

YSD SCOOP!

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Get Your Green On Campaign

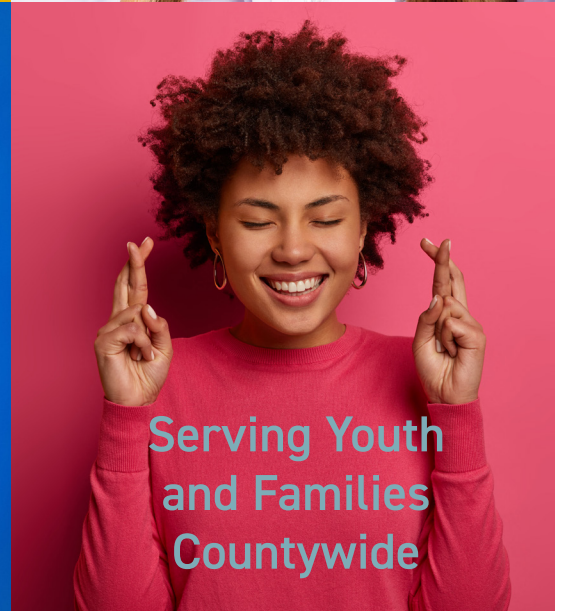
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Serving Youth and Families Countywide

GET YOUR GREEN ON CHANNEL 20 COUNTY CONNECTION SHOW

In preparation for Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in May, the Get Your Green On (GYGO) Team, Palm Beach County Channel 20 TV, and the Birth to 22 Becoming a Trauma-Sensitive Community Action Team recorded a feature on Channel 20's "County Connection" to highlight the Get Your Green On Campaign.

Tammy Fields, Director of Palm Beach County Youth Services, served as host of the show and interviewed the following Palm Beach County health and wellness leaders in the community advocating for mental health:

- Lauren Zuchman, Executive Director, BeWellPBC
- Renee Layman, President and CEO, Center for Child Counseling
- Dr. Michael Kane, Manager, Behavioral Health Services, Palm Beach County School District
- Kenya Madison, Senior Director, Healthier Delray Beach
- Dr. Twila Taylor, Director, Residential Treatment & Family Counseling Division PBC Youth Services



GET YOUR GREEN ON 2022 KICKOFF

On April 2022, the Get Your Green On committee hosted the GYGO Kick Off Virtual Event featuring presentations by:

- Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County,
- Gregg K. Weiss, Vice Mayor, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
- Dr. Debbie Manigat, Program Specialist, Children's

Services Council of Palm Beach County

- Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic, Behavioral and Mental Health Director, School District of Palm Beach County
- Randy Foley, Behavioral Health Captain, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
- Holly Stewart, Executive Director, The Young Singers of the Palm Beaches



PALM BEACH COUNTY 'GETS ITS GREEN ON' FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In partnership with Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and the Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community Action Team, the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department celebrated the sixth annual 'Get Your Green On' (GYGO) campaign and invited Palm Beach County to wear green on May 19. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation declaring May 2022 Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County.

The Youth Services Department's Education and Training Center held four Lunch & Learns to celebrate GYGO. These events offered presentations on topics related to mental health, such as "Tapping Into Your Parent Super Powers: Strategies for Getting Young Children to Behave," presented by Dr. Laura Cruz; "Anxiety & Depression: Steps for Managing Your Mental Health," presented by Drs. Courtney Molina and Tonise Floretil; "Sleep Hy-

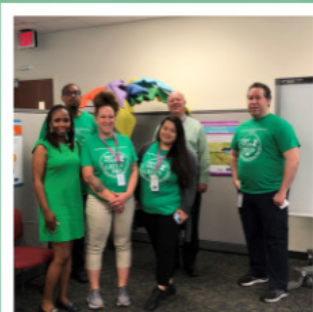
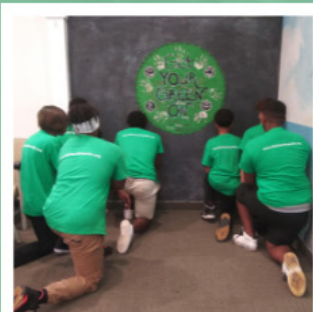
giene" presented by Lauren Stroker, M.S.; and "Let's Talk about Race and Ethnicity: The Impact of Implicit Bias and Microaggressions," presented by Dr. Danniella Jones.

Among those that got their green on were Palm Beach County Commissioners and Administration, Public Affairs, Library System, Water Utilities Department, Environmental Resources Management, BeWellPBC, The School District of Palm Beach County, Healthier Delray Beach, United Way of Palm Beach County, NAMI Palm Beach County, 211 Helpline Palm Beach and Treasure Coast, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, and many more.

For more information about the Get Your Green On campaign, click [here](#).



