

YSD Scoop!

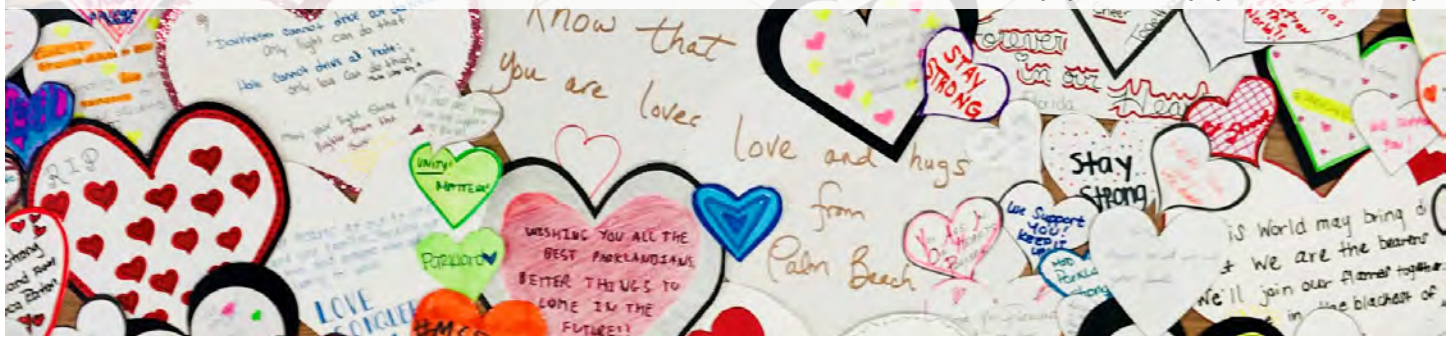


Volume 4 | Issue 2

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department

United Way of Palm Beach County collected more than 2,000 hearts, many from Youth Services staff, filled with loving notes of encouragement for staff and students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the Parkland community. These hearts were shared with HandsOn Broward for their upcoming art installations.

Photo courtesy of United Way of Palm Beach County



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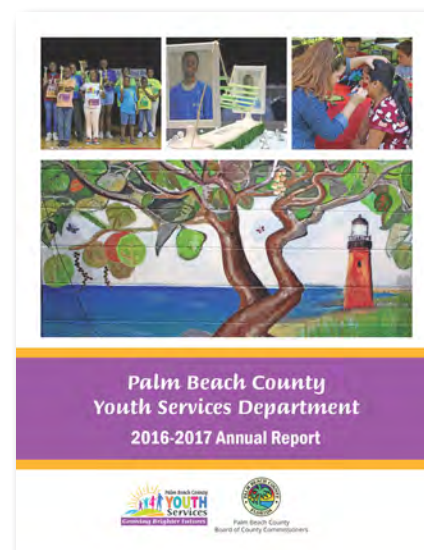
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Youth Services Releases FY 2017 Annual Report



The Youth Services Department has released its 2016-2017 Annual Report.

In three short years, the department has made tremendous 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.

Birth to 22 Holds Emergency Meeting



In light of the recent Parkland shooting, the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures coalition called an emergency meeting to respond to mental health concerns. The group will be holding regular meetings with the School District of Palm Beach County to analyze what local organizations can do in Palm Beach County to avoid situations such as this and what we are lacking.

“It takes a village to be able to address this. After a child has been identified, what are we doing?” said Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director.

Among the issues being examined are short to mid-term results regarding behavioral needs and student issues, as well as how community organizations can provide support to counselors already in schools.

County Community Project Celebrates the Life of Youth Advocate Michelle Dryer

The life of youth advocate Michelle Dryer was celebrated at the One Seed, One Plant, One County community project event on Saturday, Jan. 20. Nearly 30 friends, family members and local agency representatives attended the intimate ceremony.

Michelle was a beacon in the community and served as an advocate for youth through her work at CareerSource Palm Beach County and Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County.

In honor of Michelle’s life, Future Leaders United for Change planted a fruit tree at one of The Lord’s Place campuses.

Through this project, Future Leaders also sought to raise awareness of the lack of community gardens in impoverished communities. The council collaborated with George Soria, owner of Laulima Premaculture Farm, and learned how to plant a garden without pesticides.

“This was a special day to see our youth honor Michelle, while also addressing the needs of our community,” said Tammy Fields, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department director. “Michelle always reminded us that



Members of Future Leaders United for Change with George Soria, owner of Laulima Premaculture Farm

the needs of all must be considered.”

Future Leaders is the voice of youth in Birth to 22 and focuses on creating leaders through self-motivation, determination and education.

