

Charlotte County receives employee wellness awards

By Hector Flores

Cigna has selected Charlotte County as a recipient of its Gold-level Healthy Workforce Designation for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the health and well-being of its employees through a workplace wellness program.

Charlotte County's Wellness at Work program is the cornerstone of a strong organizational culture where well-being is embedded throughout the organization. Commissioners, administration and leaders value employees' and family members' well-being and are involved in supporting their well-being. The Wellness at Work program provides extensive resources that support whole person health, including each dimension of wellness: emotional, physical, occupational, social, spiritual, intellectual, environmental, and financial.

"In Charlotte County government, employee health is our top priority; we are honored to be recognized with the Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation" said Budget and Administrative Services Director Gordon Burger. "We understand the important role employee well-being plays in an organization's success and the relationship between healthy employees contributing to a more productive, satisfied workforce and positive business performance."

Mental Health America awarded Charlotte County a 2025 Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health. The Bell Seal is the nation's preeminent certification, recognizing employers committed to creating mentally healthy workplaces. The county was awarded the platinum-level seal, the highest the organization awards.

MHA is the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to promoting mental health, well-being, and illness prevention for all. MHA has spent decades researching mental health in the workplace and introduced the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health in 2019 to recognize organizations that value and implement policies and practices that support employee mental health and well-being.

One of the programs that illustrates our commitment to our employees' mental health awareness was a series of mental health first aid certification workshops. The training provided employees with the knowledge and awareness of potential mental health challenges they and their colleagues may be facing. It also underscored the importance of ensuring everyone knows it is OK to talk about mental health.

Congratulations to county Wellness Coordinator Stephanie Phillips, who has led a transformation of the county's wellness program during her tenure. The presenters of the mental health training told attendees they have never seen such employee support like the county has available for our colleagues and their families.

Focus group

The Charlotte County Commission is seeking volunteers to serve on the 1% Local Option Sales Tax Focus Group that will hold a series of meetings to review prioritize projects to be funded by

revenue generated by the 1% local option sales tax if approved by voters in November 2026. The focus group's recommendations will be provided to the County Commission, which vote on the final project list.

To request an application, contact Administration at 941-743-1943.

Disaster jobs

The Charlotte County Human Resources Department is seeking individuals for emergency response and relief efforts. Staff hired into the emergency pool will be called upon to be deployed during an emergency activation. Work to be assigned at various locations throughout the county based on need.

Human Resources will host a hiring event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 13, at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, located at 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.

Hourly rate of \$25. Must be 18 and older. Training will be provided if needed.

Interested candidates are encouraged to attend the event.

Readers may reach County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.