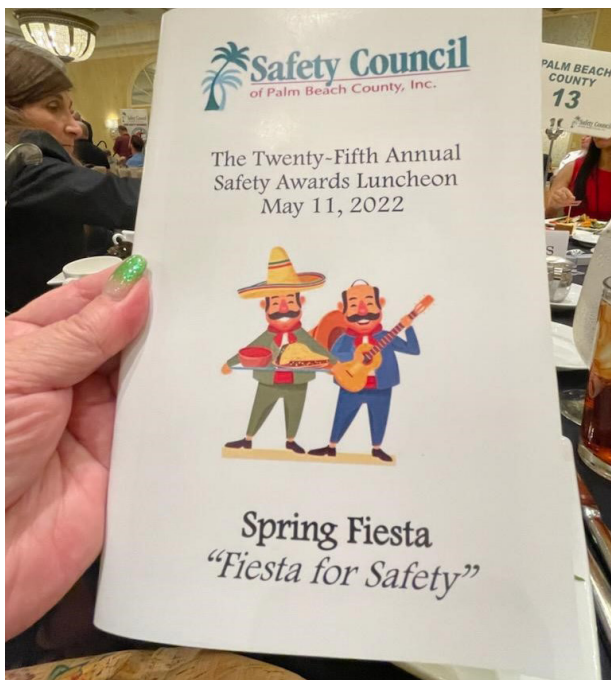
2022



YOUTH SERVICES AWARDED FOR SAFETY

On May 11, 2022, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department attended the 25th Annual Safety Awards Luncheon hosted by the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

The Youth Services Department was awarded a Special Recognition for their Community Well-Being Programs and YSD's unique approach to safety using Sanctuary principles of trauma-informed care. Tammy Fields, Director; Valerie Messineo, Senior Program Specialist; Michelle Liska, Division Director of FCA; Ralph Fretz, Psychologist, and Donna Goodwin, Program Evaluator, attended the awards luncheon. Go team YSD!



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY 2022



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) recently accepted Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) proposals for the Community Based Agencies Program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-2025 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025).

A mandatory pre-proposal conference was held in March. Reviewer Panel Meetings were held in April for the following action

areas: Health and Wellness Supports, Ensure Safety and Justice, and Social and Emotional Learning Supports.

The funding recommendations were conceptually approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 14, 2022.

ADVANCING THE MISSION UPDATE

As a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), Palm Beach County Youth Services Department is an active participant in the Advancing the Mission (ATM) sessions.

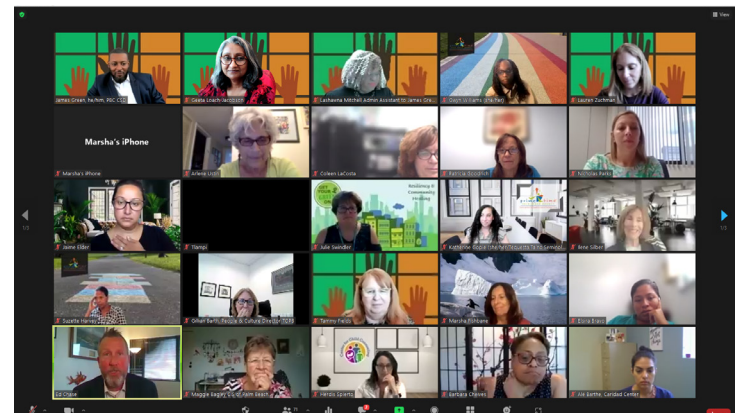
ATM is designed to enhance leaders' ability to utilize racial equity tools and assessments, identify policies and institutional practices that lead to reducing racial inequities, and develop racial equity action plans within their respective organizations. The primary strategy to accomplish this work is through the ATM quarterly workshop.

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Outreach and Community Programming Division Director, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, is a Core Team member and presenter at the ATM sessions. The team has the primary charge of facilitating the responsibilities of the Palm Beach County GARE Associate Membership in partnership with the Birth

to 22: United for Brighter Futures Alliance.

In April, the Core Team members met to discuss "Operationalizing and Institutionalizing Racial Equity Within Your Organization." The session delved into a discussion of recent legislative changes and then went into group presentations led by Prime Time, Discover the Palm Beaches, and Families First. Also addressed in this session was the intent and plan to strategically advance the mission of equity through the development of cohorts with a parameter that meets the needs of the agencies that have officially taken the pledge to advance equity in their institution and community.

To find out more about the work of the Racial Equity Core Team and Advancing the Mission, [click here](#).



NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

DV CCR MISSION & CORE VALUES

Mission
To reduce intimate partner violence and its impact on families and communities through education, advocacy, and accountability.

Core Values

AARISE

1. **Accountability** – of systems, professionals, and abusive partners
2. **Advancement** – of organizational practices, and knowledge and skills of CCR members
3. **Respect and Compassion** – for one another, our roles, and the diversity of thoughts and perspectives
4. **Inclusion** – access to meaningful, compassionate, and effective services for all who are in need, especially for marginalized individuals and diverse communities
5. **Survivor-centered** – our work is centered around the needs of survivors and their children
6. **Empowerment** – for survivors in their own lives and community

- CORE TEAM
- MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM
- STANDING COMMITTEES
- AD HOC COMMITTEES

On June 14, 2022, the First Meeting of the New Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response (DV CCR) was held. DV CCR is lead by Palm Beach County Victim Services and Aid to Victims of Domestic Assault (AVDA). The Youth Services Department is a participant in this committee.

