

YSD SCOOP!

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Youth Services Department represented at Palm Beach Pride Weekend, the largest cultural event in Palm Beach County hosted by Compass. p.12

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COI aims to transform the lives of children of inmates and enable them to achieve happier, more productive lives. p.17



Serving Youth
and Families
Countywide

YSD CELEBRATES 7TH ANNIVERSARY

Happy Anniversary



Celebrating
SEVEN YEARS
of Serving Youth & Families
in Palm Beach County



On January 3, 2022, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department celebrated its seventh anniversary. The department reflected on its goals to empower youth and families to realize their full potential and be the driving force of a thriving community. The celebration started with a welcome from SEEDS Co-Chairs Giselle Badillo & Bridget Williams. Tammy Fields, Director of Palm Beach County Youth Services, gave a short New Year's address and revealed the YSD Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Cross-Divisional Team Logo Contest winners. Tevin Ali & Bridget Williams were named the winners of the contest. After the logo reveal, the department played trivia, and secret Santa matches were announced.

YOUTH SERVICES RELEASES FY 2020-2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

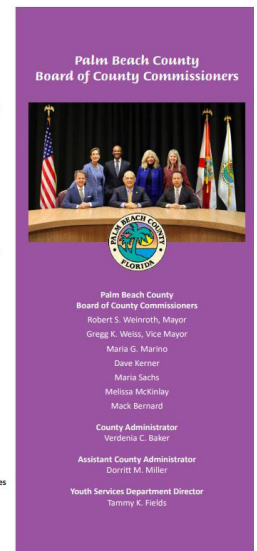
The Youth Services Department has released its 2020-2021 Annual Impact Report. In seven years, the department has made remarkable progress in the provision of direct services, funding of community-based agencies, and collaboration with youth-serving partners as part of the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures initiative.

To view the annual report, please visit pbcgov.com/youthservices.



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JANUARY 2022 PROCLAIMED AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

At the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, Jan 4, 2022, Commissioner Mack Bernard presented a proclamation declaring January 2022 as Mentoring Month in Palm Beach County (PBC). This proclamation aligns with nationwide efforts in highlighting the importance of mentoring during national mentoring month.

Mentoring connects youth with a caring adult who listens and develops a relationship with youth, having a very powerful impact on young people's success in various personal, academic, and professional situations. Many young people have experienced some form of trauma. Research shows that mentors play an influential role in providing youth with the tools to make responsible choices, attend

and engage in school, and reduce or avoid risky behavior. By connecting with a caring adult who provides emotional support, young people can become resilient, thrive, and achieve great life outcomes.

The partners of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures support numerous mentoring initiatives through collaboration with the United Way Mentor Center to foster high quality mentoring programs throughout the county, including building capacity, providing technical assistance, mentor recruitment, and matching youth with mentors and other developmental opportunities.

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County recently contracted with the United



(Pictured left to right: United Way of PBC, Mentor Training Coordinator, Brandon Johnson; Youth Services Department, Senior Program Specialist, Ike Powell; Palm Beach County Commissioner Mack Bernard; United Way of PBC, Mentoring Initiative Manager, Allison Jimenez; Assistant County Administrator Dorritt Miller; Youth Services Department, Outreach & Community Programming Division Director, Geeta Loach-Jacobson.)

Way of Palm Beach County, Inc. to pilot an Enhanced Mentoring Engagement Program. The Program focuses on supporting youth directly involved with or at risk of entering the juvenile justice and/or dependency systems in priority geographic locations.

For more information on mentoring, go to <https://unitedwaypbc.org/mentor/>.

MARCH 2022 PROCLAIMED RITA THRASHER MONTH

On International Women's Day at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 8, 2022, Commissioner Sachs presented a proclamation declaring March 2022 as Rita Thrasher Month in Palm Beach County. Thrasher, now in her 90s, has spent decades advocating to remove the stigma and increase services for mental health in children and adults as president and CEO of Boca Raton's Promise.

(Pictured left to right: Marla Kosec, Commissioner Maria Sachs, Rita Thrasher, United Way of Palm Beach County Executive Vice President of Community Investments Seth Bernstein, and Youth Services Director Tammy K. Fields.)

