



**Florida Behavioral
Health Association**

Inform. Innovate. Influence.

A large, faint, light purple graphic in the background depicts a network of interconnected lines and dots, resembling a molecular structure or a complex web, spanning the entire page.

2021

Awards of Excellence

■ Supervisor/Administrator of The Year Award



Larry McFarland, LMHC

Clinical Officer
Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Larry McFarland went above and beyond during the past 15 months. He ensured the safety and security of both staff and clients of the Forensic Pre-Trial Program. Thanks to his work, the program was able to continue to accept referrals throughout the pandemic. As a member of Bridgeway Center's Executive Leadership Team, Larry quickly discerns individual needs and moves efficiently to provide key information, recommendations, or direction to his managers and staff. Larry is a servant leader and has made many sacrifices to ensure his clients received care and assistance. His 35 years of service have not gone unnoticed.

■ Peer/Recovery Support Specialist of the Year



Joseph "Joe" Wiesen

Senior Recovery Support Specialist
DACC Behavioral Health

Joseph Wiesen contributes to human health and wellbeing by using his hardships and subsequent long-term recovery to assist others in a way that only someone with lived experience can. Joe works with individuals in recovery to advise and give feedback on programs and other business practices. The wisdom he brings to the recovery journey for patients and fellow peers is unparalleled. He serves in the ED as a patient comes in and is ready to receive the individual regardless of how far they had to fall to hit rock bottom. His overflowing compassion and experience is precisely what someone in a crisis needs.

■ Clinician of The Year Award (Youth)



Wanda Stuart

Prevention Specialist
Operation PAR

Wanda Stuart has spent 25+ years teaching, educating, and engaging youth about making positive choices. She is committed to learning and implementing proven strategies to create educational sessions that excite and captivate her clients. The pandemic has not slowed her down. During the past 15 months, Wanda has engaged and reached four new organizations to create innovative partnerships with. She is an asset to her organization and her community.

■ Clinician of The Year Award (Adults)



Cinthia Creteur

Care Coordinator
Peace River Center

Cinthia Creuder is dedicated, compassionate, and goes above and beyond what is needed to meet patient needs. During the pandemic, she came across a patient who was struggling with medical and mental health needs. This patient was severely depressed. She stepped up and navigated her patient through the trials and tribulations the patient was facing. Cinthia and the client stood side by side as they marched up the mountain of recovery. Cinthia's empathy and ability to see her clients as people first is truly inspiring.

■ Medical Professional of the Year Award



Kelly Jenkins-Gregory

Director of Nursing
SMA Healthcare

Kelly Jenkins-Gregory has served her community in a number of roles, but now leads her organization's Nursing Team as the Director of Nursing. Whether she is working directly with patients on the floor, or functioning in an administrative role, every decision she makes puts the health and safety of clients first. Her kindness and compassion are second to none.

■ Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Evalina Bestman

Dr. Evalina Bestman is a licensed psychologist and former Chief Executive Officer of New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc. (NHCMHC), formerly the University of Miami – Jackson Memorial Community Mental Health Center from 1975 to 2020. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a founding professor at Florida International University. She is an experienced grant writer with an excellent funding record. She was principal investigator for the Dually Diagnosed Project at NHCMHC funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and developer of a national cross cultural immersion training program for mental health professionals. She was a member of President Carter's Commission on Mental Health Minority Task Force. She was also the first Black mental health professional to be appointed the Executive Director of a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) in the state of Florida. Dr. Bestman has also authored and co-authored numerous publications throughout her professional career. Her countless years of service and dedications have saved and changed lives.