual, group, and family therapy as well as methods that address trauma and life skills. Successful completion of the program is based on - progressing academically, coming to terms with the impact drugs have had on the adolescent's life, and changing behavior that is not acceptable in society.



## OUTPATIENT

DATA's Outpatient services are available to any person needing help with behavioral health issues. Outpatient treatment provides screening, assessment, counseling, information and referral, and urinalysis services. Evidence-based strategies including Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and A-CRA are used. Care involves weekly sessions supplemented by participation in self-help meetings. Family therapy is an integral part of the client's treatment. Outpatient treatment averages 14 weeks.



*Since 2000, DATA has received seven consecutive, three-year accreditations from CARF International. Voluntary accreditation from CARF demonstrates our commitment to providing quality, safe and effective behavioral health programs to those we serve directly, and to the community and our funders. All DATA programs are CARF accredited.*







## SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

DATA runs multiple behavioral health programs and services for children and families that focus on reducing risk factors associated with the progression of substance use and mental health problems. This is accomplished through early identification of those at risk, performing individual assessments, and providing supportive services that emphasize short term counseling and referral.

Our School Based Programs are provided to children at middle and high schools in **the five-county area we serve**. Schools are selected based on need and the willingness of school administration to participate and embrace the programs. DATA's School Based Programs are provided in accordance with School Board policy and procedure, and parent or legal guardian permission must be given prior to participation.

### Project SUCCESS

Prevention is the most effective way to reduce mental health and substance use issues in youth as they mature. Project SUCCESS is in **more than 25 middle schools and high schools in the five-county area we serve**. This evidence-based program builds on the findings of other successful prevention programs by using interventions that are effective in reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors. Services include a universal prevention education series, individual and group counseling, parenting programs, and referral services.

### School Based Behavioral Health Program

As part of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act passed in 2018, this program places mental health therapists in **15 Palm Beach County schools** on a daily basis. Working closely with The School District of Palm Beach County, we are able to help youth who may have behavioral health problems or are struggling with a personal or family issue.

### School Based Intervention

Intervention services are provided to children at **more than 22 local high schools and middle schools**. Along with the evidence-based A-CRA strategy, services include the identification of youth at risk through individual assessment; individual psychosocial assessment; short-term individual, family, and group counseling; and referral to appropriate services for youth who need more intensive care. It also may include evidence-based anger management and substance use education as forms of intervention.

## TASC

TASC or Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities is an assessment and case management program for youth offenders dealing with substance use and/or mental health issues. The program provides the framework for a partnership between the justice system and available treatment options for the child. DATA staff is located at nine Department of Juvenile Justice centers in the five-county area we serve. TASC specialists conduct comprehensive assessments and provide recommendations to Juvenile Justice and the courts. The program is designed to ensure that all youth offenders needing services are identified and afforded the opportunity to begin their journey to recovery.

# A life-changing appointment for Ashley

Ashley had a very important appointment at 11 a.m. on June 1. She could not, must not, miss this appointment.

Her brother, three years older, had introduced her to marijuana when she was 12. "I was smoking pot before school," she remembers. Then she found Ecstasy, Xanax, and LSD.

"I was not getting enough sleep and not eating right. I was living on fast food and fruit and not drinking enough water."

Now she's 14.

After she was searched at school and found with LSD, the judge at the drug court sentenced her to house arrest and put her on an ankle bracelet.

"But I took it off and ran away from home and the cops found me with cocaine," she says.

Back in drug court, she implored the judge to let her get treatment on an outpatient basis.

"Absolutely not," the judge said.

Actually, the judge had used much stronger language, and that's why Ashley absolutely had to check into DATA's Walter D. Kelly Treatment Center in West Palm Beach at 11 a.m. on June 1.

But there was a problem.

At 4 a.m. on June 1, she was alone in the dark by a gas station in a dangerous part of Fort Pierce.

She spent the evening doing Ecstasy with

friends - older friends, people she thought were friends - then they dumped her at the gas station.

