

July 2, 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW DETOXIFICATION DIRECTOR
NAMED AT SWFAS**

FORT MYERS, Fla., July 2, 2009 - **Kevin B. Lewis**, chief executive officer of Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS), has announced that **Alejandro Garcia-Barbon** has been appointed director of Adult Detoxification Services at SWFAS.

In his new role, Garcia-Barbon will be responsible for all adult detoxification services at the new SWFAS Detoxification Center recently completed on Evans Avenue in Fort Myers.

“Alex has an extensive background in substance abuse treatment and prevention on a national level, as well as directing a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in Washington, D.C.” Lewis said. “His experience and leadership skills are a great addition to our team.”

The new \$9.5 million Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment Center opened in February with the capacity to treat 40 patients when fully funded. The Detoxification Center currently treats 25 patients at a time with stays averaging between three and seven days.

“My goal is that every patient will have a plan to achieve recovery upon their discharge and be linked to services in either a residential or outpatient setting,” Garcia-Barbon said. “I also want to work with the community to educate our residents about addiction, helping them to understand it’s a disease like diabetes and heart disease that can be managed with the right treatment.”

Garcia-Barbon moved to Fort Myers from Rockville, Md., where he worked for IQ Solutions, Inc., as a senior technical advisor responsible for managing and providing technical assistance to several contracts for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and other National Institutes of Health, among other duties. He also worked with the National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention in Washington, D.C. on two occasions, serving as a project director from 2002 to 2005 and executive director from 2007 to 2008.

This is the second time Garcia-Barbon has relocated to Southwest Florida to work in the not-for-profit sector. He was the development director of Child Care of Southwest Florida, Inc., from 2005 to 2006.

Garcia-Barbon earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion with concentration in human services from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD, and a Master of Science degree in International Management from the University of Maryland in College Park, MD.

SWFAS is the most comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention program in Southwest Florida, serving 6,000 people per year from ages 9 to 90. SWFAS offers outpatient and residential programs for both adults and youngsters from five locations in Lee County and two in Hendry County. In addition, SWFAS provides detoxification services for adults, prevention programming, and an Employee Assistance Program for about 60 Southwest Florida businesses.

SWFAS services are not free. Fees are charged on a sliding scale, based on family income. In many cases, private insurance is accepted. SWFAS is proud to be a United Way agency.

For more information, visit www.swfas.org or call (239) 332-6989.