

Happy 30th Anniversary, Penny!

Congratulations to our Healthy Start Program Manager, Penny Smith, for 30 years of service to the Florida Department of Health in Orange County! Penny has spent the past 25 years with Healthy Start, first as the Community Liaison ensuring OB providers were trained on the Healthy Start prenatal screen, then as a staff supervisor and ultimately as program manager. Her passion for maternal-child health is evident not only in the countless (i.e. unpaid) hours she spends in the office, at home and at activities throughout the county but especially in ensuring our HS program excels in providing services and meeting our performance measures.



Penny has received numerous awards and commendations for her tireless efforts, including the *Perinatal Leadership Platinum Award* at her graduation from the Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice. She has collaborated with the Coalition over the years in developing memoranda of agreement with agencies such as DCF, Aspire Health Partners, Covenant House, and Healthy Families Orange; she was instrumental in placing a HS care coordinator in the Orange County Jail to provide our services to incarcerated pregnant women and in partnering with an alternative high school, Prosperitas Leadership Academy Charter, for a nurse to provide onsite HS services to pregnant/parenting teens. Penny also expanded the Coalition's *Boot Camp for New Dads* project by placing a care coordinator at our HS childbirth classes to offer the class to the male partners. She led the efforts of our local Health Dept.'s successful application for a 5-year federal Healthy Start grant called *Bellies, Babies and Beyond*; she is the administrator for this project that offers centering pregnancy and care coordination at the Lila Mitchell clinic. Penny is truly a valuable asset to the mothers and babies of Orange County!