

New Staff Welcome

Josefina Quintans, Community Planning Coordinator (pictured far left), joined the Alliance in September, 2006. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Miami. She worked with the Department of Children and Families as the Program Manager for Adult Services. Her work at the Alliance focuses on community planning including leading meetings and discussions with service cluster area representatives and advocates.

Lauren Butera, Community Planning Liaison (pictured left), a native of Massachusetts, holds a B.A. in Communication and Hispanic Studies from Boston College and is fluent in Spanish. She joins us after working in various fields including sports and media marketing along with teaching high school Spanish for three years. Most recently, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the City of Miami working at a community based organization writing grants, planning events and assisting with the daily operations of the agency. Her work at the Alliance concentrates on community planning initiatives like the writing of the Implementation Strategies, assisting with the work of the A4HS Advisory Committee as well as working with the six Neighborhood Resource Networks.



Francesca Cesti-Browne, Community Planning Liaison (pictured far right), is the newest member to join the Alliance in December of 2006. Francesca has a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations and a Master's in Public Administration from Florida International University. She was the Operations & Budget Manager at the Department of Environmental Health & Safety at Florida International University. Her work at the Alliance will encompass community planning, competitive funding and administration and evaluation of grants.

Rolando Acosta, Human Services Disaster Preparedness Initiative Coordinator (pictured right), comes to the Alliance for Human Services with a wealth of experience in the field of development assistance overseas where he worked and lived in five Latin American countries. He has also worked in a number of disaster relief projects in the Mosquitia region of Honduras. He coordinated food distribution, medical assistance and logistics and transportation of supplies. Mr. Acosta initiated his professional life as a social worker in New York City working with children in foster care in South Bronx. Mr Acosta has a Master's Degree in International Relations from New York University and a Bachelor's Degree In Latin American Studies from the University of Oklahoma. He is an Oklahoma SOONER fan.

The Alliance in 2006

In addition to hosting public events, various staff also took part in other community projects; the Alliance was able to discuss the pressing social service issues in the County and our role through media outlets: WLRN 91.3 FM public radio and WIOD 610AM NewsTalk; early in 2007 the Alliance will appear on Miami-Dade County's Cable-Tap television show.

Lastly, we are excited to kick-off the year strong, with growing staff, sharp minds, and commitment to the community as we prepare to release the 2007-2010 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Through this process, hundreds' of community based organizations will compete for public service dollars which provide vital programming to the neediest in our county. Check the newspapers and our website for the NOFA release date and requirements. We are honored to be entrusted with this task and we won't let you down!