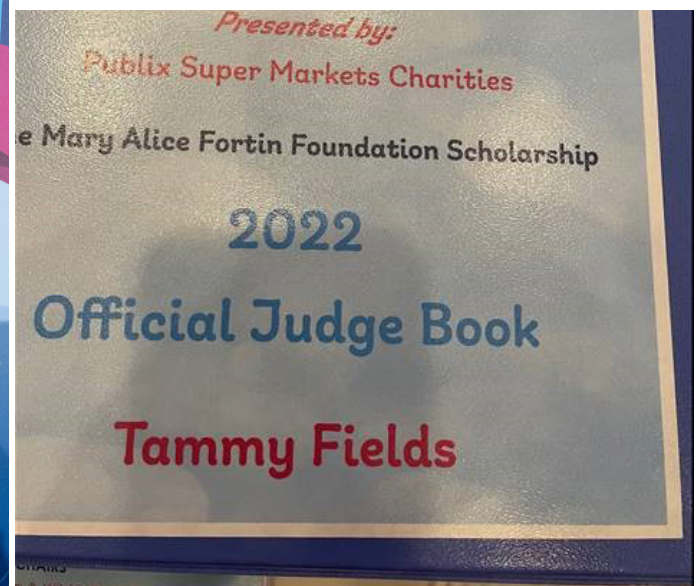


BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PALM BEACH COUNTY NAMES 2022 YOUTH OF THE YEAR



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County held its Eighth Annual Youth of the Year Dinner at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa on February 25, 2022. The dinner filled with emotions celebrated The Boys & Girls Clubs' mission of enabling all young people to reach their full potential. Among the Youth of the Year judges was Palm Beach County Youth Services Director, Tammy K. Fields.

Congratulations to Jermaine Lovely from the Smith & Moore Family Teen Center of Belle Glade, who was named the 2022 Palm Beach County Youth of the Year!



BIRTH TO 22 HOSTS 2022 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Community Conversation #1
 March 8, 2022 (Tuesday)
 5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Virtual

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 *STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Achieve Success in Higher Education
- Strengthening Quality Out of School Time (OST)
- Ensuring Safety and Justice

Community Conversation #2
 March 24, 2022 (Thursday)
 5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Virtual

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 *STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- Trauma Sensitive Community
- Health & Wellness

Community Conversation #3
 March 29, 2022 (Tuesday)
 5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Virtual

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 *STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

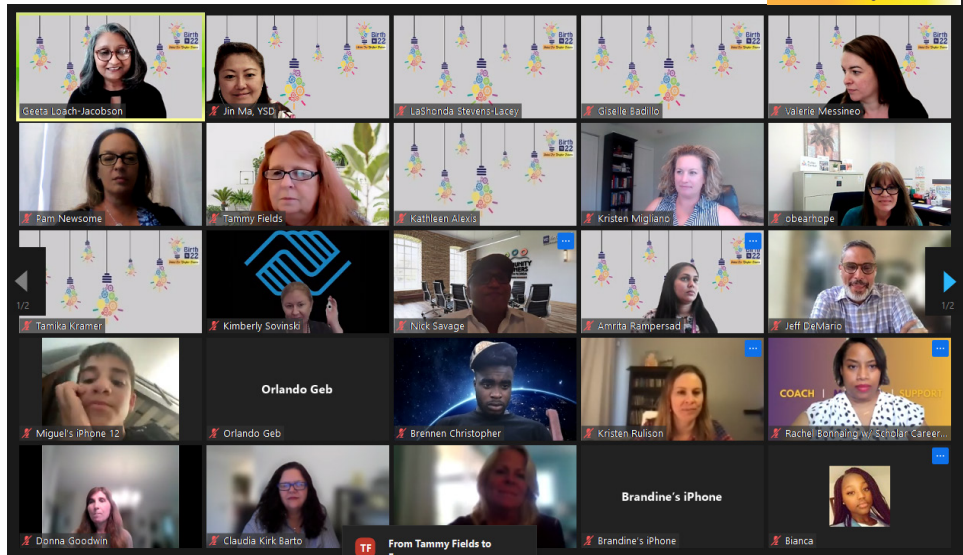
- Education to Employment Pathways for Disconnected Youth
- Social Emotional Learning

Community Conversation #4
 April 4, 2022 (Monday)
 5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Virtual

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 *STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- Economic Access
- Parenting & Role Models



Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures is an alliance of Palm Beach County community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems, and youth-serving organizations, as well as connecting families, community members, and most importantly, with local young people directly. The voices of youth and the adults who care about them are vital to implementing the Youth Master Plan and ensuring a difference is made in our community. Birth to 22 recently hosted a series of 2022 Community Conversations that were open to the public and structured to support community input while providing relevant data regarding children’s outcomes and services.

