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LECTURE AND PUBLIC FORUM TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS IN BELLE GLADE

BELLE GLADE, FL—The Palm Beach County EPICC Program is sponsoring a lecture and public forum on HIV/AIDS in the far western communities of Palm Beach County at 8:30 AM Thursday, June 2, 2005 at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center on the Palm Beach Community College Belle Glade Campus.

Spencer Lieb, Senior Epidemiologist for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS at the Florida Department of Health will open the discussion with a lecture on the trends in HIV/AIDS in the County. Lieb will focus on the far western areas including, Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee.

Following the lecture will be a panel discussion and open forum composed of individuals from the western areas that include clergy, mental health therapists, and government officials. The topic is titled, "Tearing Down the Walls – Ending Stigma and Discrimination for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS". The discussion should lead to concrete suggestions on ways to eliminate the disproportionate impact HIV/AIDS has on minorities.

EPICC an acronym for Education, Prevention, Intervention and Care Coalition was created to form collaborative efforts at eliminating HIV/AIDS in the County through community-based organizations and other agencies.

There is no charge for the lecture and forum but persons interested in attending should call the EPICC office at the Palm Beach County Health Department, 561-882-3222 to reserve a space.

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