

YSPD Scoop!



Volume 4 | Issue 3

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



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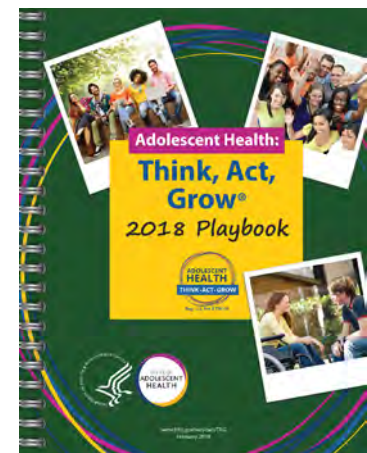
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Office of Adolescent Health Recognizes County's Birth to 22 Initiative

There are 42 million adolescents in the United States. That's 42 million opportunities to support good health and positive development. Everyone can play a part, including you!

The HHS Office of Adolescent Health launched its national call to action to promote adolescent health, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG), in 2014 and has worked with stakeholders across the U.S. to raise awareness and spur action, including highlighting the Palm Beach County Birth to 22 Initiative in this TAG in Action.

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Birth to 22 are pleased to support TAG and hope you will take a minute to learn more about this important effort.



Learn more about how we can all promote adolescent health in the updated TAG Playbook <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/sites/default/files/tag-playbook-2018.pdf> (Birth to 22 is highlighted on page 25).

Birth to 22 Featured in Forum for Youth Investment Webinar



Palm Beach County's Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures initiative was featured by the Forum for Youth Investment during an April 2 webinar titled "The Palm Beach County Story: A Big Picture Approach to Brighter Futures." To view

explained how the coalition has strengthened and aligned community partnerships.

Among the featured panelists were Tammy K. Fields, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department director; Marsha Guthrie, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County Community Planning & Partnerships officer; Suzette Harvey, Prime Time Palm Beach County president and CEO; and Dr. Seth Bernstein, United Way of Palm Beach County senior vice president of Community Investments. The panel was moderated by Merita Irby, co-founder of the Forum for Youth Investment.

This webinar served as an introduction in advance of the Ready by 21 National Meeting, April 18-20, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Palm Beach County as honored to be the host location for this national conference.

the webinar, please visit <https://youtu.be/QroJKyEuMRU>.

The webinar highlighted the vital and dynamic work Birth to 22 is doing to support the healthy growth, development and education of Palm Beach County children and youth prenatal through young adulthood so that they can graduate from high school and succeed in life. It also

Youth Services Participates in TAG Webinar

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department recently participated in the Office of Adolescent Health's (OAH) national call to action, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG).

Youth Services Department Director Tammy Fields was featured in the TAG in Action: Strengthening the Steps to Success webinar.

One of the primary goals of TAG is to promote action at the local and state levels in support of adolescent health. Highlighting effective and innovative approaches, such as Palm Beach County, encourages others to take action to promote and support adolescent health.



To view the webinar, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6StDgDgsbwU>.

Youth Services Earns 4 NACo Achievement Awards



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has been recognized with four Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the category of children and youth.

United for Change, and Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures programs.

"These programs provide innovative and indispensable services to the youth in Palm Beach County, ranging from mental health counseling to leadership training and mentoring," said Youth Services Director Tammy K. Fields.

NACo recognized award-winning counties at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition July 13-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information on the programs recognized, please visit pbcgov.com/youthservices.

NACo recognized the My Brother's Keeper Network of Palm Beach County, Highridge Family Center, Future Leaders

Future Leaders United for Change Host First Leadership Conference



On May 12, Future Leaders United for Change hosted its first leadership conference at Palm Beach Lakes High School in West Palm Beach. More than 215 youth from across Palm Beach County attended the Future Leaders: 2018 Leadership Conference, with welcoming remarks from Palm Beach County Vice Mayor Mack Bernard.

The conference's themes were leadership, healthy coping mechanisms, social media, life skills and equity. Invited speakers included Ricky Aiken, the keynote speaker and Inner City Innovators executive director; Hazeller Decime, director of For the Children Youth Empowerment Center; Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields; and David Wooten, Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

"A conference like this, planned by youth for youth, is so important," said Fields. "They shared their personal stories in order to help others. We learned what was important to our youth, and I believe the youth came away feeling listened to and empowered."

Attendees enjoyed a skit about the value in using social media platforms to uplift our community performed by the Palm Beach Lakes High School drama team. The performance also introduced topics presented in the conference's workshop sessions "An Innovative Guide to EmPOWERment: Social Media, Healthy Coping Mechanisms" and "Life SKILLS & LEADERShip."

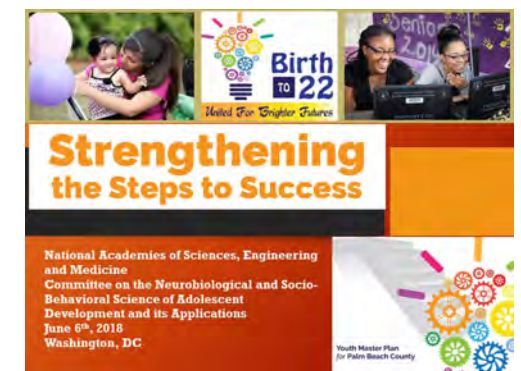
The workshops were led by Future Leaders United for Change representatives Christian Allen, Ke'Onda Johnson, Jazzman Lezama, Daniela Lagos and Lillian Khanna; Ramon Robinson, As I Am Records LLC artist and author; and Eugene Spann, CareerSource Palm Beach County Youth Outreach career consultant.