Future Leaders United for Change will also be holding the 2018 Future Leaders Conference on Saturday, May 12, at Palm Beach Lakes Community High School.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://youthservicescsp.formstack.com/forms/2018futureleaders>.

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

- Henry Ford

Holiday Employee Recognition & Anniversary Celebration



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff came together to celebrate the holidays on Jan. 4, at the Highridge Family Center. The department also celebrated its third anniversary.

Staff took part in a white elephant gift exchange and brought traditional holiday dishes from their own cultures. The theme for this year’s holiday party was a celebration of diversity and cultures.

Organizational Trauma History



The Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care focuses on trauma in the lives of clients and recognizes that systems and organizations can function in the same way as individuals. Youth Services Department team members examined traumatic experiences that the department has faced and collected an organizational trauma history during a two-part guided discussion

and meeting on Nov. 13, 2017 and Feb. 12, 2018. The exercise was similar to a client-centered trauma assessment but focused on the department as a whole, and examined changes, processed losses, and explored the possibilities for the future. Team members participated in an experiential exercise of what they were willing to let go of in order to move forward.

Youth Services Attends Collective Impact Workshop to End Homelessness

Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department director, and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Youth Services director of Outreach and Community Programming, attended a Collective Impact Workshop to End Homelessness held by the Community Services Department January 30-31. More than 75 community leaders are working towards creating a plan to end homelessness in Palm Beach County.

The Community Services Department will use the information gathered during this two-day workshop to determine methods to end the cycle of homelessness.



For more information, please visit <http://www.thehomelessplan.org/>.

Future Leaders Representatives Recognized for Hard Work and Dedication



Future Leaders United for Change Representative Jazz Lezama received a Certificate of Congratulations from Vice-Mayor Mack Bernard for winning the Youth Ambassador Award from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice on Jan. 23, at the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) Legislative Reception in Tallahassee.

Christian Allen, a Future Leaders United for Change Steering Committee representative, received the Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Student Award on January 11 at the Duncan Theatre. During the summers of 2016 and 2017, Christian was employed as a summer food monitor at the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department. Christian has also previously volunteered at the C.L. Brumback Health Department in Belle Glade, the American Red Cross, and

the Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. His mantra is “the only time you look down on a person is when you are reaching out a hand to lift them up”.

Vice Mayor Mack Bernard also presented a certificate of congratulations to Christian for his diligent work in Palm Beach County on March 13, at the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Christian is completing his last year at Palm Beach State College (PBSC) and is employed with the School District of Palm Beach County as a substitute teacher. Upon completion of his associate’s degree, he plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology or the University of California, Berkley.

Youth Empowerment Center Kids Participate in Leadership Day



Youth from the Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center, Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center, Westgate Park & Recreation Center, as well as Future Leaders United for Change, attended the Miami Heat game on March 19. A giant thank you to Vice Mayor Mack Bernard and his staff at District 7 for hosting 40 students to participate in “Leadership Day,” including attending the Miami Heat

Basketball game. Students heard words of encouragement and leadership experiences from Vice Mayor Mack Bernard, Ike Powell, Youth Services Senior Program Specialist, and Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator. Students attended the Miami Heat pre-game practice and enjoyed an exciting double overtime game winning performance by the Heat.

MBK Network Recognized for Excellence in Community Service



(l-r) Youth Services Director Tammy Fields; Community Services Director James Green; former County Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor; Ike Powell, Youth Services senior program specialist and MBK task force leader; and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of Youth Services Outreach and Community Programming

On Feb. 24, My Brother’s Keeper Network of Palm Beach County (MBK) was honored by the Palm Beach County Alumni Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University at the 14th annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Scholarship Luncheon. The theme for this year’s luncheon was Celebrating Community Organizations.

Ike Powell, MBK task force leader and Youth Services Department senior program specialist, accepted the award for Excellence in Community Service.

“The MBK coalition is extremely excited about being honored for our efforts in the community,” said Powell. “It is imperative that we remain diligent at engaging the public, private partners, community leaders, and stakeholders to work collectively to improve the outcomes for boys and young men of color. We can achieve this through policy recommendations, by fostering equity, mentoring, educating and providing employment opportunities.”

