



A Beacon of Hope in The Growing Crisis

For four decades, Care Resource has provided affordable, high-quality care and support services to the most vulnerable and diverse medically underserved populations of South Florida. Through our core and expanded services, we are a gateway to integrated care for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and primary medical care needs.

As Broward Behavioral Health experiences ongoing growth, a crucial need emerges for a dedicated Behavioral Health Center to comprehensively address the medical and behavioral health requirements of individuals, particularly those undergoing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), who are grappling with mental health and substance use disorders. The imperative to establish this center is underscored by the escalating public health crisis of drug overdoses in Broward County. This center will play a pivotal role in meeting the increasing demand for integrated services and support in the face of the persistent challenges posed by mental health and substance use issues in our community.

In the face of a mounting public health crisis, the opioid epidemic, Care Resource is taking urgent action. In 2021, the United States witnessed over 100,000 lives lost to drug overdoses, with opioids, especially fentanyl, accounting for a staggering 75,673 of these fatalities. Broward County, Florida, has not been spared, experiencing a 38% increase in drug and opioid-involved overdose deaths in 2021, reaching 693. In 2022, Broward County witnessed 7,305 emergency overdose responses, 3,449 doses of Naloxone administered, and 3,425 drug-related arrests.

Amidst these harrowing statistics, there is a beacon of hope—a plan to establish a new dedicated Behavioral Health Center. This center is designed to comprehensively address the opioid crisis in Broward County, serving as a sanctuary for those in need and as a vital component of our community's path to recovery. The Center will liaison with numerous local organizations and agencies and will be located adjacent to other social service agencies with potential collaboration and synergy, which can strengthen the impact of the services.

The renovation and construction for the new Behavioral Health Center is estimated to cost \$2.5 million and scheduled for completion in early 2025. Philanthropic support will play a pivotal role in transforming this vision into a reality. Contributions can bridge funding gaps, accelerate renovations, and expand access to comprehensive care. It's crucial to note that once opened, the center becomes self-sustaining, additional revenue is reinvested in providing essential care to the underserved. Contributions are not just financial; they represent an investment in saving lives, fostering well-being, and strengthening the community. Join Care Resource in making a lasting impact. Together, we can combat the opioid epidemic and create a sustainable source of care for those in need.

Please contact Dr. Thomas Smith for more information on how you can help: tsmith@careresource.org