The mission of the DV CCR is to reduce intimate partner violence and its impact on families

and communities through education, advocacy, and accountability. The DV CCR core values are accountability, advancement, respect, compassion, inclusion, survivor-centered, and empowerment.

The meeting focused on the CCR development over the years, the new CCR structure, and shared goals looking ahead.

ALYSSA SANGEETA JACOBSON (ASJ) SCHOLARSHIP 2022 RECEPTION

Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County, Inc. have announced the 2022 Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship recipients. This year five recipients were named.

Join us in congratulating:

- McKenzie Cooper, Glades Central High School
- Ben-Gina Fantaisie, Atlantic High School
- Paxton Brutus, Florida Atlantic University
- Humberto Sigler Finales, Florida Atlantic University
- Caleiyah Laws, Palm Beach Lakes High School

At a scholarship recipient ceremony held on May 25th, 2022, recipients received formal scholarship recognition in the presence of family and the scholarship committee. Those

who attended the ceremony also had the opportunity to hear from prior scholarship winners and how the scholarship supported them in achieving their educational goals. This year for the 2022 recipients, the scholarship was increased from \$1,000/year to \$2,000/year for up to four years. The increase was applied to all recipients. Congratulations to all the recipients of the Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship!

The Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship is named in memory of Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson, who passed tragically in November 2019. Alyssa was committed to living a self-sufficient life and discovering her passions. Alyssa was kind spirited and grateful for the support she received in her life. Likewise, she would hope others could have support to achieve their goals.



TIPS FROM AN ASJ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Skylar Rowley, a 2021 recipient of the Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship, presented ten tips for college students at the ASJ 2022 Scholarship Reception. It is her sincere hope that these tips help many other students to navigate through college.

COLLEGE TIPS FROM AN ASJ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

By Skylar Rowley

2021, Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship Recipient

01.

DO NOT FORGET YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL.

06.

CREATE A SCHEDULE AND FOCUS ON TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS

02.

DO NOT COMPARE YOURSELF TO YOUR PEERS (WHEN IT COMES TO DOING THINGS ON CAMPUS)

07.

DO NOT GET 8 A.M CLASSES! THEY ARE NOT THE SAME AS WAKING FOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES.

03.

GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS WHEN YOU'RE READY

08.

FIND FRIENDS WITHIN YOUR MAJOR. YOU ALL CAN CREATE YOUR SCHEDULES TOGETHER.

04.

TAKE YOUR TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOUR COLLEGE'S CAMPUS

09.

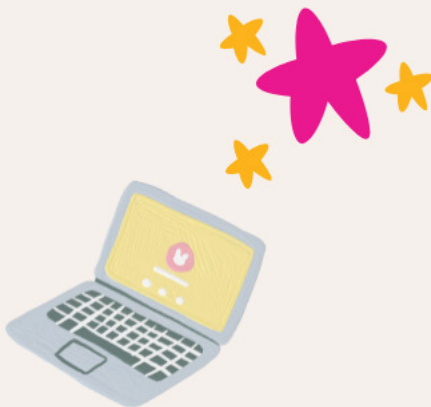
ALWAYS KEEP EMERGENCY CASH! YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHING MAY HAPPEN.

05.

GET A PLANNER TO BECOME MORE ORGANIZED

10.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS AND BUILD A RAPPORT WITH THEM. YOU WILL NEED THEM IN THE FUTURE.



Skylar Rowley, 2021



I HOPE THESE 10 TIPS HELP MANY OTHERS

-SKYLAR ROWLEY

EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER PRESENTATIONS

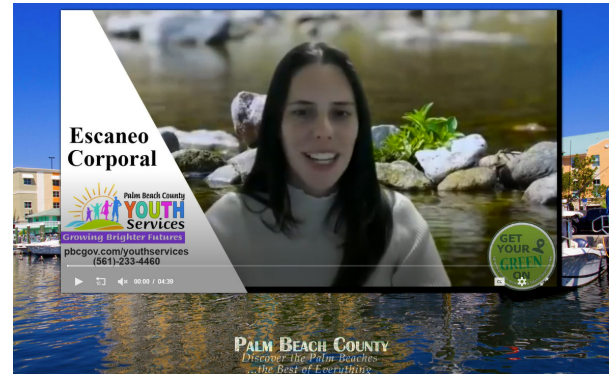
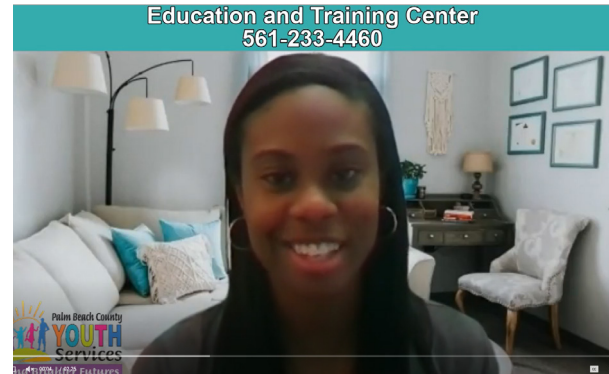
The Youth Services Department’s Education & Training Center hosted a Lunch & Learn series throughout May in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month and Trauma Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County. Psychologists and Doctoral Trainees presented on a range of topics throughout the month.