Each community conversation focused on a few of the nine action areas. Participating students earned community service hours.

The March 8th conversation focused on Achieving Success in Higher Education, Strengthening Out of School Time (OST), and Ensuring Safety & Justice. At this conversation, 56 community members attended, of which 23 students participated.

The March 24th conversation focused on Trauma-Sensitive Communities and Health & Wellness. At this conversation, 42 community members attended, of which 12 students participated.

The March 29th conversation focused on Education to Employment Pathways for

Disconnected Youth and Social-Emotional Learning. At this conversation, 66 community members attended, of which 22 students participated.

The April 4th conversation focused on Economic Access and Parenting & Role Models. At this conversation, 65 community members attended, of which 17 students participated.

Each conversation posed questions to community members regarding specific issues they are concerned about regarding each action area and to suggest solutions to the group in the following categories:

- A solution of relatively no/low cost
- A solution that is off the wall
- Relatively easy lifting, but high impact solution
- Something that expands on current success type solution

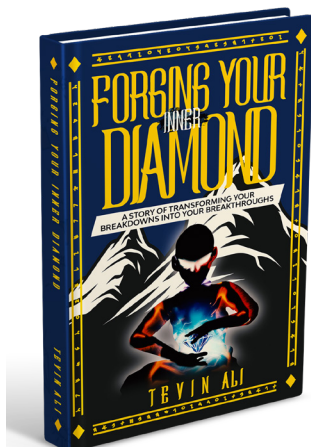
In surveying the room at all four community conversations, we learned that mental health, housing, education, and economic access were the most significant areas of concern. Learn more about the community conversation results at: <http://pbcbirthto22.com/engagement/>.

To stay connected with Birth to 22 and their upcoming events and initiatives, follow them on their Facebook and Instagram pages @Birthto22.

YSD'S 'PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST' PUBLISHES BOOK TO UPLIFT OTHERS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES



"If even one line or piece of wisdom presented in my book leaves someone inspired, then it has done its job, and I'm eternally grateful"
 -Tevin Ali



Tevin Ali, Public Relations Specialist of Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department, published a motivational book in March 2022 titled, **Forging Your Inner Diamond**. His novel is an adventure story blended with self-help wisdom and a tribute to how we all have the power to overcome our life adversities and transform into a 'diamond in the rough' if we believe in the transformation process it takes to forge a diamond. His book focuses on themes of mental health, overcoming adversity, and self-empowerment to help others lift themselves up through life's challenges.

Author Ali shares four key lessons in his novel that led him to overcome barriers as a first-generation college student, low-income minority, and an immigrant to achieve noteworthy achievements and hopes to pass the wisdom on

to others. His novel's target audience is young adults, particularly college students, but can be for anyone seeking a bit of transformative inspiration at a low point in their life. Whether one is going through hardship, battling self-defeating thoughts, or feeling stuck through life's tough experiences, this book will provide comfort and inspiration. His deepest hope is that his book reaches the hands of those who need inspiration to overcome their personal adversities, struggles, and hardships.

About the Author: Tevin Ali, born in 1992, immigrated to Palm Beach County in the 1990s from Trinidad & Tobago with his parents and grandmother, who wanted to offer him a better life and the opportunity at an education. His family grew up low-income. Despite facing numerous chal-

lenges as a low-income minority, immigrant, and first-generation college student, Tevin has overcome numerous odds to achieve notable milestones. In 2017, Tevin was named "Florida's Student of the Year" by the Florida Association of Colleges and Employers (FloridaACE). He graduated as a first-generation graduate from Florida Atlantic University with his Bachelor's Degree in 2017. Tevin also graduated from Johns Hopkins University with his Master's Degree in 2019. Moreover, Tevin has received numerous awards and has been featured in media such as The New York Times for his leadership and commitment to empowering others to persist and succeed in their endeavors.

