



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Collier Physician Earns Prestigious "2011 Statewide Community Healthcare Pioneer" Award

Collier: Allison Nist, M.D., a Senior Physician with the Collier County Health Department, recently earned the prestigious "2011 Statewide Community Healthcare Pioneer" award given to one individual in Florida who has positively impacted health disparity in the State of Florida. Dr. Nist's outstanding dedication to working with HIV/AIDS over the past two and a half decades made her a standout for this exceptional award.

Dr. Nist's efforts to treat and reduce the HIV/AIDS pandemic started in September of 1987 when she began a specialty clinic to treat individuals with HIV/AIDS at Collier Health Services, a federally qualified health center based in Immokalee. In 1988, she started working for the Collier County Health Department and expanded her clinic to serve both Naples and Immokalee. Throughout her 24 years of service in Collier County, Dr. Nist has provided care in the clinic setting, visited patients in area hospitals and at times, has visited patients in their homes. Before the "cocktail" of HIV/AIDS treatment drugs became available and there were very limited treatment options, she enrolled as a provider in the early drug trials so her patients had access to some of the most cutting edge treatment options available.

During the early years of HIV/AIDS, many people died quickly despite the best effort of care givers. Care giver burn-out was widespread, but Dr. Nist was not deterred and continues to provide high quality care that always meets, or exceeds, the current standard of care.



Dr Allison Nist (left) receiving the "2011 Statewide Community Healthcare Pioneer" Award from Dr Shairi Turner (right), Deputy Secretary of Health and Director, Office of Minority Health.

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