For more information about Future Leaders United for Change and to view highlights of the conference, visit pbcgov.com/youthservices.

Youth Services Director Presents at NASEM Conference in Washington

Tammy K. Fields, director of the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, was invited to speak at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Conference on June 6, in Washington D.C. Tammy's presentation to the Committee on the Neurobiological and Socio-Behavioral Science of Adolescent Development and its Applications dealt with the power of collaborations in addressing adolescent needs.

The committee is charged with examining the neurobiological and socio-behavioral science of adolescent development, health, well-being and resilience, including the science of positive youth development. The group also focuses on how this knowledge can be applied to institutions and systems so that adolescent well-being, resilience and development are promoted and that systems address structural barriers and inequalities in opportunity and access.



The committee learned of the collaborative work being done by Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and wanted to know more about how this work can be scaled to other communities as a best practice model. Palm Beach County was the only county government invited to present at this meeting.

Youth Services and Birth to 22 Launch Youth Master Plan for Business



(l-r) Tammy K. Fields, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department director; Merita Irby, Big Picture Approach Consulting and The Forum for Youth Investment managing partner; and Karen Pittman, Forum for Youth Investment co-founder, president and CEO



(l-r) Assistant County Administrators Nancy Bolton and Todd Bonlarron and Dr. Seth Bernstein, senior vice president for Community Investments, United Way of Palm Beach County

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures coalition formally launched the Palm Beach County Youth Master Plan to the business community during a business leaders breakfast on April 18. The Palm Beach County Children: Our Most Promising Startups event was held at the Marriott West Palm Beach with welcoming remarks from Palm Beach County Vice Mayor Mack Bernard.

Developed by over 60 member organizations of Birth to 22, the Youth Master Plan is a blueprint for setting priorities and taking action to improve the lives of children and youth in Palm Beach County. It reflects an ongoing effort to engage community members at all levels in building on strengths, aligning ongoing efforts and addressing gaps in order to create a community where all youth – from birth to 22 – reach their full potential.

Keynote speaker Kim Fremont Fortunato, Campbell Soup Foundation president and CEO, spoke about the importance of collective impact and why the business community should engage in collective impact community efforts.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County CEO, gave a presentation on the Birth to 22 initiative that focused on mental and behavioral health supports for Palm Beach County children.

For more information about Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, please visit <http://pbcbirthto22.com/>.

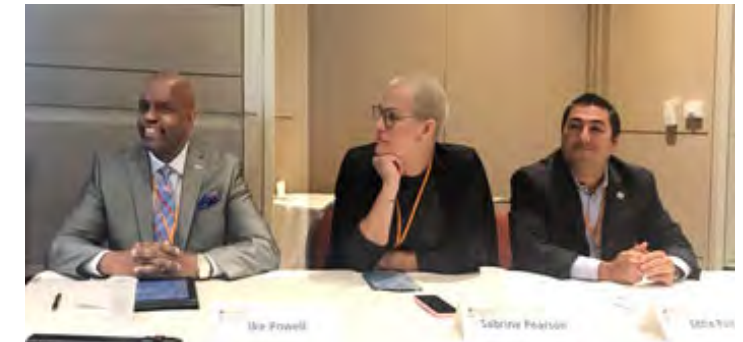
“This was a super event! I believe there will be significant ‘return’ on these efforts for the initiative!”
- Deborah Stewart,
School District of Palm Beach County

“It was one of the best, if not the best event I have been to. Great job everyone, makes us proud to be involved!”
- Kim Reckley,
PNC Bank

Youth Services Department Hosts Ready By 21 National Meeting



(L to R) Suzette Harvey, Prime Time Palm Beach County president/CEO; Laurie George, United Way of Palm Beach County president & CEO; and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County CEO led the panel “Show Me the Money – How to Get and Give Using a Youth Master Plan.”



(L to R) Ike Powell, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department senior program specialist; Sabine Pearson, Compass Transgender Youth Services coordinator; and Eddie Ruiz, Equity & Access assistant superintendent for School District of Palm Beach County Student Services

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures coalition hosted the Ready by 21 National Meeting at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, April 18 to 20. The national meeting brought together hundreds of leaders from around the country who are working to get all young people ready by 21.

Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Youth Services Department director of Outreach & Community Programming, and Ike Powell, Youth Services Department senior program specialist, participated in the panel “Equity as a Brand.” The workshop explored practical approaches to creating and implementing equity agendas.

Youth Services Director Tammy K. Fields participated in the panel “Show me the Money – How to Get and Give Using a Youth Master Plan.” The session examined how

Palm Beach County has used community partnerships to apply for and receive grants, including the Wallace Foundation grant for Social and Emotional Learning.

The summit’s sessions focused on key themes concerning ensuring readiness, promoting equity, increasing shared commitment and improving program quality.

“I’m writing with overdue but deeply heartfelt appreciation for all you did to make this year’s Ready by 21 National Meeting possible ... I can’t thank you enough for all of your support and partnership!”

- Kris Minor,
Forum for Youth Investment



“To my favorite PBCers – This thank you is SUPER belated. I was prepping to send it off as I was heading out of the country for my annual trek, but then found that connectivity was a bit of a challenge from the Galapagos!

Still hoping that a picture (or a few pictures) are worth a thousand words. As you look at these, I hope you each hear the words that Debi Stewart spoke to each young person in the band as they walked through the doorways after their performance: “You’re the reason. You’re the reason. You’re the reason. . . .”