She called her mother for a ride, but now there was another problem. Her brother had overdosed the same night and her mother was with him at the hospital.

In Ashley's house, substance abuse was a family tradition.

"I was living with my mom and dad," she says. "My dad and mom used drugs. My dad was selling and doing drugs, and then in 2019 he was arrested for something else and sent to prison, but the drugs were the real reason, the drugs made him do it. So, I moved in with my grandmother, and my grandmother's an alcoholic."

**Fortunately, Ashley made it to the Kelly Center on time, and that made all the difference.**

In the beginning, Walton Stoudenmire, DATA's director of residential services, wasn't sure about Ashley.

"When she first arrived," Stoudenmire says, "we didn't think her prognosis was very good at all...her young age and the people she was hanging out with. Ashley did a lot of manipulating."

In the beginning, Ashley wasn't sure about DATA, either.

"No, I didn't want to be here!" she says, laughing at the very idea. "I wanted to be

out partying with my friends."

**Five months later, Ashley's attitude and insight have changed remarkably.**

"I've learned what drugs were doing to my body, and how they're affecting my relationship with my family," she explains. "I didn't realize how bad my relationship with my family was."

For her, there was no great eureka moment, no sudden burst of understanding, just the slow, steady, daily insights DATA offers, as well as the one-on-one support of Ariana Raub, her program supervisor.

"She talked sense into me and made me feel better," Ashley says. "She was someone to talk to who could give me a different perspective, someone who had more experience with people who had problems like mine."

Five months after entering the Kelly Center, five months after being dumped at that gas station, Ashley completed the program.

She's living with her mother again, now that her mother also completed a rehab program; and seems to be doing well.

"My plan is not to get on any social media or let people know I'm in town," she says. "I want to decorate my room and go back to school. I want to go to college and become a real estate agent or interior designer."

**And what did her time at DATA teach her?**

"It taught me that my past doesn't dictate my future," she says. "And there's always hope."



# She listens. She empathizes. She offers sage advice. She has the “Remedy”

As a teenager growing up in Waldwick, N.J., other teens often called on Christine Ranieri for comfort and advice.

“In high school, I was a counselor to all my friends. Usually boys. They were always calling me at 2 a.m. with their dating problems.”

She laughs. “It used to drive my father crazy.”

Ranieri isn’t a teenager anymore, but by the time classes ended in June, about 60 teenagers at Wellington Community High School will have called on her for comfort and advice.

For the past six years, she has been one of DATA’s 60 School Based Intervention Counselors.

But this year is different.

“I’m seeing more than the usual number of freshmen,” she reports. “They missed their eighth grade because of COVID. Their classes were online, and now suddenly they’re in high school and they don’t know how to negotiate it. They’re overwhelmed and nervous.”

Most are girls this year, she says, and about 85 percent arrive struggling with depression and anxiety.

“I have kids bringing their friends to me,” she says. “I get walk-ins all day long.”

School Administration requires a health professional to obtain a consent form from parents before a student meets with Ranieri.

Consent form in hand, they meet with her weekly for 12 to 15 weeks to vent about the friends who dropped them, the fights, the divorces, the blended families.

She listens. She empathizes. She offers sage advice.

“Your value is not defined by how someone else sees you,” she tells them.

“Fear kills more dreams than failure ever will,” she reminds them.

“Somebody who never makes a mistake usually never makes anything,” she warns. And most importantly: “You will not have this problem forever.”

In 1989, Ranieri arrived in Palm Beach County with an undergraduate degree in communications from the University of Scranton.

After working as a bartender/waitress for a bit, she thought, “Let me see if I can find a real job.”

She found it at the Palm Beach County Health Department, where she spent two years while earning a master’s degree in social work from Florida International University.

And then this woman who counsels young people took 14 years off to counsel two of her own.

Kyle Ranieri, 24, works on C-17 aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, and his brother, Reid, 21, is a student at Palm Beach State College.

In 2015, she returned to work at DATA.

“The teachers are overwhelmed,” she says, “the guidance counselors and assistant principals are overwhelmed, and the students I see are all so self-absorbed. I’m seeing more transgender issues.”