Congratulations Tevin, continue to make us and Palm Beach County proud!

DR. ESSENCE RIVERS MADE NEWS FOR CITY OF GREENACRES PRESENTATION

Dr. Essence Rivers, doctoral intern of Palm Beach County Youth Services Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division, was recently featured on WPTV News Channel 5 for her City of Greenacres presentation on bullying. The presentation titled "Let's Talk" – A Community Conversation on Bullying; was presented by Dr. Rivers on February 16th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Research suggests that nearly 1 in 5 children between the ages of 12-18 experience bullying nationwide. In 2021, 41% of youth had been bullied at least once. This presentation focused on the issue of bullying, identifying types of bullying, reviewing the warning signs of bullying, and identifying ways to address bullying. This discussion welcomed students and parents to share their personal stories and work through the root of what creates a bully.

"A lot of people that bully are not bullying because they're mean people. Some kids have been the victim of bullying and then turn around and become the perpetrator. They may come from families that they may not have the support that they need."

-Dr. Essence Rivers

NEWS > PALM BEACH COUNTY > REGION C PALM BEACH COUNTY > GREENACRES

City leaders in Greenacres step up to stop bullying

In 2021, 41% of youth have been bullied at least once



Wednesday, they held what they call "Let's talk," a community conversation to discuss the subject, and how to spot the signs of bullying.

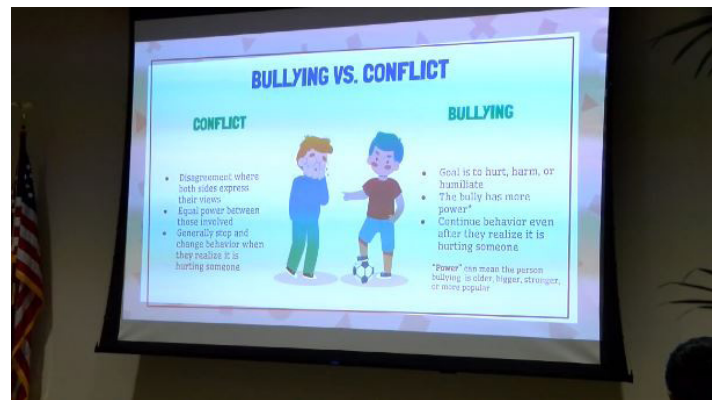
By Joel Lopez

Posted at 11:41 PM, Feb 16, 2022 and last updated 11:41 PM, Feb 16, 2022

WPTV TREASURE COAST NEWS
SATURDAYS 7:00PM

WPTV Treasure Coast News

Missing Victoria Gonzalez



POWER OF THE PEOPLE INTERVIEW



On February 17, 2022, Valerie Messineo, Senior Program Specialist, was interviewed for a Facebook live show, *The People of Power*, with Kitty Lunden. Valerie shared about Youth Services Department Summer Camp Scholarship Program for youth ages 5-14. The Summer Camp Scholarship Program provides full tuition and fees for summer camp for children residing

in families with income at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. It allows parents to work with the knowledge that their children are safe. It gives children educational and recreational opportunities for growth. Parents may choose from participating camps in Palm Beach County. Applications recently closed for Summer 2022.

FILISE JULES FEATURED IN 'THE WELL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY'



Our very own Filise Jules, Licensed Therapist, was featured as the writer in [The Well of PBC Issue 3!](#) of the article titled "The Future of Behavioral Health in the Palm Beach County Haitian Community."

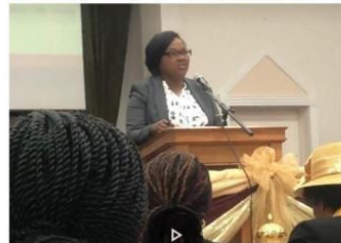
"Some Haitian contemporaries struggle to name their symptoms during a mental health assessment; instead, they attribute everything to stress or physical exhaustion"

-Filise Jules

Her article addresses the future of addressing the mental health concerns of Haitian communities. Haitian immigrants in Palm Beach County have increased tenfold after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in 2010 and the 7.2 one in 2021. With a change in cultural context, Haitian immigrants face multiple stressors from the loss the separation from loved ones and culture of origin in their transition. Filise stresses now more than ever is the time to have such a conversation on mental health and question, "what does behavioral/mental health look like in the community?"