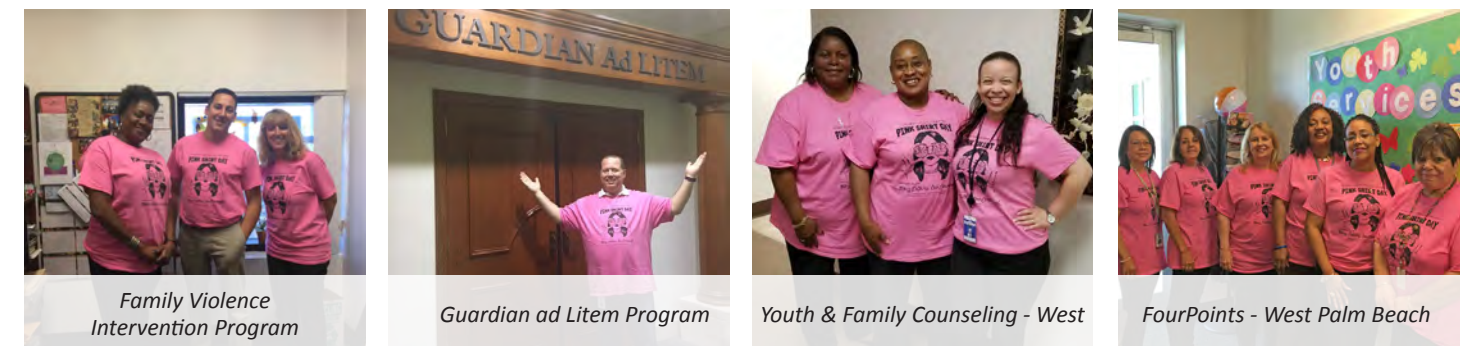
YSD Takes a Stand Against Bullying



Youth & Family Counseling - South

Education & Training Center

Pink Shirt Day Proclamation



Family Violence Intervention Program

Guardian ad Litem Program

Youth & Family Counseling - West

FourPoints - West Palm Beach

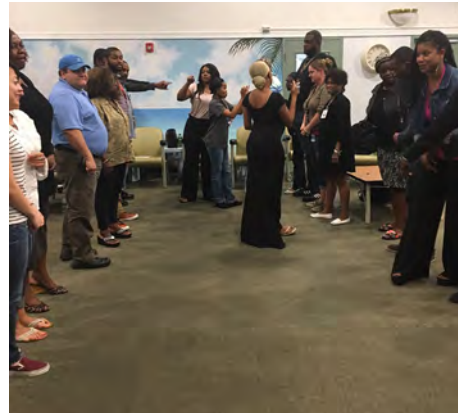
Youth Services Department Director Tammy Fields attended and accepted a proclamation declaring February 28, 2018 Pink Shirt Day in Palm Beach County, sponsored by Mayor Melissa McKinlay.

Youth Services Department staff wore pink to encourage

youth across Palm Beach County to keep learning bullying-prevention skills and strategies on Feb. 28.

Pink Shirt Day originated in 2007 when two students in Canada, bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a male ninth grade student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt during the first day of school.

Communication and Conflict Retreat



The Youth Services Department held a Communication and Conflict Retreat, consisting of a lecture, breakout sessions, team building exercises and group discussion. This two day event deepened communication and the approach to conflict resolution by relating experiences of disagreement

and negotiation to the complex concepts of trauma theory in the Sanctuary Model. The Highridge Family Center is currently in its second year of implementation, which focuses on embedding the tools and concepts of the model into the culture of the organization.

I Am Acceptance College Tour



Representatives from the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department attended Keynote Speaker and mental health advocate Hakeem Rahim's I Am Acceptance College Tour at Palm Beach State College on Feb. 22, in

partnership with Boca Raton's Promise. Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and Future Leaders United for Change representative Christian Allen participated in the College & Community Conversations Panel.

"Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success."

- Shiv Kera

Youth Services Establishes Committees

The Youth Services Department has established the following three internal committees.

Safety Committee

The purpose of the Safety Committee is to bring any safety concerns that are in their division to the attention of the committee so that they can mitigate risks.

John Harre, Chair
Carmen M. Bersch, Secretary
Keisha Doran
Aaron Maharaj
Gus Wessel

Special Events Committee

The purpose of the Special Events Committee is to coordinate the department's involvement in major events such as the South Florida Fair, Back to School Bash and the United Way Campaign.

Rebeca Krogman, Chair
Tamika Kramer
Raquel Lumia
Gus Wessel

Employee Recognition Committee

The purpose of the Employee Recognition Committee is to coordinate internal events for employees as well as to motivate employees by recognizing their achievements, hard work and dedication.

Gus Wessel, Chair
Donna Elliott
Stacey King
Raquel Lumia

Overcoming Childhood Trauma: Assessment and Intervention Tips for Clinicians



Dr. Danny Brom, founder and general director of the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma in Jerusalem, presented on "Overcoming Childhood Trauma: Assessment and Intervention Tips for Clinicians" on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service.

Dr. Brom provided recommendations for assessment of trauma during intake, described ways to assess for dissociation resulting from trauma, discussed "key/active ingredients"

identified for working with trauma, and described interventions to teach self-regulation that are helpful for clients.