YOU are the reason that the Ready by 21 National

Conference was such a huge success this year.

YOU are the reason that so much energy has been unleashed with and on behalf of young people in Palm Beach County.

YOU are the reason that people across the country look to PBC for examples of partners and partnerships that are committed to getting real and sticking to it. It’s a long road, but you are an inspiration.

May we all continue to be United for Brighter Futures

From my heart -
Merita Irby,
Forum for Youth Investment

Youth Services Senior Program Specialist Named Mentor of the Year



Ike Powell, Youth Services Department senior program specialist, received the Mentor of the Year Award during the United Way of Palm Beach County's "Simply the Best" annual awards ceremony on May 23.

More than 400 local business leaders and community partners attended the event, which celebrates how corporate support benefits the United Way of Palm Beach County and makes a significant social impact.

Over the past 15 years, Powell has served as a mentor in various capacities and programs. Currently, he serves as a mentor with Take Stock In Children, Future Men of Tomorrow, and Viner Community Scholars Foundation.

"Quality mentoring connects youth and young adults to a caring adult who listens, offers advice, helps individuals navigate challenges, and enhances student chances for successful life outcomes," Powell said.

Youth Empowerment Center Hosts Male Group Mentoring Listening Session

Youth from the Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) participated in a male group mentoring listening session on May 7.

The young men shared instances of interaction with law enforcement, as well as desires, wishes and needs including gaming equipment, technology, job opportunities and an additional gymnasium in Belle Glade.

Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarron and Youth Services Department Senior Program Specialist Ike Powell visited the YEC and met the youth in attendance.

"The youth conducted a very efficient and engaged teen council meeting, which resulted in identifying specific activities, including community service options for recommendation and presentation to the YEC leadership," said Powell.

Youth empowerment centers provide activities and services to at risk youth ages 11-19, including after-school educational and recreational programs/activities. The focus



is on empowering youth, promoting education, promoting health, promoting leadership and community involvement.

For more information about Youth Empowerment Centers, please pbcgov.com/youthservices.

"Opportunities don't happen, you create them."

-Chris Gosser

County Gets Its Green on for Mental Health Awareness



Four Points

Mental Health Month Proclamation



Education & Training Center

Youth & Family Counseling

Highridge Family Center

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, in partnership with Healthier Delray Beach and Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, launched the "Get Your Green On" campaign and invited Palm Beach County to wear green on May 24 in solidarity. The Board of County Commissioners also presented a proclamation declaring May 2018 Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County.

The Youth Services Department's Education & Training Center and Risk Management's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) held four Lunch & Learn sessions. These events offered presentations on topics such as "Myths of Mental Health," presented by Dr. Melissa Singh; "Chill Out!: Effective Relaxation Techniques," presented by Dr. Laura Cruz; "What's Important?: Understanding Your Values to Enrich Your Life," presented by Dr. Loren Berry; and "Self-Care: Taking Care of Yourself Takes Care of Everything Else," presented by Ashley Wilkins, MA.

As part of the campaign, Dr. Marcy Weiss and Dr. Laura Cruz wrote articles about mental health counseling, intervention, assertive communication and healthy relationships. Dr. Weiss and Dr. Shayna Ginsburg also participated in an interview with Channel 20 about mental health awareness and trauma-informed care. Youth Services Department Secretary Giselle Badillo created a Mental Health Awareness Month calendar with wellness tips.

Among the organizations that got their green on were the Palm Beach County Library System, Water Utilities, Environmental Resources Management, the United Way of Palm Beach County, the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, NAMI Palm Beach County, the cities of Delray Beach, Lake Park and Boynton Beach, FAU CARD, Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service, Compass, Prime Time Palm Beach County, the Center for Child Counseling, and Achievement Centers for Children & Families.

Do the Write Thing Challenge



YSD participated in the 2018 Do the Write Thing Challenge. The Challenge offers Palm Beach County middle school students a supportive forum to share their thoughts and feelings about how youth violence affects their life and what they can personally do to help eliminate it.

questions about youth violence through a personal essay:

- How has youth violence affected my life?
- What are the causes of youth violence?
- What can I do to reduce youth violence?

The Youth Services Department received more than 300 essays for review. A special thanks goes to Tammy Fields, Stacey King, Sherron King, Rebeca Krogman, Patty Hindle, Amanda Terrell, Loren Berry, Nigel Johnson and Tanya Tibby, for volunteering to read and evaluate the essays.

The program is comprised of a classroom discussion and a challenge for students to address three important

5th Annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference



(l-r) Geoffrey Merrifield, LMHC; Dr. Loren Berry; Dr. Shayna Ginsburg; Dr. Laura Cruz; and Nohemi Medrano, LMHC

The Youth Services Department participated in the 5th Annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference on June 11.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, participated in a panel that discussed Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The Department's Residential Treatment & Family Counseling Division team led several workshops including, "Trauma 101" by Dr. Loren Berry (Education & Training Center psychologist); "Emotionally Free to Learn:

Emotional Factors That May Hinder Learning" by Nohemi Medrano, LMHC (Youth & Family Counseling family therapist) and Geoffrey Merrifield, LMHC (Youth & Family Counseling licensed family therapist); and "Developing Cultural Competency: Understanding Barriers and Strategies by Dr. Laura Cruz (Education & Training Center psychologist).

