

New EIS Leader at Ogeechee

"I feel honored to be a small part of an organization that does such phenomenal, life-changing work." - Wendy Felix



Ogeechee EIS Team: coordinator Wendy Felix (right) with (l to r) Jenni Good, LPN; Jennifer McTier, LPN; and Sherry Vescuso, RN.

With an extensive background in mental

health long term care, Wendy Felix is enjoying working with clients who can – and do – recover. "It's been very rewarding to witness tangible evidence of our clients' recovery."

Wendy is the new Infection Control Nurse / HIV, Communicable Disease Specialist at Ogeechee (a division of CSB of Middle Georgia). Along with the EIS team (pictured above) Wendy credits Denise Forbes, CEO of Middle Georgia CSB; COO Amy Tribble; DON Lydia Daley; and Community Relations Coordinator Renia Hullander with providing crucial support to Ogeechee's EIS program. In the first 8 months after she joined the CSB, her EIS team produced three National HIV Testing Day events and Wendy gave her first HIV-positive diagnosis.

In June, Wendy used the buzz about National HIV Testing Day to promote HIV testing at three Ogeechee clinics. "I felt compelled to do something to get the word out about our services and to offer some incentive for people to come in and get tested," says Wendy.

The slogan was: *Test today, don't delay, do it your way! Knowledge is power!!* She created flyers, had banners hung outside each clinic, and put articles in six different newspapers. "We advertised our testing events in every newspaper in our 7-county service area," says Wendy. She also contacted local businesses who contributed door prizes: \$25 Walmart gift cards, restaurant gift cards, free buffet meals, and from the Ford dealership - free oil changes. In addition to a chance to win a prize, every individual who tested also received a chocolate bar and a Georgia map illustrated with HIV statistics.

This quarter, Wendy delivered her first HIV-positive diagnosis. "The hardest thing was the initial shock. But I remembered what I learned in the Imagine Hope HIV training* and I was able to counsel them without difficulty. I then explained that if the result was confirmed they would have options of infectious disease (ID) clinics for treatment and found out which location they preferred."

**Rapid HIV Testing & Prevention Counseling is mandatory for all EIS workers.*

"Before the client came back for their confirmatory result, I called the ID clinic to find out everything they required and what appointments were available. So when the client returned, it didn't take but a second for me to call and schedule that appointment."

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