Haitian immigrants in Palm Beach County have increased tenfold after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in 2010 and the 7.2 one in 2021. However, earthquakes are just one of many crises that sent thousands of our compatriots to the border. In the process of migrating to a new cultural context, Haitian immigrants, as Sue et al., (2014) put it, face multiple stressors from loss and separation from loved ones and culture of origin to discrimination as they negotiate identity and life transitions here in Palm Beach County.

In general, mental health is considered taboo in Haitian culture. Some Haitian contemporaries struggle to name their symptoms during a mental health assessment; instead, they attribute everything to stress or physical exhaustion. Can we venture out



10 THE WELL OF PBC / FEB ISSUE 2022

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The United Way Mentor Center hosted a virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid training in February.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid training focused on recognizing the patterns of thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and appearance that shows there might be a challenge rather than focusing on a specific disorder.

Youth Services staff that went through the training learned about an action plan that they can apply to non-crisis and crisis scenarios.

Each participant received a certificate from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing on Mental Health First Aid.



PALM HEALTH FOUNDATION SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING

Tammy Fields, director of the Youth Services Department was a member of the Palm Health Selection Committee to choose the Class of 2022 Palm Health Mental/Behavioral Health Scholars. Covid has highlighted the need for trained mental and behavioral health professionals and these scholarships will allow students to continue their studies.



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FOUNDATION
Leading Change for Better Health

CBA TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE TRAINING

When Community Based Agencies (CBAs) request funding, they are asked how they address training for their employees in trauma informed care practices. On March 16, Youth Services hosted a training done by the Center for Child Counseling for all interested employees of Community Based Agencies. This no-cost training was attended by over 100 individuals.



**Center for
Child Counseling**

YSD DIRECTOR JOINS PBC HEALTH EQUITY TASKFORCE

Tammy Fields, director of the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has been asked to sit on the Palm Beach County Health Equity Task Force by the Florida Department of Health. The vision for the Task Force is to create a healthy community that works together to increase access, wellness, safety and fulfillment for all. Ms. Fields expertise will ensure that equity for youth will be addressed.



YSD SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER TRAINING

In March, the Youth Services Department underwent the 'Overview of the Special Needs Shelter' training in preparation of an activation during hurricane season.

The training was led by Keith Wall, Senior Planner of Palm Beach County's Division of Emergency Management. Topics the training consisted of included: Shelter Activation Shelter

Setup, Virtual Shelter Tour, Tour de Stuff, Daily Operations, and Demobilization.

Staff was also briefed on the expectations of running the shelter in regards to where and when to report during the time of an activation.

Further trainings will be conducted leading up to the hurricane season.

Palm Beach County

Overview of the Special Needs Shelter



Together, Emergencies Are Managed

SANCTUARY TRAININGS

On January 24, 2022, the Youth Services Department supervisors participated in the Sanctuary Institute's Improving Communication, and Resolving Conflict training. The Department's consultant, Aaron James, led the group through several activities and breakout discussions during the day.

On February 15, 2022, Youth Services Department participated in a Sanctuary Trauma History Workshop. The workshop's purpose was to discuss the trauma history at Youth Services Department utilizing the Sanctuary model to direct the discussion.

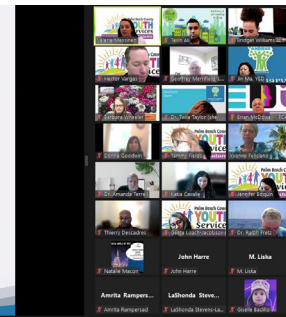
On March 1, 2022, Youth Services Department participated in the Sanctuary Power Workshop. The workshop was intended to look at power, the uses and abuses of power, external examples, and internal perspectives of the staff. These exercises are designed to help make conscious decisions about how power is used and enable all to take action when we identify power is misused.