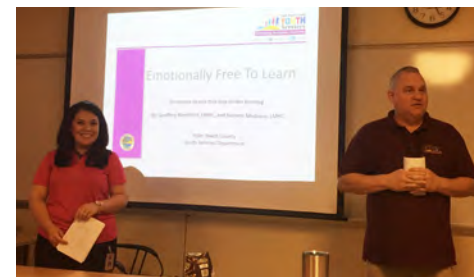
The Department's Education & Training Center team also provided a resource table to conference attendees.



Dr. Laura Cruz



Dr. Loren Berry



Nohemi Medrano, LMHC, and Geoffrey Merrifield, LMHC

Collective Impact for Behavioral Health



Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, participated in a meeting with the Design Team for the Palm Beach County Behavior Health Initiative & Summit on May 21. The summit was held July 19 and 21.

The goal of the Palm Beach County Behavior Health Initiative & Summit is to create a

community in which every person in Palm Beach County thrives because they feel empowered, hopeful, supported, and connected.

The work of the Design Team is to help ensure the right mix of community participants for the Behavioral Health Summit.

Highridge Family Center Graduation



The Highridge Family Center was proud to honor 15 youth as they graduated from the residential program on May 31. The graduation ceremony opened with a welcome from Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, and was facilitated by Dr. Twila Taylor, chief of residential clinical services. The ceremony was attended by Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary Lou Berger, Administrative Assistant to Palm Beach County Mayor Melissa McKinlay Kelley Burke, Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarron, as well as youth, families and staff.

All the graduates participated in creating a graduation banner that included the seven Sanctuary Commitments of Trauma-Informed Care. Each graduate received a certificate of completion and a medallion. The youth shared remarks and thanks for their experience at Highridge. Families also expressed feeling grateful for the program and positive growth in their children and families.

"Each time I attend one of these, they get better and better." Said Commissioner Mary Lou Berger.



I liked the fact they treated us like good and normal kids that just made a few mistakes instead of treating us like bad kids.



I liked that I am able to communicate with staff openly and feel safe at Highridge.

PolicyLink Equity Summit 2018

Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of the Outreach & Community Programming Division, and Ike Powell, senior program specialist, attended the PolicyLink Equity Summit 2018 in Chicago on April 11-13. The summit's theme was Our Power, Our Future, Our Nation.

Geeta and Ike attended as members of the Palm Beach County Delegation. The summit served as a call to action for activists, organizers and leaders to learn how advancing equity and justice ultimately will lead to creating a more just and fair society. Upon returning from the summit, members of the Palm Beach County Delegation reconvened to share their experiences, establish next steps, as well as



to commit to foster the equity agenda of the Birth to 22 alliance of community partners.

Highridge Family Center Highlights



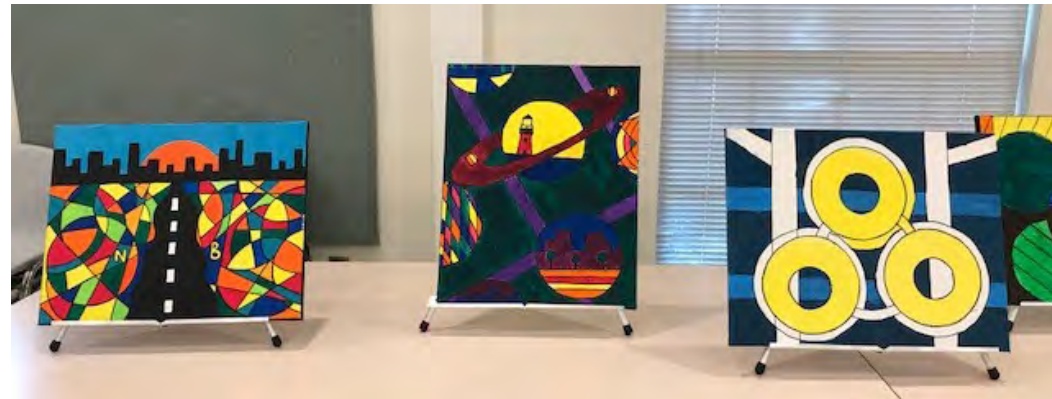
Sanctuary Model "Theme of the Month" Bulletin Board



Sanctuary Model "Theme of the Month" Posters



Nigel Johnson, family counselor



Artwork created by Highridge Family Center residents.

Sanctuary Model "Theme of the Month"

Highridge Family Center continues to implement the Sanctuary Model "Theme of the Month." The center creates bulletin boards, educates staff and residents, as well as has residents create artwork related to the month's theme. Posters were also created to display at each of the Department's locations throughout the County.

trip to the museum. The new six-week class began April 3. Residents continue to learn about art, create their own artwork and enrich their lives in a positive way. Norton has collaborated with Highridge for over 10 years.

In addition, one Highridge resident was selected to complete an internship with the museum.

Community Response Team

As part of the Community Response Team, two City of West Palm Beach police officers resumed their group with Highridge residents in April. Residents learn about law enforcement, how to appropriately interact with police officers and how to view them in a more positive way.

Norton Museum of Art Afterschool Arts Outreach Program
Highridge Family Center continues to collaborate with the Norton Museum of Art's Afterschool Arts Outreach Program (formerly PACE). The museum provides weekly art classes for eight to ten Highridge Family Center residents at a time. The classes end with an art show and a field

KEC/Canal Point Elementary School Appreciation Breakfast

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department was awarded a certificate of appreciation for the work with the Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) at the KEC/Canal Point Elementary School Appreciation Breakfast on May 9.