How does she avoid burnout?



CHRISTINE RANIERI

“Seeing the students improve,” she says. “A smile comes to their face; they’re getting along better with people.”

A smile comes to Ranieri’s face. “And the weekends are good.”

On most weekends, Ranieri sings and plays rhythm guitar in a quartet called “Remedy.” Some weekends she does a solo act, performing Sheryl Crow and Tracy Chapman tunes at Piatto Bravo in Wellington.

And come Monday, this weekend singer is a DATA intervention counselor again.

“This is not an easy job,” she says, “but I can’t imagine doing anything else. I don’t know where the kids who need help would go if DATA wasn’t here.”



## Tangled parachute led to a fall in the right direction

When Walton Stoudenmire was hired to be DATA's new director of residential services in 1996, he asked Pam Middleton, the president and CEO then, what she expected of him.

"Three things," Middleton said. "Keep me out of the newspapers, keep me off the six o'clock news, and keep me out of the courts."

Stoudenmire smiles at the memory. "And I've done that," he says with a laugh. "It's my proudest accomplishment."

Yes, Stoudenmire honored Middleton's requirements, and he accomplished a whole lot more, guided by a simple philosophy.

"At DATA," he will tell you - "We fight the war on drugs one kid at a time."

"When Walton joined DATA, he worked in our Day Treatment Program. However, he truly found his home at DATA's Adolescent Residential Treatment Program, a place where something occurred 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He had the personality and character to handle whatever issue arose; and no matter where he was, he responded," says Middleton.

When each new teenager arrived, troubled and drugged; angry and scared, Stoudenmire was the first person they met and the last to wish them well when they left.



In November, Stoudenmire left as well, retiring after 25 years with DATA and countless one-on-one battles in his war on drugs, one kid at a time.

"Financially, physically, psychologically, I'm OK, so it's time to do it," he reflected as his departure date neared. "And I'm leaving knowing DATA will continue. I'm very comfortable with that."

You could say he fell into his career in drug treatment.

Raised on a family farm near Lone Star, South Carolina, Stoudenmire was a senior at the University of South Carolina when he suffered what he lightly calls "a little skydiving accident."

The chute opened, but his foot got tangled in the lines.

Recuperating in a hospital, he spotted a newspaper ad for a job working with at-risk adolescents in a wilderness program in Lowgap, North Carolina, sponsored by the Eckerd Foundation.

He never returned to college, and after 13 years with the foundation and a move to Clewiston, where he directed a 60-bed program, Middleton brought him to DATA.

In his quarter-century here, Stoudenmire has seen both success and failure. Some clients relapse, some wind up in prison, some overdose. But others survive, thrive, and keep in touch.

"There's a handful you have a special bond with," Stoudenmire says. "They call you... we had a set of twins at the Walter D. Kelly Treatment Center. Their adoptive parents didn't want them anymore, so we cared for them for a year. Today, one is an eye doctor and the other is a pastry chef," he says proudly.

He's seen the social changes.

"Kids are kids and drugs are drugs," he says, "but the family structure has deteriorated a lot. Parents are working two jobs...kids aren't supervised. It used to be we ate together at

the end of the day. Now everybody's doing their own thing."

And marijuana is now more accepted and available by prescription.

How did he manage to survive 25 years without burning out?

"I can turn it off when I go home," he says. "You have to, or you worry yourself to death."

—“  
“Oh...Walton, Walton, Walton...  
you will be missed!”

— Pam Middleton, former  
president & CEO of DATA

Now Walton Stoudenmire has turned it off for good, left the Singer Island condo he lived in throughout his tenure at DATA, and headed home to South Carolina.

“My mom died last year, and my dad is 95,” he explains. “I’ve bought

a house near the farm, with a lake 20 minutes away, and I’m going to go fishing.”

He has a boat, a little 21-footer with a center console.

“Most people don’t know this,” he confides, “but my first name is actually Seba. I’m Seba Walton Stoudenmire, Jr. So, I called my boat the Sea-Ba.”