Intellectual Property of the Sanctuary Institute

What's the difference?

Coping Plans	Self-Care Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a walk Say a prayer Look at pics of kids Talk with a friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk 30 minutes 3x a week Attend weekly bible study Have a play date each week with kids



SANCTUARY CROSS-DIVISIONAL UPDATE

The Cross-Divisional Sanctuary Team reviewed Coping Plans and Self Care Plans for the Youth Services Department during recent trainings. The Coping Plans and Self Care Plans are two items in the Sanctuary Model Tool Kit.

Sanctuary Toolkit: Coping Plans

"For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind." - Eleanor Everett

A Coping Plan is a list of activities that a person can choose when feeling overwhelmed so that she/he can avoid engaging in unsafe behavior.

Coping Plans keep people safe by helping to regulate emotions.

Domains of Safety:

- Physical
- Moral
- Social
- Psychological

What are "Self-Regulating Options?"

- You can do them yourself
- They are relational tools
- They can be done anywhere anytime
- Examples: Breathing, counting backwards, squeezing one's hand, prayer

Creating your own Coping Plan:

- Identify emotions
- Identify triggers
- Identify signs
- Identify 5 simple things

The Sanctuary Model Toolkit

- Community Meetings
- Psychoeducation Groups
- Red Flag Meetings
- Coping Plans
- Self Care Plans
- Team Meetings
- Treatment Planning Conference
- ProQoL Scale

Sanctuary Toolkit: Coping Plans

"For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind." - Eleanor Everett

Goal of the Coping Plan is to Reduce Workplace Stress & Create a Safety Culture.

Emotions are contagious.

MY SAFETY PLAN

1. ~~Change my perspective from all~~
2. ~~Take a walk or deep breath~~
3. ~~Drink a glass of water~~
4. ~~Change my hands~~
5. ~~Simply say a prayer~~

1 STEP 1: Identify what happens in your body:

- How do you know you need to calm down before you lose it

2 STEP 2: Identify your "triggers":

- Situations that are likely to overload you with negative emotions

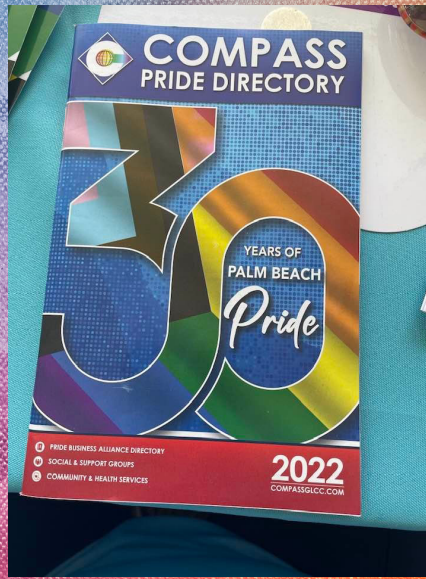
3 STEP 3: Now create your "detours":

- List 5-6 things you can do when feeling unsafe to maintain your own safety
- Include things that can be done without much thought and in different situations
- Choose something that takes you elsewhere in your mind (prayer, picture of loved one, meditation)
- Choose physical action (breathing, massaging hands, pace, hum)
- Keep your list nearby as a reminder

Video by Dr. Sandra Bloom about Coping Plans:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEhnmwKQOCU>

PALM BEACH PRIDE FEST

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department represented at Palm Beach Pride Weekend, the largest cultural event in Palm Beach County, hosted by the Compass Community Center.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

January 11th, 2022, was Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff members wore blue to raise awareness and show support towards ending Human Trafficking.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 11th, 2022

Wear blue to raise awareness



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department recognized Black History Month this year through displays at Highridge Family Center highlighting the significance of black history.



VALENTINES DAY

YSD SEEDS of Success Action team celebrated Valentine's Day by sending out 'Valentines Candy Grams' to staff. Staff was also able to send custom valentines day digital cards to each other in appreciation of their team members.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

YSD SEEDS of Success Action team celebrated St. Patrick's Day by sending out 'Lucky Leprechaun Dollars' to staff. YSD staff also decked out in green to celebrate the day. Three lucky winners got 'Pot of Gold' dollars, winning a prize basket each.