With the number of scholarship provided each year to KEC/Canal Point Elementary School, the children have been improving in all academic aspects. Without the funding provided by the SCSP, many students would not be at the reading level they are presently.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties Student Recipient of Scholarship

Special to YSD Scoop!



Kettie joined the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' School to Work program last summer with aspirations of gaining experience in preparation for her dream of becoming a teacher. School to Work is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' newest program that offers a unique integration of mentoring, skill training, and pathways to career and college success. Local businesses have youth work on-site in an internship to provide them

with hands on experience in the field. During Kettie's internship, she connected with local leaders and guest speakers to acquire new skills such as applying for college scholarships.

With the assistance of a recommendation letter she earned from the program, Kettie received a total of \$40,000 in scholarships and has decided to attend Florida Atlantic University in fall 2018.

The Youth Services Department provides funding for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' School to Work Program.

To learn more about the School to Work Program visit mentorbig.org or contact Alyssa Williams at 561-296-0893.

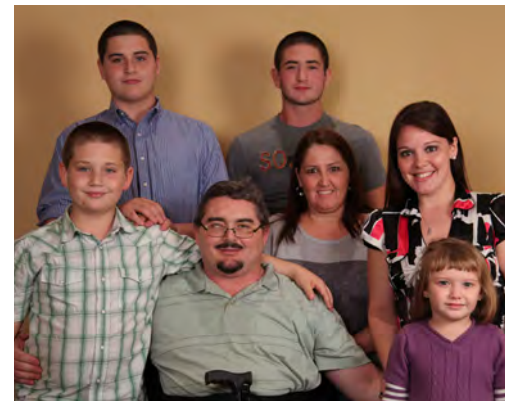
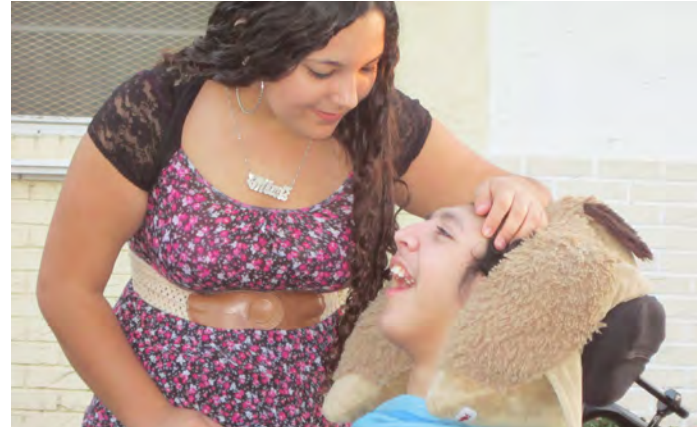
Books Donated to Summer BreakSpot Sites



The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County donated 12,000 books (appropriate for students pre-k through 5th grade) to give away at the Summer BreakSpot sites this summer. United Way of Palm Beach County coordinated volunteers to sort and organize the books. All books will be distributed through My Free Libraries and Summer Break Spots throughout the county in partnership with The School District of Palm Beach County and Palm Beach County Youth Services Department.

The Youth Services Department's Summer Food Service Program team picked up 80 boxes of books. Summer Food Monitors went to the Palm Beach County School Food Service building to pick up the boxes. The books were then distributed to Summer BreakSpot site across the County, from Jupiter to Boca Raton, and the Glades.

CBA Spotlight: American Association of Caregiving Youth



1. What is your mission?

To increase awareness and provide support services for youth caregivers and their families by connecting them with healthcare, education and community resources.

2. What does your organization do?

The Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) of the American Association of Caregiving Youth identifies students in grades 6-12 who care for someone in their family who is chronically ill, injured, disabled, or elderly. Often these students are the main caregivers in the home. These students may be bathing, feeding, providing medications, and cooking for their care receiver, just to name a few of their responsibilities. The CYP works in partnership with The School District of Palm Beach County to help support these youth in their caregiving roles, as well as strengthen their families to reduce the stress on the youth.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

The CYP breaks through the external barriers of learning with direct services:

In School -- youth learn they are no longer alone through Skills Building groups, and Lunch and Learn sessions;

At Home -- assessing family needs and linking them with resources through many collaborating partners, including providing computers, tutoring, respite and special projects;

Out of School -- time for a break from caregiving and experiencing an overnight camp, picnics, mentor matches and other educational and fun activities.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

The CYP is the only program in the County that specifically addresses this otherwise large yet hidden population of youth. Its holistic and integrated services strengthen students, families, schools and communities. With CYP support, students progress to the next grade and >97% graduate high school with most going on the post-secondary education. Each time a child graduates, both the child and society benefit.

Typically, youth enroll in the CYP from 6th grade and continue through high school, if they continue caregiving. Enrollment is rolling, and services continue throughout the calendar year. The average length of time in the CYP is 5.46 years.

Caregiving youth report that CYP has helped them with grades, confidence, skills, family life, communication and managing anger and stress.

5. What is your agency's focus for 2018?

The focus for 2018 is to continue to raise awareness about this population and the impact of family health conditions on the whole family and society within the County, State and nation. There are more caregiving youth than there are in foster care or those who are homeless. The growth of the CYP and its services are

needed throughout the County; it is only limited by resources. As an organization, there is the ongoing development of the Caregiving Youth Institute, the Caregiving Youth Research Collaborative with professionals from nine universities across the US and a growing Affiliate Network.

6. How do the funds received from Palm Beach County enhance the services your agency provides?

Funds from Palm Beach County have allowed CYP services to spread to two additional schools servicing

many more youth caregivers. With these funds we are able to identify youth caregivers beginning with 6th graders and provide support services in two new Title I middle schools - LC Swain and Conniston. This year, in addition to those students already enrolled, there will be new ones from the new 6th grade classes.