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing educations for psychologists.

Thank you to Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service for bringing Dr. Brom to Palm Beach County.

PBC Parks and Recreation Kick-Off Nature Ninja Warrior Program



Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation kicked-off their Nature Ninja Warrior Program with an orientation on Saturday, Feb. 17. Attendees included 10 students from the Belle Glade and Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Centers, as well as ASPIRA of Florida. They learned about prescribed burning from Greg Atkinson, Natural Areas superintendent,

as well as how to use equipment to determine relative humidity and the best time to burn from Scott Stone, park supervisor.

"The kids seem to be really enjoying themselves and learning a great deal about the outdoors," said Eric Call, director of Parks and Recreation.

Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year

Special to YSD Scoop!

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of Outreach & Community Programming Division, attended the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's 2018 Youth of the Year Ceremony on Feb. 23, at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa.

At the ceremony, David Wooten was named the 2018 Youth of the Year and will go on to represent Palm Beach County at the State Youth of the Year competition.

Youth of the Year is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program for Club members. Each year, Club members have the opportunity to participate in the national competition, which begins at the local level. They are evaluated on a variety of categories including leadership skills, moral character, academic performance, and service to their community.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. These Club members are recognized for their outstanding contributions to their family, school community, and their Club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles.



Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director, and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of Outreach & Community Programming

Finalists included returning candidate Asia Vance from the Marjorie S. Fisher Boys & Girls Club of West Palm Beach. She was joined by new contestants Joshua Perez from the Smith & Moore Family Teen Center of Belle Glade; Jeremy Lawrence from Neil S. Hirsch Family Boys & Girls Club of Wellington; Donia Beau-Frere from Naoma Donnelley Haggin Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach; Tahnya Orr from Max M. Fisher Boys & Girls Club of Riviera Beach; and Yourhi Dalmacy from Boys & Girls Club of Boca Raton.

For more information, please visit bgcpbc.org.

Meet David

David Wooten has been a member of Florence De George Boys & Girls Club for 10 years. He is the oldest of five siblings and is the only male in his household. At 16-years-old, he takes the role of 'man of the house' very seriously and makes sure to conduct himself in a way that not only his sisters can look up to, but also Club members and his community. He is a senior and a captain of the football team at Inlet Grove High School where he excels in both sports and academics, despite having endured much in life.

Seven years ago, the honor student went through a rough patch in life when his mother fell into a coma after giving birth to one of his sisters. He didn't know whether she was going to live. She and his now seven-year-old sister are doing great! The experience taught David to enjoy life to the fullest and his family is very close as a result of it.

Wooten aspires to attend Florida State University or Florida International University to study Psychological Counseling.

David will be co-facilitating a discussion on the importance of voting at the 2018 Future Leaders Conference on May 12.

"If you can dream it, you can do it."

- Walt Disney

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today Summer Camp



1. What is your mission?

Our mission is to prevent summer learning loss in youth. We believe in empowering children through education.

2. What does your summer camp site do?

Our summer camp is an educational enrichment program designed to help students achieve academically. Our unique program is a hybrid of both educational and recreational activities. Our students receive high quality instruction from certified educators and then participate in fun hands-on activities and games. We offer the perfect balance of fun and academics.

3. What key programs and/or activities does your campsite offer?

Our program focuses on both reading and math.

Student progress is monitored and tracked during the duration of our summer program.

4. What key programs and/or activities does your campsite offer?

Students who attend our summer camp greatly benefit from our program which is tailored to prepare them for a successful school year. On average our students are further ahead after attending our educational enrichment program and therefore need less time catching up in the fall when school begins. The Summer Camp Scholarship program provides funding which allows us to bridge the achievement gap and help underprivileged students receive academic enrichment.

For more information about Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today Summer Camp, please visit preparingleaders.org.

"Several of our parents have written testimonials about how our summer program has helped their child. One mother shared the sincere appreciation for the opportunity to allow her child to participate in school summer program. She noticed her son has more confidence and his reading fluency and comprehension has drastically improved."

- Micaela Alford, Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today president

Mentoring Month Proclamation



Youth Services Department Senior Program Specialist Ike Powell attended and accepted a proclamation declaring January 2018 Mentoring Month in Palm Beach County, sponsored by Vice Mayor Mack Bernard.

CBA Spotlight: ASPIRA

1. What is your mission?

The ASPIRA Association promotes the empowerment of the Hispanic and minority communities by developing and nurturing the leadership, intellectual, and cultural potential of its youth so that they may contribute their skills and dedication to the fullest development of the Hispanic and minority communities everywhere.

