

New Horizons expands services in Martin County

Megan Foley Morris, YourNews contributor 2:09 p.m. ET Jan. 21, 2017



FORT PIERCE — There are now more opportunities for people dealing with mental health issues to receive the help they need.

The FACT (Florida Assertive Community Treatment) Program is now being offered in Stuart by New Horizons Mental Health, Primary Care and Substance Abuse of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee.

People with serious mental health issues who are at high risk for hospital admissions or crisis situations receive personalized and intensive therapy for extended periods of time to help them toward recovery and the chance to live independent lives as productive members of the community.

“This is a wonderful program for the individuals we serve,” says John Romano, CEO of New Horizons, “and it also has great benefits for the community. Through the FACT program, we help to save taxpayer dollars spent on unnecessary hospitalizations, legal costs, and incarceration of people who are not criminals, simply individuals coping with serious mental health issues.”

Clients receive services wherever they live, work or go to school. A customized treatment plan is designed for each client, supported by psychiatrists, nurses, therapists and case managers, who are available to them 24 hours a day, seven days a week for as long as they are needed.

Clients also meet with Peer Specialists — individuals who have personally experienced mental health issues, who are now coping successfully, and who are trained and willing to share their experience with others.

“By the time a client graduates,” says Deana Troutner, program manager, “they have social skills that enable them to live and work successfully with others and carry out the basic skills of daily living so that they can do all the things that all of us do on a daily basis, such as caring for ourselves and our homes.”

In addition, a New Horizons Primary Care Clinic office occupies the same office with the FACT program so that clients can have easy access to physical health services.

“We know that people with mental health issues tend to die 25 years sooner than the general population due to neglect of their physical health,” says Will Joyce, PA-C, who provides primary care services both in Stuart and at the New Horizons main campus in Fort Pierce. “This is a terrible statistic that we can change by making it convenient and comfortable for our clients to receive care for their illnesses and injuries.”

The new South FACT Team is located at 701 N.W. Federal Highway, Suite 101, in Stuart. The location of the North FACT Team is 709 S. Fifth St. in Fort Pierce.

Learn more at www.NewHorizonsTreasureCoast.org or call 772-672-8333.