For more information about the American Association of Caregiving Youth, please visit www.aacy.org.

Meet Pedro

Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) Family Specialist Monica Bernal was approached during her Lunch and Learn at Conniston Middle School by a 6th grade student name Pedro. Pedro told Ms. Monica that he was caring for his mom who is in a wheel chair. They spoke further, and he let her know that he was interested in joining the CYP. After lunch Ms. Monica met with Pedro for an initial intake to talk about his responsibilities as a youth caregiver and to make sure he would be eligible to enroll in the program. Pedro said he helped his mom with eating, getting dressed, moving from one place to another, scheduling appointments, translating, providing emotional support, cleaning, doing laundry, and keeping her company. So many responsibilities for a sixth-grade boy!

Pedro showed that he was an exceptional young man and would be a perfect candidate for the CYP! Right after school Ms. Monica called Pedro's mom and scheduled a home visit to learn a little more about the family and how the CYP may be able to help them with

some new resources. Mom agreed to the visit.

At the time of the home visit, Ms. Monica learned that Pedro's mom really needed a new wheel chair, medical support and respite assistance. As expected, she also found out that Pedro needed some academic support including tutoring as well as emotional support and help caring for mom.

Thanks to many CYP partners including those that help with funding, Ms. Monica obtained a tutor, supportive counseling, a wheel chair from Clinics can Help, and medical assistance from Project Access.

Now, thanks to assistance from the CYP and its team, Pedro no longer feels alone. His confidence has improved, stress decreased, and he has learned to calm himself by taking deep breaths. Pedro hopes to continue in the CYP and is thankful for the support he and his family now have. He knows he can't change his mom's health condition(s) however he is better able to manage his journey with a positive outlook in his life.

Youth Services Recognized at Prime Time's Advancing Afterschool Awards Ceremony



Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, received two awards from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. at the Advancing Afterschool Awards Ceremony on May 17. The Community Champion Award was presented to Tammy and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County CEO for leadership of

Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures. The Afterschool Champion Award acknowledged leadership at the Youth Services Department and the difference being made for middle school and older children in afterschool and career opportunities.

For The Children, Inc./Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center (YEC)

For The Children, Inc. (Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center) provides a safe environment for youth to socialize and make new friends, as well as keeps kids safe from violence. "For The Children makes everyone feel like family," said Johnsonley Saint Pierre, For The Children assistant director.

Additionally, For The Children offers programs related to academic enrichment and tutoring, such as SAT and ACT prep. Other programs offered are youth leadership, guest speakers on various career pathways and health and wellness, computer animations and video editing, dance class, and field trips. Youth also attend community events such as Earth Day Festival and Haitian Flag Day Celebration.

The funds provided by the Youth Services Department to For The Children ensures tutors are available for the youth so they can excel in school, provides internships



and employment opportunities, and helps the youth go to places where they may not be able to afford.

For more information about For The Children, please visit <https://forthechildrenfirst.org>.

Meet Jaiden

"My name is Jaiden Richardson and I would like to share my journey with you. I started with For The Children Kids Zone at the age of 4 years old. I continued to join the afterschool program from the Youth Zone to the Teen Zone/Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center. Throughout my many years of being at For The Children, academic success and being a good citizen have always been the focus of this program. For The Children has given me a copious amount of skills, for example, consistent working habits by turning in my homework on time. I also feel as though For The Children led a foundation for me to be well grounded where I learned to respect myself as well as others and to give my all into everything I do. Now I am going to be a senior in the upcoming school year with a 3.6 GPA, which

helped me get certifications in CPR, EKG, and CMAA, while going onto my fourth year in the medical choice program. This June I began an internship with For The Children and I'm assigned an intern at the YEC where we learn about business skills, finance skills, leadership skills, personal skills and teamwork skills. Working with other kids close to my age helped me build my social skills and friendships with new people. Education-wise, the staff at the YEC make sure we get the help we need so we can excel in school. Being able to participate in the program and having ample opportunities for my future is one of the main reasons why I enjoy coming here every day. The YEC is, and always will be, a great Youth Empowerment Center."

Youth Summit 2018

The Youth Summit 2018 was held April 28, at Palm Beach Lakes High School. The summit's theme was "Think Like a Boss, Act Like a Boss."

Dr. Loren Berry, Youth Services Department psychologist, participated on the Youth Safety & Advocacy panel to an audience of over 450 middle and high school students. Dr. Berry highlighted the idea of resilience and its importance when thinking about the cycle of trauma.

Other topics discussed at the summit included career development, scholarships, healthy relationships, drug & gang prevention education, and dealing with emotions.



Meet Our Summer Food Service Program Monitors



(L to R) YSD Summer Food Service Program Monitors Tyler Schoens (FAU), Mitchela Pierre (FIU), Vandi Allen (FAMU), Sterling Valentine (Stoney Brook University), Christian Allen (UM), Sydney Walters (FAMU), Thelmarcia Williams (NOVA), Jaquir Grimsley (Xavier), Kayla Dawson (FSU), Leslie Roman (FAU), and YSD Program Coordinator Gus Wessel.

