



**For Immediate Release**

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**Charlotte Behavioral Health Care Chosen to Present at Annual FADAA Conference**

**Punta Gorda, FL (May 12, 2017)** – Three employees at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) have been chosen to present at the 2017 Florida Behavioral Health Conference being held August 16-18 in Orlando.

The Florida Council for Community Mental Health and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association selected CBHC to present on suicide postvention as prevention. Kim Sanderson, Northside and DeSoto Psychiatric Manager; Jean Tucker, CBHC Assistant Vice President of Outpatient Services; and Jennifer Reed, CBHC Director of Crisis Services will be presenting on the topic.

The presentation will highlight our area's Purple Packet. The Charlotte County Purple Packet was developed by CBHC and Healthy Charlotte's Mental Health Subcommittee to help get resource information in the hands of those at first contact with new survivors of suicide (those that have lost a loved one to suicide) to promote healing and understanding.

"Research has shown that family members of individuals who die by suicide - including parents, children, and siblings - are at increased risk of suicide," said Sanderson, who performs the trainings throughout Charlotte County. "We distribute these packets to funeral directors, law enforcement, EMS, schools, counselors, and others throughout the community, and we train them on the importance of getting resources into the hands of survivors quickly."

Tucker continued, "The goal of the Purple Packet is to give survivors the support, tools and resources they need immediately after a loved one's passing. Postvention is prevention. We are honored to speak at the FADAA conference and share with our peers this important postvention tool so that it may be adapted in other communities across Florida."

Known for years as the FADAA/FCCMH Annual Conference, this event has grown into the largest behavioral health conference in the Southeast and attracts more than 1,300 professionals, executives, exhibitors, and volunteers each year. The conference provides attendees with opportunities to learn and apply the most current technology, research, and trends to their daily jobs and to network with other professionals.

For more information on Charlotte County's Purple Packet, visit <http://www.healthycharlottecounty.org/subcommittees/mental-health/purple-packets>.

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