



## **Linda De Piano, PhD, Recognized for Behavioral Health Leadership**

Dr. Linda De Piano, CEO of the Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health in West Palm Beach, FL has been recognized with two prestigious awards. On Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, she received the Bruce Rendina Professional Hero Award from the Palm Beach County Medical Society. She will also receive the Women in Leadership Award for the nonprofit sector from Executive Women of the Palm Beaches on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

For both awards, Dr. De Piano was recognized for her professional and volunteer leadership to improve mental health, substance abuse and integrated healthcare services, and her achievements at the county, state and national level to bring mental health funding and support to Palm Beach County.

As chair of the Human Services Coalition for the county for over ten years, Dr. De Piano led a coalition to receive funding for a much-needed co-occurring unit to treat county residents with both mental health and substance abuse disorders and to increase funding for Healthy Families Florida's home visitation program to prevent child abuse and neglect. She has also worked with mental health leaders as the Florida Council for Behavioral Health's chair to pass important senate bills to improve coordination of care and increase federal funding while maintaining state spending. And as a Mental Health Corporation of America board member, Dr. De Piano has helped the center and its partner organizations set high mental healthcare standards for Palm Beach County.

Dr. De Piano never loses sight of why she is so driven to lead: "The reason I do all of this is for the people of Palm Beach County with mental health challenges. I help them have a voice where for a long time there was silence."

Dr. De Piano has been with the Jerome Golden Center for 34 years.



Dr. Suresh Rajpara and Dr. Linda De Piano of the Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health, 2017 Heroes in Medicine