YSD's [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP) currently has 88 open sites in Palm Beach County, from Boca Raton to Jupiter and the Glades. Since 2013, SFSP has served 1,144,644 meals. In 2017 alone, SFSP served 222,037 meals.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides healthy, free meals and snacks available to youth in Palm Beach

County during the summer months. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered and monitored by the Youth Services Department and funded by the USDA, provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas. This helps ensure children receive the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative (PSELI)



The Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures coalition met on April 9 as part of the Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative (PSELI).

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) leads to children, youth and adults achieving academic, post-secondary, career

and life success. SEL involves acquiring and effectively applying knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and demonstrate behaviors that contribute to academic success.

Show of Appreciation for Summer Camp Scholarship Program

“Your kindness is a treasure to our family. Heartfelt thanks for your support scholarship.”

“Thank you very much. The program is a blessing for many lives. May the Lord Bless the work your hands do always. Thank you, very very much.”

“Thank you for all that you do! You and your team deal with more than I can imagine, but please know it makes a difference in a lot of people’s lives. It did in ours. My kids and I thank you for a great summer we will be able to enjoy because of all your hard work.”

Summer Learning Month



On June 5, Palm Beach County Commissioner Hal R. Valeche presented a proclamation declaring July 2018 as Summer Learning Month in Palm Beach County.

The proclamation was presented in support of and to recognize the need for consistent educational activities during the summer months in order to reduce the summer slide.

Florida Fishing Academy Wins Environmental Education Program of the Year



Glades Central High School fishing field trip



Lake Worth Community High School kayak trip



Pahokee Middle School students make a Gyo-taku fish print



Inlet Grove High School students find starfish during a kayak trip



Glades Central High School student shows off his catch during a field trip

Florida Fishing Academy’s Angling for a Healthy Future program was awarded the Environmental Education Program of the Year from FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The award recognizes a formal or non-formal environmental education program that incorporates the five elements of environmental education (awareness,

knowledge, attitudes, skills and participation) and inspires personal action from its students to become engaged, informed citizens of South Florida and stewards of our natural world.

For more information about the Florida Fishing Academy, please visit floridafishingacademy.com.

Presentation to the Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club

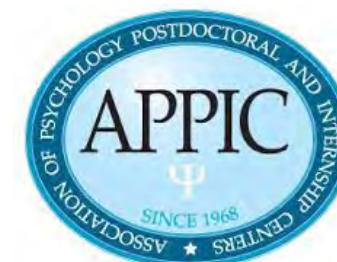
Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, presented on the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Initiative to the Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club on May 3. Tammy shared the initiative’s background, accomplishments, and next steps.

and education of Palm Beach County children and youth prenatal through adulthood so that they can graduate from high school and succeed in life.

For more information about Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, please visit pbcbirthto22.com.

Birth to 22 supports the healthy growth, development

Postdoctoral Internship Program Receives APPIC Membership



The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral & Internship Centers (APPIC) Board of Directors approved the Youth Services Department’s application for membership. The APPIC organization exists to provide a service to members who are interested in

the training of doctoral and postdoctoral psychologists as well as the working with the National Match Program that places psychology doctoral students in internships.



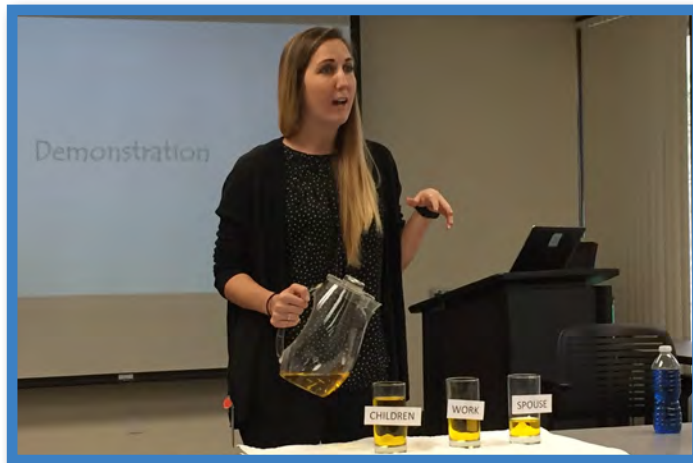
The Education and Training Center said farewell to four practicum students with a Mad Hatter Tea Party after 8 months of providing clinical services to Youth Services families and youth.



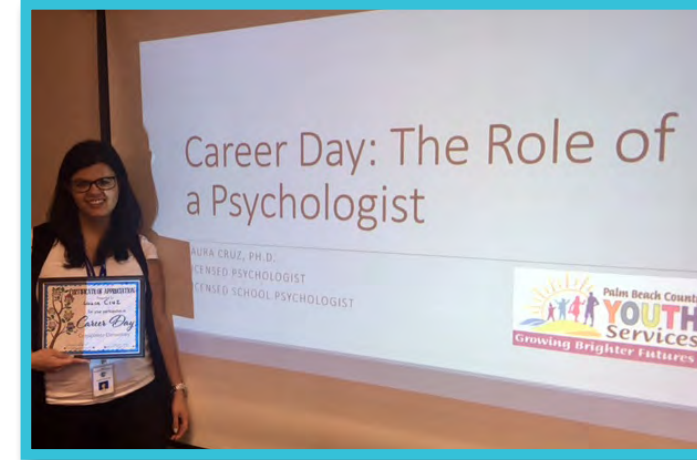
Chief of Clinical Services at the Education & Training Center Shayna Ginsburg, PsyD, presented on Motivational Interviewing to Victim Services on May 24.



Education & Training Center Doctoral Intern Ashley Wilkins, MA, presented a Lunch & Learn on Self Care during Mental Health Awareness month.