CBA Q&A: CHILDREN OF INMATES (COI)

Q What is your mission?

A COI's mission is to transform the lives of children of inmates, and enable them to achieve happier, more productive lives. We meet them where they are, caring for them and their unique needs through family bonding, data-driven care coordination, and advocacy.

Q What does your organization do?

A The COI staff and network of faith-based and professional organizations reconnect children to their incarcerated parents/family, create positive memories and moments for children, and help rebuild a connection between the families to develop a long-lasting bond. Our focus is to raise children to be happy, healthy, and productive citizens.

COI is breaking the cycle of intergenerational incarceration through many programs. We stay in our children's lives from the time they are born; to the time they head to their first job.

Q What key programs does your organization offer?

A Babies 'n Brains

Through our Babies' n Brains program, we intervene early to mitigate the effects of trauma on

our youngest children and support the development of healthy, happy children. A child's brain is wired for relationships and development cascades from the quality of the first and most important relationship with the parents.

COI stresses that unaddressed traumatic events in childhood, including separation from parents due to incarceration, may cause long-lasting changes in the brain. These changes may lead to adverse health and mental health outcomes. COI seeks to change children's life courses by using science and education to address the impacts of trauma early.

Parenting Training

We bring our Babies' n Brains program directly to the incarcerated parent. Our staff provides parents with the tools and knowledge about their child's brain and early development, including the impact trauma may have, to foster the bonds of attachment.

Our vision is: If fathers and mothers understand the basics of brain development, they will get more involved in raising their children and ultimately strengthen their day-to-day lives. More involved parents write letters to their children, call them at home, participate in video conferencing, and are truly present during family visitations.

Bonding Visits

Many children of inmates are unable to visit their incarcerated parents because of transportation and financial limitations.

In response, COI provides free quarterly Bonding Visits for children and their caregivers in Miami, Palm Beach, Jacksonville, Tampa, and other parts of Florida to more than a dozen corrections institutions.

We also offer video-conference visitations for our families and their loved ones in jail or corrections institutions.

At each three to four-hour bonding visit, children and their incarcerated parents sit together in secure rooms reading books, putting together puzzles, doing arts-and-crafts projects, and playing board games.

These activities are structured to encourage conversations, laughter, and hugs. Playmats have been introduced to allow little children to crawl, roll and giggle with their parents. The families also enjoy a family meal and participate in a civics educational activity to create bonding and learning.

Following each visit, children find stuffed animals awaiting them on the bus.

CBA Q&A CONTINUED



And rather than going straight home, they detour to either a bowling alley or skating rink to ease anxieties from separating again.

Hobby Time

New activities fostering community, bonding, growth, and, of course . . . FUN!

Outside of taking children to bonding visits at corrections facilities and providing follow-up support and services for those visits, COI supports children year-round with opportunities for self-exploration, learning, and fun in our community hobby activities.

Throughout the year, the staff organizes and facilitates one-on-one and group activities for our children. They get the opportunity to participate in athletic, artistic, and other activities, such as skateboarding, gardening, painting, go-kart racing, mini-golf, and trampoline jumping.

Q How does your agency benefit the community?

A COI is helping the community by

canceling out the intergenerational cycle set for children whose parents are incarcerated. They are helping those impacted by the trauma caused by incarceration to understand and find ways to turn the negative into positive. By being of assistance to these families, the community is helping them to be better, happy, and healthy citizens.

Q What is your agency's focus for 2022?

A COI's focus for 2022 is to continue making a difference in our children's lives. They aim to reach more families in need and change the trajectory caused by trauma.

They also aim to get into more correctional institutions to continue facilitating discussions with parents about brain development and the cause and effects of trauma.

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

A Funds received from Palm Beach County enhance the services COI provides tremendously by allowing us the opportunity to do what we do. Thanks to the funds we receive, we are able to provide families with resources, bonding visits, hobby activities, and more.

Q What is the COI Central Website?

A www.childrenofinmates.org



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

KEISHA DORAN



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we’re featuring Keisha Doran. Keisha works in a dual role as a nurse and a supervisor.