2. What does your organization do?

The basic philosophy of ASPIRA is the belief that school, parents, youth, and community must interact to bring about positive results. ASPIRA'S goals are to develop their leadership potential, to develop their skills to the advancement of the community, to motivate, orient and assist youth through counseling and educational services, to advocate for greater access to quality education, leadership programs and other opportunities. The ASPIRA philosophy works through the ASPIRA Clubs which are educational peer culture models organized and facilitated by Advisors at school sites. The Advisors follow a curriculum that includes educational, leadership, anti-violence and skill development components. ASPIRA utilizes an educational peer culture model known as the ASPIRA Club system. The ASPIRA Clubs meet on a weekly basis, operate under parliamentary procedures, and elect peer representatives as officers of the clubs.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

ASPIRA operates school leadership clubs in a variety of different Elementary schools provided by Prime Time, six middle schools, six high schools, and three colleges. ASPIRA in Palm Beach County provided many activities, workshops, community service event, paid internships, and conferences that allowed ASPIRANTES (ASPIRA program participants) to become involved with their community as well as educating them about their environment and how their daily habits affect the world around them.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

As stated, our goal is to improve all facets of students' educational and leadership pursuits. This includes actively applying those skills within their community, and maximizing their educational potential. This will have many positive effects on the Community as well as hopefully attract a growing number of participants. A successful Aspira program grows based on its own results for the students and their community. Because of the importance of steady supportive presence to



these students, we stay with them from Elementary all the way through College Level. This means we can follow them through their education and help them succeed in their future. Career and College Readiness is our goal and being able to empower these students to succeed in their communities.

Statistics from last year's high schools:

- 89% (42 of 47) non-senior high school participants are on track to be promoted to the next grade level
- 91% (31 of 34) high school senior participants are on track to graduate from high school with a regular secondary school diploma.
- 100% (15/15) of first/second-year Palm Beach State College participants have acceptable academic standing and are on track for completion. One student completed her PBSC program early and transferred to FIU.

New Programs that have been awarded this PAST year due to our success is a grant for three more High School programs, one including the Glades. And a Grant for a College Program that provides students with PAID Internships.

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

The agency plans to expand its contacts/ connections with more internships in the community, and is presently actively identifying such opportunities. Also, ASPIRA hopes to receive funding to double the Elementary program so to be able to reach more schools at once. There are a very large number of Elementary schools in Palm Beach County and ASPIRA wants to be able to educate the students as to what ASPIRA has to offer and show them the basic skills of leadership.

Further, ASPIRA would like to obtain funding for a second Middle School Program since there is such a need for it at that level. ASPIRA has also shown success with their current Middle School Program and would like to share that with other schools. ASPIRA has also

been volunteering their services at Lantana Middle School due to the administration asking them to stay and the program being so successful.

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

ASPIRA receives funding from Prime Time Palm Beach County, the Farris Foundation, United Way of Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County Youth Services to operate its programs.

For more information about ASPIRA, please visit www.aspiraf1.org.

Meet Jehan

"When I hear the mention of ASPIRA, it means something different to me than most people. ASPIRA is not simply a club to me, in fact it means something bigger than that. It means family and guidance. The club, ASPIRA, has influenced me greatly in the way I think and see the future. It made me become hopeful for a better and bigger future in times where I felt like I did not know what to do. I used to be confused on things such as how to pay for college or how to pick a career, and ASPIRA gave me an answer. Because of the great advisors, I became determined and willing to go to college and pursue a degree that might have seemed too difficult for my old self. Things that the advisors did such as the workshops about college and stress, bringing the yoga speaker and college tours really helped me manage my life in terms of stress and focus on what is important. I became what I always wanted, which is a leader and that made me more confident in helping others. The person who used to sit in school hoping to gain confidence became the figure who is asked for help in the club and that made me grateful for ever joining ASPIRA. Despite the great things I learned

about college, career and leadership, I also learned about family. ASPIRA taught me that family does not have to be family related and it made me feel like it was a place where I could speak my mind freely. A big way ASPIRA has changed me is by helping me become more social and share my thoughts openly. A great lesson we were taught is that no matter where anyone is from or who they are, they are always welcome among us. I am truly happy and grateful I am a part of this club and that I have met the advisors and created a bond that is so special to me. All the advisors in ASPIRA are truly incredible and helpful when it comes to anything, especially about college and higher education. I learned that in order to achieve my goals, I first have to achieve the small steps. No matter what I say about this club and amazing people in it, it is truly hard to describe how great and life changing it was for me to be in it. It is an organization that I will never forget no matter what."

