

## **James Berko**

James Berko, MSW, ACSW, has over 40 years of clinical and administrative experience in the fields of mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

He graduated from Albright College in PA with a BA degree in Psychology and Sociology in 1966 and Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work, NJ, with an MSW in group therapy in 1968 and was certified for independent practice (ACSW) in 1973.

His career began in 1969 doing direct clinical and private practice with adults and children and progressed into administrative areas of program development and leadership positions. His career parallels the development of community mental health programs from the deinstitutionalization of the 1960's. He wrote one of the first federally funded Community Mental Health Center Grants based on the 1963 legislation and the Center is still functioning as part of St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, NJ.

His work has focused on children's services, the seriously mentally ill and recovery services for the addicted. He has started residential and outpatient programs in NJ, NY, and FL. where he implemented the first Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) under the 1974 Baker Act in Seminole County, FL.

Since 1983, he has been the CEO/President of Seminole Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., a comprehensive MH/SA treatment Agency serving both adults and children in Seminole County. He also is very active volunteering in the community, holding offices in the Rotary Club of Casselberry, the Oviedo/Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce and 2008 President of the Healthy Start Program in Seminole serving women/families with prenatal care services.

Jim has been married for 38 years to Linda and they have 3 grown children