Leaves Lasting Legacy—Larry will be remembered as a good man, humble, compassionate, a kind and gentle heart, a critical thinker, avid reader, with a goal to do the best for the people our health department serves.

Larry was a strong proponent of mobilizing community partners to address the county’s most serious health challenges. Those efforts have led to significant progress in fighting the county’s HIV/AIDS epidemic and increasing access to healthcare and dental services for low-income and the uninsured.

OVERVIEW
Lincoln Park is a 2.5 square mile residential area in northwest Ft. Pierce. At-risk community with long history of poverty, low educational attainment, high rates of unemployment, HIV, teen pregnancy and infant mortality. Community addressed concerns about social, environmental, health issues, lack of jobs, parent involvement and inequities. Agreed to use a public health approach model focusing on prevention by engaging communities, providing interventions and support to gang-involved youth and families, and not just suppression.

Common Good Initiative: Allegany Franciscan Ministries a non-profit Catholic-based organization has a 5 to 7 year placed-based funding commitment of over 4.2 million in Lincoln Park.

DOH- St. Lucie commits to reducing child injuries.
DOH- St. Lucie partnered with Kids Connected by Design of St. Lucie to join Safe Kids Worldwide and form a local Safe Kids Coalition.
In 2013, the child unintentional injury fatality rate in Safe Kids counties was 20.3 % lower than the rate in non Safe Kids counties.

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Greetings St. Lucie,

While preparing my message, I pondered, “where to begin?” When serving in the capacity as the health department’s deputy administrator, I was extremely fortunate to work alongside our administrator, Larry J. Lee. I never thought the next chapter in my career would begin with his sudden passing on February 27, 2015. Larry taught me many valuable techniques about effective leadership and the importance of building a strong public health system to move St. Lucie further along the continuum of preventing disease, illness and injury. He was a visionary, scholar and public health champion for over two decades. His passion for public health will be missed and his shoes will be hard to fill. I am honored by my appointment.

As your new County Health Officer, my goal is to Raise the Bar for a healthier St. Lucie. The County Health Rankings is a tool that will measure our progress in this regard. It is based on a population health model that emphasizes various factors called social determinants and outcomes, which, if improved, make communities safer and healthier. We will continue to mobilize communities to help promote healthy behaviors while focusing on obesity, reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalization, advocating for equal access to healthcare and preparing health and medical partners to respond to natural and intentional disasters.

Healthy St. Lucie is the latest initiative the health department is involved in. Presently, over 25 community partners are working together to encourage good health where we live, learn, work and play. Healthy St. Lucie is establishing health priorities, developing an action plan and promoting a coordinated health strategy as a blueprint for our community.

Since my appointment I have instituted several key staffing changes to advance the services we provide to St. Lucie residents. Angela Roberson is the new nursing director and medical partners to respond to natural and intentional disasters.

St. Lucie, I thank you for having confidence in me. We look forward to engaging you on our journey!

CLINT SPERBER
County Health Officer

PHOTOGRAPHER: Courtesy of St. Lucie County
MEDIA RELATIONS AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. LUCIE PROVIDERS ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF MEDICAL CARE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ESTABLISHING PATIENT-SERVICE RELATIONSHIPS THAT FOSTER TRUST, COMMUNICATION, AND CONFIDENCE. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT COMMUNICATION AND PATIENT EDUCATION ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF EFFECTIVE HEALTHCARE.

JOIN MRC AND BE PREPARED FOR DISASTERS OF ALL KIND.

MRC volunteers include health care professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Other community members such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors can fill other vital support positions.

MRC CAN ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH BY:
- Supplementing public health preparedness and response
- Eliminating health disparities
- Enhancing public health preparedness

MRC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VOLUNTEERS:
- Bolster public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Train with local emergency response partners

LEXINGTON CONNECTIONS

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. LUCIE... NOW ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE PLANS.

Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie providers are dedicated to providing patients with the highest quality of medical care. We look forward to establishing patient-staff relationships that foster trust, communication, and confidence. We strongly believe that communication and patient education are an integral part of effective healthcare.

Call and schedule an appointment with one of our medical providers at 772.462.3800.

www.stluciecountyhealth.com