

AIDS Healthcare Foundation Archives
4905 Hollywood Blvd, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-436-8900
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THE AHF PHARMACY COLLECTION
ACCESSION NO. #####-##



Dates 2000-Present

Extent 26 digitized items, including documents, audio files, and videos

Creator AIDS Healthcare Foundation

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Finding Aid This guide is available online.

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Subject Heading

Pharmacy
Pharmacy management
Pharmacy – administration
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Ryan White
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (U.S.)
Antiretroviral drugs
Antiretrovirals

Historical Note

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation opened their first pharmacy in downtown Los Angeles in 2000. Scott Carruthers, the current Senior Manager Chief Pharmacy Officer started working for AHF in 2004. At that time, there were only 4 pharmacies total under AHF. One was open in San Francisco but only for 3 days a week, one was open in Jacksonville in conjunction with the Disease Management clinic, and one had just closed in New York City.

AHF then won the Pure Pharmacy grant which was through the Ryan White CARE Act. It was a bid for business funding through the federal government, in which AHF was then able to open up a pharmacy in Liberty City, FL. Once that first pharmacy was bought, they began to open all over Florida. AHF would either find an existing pharmacy site, or start one from the ground up.

From there, the process would move towards getting the pharmacy program started. Scott Carruthers worked with Mike Kahane to reshape the AIDS Healthcare presence in Florida. The AHF Board of Directors realized that there was not enough attention towards those living with HIV/AIDS in the Deep South. They identified ten states that were at the highest risk and called it the "10 State Expansion Plan".

The 10 Expansion Plan started with Washington, D.C. with a healthcare center and a pharmacy. According to Carruthers, the clinic and the pharmacy coexisting together is the best model for patients getting treatment. Another model is to find good doctors and clinics, possibly from other AIDS organizations, and with the clinics and pharmacies other services are brought. Finding a doctor who fits with the mission of AHF as well as the pre-existing model first, then put the pharmacy in the clinic. Carruthers took a several year hiatus, and when he returned he began linking the pharmacy to the Out of the Closet thrift store at Wilton Manors. This was significant, as it provides a level of anonymity for people with HIV. Those who wish to be tested or to pick up their medication could simply go through the thrift store.

As of 2018, AHF has 46 pharmacies nationally, with 16 in development. To keep patients in care, they need other support. For example, 340b is very important as it gives the margin for AHF to do what it does; it provides a safety net to treat more patients. The pharmacists deal directly with patients, collect information and build a relationship by having contact with each other on a monthly basis to make sure they are taking their medication. The AHF Pharmacy develops and uses different packaging to help patients remember to take their medication (calendar etc.). The pharmacies follow the schedules of the clinics and the thrift stores. The Out of the Closet has a more open schedule which helps with convenience.