He left with no burnout, no regrets, and a good deal of satisfaction for a job well done.

“I’ve enjoyed every minute of it,” he says. “DATA is small, everybody knows everybody, so I’m leaving with a lot of great memories of the staff and the kids, and gratitude to the community.

“It felt like a family, and it has been a family.”





## STAFF RECOGNITION



*"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness."*  
- Dalai Lama



We honor and recognize the following employees for their years of service, and for being the most compassionate, committed, and unwavering team to be found in any nonprofit organization. Your dedication is our success. Thank you!

### 35 Years of Service

John Fowler

### 25 Years of Service

Walton Stoudenmire

### 15 Years of Service

Holly Nelson

Nicole Playton

### 5 Years of Service

Richna Dessalines

Paul Evatt

Charmaine Overton

Jayne Corson

Warren Little Jr.

Rondell Jones

Timothy Bussey

### One Year of Service

Jessica Jostock

Tiffany Gilbert-

Stoudemire

Erica Santiago

Nicola Shewchyn

Jhanai Felix

Thamar Mathias

Juline Ross

Leah Syberg

Tricia Murphy

Elsy Concepcion

Maria Maar

Jonathan Miladin

Angel Inuso

Alejandro Pittana

Takyra Bell

Caitlin Regan

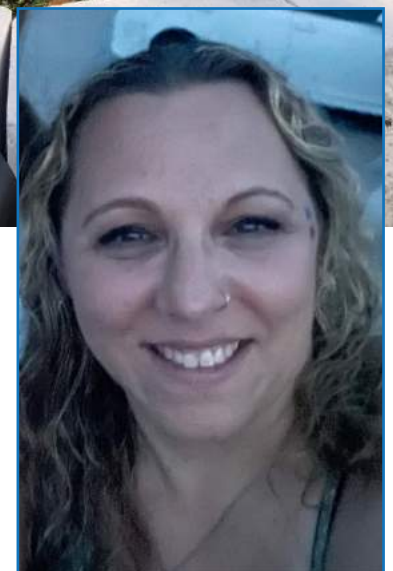
Sheryl Rutledge

Javier Verdin



## In Memory of JAMIE SPINELLI, MCAP

1977-2021



Our DATA family mourns the passing of Jamie. She was an Outpatient Therapist at the Norman C. Hayslip Center in Fort Pierce, 2015-2021.

She was a gift to our staff and clients. Her impact on those who needed her will last for many years.

## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Thank you to our Board of Directors  
for their dedication to DATA.

### CHAIRMAN

Jeffrey White

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Eric Seymour

### TREASURER

Mark Taplett

### SECRETARY

Erskine C. Rogers, III

### DIRECTORS

Gary Frechette  
James McInnis, CGFO  
Sally Mohler  
Maryann Pascarella

### LIFE DIRECTORS

Norman C. Hayslip (1916-2004)  
Walter D. Kelly (1927-1996)

### PRESIDENT AND CEO

John Fowler, B.S., C.A.P., I.C.A.D.C.

## How you can support DATA

For adolescents and teens, 2021 saw a dramatic rise in behavioral health challenges because of the COVID pandemic. School disruption and isolation from friends has led to heightened levels of anxiety, stress, and fear for so many children in the five-county area we serve.

For more than 40 years, DATA has been a refuge of hope for children and families struggling with addiction and behavioral health problems. We've helped thousands of children avoid the lure of substance use, helped teens find the path to an addiction-free life and reunited families.

**100% of every donation to DATA goes directly to support our exceptional, evidence-based programs** designed to meet the specific needs of children, teens and their families impacted by addiction, mental health, and delinquency issues.

### Ways you can help:



Become involved with DATA by engaging with us on social media, talking with your friends, co-workers and lawmakers.



Introduce DATA to corporations and other potential donors.



Make DATA part of your annual giving with a contribution in honor of a family member or friend.

DATA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your donation is tax deductible.