—Jehan Hussein, Senior ASPIRA President at John I. Leonard High School Class of '18, ASPIRA President

Child Abuse Prevention Month



(L to R) Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County Public Information Officer Timothy O'Connor, Palm Beach County Youth Services Director Tammy Fields, Lake Worth Resident Planning Group Executive Director Rhonda Rogers, Commissioner Paulette Burdick, Speak Up for Kids Executive Director Coleen LaCosta, Children's Services Council Community Planning & Partnerships Officer Marsha Guthrie, Children's Home Society of Florida Program Supervisor Brenda Coleman, Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County Community Health Promotion & Education Director Sharon Greene, and Children's Home Society of Florida Project 18 Mentoring Case Manager Tekecia Brown.

At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 13, 2018, Commissioner Burdick presented a proclamation

declaring April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Palm Beach County.

Ballpark of the Palm Beaches Season Opening Celebration



Sixty-six youth and chaperones from three Youth Services contracted Community Based Agencies (CBAs) attended the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches Season Opening Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The youth were able to see the World Series Trophy Display, pregame warm up and other fun activities including the game between the 2017 World Series Champion Houston

Astros and National League East Champion Washington Nationals.

Complimentary game tickets and food vouchers were provided by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. The County's Parks and Recreation Department provided the youth with donated baseballs from sports providers for the youth to obtain player autographs.

2018 National Mentoring Summit



Ike Powell, Youth Services Department senior program specialist, and Gary Graham, United Way of Palm Beach County senior director of Mentoring Initiative, attended the 2018 National Mentoring Summit.

The summit was held during national mentoring month in January and brought together over a thousand attendees from all facets of the mentoring field. Ten countries and 47 states were represented and over 81 workshops were provided for the participants to further enhance their

knowledge in mentoring. During the Capital Hill Day, many participants volunteered to meet State legislators, 342 advocates met with their respective congressional representatives (senators and state representatives) to advocate for mentoring programs and to stress the importance of mentoring. There were great speakers during the lunch sessions that covered topics such as trauma informed care, racial inequality and various other topics.

Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center (YEC)

The Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) Program is an after-school drop-in center for youth and young adults, ages 11 to 19 (6-12th grade). The center provides programs that assist youth in the following areas: education, mentoring, technology, life skills, career exploration and recreation.

Additionally, the Riviera Beach YEC offers GED and pre-apprenticeship programs, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County Adult and Community Education and Florida Training Services, Inc. These program services provide young adults and non-traditional students the opportunity to achieve their high school diploma through completion of the state's standard GED requirements and multi pre-apprenticeship certifications.

The Riviera Beach YEC exists to empower youth and young adults to be the essence of greatness by creating gateways

for social, emotional, physical, financial, and mental performance. The center's vision is to make available a center in which you and young adults will thrive to become change agents as prolific, energetic, and engaged individuals within their families and communities.

The funds provided by the Youth Services Department to the Riviera Beach YEC assist staff in creating and partnering with outside businesses. In doing so, the center's youth are provided with opportunities to participate in activities they would otherwise not be able to engage in. Funding also affords the center's youth with additional education enhancements to be successful academically. By challenging students academically, opportunities arise for them to continue on to post-secondary educational institutions.

For more information about the Riviera Beach YEC, please visit www.RivieraYEP.org.

Meet Jovan

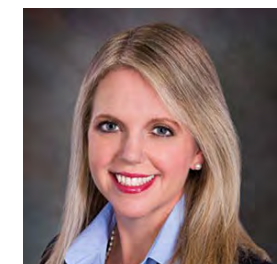


Jovan has been with the Riviera Beach YEC since 2012. Jovan is a young man that has dealt with academic and environmental challenges. Before joining the Riviera Beach YEC, Jovan made the decision to withdraw from high school, where he was not doing well and was not on track to graduate. Jovan enrolled in the Riviera Beach YEC GED/Pre-apprenticeship Program to move forward academically in the Adult Education Program, while studying for a career trade.

As of April 18, Jovan has passed all of his GED tests and received his high school diploma. Jovan will graduate from a trade with an NCCER Multi-apprenticeship Certification, Fork Lift Certification, OSHA Certificate, and Aerial Lift Certification.

Jovan is a great example of how we must continually support our youth, even when the future doesn't seem bright, we must continually keep the light shining on them by instilling encouragement.

Student School Safety Roundtable



Palm Beach County Mayor Melissa McKinlay



West Palm Beach City Commissioner Cory Neering

Palm Beach County Mayor Melissa McKinlay and West Palm Beach City Commissioner Cory Neering hosted a student roundtable on school safety on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Palm Beach County Main Library.

Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields was

a panelist and talked about the department's resources for kids in and out of school that can help them deal with violence and trauma.

About 40 students and parents from around the County attended the discussion.



Dr. Loren Berry, Youth Services psychologist, attended the Peace4Communities gathering on Jan. 13, in Tarpon Springs, FL. Dr. Berry connected with the visionary “Peace4” leaders of Tarpon Springs, Crawford, Gainesville and the Big Bend, as they shared successes, lessons learned and visions for the future. Dr. Berry learned how each community began and where they are on the journey to create trauma-responsive, trauma-informed and ultimately, more peaceful communities. Dr. Berry is now using this information to further the work of the Birth to 22 Trauma-Informed Action Team.



Psychologist Dr. Loren Berry, Chief of Clinical Services Dr. Shayna Ginsburg and Contract Manager Barbara Wheeler represented the Youth Services Department in the 6th Annual Palm Beach County Employee & Family 5K Fun Walk/Run at Okeehetee Park on Saturday, Jan. 20.



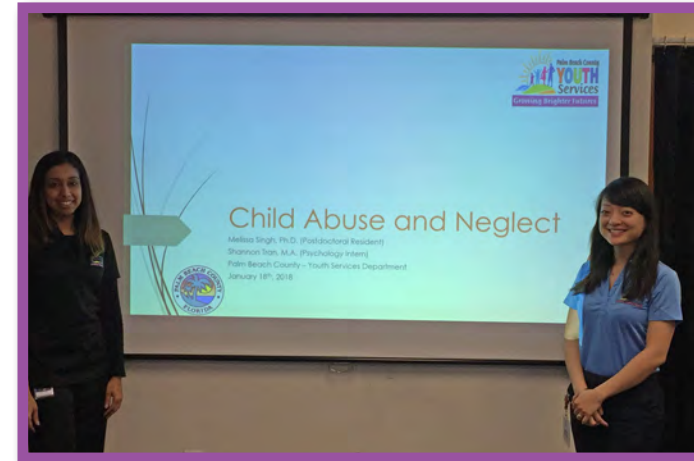
Ike Powell, Youth Services Department senior program specialist and My Brother’s Keeper Network of Palm Beach County Task Force leader, participated in the 2018 Claim Your Future Showcase at the Convention Center Feb. 6.



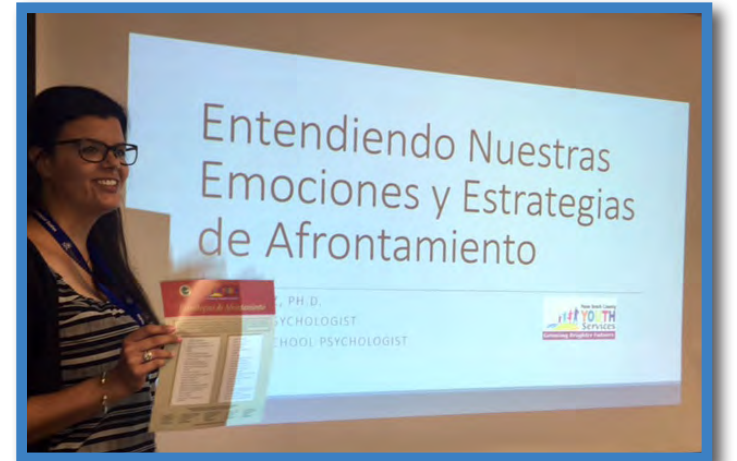
The Youth Services Department hosted the training “Unfriended: The Impact of Social Media,” presented by Stephanie Larsen, PsyD, on March 21. The training was well attended by Youth Services staff and mental health professionals in the community.



Youth Services Department Planner Gregory Gabriel presented on Future Leaders United for Change at the Glades Technical Advisory Committee on Thursday, March 22, at South Bay City Hall.



Education & Training Center Trainees Melissa Singh, PhD (Postdoctoral Resident) and Shannon Tran, MA (Doctoral Intern), presented on Child Abuse and Neglect to the Foster Grandparent Program on Jan. 18.



Psychologist Dr. Laura Cruz presented on self-injury to a Spanish-speaking audience of elementary school parents and on identifying emotions and coping strategies to a group of elementary school children on Feb. 21 and 22.



Chief of Clinical Services Shayna Ginsburg, PsyD, and Postdoctoral Resident Melissa Singh, PhD, presented on the department’s services, as well as on bullying prevention and intervention at the Palm Beach County Courthouse Feb. 27.

Q&A with Kathy Back



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Licensed Family Therapist Kathy Back. As part of the Youth & Family Counseling team, Kathy conducts intakes with individuals and families seeking services. She also provides a variety of therapeutic services to kids, both in schools and as a part of family or individual therapy. Additionally, the Youth & Family Counseling team offers parenting classes, anger management groups and participates in a number of community events that benefit kids and families.

1. Where is your hometown?

Dallas, TX

2. What was your first job?

I volunteered at a children's hospital before moving on to a part-time job doing office work in high school.

