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IMPROVING HOW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IS MANAGED

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Tampa, Fla. – Healthy Hillsborough Collaborative has awarded the Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS) with a $100,000 grant to focus on improving behavioral health. The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County, BayCare Health System and Tampa General Hospital shared the cost for the grant.

ACTS is a licensed behavioral health treatment service that offers treatment to improve health through personal and family centered recovery practices. The term behavioral health broadly refers to those with mental health issues, as well as those with drug addictions.

In 2017, there were more than 7,000 hospitalizations related to behavioral health disorders. This doesn’t include substance abuse-related disorders.

The goal is to provide the most appropriate level of care for those in need of behavioral health services in Hillsborough County. “We do not have a care coordination model in Hillsborough that would help us to provide care to high-utilizers or even properly identify them,” said Dr. Leslene Gordon. “There was also a need to inventory resources so that organizations could establish a communitywide protocol for providers.”

ACTS was selected to implement the pilot project of the care coordination model.

Healthy Hillsborough was formed in 2015 as a collaboration between DOH–Hillsborough, BayCare Health System, Florida Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa General Hospital, Tampa Family Health Centers and Suncoast Community Health Centers.