

**BUILDING SUCCESS**



Healthy St. Lucie is a community driven initiative to assess, plan and promote health in the community.

**Building a healthy community for a healthy future.**

- ▶ DOH-St. Lucie leads the effort to create a Healthy St. Lucie.
- ▶ The Coalition plans to launch a website that provides information on health and well-being resources.
- ▶ Working with strategic partners to promote health where we live, learn, work, and play.



Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not for profit organizations, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living.

**St. Lucie's Healthiest Weight Activities**

- ▶ Healthy Promise Florida  
An interactive campaign promoting commitments to healthy choices throughout the New Year.
- ▶ Nature Play "Prescription" Pilot Program  
A partnership encouraging physical activity in Florida's beautiful state parks.
- ▶ Florida Health Cleans Up!  
A project to increase physical activity and contribute to healthier, litter-free environments.

For more information visit: [www.HealthiestWeightFlorida.com](http://www.HealthiestWeightFlorida.com)

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.



**BUILDING FROM ZIP**

**RESTORING THE VILLAGE**  
A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO A CHRONIC COMMUNITY PROBLEM



**LARRY LEE JR.**  
Florida House of Representatives

Youth and gang violence is a significant issue that impacts many communities across the United States, including Ft. Pierce's Lincoln Park Neighborhood. Many different groups have come together such as law enforcement, public health, faith leaders, residents and other stakeholders to address the issue.

**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



**REMEMBERING OUR PUBLIC HEALTH CHAMPION**

**LARRY J. LEE**  
JUNE 16, 1951 – FEBRUARY 27, 2015

**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.

[www.stluciecountyhealth.com](http://www.stluciecountyhealth.com)

**2015 PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW**



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
IS RAISING THE BAR IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY



**BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

- ▶ BUILDING MOMENTUM
- ▶ BUILDING CONNECTIONS
- ▶ BUILDING SUCCESS
- ▶ BUILDING FROM ZIP



# PUBLIC HEALTH: BUILDING MOMENTUM

**CLINT SPERBER**  
County Health Officer

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 delegated authority in my absence. Kim Kossler will oversee disease control and health protection. This team approach will ensure continuity of leadership and service delivery. With the support of our employees, community partners, stakeholders, residents and an integrated Florida Department of Health, I am confident Larry's wishes to protect, promote and improve the health of all residents will continue. St. Lucie, I thank you for having confidence in me. We look forward to engaging you on our journey!

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY LOCATIONS

**FORT PIERCE**  
714 Avenue C  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
(772) 462-3800

**PORT ST. LUCIE**  
5150 NW Milner Drive  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
(772) 462-3800

**ST. LUCIE WEST**  
531 NW Lake Whitney Place  
Suite 106  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
(772) 462-3800

**LOGISTICS CENTER**  
3855 S. U.S. 1  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
(772) 462-3800

[www.stluciecountyhealth.com](http://www.stluciecountyhealth.com)

## BUILDING DEDICATION

Proclamation: Renaming of Building in  
Memory of Larry J. Lee, former County  
Health Officer



Clint Sperber, County Health Officer, with employees of Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie.

**COVER PHOTOS:** Courtesy of St. Lucie County Media Relations and Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County.

**CREATIVE SERVICES:**  
Comet Media Group [www.cometmg.com](http://www.cometmg.com) 772-480-3414

## BUILDING CONNECTIONS

### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS



**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

To learn more visit [www.servfl.com](http://www.servfl.com) or contact the St. Lucie County Medical Reserve Corps. **772-873-4911**



**Tobacco Free Florida** **Quitline**  
St. Lucie County 1-877-U-CAN-NOW

### 3 EASY & FREE WAYS TO QUIT

Talk to a Quit Coach® who can help you quit tobacco. **1-877-U-CAN-NOW** 1-877-822-6669

Online help quitting tobacco is only a few clicks away. [www.quitnow.net/florida](http://www.quitnow.net/florida)

Looking for local face-to-face help? Find a center near you. [www.ahectobacco.com](http://www.ahectobacco.com)

## 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.**



## WIC SUCCESSES Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ▶ Provided WIC nutrition services to 13,000 pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and children under age 5.
- ▶ Breastfeeding: 33.2 % continued for six months, above state rate of 30.9%.
- ▶ Shared St Lucie WIC breastfeeding success stories at the National WIC Association Washington Leadership Conference for congressional staff briefing session
- ▶ Ongoing WIC & La Leche League partnership in offering Mothers Support Group monthly at St Lucie West WIC office.
- ▶ Implemented WIC EBT Cards to replace checks for greater convenience for clients and retail stores.