To contribute to the Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Inc. by mail, please send your donation to:  
DATA - 1016 Clemons Street, Suite 300. Jupiter, FL 33477

**Or visit us online at [www.drugabusetratment.org](http://www.drugabusetratment.org)  
or call DATA at 561.743.1034.**

# FINANCIALS

## Annual Operating Performance Year Ending June 30, 2021

### Income

Grants/Contracts	\$ 6,841,715
United Way Grants/Contributions	\$ 274,322
Fees, Insurance & Medicaid	\$ 145,665
In-Kind	\$ 475,710
Investment Income	\$ 1,397

**Total Income** \$ \$7,738,809

### Expenses

- <i>Program Services</i>	
Residential	\$2,487,238
Outpatient	\$ 657,559
School Based Treatment & Outreach	\$1,242,283
School Based Prevention	\$ 1,038,199
TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities)	\$ 509,396
Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Students	\$ 895,189
Medical Services	\$ 32,596
Client Incidentals	\$ 3,392

Subtotal Program Services \$6,865,852

- *Supporting Services* \$ 882,592

**Total Expenses** \$ 7,748,444

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**Net Surplus/(Deficit)** \$ (9,635)

*\*Above figures based on unaudited financial statements*

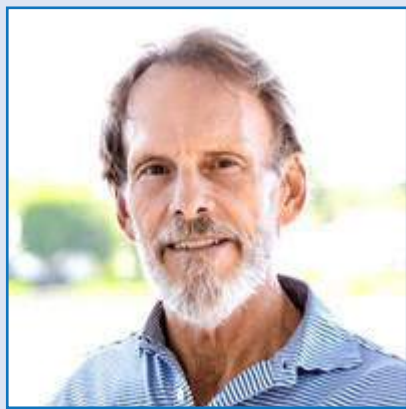




## OUR GRATITUDE

We honor the memory of a long-time friend and loyal supporter of DATA -

**ROBERT D. CRITTON, JR.**



September 1949 - December 2020

Thank you to the following local government and social service agencies who continue to provide funding for our Walter D. Kelly and Norman C. Hayslip Treatment Centers, Outpatient Centers and School Based Intervention programs.



Town of Palm Beach United Way  
United Way Indian River  
United Way Martin County  
United Way St Lucie

## We extend a special heartfelt thank you to our generous Friends and Donors

Angela Alonso  
Cheryl K. Crowley  
Michael Drew, Big Dog Holdings  
Gary Frechette  
The Hayslip Family  
Adrienne Hunecke  
Jennifer Hunecke  
The family of Lynn and Walter Kelly  
Martin County School District  
James McInnis

Alletta McKenzie  
Sally Mohler  
Northern Trust  
Okeechobee County School District  
Maryann Pascarella  
Mr. and Mrs. Preston  
Erskine C. Rogers, III  
School District of Indian River County  
The School District of Palm Beach County

Eric Seymour  
St. Lucie County Public Schools  
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office  
Mimi Totten  
Mark Taplett  
Eric Weinberger  
Jeffrey White  
WPBF 25 News

# DATA LOCATIONS

## Administration

1016 Clemons Street, Suite 300  
Jupiter, FL 33477  
561.743.1034 Phone | 561.743.1037 Fax

## Norman C. Hayslip Treatment Center

4590 Selvitz Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
772.464.7575 Phone | 772.464.6169 Fax

## Walter D. Kelly Treatment Center

1041 45th Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
561.844.9661 Phone | 561.840.8716 Fax

## West Palm Beach Outpatient/Intervention & Prevention

1720 E. Tiffany Drive, Suite 102  
Mangonia Park, FL 33407  
561.844.3556 Phone | 561.845.0316 Fax

## Fort Pierce Outpatient/Intervention

4590 Selvitz Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
772.595.3322 Phone | 772.595.3704 Fax

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## Annual Report produced by

Editor: Cheryl K. Crowley

Feature Story Writer: Ron Hayes

Design: Sheila Zayas



[www.drugabusetrreatment.org](http://www.drugabusetrreatment.org)



drugabusetrreatmentassociation



DATAcaresFL