In her role, Keisha provides direct supervision to the nursing department, overnight Juvenile Residence Techs, and (School) Residential Youth Counselors/ Juvenile Residence Techs. She is responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing the residential services and nursing services provided.

Q Where is your hometown?

A West Palm Beach

Q What was your first job?

A Working at Taco Bell

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

A Active listening, customer service, problem solving.

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

A Being able to make a difference in a child’s life.

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

A I think my most memorable moment at YSD was our Fall Festival in the cafeteria. We converted the entire cafeteria into a Fall fair/ carnival (minus the rides). All the counselors,

therapists and nurses participated by dressing up in costumes and making games. It was fun to see some staff step out of their comfort zones, dress up and be silly. I think it was a great bonding experience for not only the residents but for Highridge staff as well.

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

A My interests outside of work would be attending my kids sporting events and spending time with my family.

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

A That family comes first. Life is short and you should enjoy every day with your family.

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

A I’m scared of planes, so ideally it has to be a location in Florida.

Q What is your favorite quote?

A *With God all things are possible.*

Q Who or what inspires you?

A My kids inspire me.

Q Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?

A My favorite TV station is Bravo.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

BRIAN MCDOWELL



Please join us in Congratulating Brian McDowell, who was named YSD Employee of the Quarter for his exemplary performance in taking on additional responsibilities such as payroll when the Fiscal Specialist II and Financial Analyst III positions were vacant.

Since joining the FCA team in July 2020, Brian's professionalism and willingness to work as a team have been commendable and of significant value to the department. Many employees have taken the time to speak to Brian's work ethic and the pleasure he is to work with at YSD.

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



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



Jennifer Boquin
Fiscal Specialist II
FCA



Katia Cavalie
Chief of Community Based Clinical Services
RTFC



Kathleen Alexis
Grant Compliance Specialist II
OCP



Bengy Elcine
Seasonal ParaProfessional
OCP



Dimitri Cason
Seasonal ParaProfessional
OCP

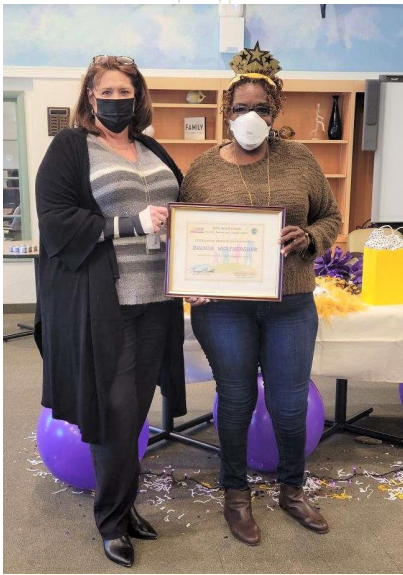


Tonielt Summerville
Licensed Therapist
RTFC



Deneshia Brown
Administrative Technician I
RTFC

RETIREMENT PRESENTATION



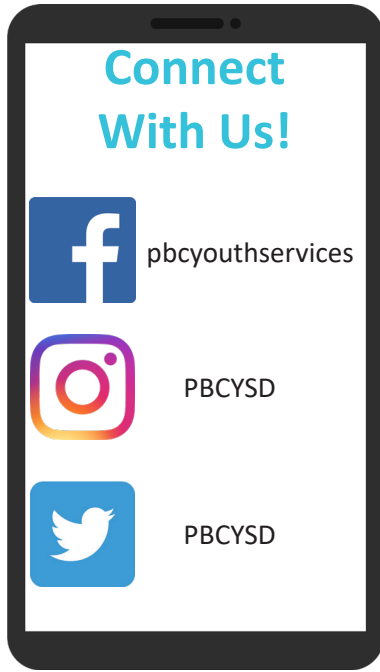
Brenda Weathersbee
10 Years of Service

Brenda was a member of the Highridge team as a dorm counselor for the past ten years. She has a heart for caring and serving our most vulnerable youth.

She has been such an inspiration for our youth that they were inspired to move beyond their circumstances in life by developing coping skills and resilience.

We wish Miss Brenda the best as she relaxes, travels, and does LOTS of fishing.





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Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming
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Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling
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