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

Compassion, the ability to earn clients' trust, and having the knowledge base to suggest or utilize effective interventions.

4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?

Forming positive therapeutic working relationships

with clients, and seeing them grow.

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

There have been many memorable moments, and my colleagues have been like family. Over the years, we've celebrated happy occasions, grieved our losses, and learned from and supported each other.

6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

I enjoy nature, the beach, fishing, cooking.

7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?

That for the most part, I can't work harder than my clients are willing to work in resolving their problems. And that DROP really does come to an end ... :(

8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?

My dream is to travel around our beautiful country and visit all the National parks. I'm a nature geek.

9. What is your favorite quote?

"I'm not a victim, I'm a volunteer."

10. Who or what inspires you?

I find kids' resilience very inspiring. It's amazing to me what they can overcome.

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

If I told you, it wouldn't be a surprise ...

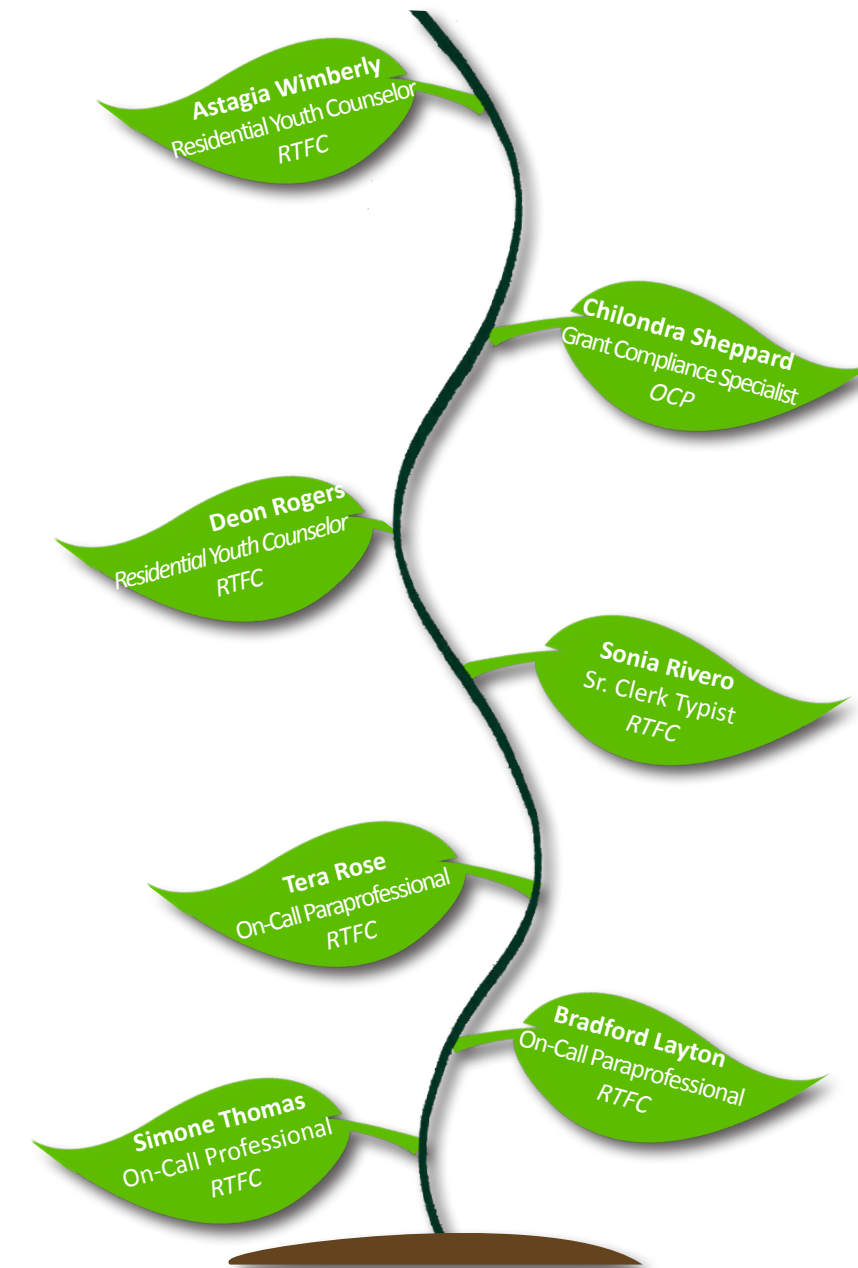
"Believe you can and you're half way there."

- Theodore Roosevelt

YSD is Growing!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between January 1 and March 31.



Promotions



Marlene Etienne
Program Evaluator
Administration

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 Service
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