Gabriella Hill, PsyD, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Education & Training Center, created a brief psychoeducational social media post recording explaining the benefits of adults taking a time out and outlining the steps involved. The recording can be found on the Ed Center website [here](#).

Maria Chiriboga, M.S. developed a body scan social media post that was conducted in Spanish. The recording walks viewers through a body scan intervention, allowing

them to mindfully tune into their physical bodies and notice their sensations without judgment. The recording can be found on the [Ed Center website](#).

Monica Mendes, M.A., Youth Services Department Doctoral Intern at the Education & Training Center, presented “Let’s Talk: Suicide Prevention” to teens and community members on Wednesday, May 18th, 2022, at Greenacres Community Center. During the interactive presentation, attendees learned about how they could prevent suicide in their communities through learning about current statistics, risk factors for suicide, protective factors for prevention, and steps to take if someone in your life shares that they are feeling suicidal.



EDI CROSS-DIVISIONAL TEAM POSTER SERIES

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Cross-Divisional team, in collaboration with Public Relations Specialist, Tevin Ali, have created the first set in a series of ‘EDI Posters’ to educate staff and the community on topics regarding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.



The titles of the three posters made so far are:

- Inclusion is...
- The Asks of EDI
- Reality, Equality, Equity, and Liberation



The EDI team aims to create twelve posters in total.

PALM BEACH COUNTY ECONOMIC SUMMIT



On June 2, 2022, Palm Beach County hosted an economic summit titled “Connecting Our Assets to Build a Successful Community,” which focused on housing and transportation. The summit was open to anyone who wanted to be informed and involved in shaping the future of Palm Beach County.

ther knowledge on the economic realities that our county faces today. Personally, I enjoyed listening to the panels throughout the day. Also, Ethan Harris’s forecasts, taken with a grain of salt, can paint a picture of where the county and the country are heading,” said Joe Balesano, YSD Student Tech Intern.

The summit was held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center and was attended by YSD Staff and a few student interns. Several speakers focused on workforce housing, public transportation, roads, and the economy. Panel discussions, including local and national experts, focused on affordable workforce housing Issues, transportation Issues, and solutions. Panelists include local officials, local contractors, and subject matter experts. “We were able to gain fur-

“We need more platforms, like the Economic Summit, to provide a voice to the more impoverished community members whose voices are rarely heard, and yet, who receive the full brunt of any crisis. I saw a significant step forward toward that goal and hope to continue seeing our local leaders make an effort to listen to our voices,” said Humberto Sigler, YSD Student Clerical Intern.



SUMMER PROGRAMMING AT HIGHRIDGE

Youth Services Department’s Highridge Family Center, in a collaborative effort with Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, brought adventure, skills, and wonderment to enrolled youth during the Highridge summer program. Youth and staff participated in a number of events, field trips, and activities planned and executed by Parks and Recreation staff, the first of which was a field day on Highridge grounds. Activities included an ice breaker emphasizing open communication, emotional intelligence, and a time-honored favorite, the tug-of-war.

all-day adventure at Riverbend Park, experiencing the great outdoors and learning about animals in our local South Florida habitat. The day concluded with residents and staff learning archery skills. For the last two outings, Parks and Rec staff hosted open gym events at the Therapeutic Recreation Center. Youth were taught basketball fundamentals such as chest passes, bounce passes, and dribbling. The open gym activity encouraged and fostered social responsibility and open communication, two very important elements of teamwork. A special thank you, Parks and Recreation, for enhancing our youth summer experience at Highridge.

For the next event, youth enrolled in the program had an



SANCTUARY UPDATE: REFOCUSING ON SUPERVISION AND COACHING

YSD staff continued the conversation on Sanctuary Certification Standards with training that occurred on April 14, 2022, which emphasized "Refocusing on Supervision and Coaching." The training was held at Mounts Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Participants reviewed the application of Sanctuary Certification Standards, action planning, and conducted a team activity involving 'revisiting losses in Sanctuary implementation.'



PBC VICTIM SERVICES FIELD OF HOPE

Palm Beach County Victim Services hosted their 6th Annual 'Field of Hope - Day of Action Event' on April 5, 2022, to raise awareness about sexual assault and sexual violence in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Tammy Fields, Director of the Youth Services Department, and Twila Taylor, Director of the RTFC Division, attended and placed a flag in the Field of Hope, recognizing survivors of sexual assault.



NAMI DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

NAMI Palm Beach County hosted its first Donor Appreciation Party for 40 mental health supporters on April 5, 2022, at the National Croquet Center. Tammy Fields, Director of the Youth Services Department, and Twila Taylor, Director of the RTFC Division, attended the event. NAMI PBC thanked guests for supporting NAMI and mental health in the community. Guests enjoyed an elegant sit-down dinner from Sandy James and entertainment from The Susan Merritt Jazz Trio with a special performance by Monique McCall.



SALVATION ARMY COMMUNITY EVENT

Tammy Fields, Director of PBC Youth Services Department, and Tevin Ali, Public Relations Specialist, participated at the Community Educational Fair hosted in collaboration by The Salvation Army of PBC and Palm Beach State College TRIO Educational Opportunity Center. It was great for YSD to interact with the community again in person. Andres Torrens, Chief Program Officer of Families First of Palm Beach County joined at the Youth Services Table. State Senator, Bobby Powell, was also at the event.



MIGRANT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT DAY

On May 14, YSD represented at the 2022 Migrant Family Involvement day hosted by the Florida Migrant Education Program. The event celebrated the work of migrant students, families, and teachers from the school year.

YSD staff, Elcana Dantzler, Contracts and Grants Coordinator, Jin Ma, Planner I, and Jennifer Boquin, Fiscal Specialist II, shared information about YSD programs and resources to families and students.



BOYNTON BEACH REMEMBERING AND HEALING

Youth Services Department and community partners came together for the City of Boynton Beach and Boynton Beach Mental Health Committee's Remembering & Healing Together family event on May 15, 2022. Tamika Kramer, Grant Compliance Specialist II, Kathleen Alexis, Grant Compliance Specialist II, Bridget Williams, Procurement Specialist, and John Harre, Residential Youth Counselor, represented YSD at the event and shared about mental health resources the department offers.



YSD CELEBRATES WORLD CULTURE DAY

On May 18, 2022, Youth Services Department took a few moments to get to know their colleague's cultural and diverse backgrounds while observing World Day for Cultural Diversity.

Some countries YSD staff represent include Ireland, Denmark, China, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Trinidad, Cuba, and many many more.



WEST PALM BEACH MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

On May 21, 2022, the Youth Services Department represented at the West Palm Beach Mental Health Coalition Family Mental Health & Wellness Festival.

John Harre, Residential Youth Counselor, Amrita Rampersad, Program Coordinator, and Toni Summerville, Licensed Therapist, shared about the services and resources YSD provides in support of mental health.



PATH TO COLLEGE HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL EDUCATION FEST: GROWTH AND GRIT

On June 9, 2022, Path to College hosted its 5th Annual Education Fest, celebrating the organization's thought leadership through five years of growth and grit. The event was hosted at the Armory Art Center, where five students competed for 'Best Ed Talk of the Year.' Tammy Fields, Director, served as a judge of the Ed Talk selection committee that determined the five students who competed at the event. The five students and presentation topics that competed this year were:

- Carmella | Courage in Imperfection
- Samantha | Confronting Abuse
- Jeilyn | War at Home
- Joyce | Crisis in Our Schools
- Sarai | No Data Left Behind

The winner of the Ed Talk

contest was Sarai Umanzor-Morales, who spoke about the Gender Data Gap and how companies that don't use inclusive data can sometimes cause harmful outcomes.

A Student and Mentor of the Year were recognized. Additionally, the following leaders were nominated for the community champion award: Pranoo Kumar (Rohi's Readery/divHERse Education Consulting), Alpesh Patel (eSANGHE), Coleen LaCosta (Speak Up For Kids), and Emanuel Dupree Jackson Jr. (EJS Project).

Pranati (Pranoo) Kumar was awarded as the PTC Education Champion of 2022 for her courageous and heart-centered work at Rohi's Readery. A panel was also conducted discussing "The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Education."



CULTURE OF WELLNESS EXERCISES

In May/June, the PBC Culture of Wellness Team (PBC Youth Services, Palm Health Foundation, PBC Community Services, Children's Services Council, and BeWellPBC) hosted more than 60 community and systems leaders through an immersive experience (and a series of activities) to consider how these partners, individually and collectively, could design pathways to a vibrant community and thriving families. The 2-part series invited leaders to recognize the impact of systems on families and ignite thinking and action around transforming services

and support for residents in Palm Beach County.

The immersive experience grew from the original Phase I project with *ReThink Health*, an initiative of Rippe Foundation, where Palm Beach County was chosen as one of two sites to pilot their [Portfolio Design for Healthier Regions project](#), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded effort. Specifically, *ReThink Health* was drawn to the origin story of the BeWellPBC initiative, including the shared interests among the county's funders to support such an approach to

transform Behavioral health. They were interested in local experiences using the tools developed to design and manage portfolios as stewards of shared resources. A core team – the PBC Culture of Wellness Team – was formed to work with *ReThink Health* to think intentionally about [growing civic muscle and belonging](#) in Palm Beach County. Two years later, the team has come to believe that the approach and the tools are especially useful when considering resource allocations. The stewardship mindset is particularly useful in Palm Beach County's pursuit

of better health for all.

With the recent 2-part series, the PBC Culture of Wellness Team has moved into the facilitator role as they launch Phase II of the *ReThink Health* project and utilize the approach and tools to invite additional local stakeholders to reimagine the behavioral health system and investments. Continuing into the fall, leaders from across the county will participate in learning labs and insight to action meetings to work together in the spirit of shared stewardship. *ReThink Health* will continue as consultant support to the project.

DELRAY PRIDE FEST

On June 11, 2022, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department represented at the City of Delray Beach Pride Festival in honor of pride month. Jennifer Boquin, Fiscal Specialist II, and Jacqueline Burke, Therapist, represented YSD at the Delray Pride Festival.



SCHOLAR CAREER COACHING 9TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

On June 12, 2022, Scholar Career Coaching hosted its 9th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. The event was held at Benvenuto with the theme 'Shine Bright' to celebrate the hard work of their student scholars and the dedication of their volunteer mentors. Scholarships and college laptops were awarded to deserving local high school seniors. Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist, Kathleen Alexis, Grant Compliance Specialist II, and Tammy Fields, Director, attended the event.



JUNETEENTH RECOGNITION AND SOIL COLLECTION CEREMONY

On June 18, 2022, Youth Services represented at the Juneteenth Think Tank held at Pompey Park in Delray Beach and hosted by the residents of Delray Beach. Part of this event was The Soil Collection Ceremony for Sam Nelson. Sam Nelson is one of at least 319 African American victims of racial terror lynching killed by white mobs in Florida between 1877 and 1950, and one of at least two African American victims of racial terror lynching killed in Palm Beach County during this period. This ceremony was an acknowledgement of the lynching of Sam Nelson in 1926 in Delray Beach. This ceremony was also a part of the process of acquiring a larger memorial, a part of a reconciliation process, and part of the Juneteenth celebration. You can follow the work of the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project at PBCRemembrance.org.



Soil Collection Ceremony for Mr. Sam Nelson
 Lynched on September 27, 1926

June 18, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.
 Pompey Park Gymnasium

WELCOME
 Charlene Farrington, Executive Director
 Spady Cultural Museum

HISTORY / SAM NELSON
 Bryan Boysaw, Chair
 PBC Community Remembrance Project

VIDEO OF SOIL COLLECTION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
 Strange Fruit

REFLECTION AND RESOLUTION
 PBC Mayor Robert S. Weinroth
 PBC Vice Mayor Gregg K. Weiss
 Commissioner Mack Bernard
 and all elected officials

SOIL SHOVELING PROCEDURE EXPLANATION

MUSICAL PROCESSION
 Equinox

CLOSING REMARKS



YSD OBSERVES JUNETEENTH

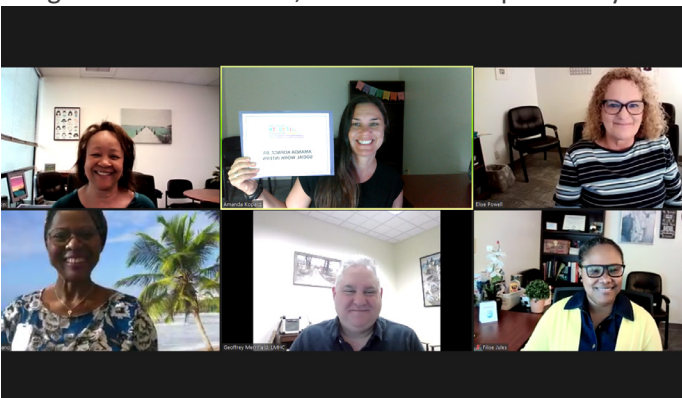
June 19 marks Juneteenth, an annual celebration of the people of African descent enslaved in the United States. Juneteenth is rooted in the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, over 2-years after the federal Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. The Youth Services Department employees wore Black, Red, or Green, observing Juneteenth.



FAREWELL TO AMANDA KOPACZ

On April 6, 2022, Amanda Kopacz, Social Work Intern, completed her internship. YSD commended her on the milestone and bid her farewell and best wishes in her next steps.

Congratulations Amanda, the YSD team is proud of you!



YSD WELCOMES BABY AIDEN

On July 4, 2022, YSD's Amrita Rampersad, Program Coordinator, welcomed a beautiful baby boy. Congratulations, and a warm welcome to Baby Aiden!





CBA Q&A: TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN (COLLEGE FOR KIDS)

Q What is your mission?

A The mission of Take Stock in Children (College for Kids) Palm Beach County is to passionately promote self-worth, personal responsibility and academic success for qualified, financially at-risk students throughout Palm Beach County by providing evidence-based services, which include one-on-one mentoring services, college readiness coaching, college advising, post-secondary retention services, and a guaranteed post-secondary full-tuition college scholarship.

Q What does your organization do?

A Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County celebrates 27 years of breaking the cycle of poverty for low-income, academically qualified students through education. Our program accomplishes its 98% program success rate through an innovative multi-year model that provides wraparound services to underserved youth, with no drop-off of services after high school completion. Services begin in the 9th grade and continue through post-secondary completion. The program has directly impacted the lives of over 2,000 students throughout 32 Palm Beach County schools. Students in the program receive a guaranteed 2-year

college scholarship and academic/social-emotional support services that instill hope for a better life, leading to opportunities that gear students toward obtaining a post-secondary credential and confidently entering the workforce.

Q What key programs does your organization offer?

A The Take Stock in Children program has effectively provided a pathway to success for underserved youth by providing students with the resources they need to achieve academic success. Take Stock in Children accomplishes its success due to its innovative multi-year program model that provides wraparound support services to its students throughout their middle and high school years and continues through post-secondary completion. We have a long-term commitment to our students; the average length of time for a student in our program is 5 to 8 years. Each student participating in the program receives the following:

A Qualified Mentor: Mentors provide one-on-one support to our students. All meetings are school-based and conducted during the student's lunch hour, typically once per week. They offer a sympathetic ear, a word of encouragement, and guide our students toward a successful

future.

An Assigned College Readiness Coach: Through our partnership with The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps members serve as our students' College Readiness Coaches (CRC). They are assigned to students at the beginning of each school year. Each student receives a success plan catered to their individual needs. CRCs meet with students continuously throughout the school year, and extensive resources that reduce/eliminate school failure are provided on an ongoing basis to enable students to participate in learning actively. Our partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County enables our CRCs to access the school database to monitor the student's attendance records, behavior records, and grades regularly.

Afterschool Club Meetings: In addition to CRCs, our partnership with the Johnson Scholars Program affords us two full-time staff personnel that oversee afterschool club meetings with students. Students participate in monthly afterschool club meetings that focus on building their educational portfolio.

Monthly Workshops for Students and Families: Take Stock in Children hosts academically oriented activities every month. Workshops are geared to teach

CBA Q&A CONTINUED



students and their families good study habits, education/career planning, special presentations that focus on job skills, personal development seminars, social and emotional support, college field day, career fairs, SAT/ACT preparatory workshops, and financial literacy workshops.

Parent Resources: Via text-messaging platform, our organization distributes parent-focused material to provide educational resources and training to parents. Topics include workforce, financial literacy, mental health resources, and referrals to other partnering PBC nonprofit organizations.

College and Career Guidance: College Readiness Coaches give students college and career guidance throughout the school year to make more informed educational and career choices. The program provides students with a career planning system that provides them with the tools they need to build a lifelong career success foundation. Students learn their interests, skills, and work values and how to apply them to a career plan for their future.

Parental Involvement: The program maintains ongoing contact with the family through the College Readiness Coach, program staff, and the student's

mentor. The goal is to layer multiple supports around the student, focusing on improving their chances of success, and providing care when challenges arise.

Prepaid Full-Tuition College Scholarship: Students who complete the high school program receive a guaranteed 2-year full-tuition college scholarship (worth 60 credit hours) or a 4-year full-tuition college scholarship (worth 120 credit hours) upon their high school graduation. Scholarships are pre-purchased from the Florida Prepaid Foundation before the student's enrollment and matched dollar for dollar by Stanley Tate Project STARS scholarships.

Post-secondary Access and Retention Services: Upon high school graduation, students receive post-secondary transition services through full-time College Retention Specialists. Our Retention Specialists assist students with college applications and enrollment, financial aid assistance, college guidance, educational planning, and comprehensively address academic skill-building. Since most of the students we serve are low-income first-generation college-going students, our Retention Specialists provide the hands-on assistance that our students need while navigating their college

experience. Retention services are provided to all students in the program and continue through post-secondary completion.

Q How does your agency benefit the community?

A Children living in Palm Beach County's impoverished pockets are not only underserved by the community but uninvited from opportunities that will uproot their families from generations of poverty. Students lack social-emotional learning opportunities, a positive role model, academic support services, post-secondary access, and college financial resources. Parents also lack engaging opportunities and the resources needed to properly support their child's navigation through the education system. According to the latest 2021 College Hopes & Worries Report by the Princeton Review, navigating the path to college and college debt are the two highest levels of concern among parents and students. Although many agencies provide aid with college access, there is a massive drop-off of services after high school.

CBA Q&A CONTINUED & YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

Q What is your agency's focus for 2022?

A Education is the lever of change; it's the tool used to dislodge patterns of poverty and despair. Despite economic disadvantages and other risk factors, Take Stock in Children Scholars graduate from high school, attend college and earn post-secondary credentials at higher rates than those of Florida's student population. Since 1995, Take Stock in Children has helped thousands of students move down the path of high school graduation and college completion. Take Stock in Children's model has been proven effective in ensuring students graduate high school, enter college, and obtain a post-secondary credential.

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

A The Take Stock in Children program was designed with underserved youth in mind and aimed to provide an innovative approach to bridging the education gap among youth living in poverty. The program is inclusive and intensely local, bringing together students and school personnel and outside volunteers, philanthropists, religious groups, civic

organizations, the social-services sector, and for-profit businesses. Since the program's inception in 1995, it has continued to evolve with underserved youth's needs in our community. Take Stock in Children offers students an evidence-based opportunity to succeed while ensuring equity for youth facing systemic barriers.

Q What is the Take Stock in Children Central Website?

A www.TakeStockPalmBeach.org

Q Is there a 'Youth Success Story' you'd like to share?

A Meet Omar Amezcuita, a graduate of the Take Stock in Children program.

"Growing up and being a child of immigrant parents was difficult. My parents did not speak English, and therefore I could not rely on them to help me with school work and navigate my education. My parents pushed the importance of education, but we didn't have any savings to pay for college. I remember staying up late and night worrying about how I was going to have to get student loans and then find a way to pay them off and be financially stable. In high school, I was introduced to the Take Stock in Children program, and it became a huge help in my

life. Not only did they steer me in the right direction during high school, but they also took away the burden of how I was going to pay for college. They provided me with a college readiness coach that met with me at school and provided resources to help me succeed in school. I appreciate Take Stock in Children because it relieved a huge weight off of my shoulders and my family. My Take Stock Mentor also made a huge impact on my life. He helped build up my confidence and because of him, I became more social and began networking at an early age. To this day, if I need advice, I still reach out to him and count on him to guide me in the right direction. As a first-generation college student, my parents weren't able to prepare me for my college experience. They supported the idea of me going to school and furthering my education but lacked the knowledge to help me with college access and admissions. With Take Stock in Children's support, I applied to Florida State University, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems and continued to receive my Masters in Healthcare Informatics. I was able to achieve my college dreams and I owe that success to Take Stock in Children."



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

FELICIA DANIELS



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we’re featuring Felicia Daniels. Felicia works as an Administrative Technician at the Belle Glade office of Youth and Family Counseling.

In her role, Felicia assists families in the community who are in need of counseling services.

Q Where is your hometown?

A Pahokee

Q What was your first job?

A As a Day Care Assistant

Q What are the three most important skills you need for your job?

A Communication, Active Listening, and Problem Solving.

Q What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?

A Helping and touching the lives of families in the community with their needs. When we provide the service the families need and they are satisfied, we tend to see them again even years later, and they will share how our services made a difference in their life.

Q Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?

A The memorable moment at YSD

would be the first year I started. I attended a Racial Equity Summit and was touched by the youth that attended who were well mannered, very respectful, and attentive when the presenters were speaking. To see the youth that engaged really touched my heart, knowing that there are youth out there that want a better life for themselves no matter what the circumstance. Also, I learned so much from the summit myself. Being the new kid on the block and learning from the vast amount of information that was presented helped me grow. I was able to share that information with families I was in contact with.

Q What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

A Attending church, shopping and spending time with family.

Q What is the most important lesson you’ve learned in the last year?

A Self-care is important and everything else follows. If you do not take good care of yourself no one else will.

Q Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?

A My dream vacation is Hawaii.

Q What is your favorite quote?

A *Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.*

Q Who or what inspires you?

A My kids inspire me.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

GISELLE BADILLO



Giselle Badillo was awarded as this quarter's YSD Employee of the Quarter for her hard work, dedication, and creativity for the Youth Services Department.

Thank you, Giselle, for all you do for the Youth Services Department. We are proud of you and appreciate you!



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



Keishaylla Stephens
Residential Youth Counselor
RTFC



Helena Ulloa
Residential Youth Counselor
RTFC



Elcana Dantzer
Contracts/Grants Coordinator
FCA



Jade Cook
Seasonal ParaProfessional
OCP



Javona Bush
Program Coordinator
OCP



Diana Zorro
Seasonal ParaProfessional
OCP



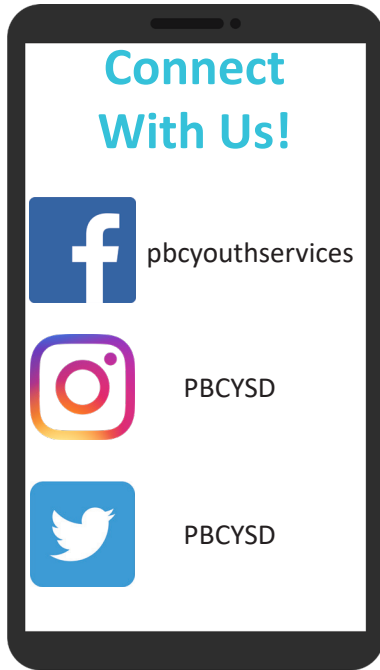
Racquel Walford
Residential Youth Counselor
RTFC



Shireen Joseph
Administrative Technician I
FVIP



Aisha Futch
Administrative Technician I
RTFC



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. Twila Taylor

Editor-in-Chief & Designer
Tevin Ali

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Maria Sachs, Melissa McKinlay,
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Verdenia C. Baker

Assistant County Administrator
Dorritt M. Miller