The Education & Training Center invited guest speakers to present Interactive trainings to YSD staff and mental health practitioners in the community. On May 30th, Dr. Peter Caproni (left) presented on Transition Challenges and Interventions for At-Risk Youth and on June 6th, Dr. Richard Siegel (right) presented on Developmental Sexuality.



Dr. Laura Cruz, Education & Training Center psychologist, attended Career Day at Crosspointe Elementary on May 18. She presented to groups of elementary-age children on the role of a psychologist at the Youth Services Department and taught the children various coping skills including deep breathing.



Chief of Clinical Services at the Education & Training Center Shayna Ginsburg, PsyD, provided a training on Motivation Interviewing at Highridge Family Center on April 23. Youth Services staff and community mental health providers attended the interactive training.



Education & Training Center Psychologist Dr. Laura Cruz and Postdoctoral Resident Dr. Melissa Singh represented the Department at the Green Dot Action Week event on June 24.



Licensed Family Therapists Filise Jules and Elise Powell attended the Mental Health First Aid Training on June 29-30. Filise presented on the department's programs and services.



In honor of Administrative Professional's Day on April 23, 2018, RTFC hosted an appreciation breakfast for the Department's administrative professionals, who do so much to serve our clients and keep our offices running smoothly.



Filise Jules, LMHC, Youth & Family Counseling licensed family therapist, participated in the Haitian Heritage Showcase and Book Festival at the West Boynton Beach Library Branch on May 19.

Q&A with Giselle Badillo



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Giselle Badillo, secretary at the Education & Training Center. As part of the Youth & Family Counseling team, Giselle is the first point of contact

for the public at the Education & Training Center office. She does everything from scheduling appointments, translating and interpreting, keeping client's information accurate and up to date, to solving simple IT issues and making sure the office's supplies are stocked and available. "I try my best to make the office run as smoothly as possible," says Giselle.

- 1. Where is your hometown?**
Brooklyn, New York
- 2. What was your first job?**
Drive-thru Cashier at Pollo Tropical.
- 3. What are the three most important skills you need for your job?**
Computer skills. Communication skills. Customer service.
- 4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?**
Preparing for weekly didactics, special presentations and events. I also enjoy the preparation that comes with our yearly change of students, interns, and residents. Last but not least, my excellent supervisor!
- 5. Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?**
Being promoted.
- 6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?**
I am still a child at heart and it tends to lean towards artistic and fanciful hobbies and interests.

I like listening, collecting, and singing along to music. Travel. Movies. Reading. Disney World. Japanese. Asian dramas. Asian culture. Languages. Swimming. Dancing. Graphics.
- 7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?**

Reaffirmed that things happen for a reason and that everyone has their own pace.

- 8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?**
My dream vacation would probably last around 6 months if I were to enjoy each Asian country Japan, South Korea, China, and Thailand. I would love to try zip lining in Thailand; Hiking Mt. Fuji and soaking in a hot spring on a snowy day in Japan. In China, I would like to trek the Great Wall and visit the Forbidden City. In South Korea, make it a "foodie" trip, enjoy all the local cuisines, and attend some K-Pop concerts.
- 9. What is your favorite quote?**
Will a verse from a song count?

"Test my will, test my heart,
Let me tell you how the odds gonna stack up
Y'all go hard, I go smart.

I've seen that frustration
Been crossed, and lost, and told "no"
And I've come back, unshaken
Let down and lived, and let go

So, you can let it be known
I don't hold back, I hold my own
I can't be mapped, I can't be cloned
I can't C-flat, it ain't my tone

I can't fall back, I came too far
Hold myself up and love my scars."
Lyrics of "Lost in the Echo" – Linkin Park
- 10. Who or what inspires you?**
Music inspires me every day. It says with or without words what I feel or wish to express.
- 11. Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?**
I was the first person in my entire family (including extended) to graduate college.

I received Level N5 certification in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

I have a pet sugar glider named "Azumi" who is 9 years old.

I have visited Disney World at least once a year since I was 5 months old. Over 34 times in my life.

I lived in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico with my grandparents for 5 years where I learned to speak Spanish.

Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between April 1 and June 30.

Employee	Position	Division
Shaneisha Arrebato	Sr. Clerk Typist	RTFC
Mathew Destin	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Rashekia Henry	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Chorlette McHayle	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Cindy Roberts	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Virgil Skeen	Procurement Specialist	FCA

Student Positions & CareerSource Interns

Student	Position	Organization
Clyde Kelker	Intern	CareerSource Palm Beach County

Promotions

Deon Rogers
Residential Youth Counselor
RTFC

Simone Thomas
Licensed Practical Nurse
RTFC



Bradford Layton
Juvenile Residence Technician
RTFC

Debbie Marks
Licensed Practical Nurse
RTFC

Congratulations!



Clara Hessing, Youth & Family Counseling family therapist, celebrated 30 years of service with Palm Beach County!

Antoinette Porter, Highridge Family Center residential youth counselor, was elected School Advisory Chair for Support Services, Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for Fiscal Year 2019.



Share Feedback and Stories!

Do you have feedback on our newsletter or have an awesome story to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Youth Services
Department Communications
Specialist Rebeca Krogman
at rkrogman@pbcgov.org.

Connect with Us!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram for more exciting updates!



pbcyouthservices



PBCYSD



PBCYSD

Youth Services Department Director

Tammy K. Fields

Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services

Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming

Geeta Loach-Jacobson

Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling

Dr. Tony Spaniol

Editor/Graphics

Rebeca Krogman



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners