

Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County

Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025

OUR STORY, MISSION & VISION

In November of 2010, Palm Health Foundation convened a panel of local leaders who were concerned about the increasing prevalence of diabetes in Beach County and who had an interest in exploring local issues and related to the prevention and management of diabetes.

In March of 2012 Barbara Jacobowitz, then Chair of the Florida Diabetes Alliance Council and a trustee of Palm Health Foundation, arranged for state officials who were instrumental in crafting the Florida Diabetes Health System Strategic Plan to provide an overview of how a local initiative could link to and support strategic plan.

Hence, the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County was formed as a separate entity, with an independent governing board operating under the umbrella of a fiscal agent. In July 2017, the Coalition began the formal process through the Legal Aid Society to become an independent nonprofit organization.

501(c)(3)

On July 19, 2018, the Diabetes Coalition received formal designation as a nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.



CLIA WAIVED

With the expansion of our Diabetes Risk Screening Assessment Initiative to include health biomarker tests, since 2018 the Diabetes Coalition has received a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Waiver establishing quality standards for laboratory testing to ensure accuracy and reliability.



OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary nonprofit alliance of over 50 health care organizations and community partners working together to prevent diabetes and improve the lives of people living with the disease, and those touched by it through awareness, education, advocacy, and access to care.

We believe it's important to go where people already are, in their own communities. Outreach, diabetes risk screenings, and educational services extend across Palm Beach County, from Jupiter to Boca Raton, and out to the Glades.

While the Coalition's services are available to all, understanding that diabetes and prediabetes disproportionately affect historically underserved communities and the most vulnerable among us, our targeted outreach efforts will focus on those neighborhoods most in need.

OUR VISION

Palm Beach County is a national model for controlling and preventing the incidence of diabetes.

STRATEGIC GOAL #1:

- Maintain profitability, improve sustainability, and continue to explore opportunities to generate revenue and successfully procure grants and other funding streams

The Coalition has had success in its grant-seeking efforts and strategic funding partnerships. Even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which greatly affected our ability to operate normally, the Coalition was able to maintain its margin. However, looking to the future, the Coalition would like to explore additional and alternative revenue streams, to include strategic partnerships, fee-for-service possibilities, state & federal government opportunities, and unexplored philanthropic opportunities such as small- or large-scale fundraising events.

STRATEGIC GOAL #2:

- Linking more individuals at risk of diabetes to care and services

THE ALARMING IMPACT OF DIABETES – WHY WE DO IT – PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

- The number of adults with diabetes has doubled in 20 years
- Diabetes and prediabetes disproportionately affect historically underserved communities and the most vulnerable among us
- 1 out of every 7 dollars spent on health care in the US is spent on diabetes and its complications
- 119,000 people diagnosed with diabetes in Palm Beach County, with 48,600 having prediabetes

- Diabetes is the 7th-Leading Cause of Death in the US and Palm Beach County (2019), and the 5th-leading cause of death for seniors aged 65-74
- In 2021, the county experienced 439 deaths with diabetes as the primary diagnosis
- The COVID-19 crisis has created additional challenges for our target population, increasing the risk of severe illness for people affected by diabetes, as evidenced by the fact that 14% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 have been found to have newly diagnosed diabetes

SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS OF DIABETES

- Heart Disease – Stroke – End-Stage Kidney Disease – Blindness – Amputation – Death

Sources: American Diabetes Association and Florida Department of Health Statistics & Data

STRATEGIC GOAL #3:

- Exploring new ways to improve health equity and access to care in vulnerable communities

Who We Serve	How We Serve
Individuals impacted by diabetes (type 1, type 2, gestational diabetes, etc.) and their families	We believe it's important to go where people already are, in their own communities
Those at risk for developing diabetes	Outreach, screening, and educational services extend across Palm Beach County, from Jupiter to Boca Raton, and out to the Glades
Targeted prevention/ management strategies and education throughout Palm Beach County	Focusing on vulnerable residents and underserved communities

STRATEGIC GOAL #4:

- Collaborating with partners to increase the number of screenings in non-clinical community settings

STRATEGIC GOAL #5:

- Expanding Coalition staff to include a Program Manager and Data & Technology Specialist

DIABETES COALITION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The *Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County* is overseen by its *Leadership Team*, who voluntarily serve on the Coalition's Board of Directors. All of the program initiatives and "day to day" operations of the Diabetes Coalition are overseen and executed by the Executive Director and a cadre of volunteers. Over 50+ member organizations and volunteers selflessly give of their time and talents to help make Palm Beach County a national model for preventing and controlling diabetes.

Member organizations include hospitals, safety-net clinics, health plans, schools and universities, government and social service agencies, businesses, and individuals having or impacted by diabetes. Our role has also been to coordinate communication and linkages among our network of health care organizations. We have developed a stronger and more coordinated system of care by implementing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with our member organizations.

The majority of the Coalition's work is completed through committees, providing opportunities for members to contribute and become more involved in our initiatives.

STRATEGIC GOAL #6:

- Expanding and diversifying the Coalition's membership base & board of directors, to include increased engagement and recruitment of members with expertise in philanthropy

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MEMBERS*

- Represent the Coalition's mission and vision to the public
- Maintain and develop relationships with elected officials, community leaders and organizations
- Recruit project-specific partners
- Actively participate in workgroup committee meetings
- Review agendas and supporting materials prior to meetings
- Complete work assignments as agreed upon outside of meetings
- Assure that the activities and direction of the committees are consistent with the Coalition mission, vision and goals

DIABETES COALITION COMMITTEES

Governance Structure

Joining a committee provides opportunities for members to contribute and become more involved.



Committees Include:

- MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE
- GOVERNANCE & BYLAWS
- AWARENESS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSES
- FUND & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION
- POLICY & ADVOCACY
- VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

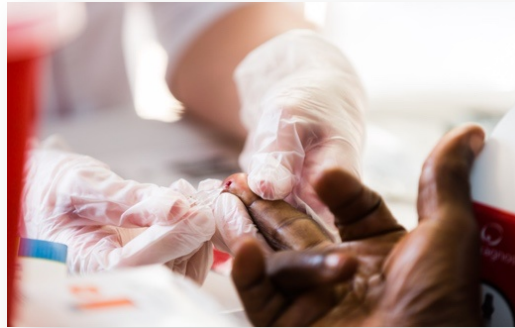
Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are the “mainstay” of the Diabetes Coalition’s initiatives and are ultimately responsible for each event’s success. We depend on our volunteers and remain indebted to them for their time and commitment to the Coalition’s mission and vision. We have a core of over 85 volunteers including high schools, university students, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and individuals representing businesses, and other civic organizations.



DIABETES COALITION INITIATIVES

DIABETES PREVENTION EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS



STRATEGIC GOAL #7:

- Expanding health biomarker offerings and increase 90-second lipid analysis

STRATEGIC GOAL #8:

- Growing our medical and community outreach teams



RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DIABETES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

While the Coalition engages in various community medical and educational outreach events for diabetes prevention throughout the year, many of these activities occur during our annual Know Your Numbers Diabetes Prevention Screening Campaign, which “kicks-off” in the fall, highlighting November National Diabetes Month, and continues through January.

The Coalition:

- provides free diabetes risk assessments, onsite, rapid-result A1c tests and other health biomarker screenings, prevention, and educational events throughout Palm Beach County at businesses, pharmacies, churches, schools, clinics, and other locations;
- recruits bilingual health care professionals and volunteers for our multi-ethnic and non-English speaking populations;
- offers risk assessment tools and resource materials in English, Spanish, and Creole; and
- when needed, links individuals to other services and/or a health care provider for further assessment.

DIABETES AWARENESS DAY

Held since 2013, Diabetes Awareness Day is the Coalition's signature community-wide annual event, bringing people together for free diabetes risk and health biomarker screenings with volunteer-led activities, contests, partner organizations, and healthy snacks. A day of learning, while having fun for the whole family!



STRATEGIC GOAL #9:

- Strengthening our data collection and analysis practices to provide more in-depth reporting on the impact of diabetes and related conditions

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Working in tandem with our members, volunteers, and community partners, the Diabetes Coalition's goal is to promote a healthy lifestyle and increase awareness about diabetes prevention, control, and management. Annually, the Coalition participates in over **30** community-wide events, which include community and employee health fairs, festivals, walks, educational events, and church and school-sponsored health-related initiatives.

TARGETED COMMUNITY MEDICAL & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Through our Targeted Community Medical and Educational Outreach Initiatives, the goal is to:

- prevent or delay the onset of diabetes through screening, referral, and linkages to programs as needed; and
- provide interactive educational experiences that offer evidence-based, easily incorporated healthy lifestyle strategies, skills, and "take-home" resource materials, designed to help prevent or manage diabetes facilitated by a team of professionals working in the field of diabetes.



STRATEGIC GOAL #10:

- Further developing the “Healthy & Ready to Thrive” program to break the cycle of diabetes in families



HEALTHY AND READY TO THRIVE – A CHILDREN AND FAMILY INITIATIVE

Through our children and family initiative, Healthy and Ready to Thrive, we are seeking to interrupt the devastating cycle of diabetes within families, by:

- offering fun and interactive educational strategies
- promoting good nutrition, healthy eating, and the importance of regular physical activity; and
- including age-appropriate discussions about diabetes – so that children better understand what “diabetes is and isn’t”.

The Coalition has adopted the national evidenced-based nutritional education program “Go, Slow, Whoa”, introducing it in school-based summer programs.

STRATEGIC GOAL #11:

- Expand diabetes prevention & self-management educational offerings to include several different levels of educational programs

STRATEGIC GOAL #12:

- Broadening prevention and diabetes self-management programs to include bilingual coaching teams

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT CLASSES

In partnership with the YMCA of South Palm Beach County, the Diabetes Coalition offers virtual and “in person” six-week, evidenced based Diabetes Self-Management classes, providing peer support, focusing on self-management and problem-solving strategies. Classes are available at no cost to area residents who have prediabetes or diabetes and their family members. These classes have been proven to help people prevent and/or control diabetes better and improve their quality of life and health outcomes.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“I wanted to again thank you for the DSMP workshop. As a type 1 diabetic for over 30 years I appreciate the opportunity to relearn some of the basics of diabetes management. This old dog was also able to learn some new tricks! The group setting allowed me to share some of my frustrations with other diabetics, something I am not usually able to do. I do feel the Zoom meeting format was effective in this regard.”

- Paul, Boca Raton

Tiered Educational Opportunities

Know Diabetes By Heart

Know Diabetes by Heart™, the joint initiative of the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Diabetes Association® (ADA), aims to empower people living with type 2 diabetes to lower their risk for cardiovascular disease.

American Heart Association’s Healthy for Life® Program

An evidence-based community nutrition and well-being program that empowers people to make healthy food, nutrition and lifestyle choices.

STRATEGIC GOAL #13:

- Supporting the health professional community with our programs

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DIABETES EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Annually, the Coalition hosts the Diabetes Educational Symposium, which provides a continuing medical education program that includes expert speakers in the field of diabetes in a venue that encourages the dissemination of research, knowledge, and evidence-based “best practices” – translating these findings and “lessons learned” into clinical practice and improved patient outcomes.



THE BARBARA JACOBOWITZ MEMORIAL FUND



DIABETES COALITION FOUNDER, TIRELESS COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, AND HERO IN MEDICINE

The Coalition has established a permanent memorial fund in Barbara’s honor to fund scholarships, diabetes camp and conference registrations, and to continue her work throughout Palm Beach County.