

U.S. Department Health and Human Services

Samples of current and previous projects evaluated by PEER

Florida Department of Health Colorectal Cancer Control Program (2020, 2021–2025).

PEER provides program analysis and evaluation services for the State of Florida, Department of Health's Control Colorectal Cancer Control (CRCCP) program. The program's purpose is to increase colorectal cancer screening rates among persons 50 to 75 years old within partner health systems through health system changes and implementation of evidence-based interventions and other supporting strategies in partnership with health systems to institute organized screening programs.

Empower Orange: Empowering Adolescents to Engage in Healthy Sexual Behaviors (2018–2023).

This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention project funded to the School Board of Orange County (OCPS) aims to deliver enhanced and effective skills-based sexual health education (SHE); provide adolescent access to on-site and off-site sexual health services (SHS); and implement best classroom management practices and promote positive youth development activities through safe and supportive environments (SSE). The project is focusing on 11 priority middle and high schools, directly impacting over 31,000 students through implementation of numerous program activities related to SHE, SHS and SSE. With a strong commitment to positively impact over 100,000 secondary students, this effect will be diffused across all 90 secondary schools in the school district. Technical assistance provided by partner organizations is focusing on SHS and SSE activities to better meet the needs of LGBT youth in the community who are more likely to experience a diminished safe and supportive environment.

- Principal Investigator: Brenda Christopher-Muench, Orange County Public Schools

Florida Rape Prevention and Education Program (2018–2022).

The Florida Department of Health, Community Health Promotion/Violence and Injury Prevention Program received an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the ability of Rape Prevention Education funded organizations to implement primary sexual violence prevention. PEER provides technical assistance to work with DOH staff, key stakeholders (identified by DOH staff), and contracted providers, to identify appropriate data collection strategies, and assist with the creation of a logic model to describe the state programs; execute evaluation of prioritized aspects of state level activities and the design of general state and community level evaluations; identify and assess existing data sources for their potential use; use a variety of approaches to assist in the evaluation process; and translate and facilitate the use of findings for effective program planning, delivery, and continuous improvement.

- Violence and Injury Prevention Section Administrator and RPE Director: Rhonda Jackson, Florida Department of Health

Osceola County Children's Mental Health Initiative – System of Care Expansion (2017–2018).

The School District of Osceola County received a four-year System of Care grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The federal funding will support the expansion and sustainability of comprehensive community mental health services for pre- kindergarten through Grade 5 children with serious emotional disturbances (SED). The District will build an expanded System of Care on previous advances that emerged from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative and Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) grant outcomes, such as creating a centralized mental health services referral system and training more than 400 Mental Health First Aiders. Community agency leaders

realize that services offered in silos adversely impact children and families. This expansion will continue the important work of eliminating these gaps and integrating critical services. Collaboration will involve state and local child-serving agencies. The driving goal is to improve the outcomes and supports for these children, their families, and their caregivers.

- Project Coordinator: Elizabeth Lane, School District of Osceola County