

YSP Scoop!



Volume 6 | Issue 4

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



Highridge Family Center Served as a Meal Distribution Center During Pre & Summer Feeding

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Summer Food Service Program Serves Over 115,000 Meals

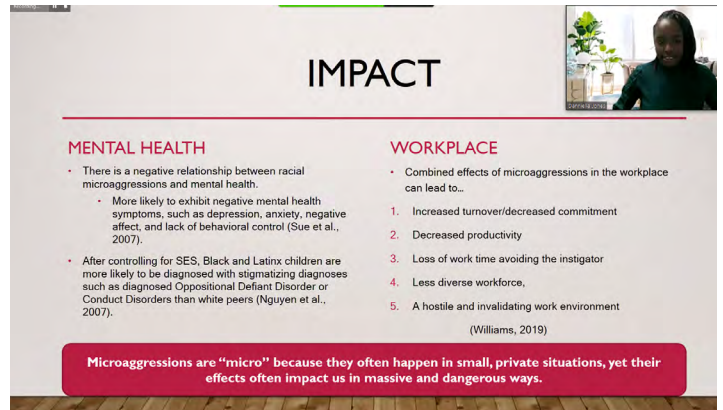
The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) transitioned from pre-summer feeding to the full Summer Food Service Program on June 1. Operating at a total of 71 distribution sites, including 17 Palm Beach County Library locations, the program served a total of 115,701 meals to youth and families throughout Palm Beach County during pre-summer and the program's regularly scheduled program months.

The SFSP ensures that school-aged children, continue to receive nutritious meals beyond the school year and during the summer months when school is out, as well as in times of emergency school closures.

"This year, we did not let COVID-19 stop us," said Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of the Youth Services Department's Outreach and Community Programming Division. "With determination and grit, we restructured our meal service and delivery mechanisms to provide weekly shelf-stable meals to our children. We are proud to support healthy eating for Palm Beach County children."

Meal service dates were expanded to offer a pre-summer feeding session, and distribution sites were added to include the county libraries and Highridge Family Center.

Impact of Implicit Bias & Microaggressions Trainings



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center’s Danniella Jones, Psy.D. presented simulative trainings on the topic of “Impact of Racial/Ethnic Bias and Microaggressions,” for staff and mental health providers in the community on multiple dates to accommodate the overwhelming requests to receive more information and training surrounding the topic. A total of 776 individuals attended the trainings over the quarter.

The presentation defined racial and ethnic microaggressions and implicit bias, described the impact of implicit bias

and microaggressions on persons of color, and developed strategies to increase awareness of bias and mitigate negative consequences of those who are impacted.

In June, Reporter and News Anchor Luli Ortiz of WPEC CBS 12 attended the training and featured the story in an evening broadcast.

The Education and Training Center is in the process of scheduling additional training dates for the next quarter.

Click [here](#) for more information or to request a training.

“I LOVED EVERYTHING about this training. I was glued to my laptop screen. I will DEFINITELY be joining plenty of Dr. Jones’ classes.”

“I found the formal presentation factual and interesting, but Dr. Jones was absolutely riveting during the Q & A... authentic, transparent, and wise.”

The VoiceBox Podcast



Futures Leaders United for Change launched a new podcast series, which features head-to-head discussions between a young person and a community leader.

The Podcast is divided into three segments and each

participant has two minutes to discuss five points on their predetermined topic. The topics are based on the six Birth to 22 Action Areas.

To listen to the latest episode, click [here](#).

Highridge Family Center Training Academy



Highridge Family Center hosted a two-week “Training Academy” in which the Juvenile Residence Techs from the overnight shift, nursing, and school counselors attended.

During the two-week training, staff reviewed Sanctuary modules, practiced documentation, and worked in groups to review and implement changes to Highridge Family Center’s Residents Handbook. The handbook is a part of

the welcome packet residents receive at the start of the program, and provides an overview of behavioral policies, Sanctuary commitments, rewards, point cards, and therapy sessions.

At the end of the training, staff had a graduation ceremony which included a graduation certificate, cake, and treat bags.

Black Youth Mental Health Panel Discussion



Tanya Tibby, LCSW, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Chief of Community Based Clinical Services served as a panelist during the Black Youth Mental Health Town Hall on September 16 hosted by Bishop Craig Cobb. Also participating were Joycy Ann Lacombe, LHMHC, Dr. Amanda Davis, Imma Pierre, Marsha Guthrie, Michael Allen and Elaine Nelson.

The virtual town hall gave parents and the community an opportunity to engage with the School District of Palm Beach County’s Black Student Mental Health and Wellness initiative subgroup through a Q & A discussion.

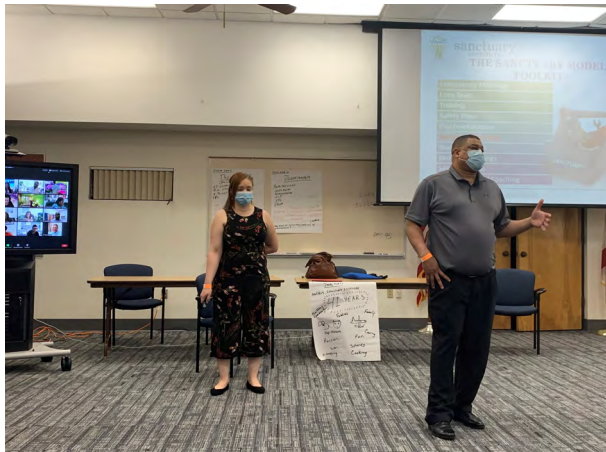
Tanya provided the audience with insight on the link between mental health and parent-child relationships, coping skill strategies, and the positive impact of youth utilizing safety plans to regulate their emotions. Additionally, she discussed the impact of racial and ethnic microaggressions related to Black youth mental health.

The Black Student Mental Health and Wellness initiative will compile the data collected from the town hall, along with findings from two additional subgroups for a presentation to the School District of Palm Beach County’s Superintendent Dr. Donald E. Fennoy on the status of mental health of Black youth in Palm Beach County.

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

- C.S. Lewis

YSD Holds Trauma Informed Care Training



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held a three-day training for employees September 1-3 as part of its pursuit of department-wide certification in the trauma informed care model by the Sanctuary Institute.

The training provided participants the chance to attend in-person sessions for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March. CDC and county guidelines, including wearing of facial covers, maintaining a distance of six feet and proper hygiene measures, were required for those attending. Employees who were unable to attend in person had the option of participating virtually via Zoom Video.

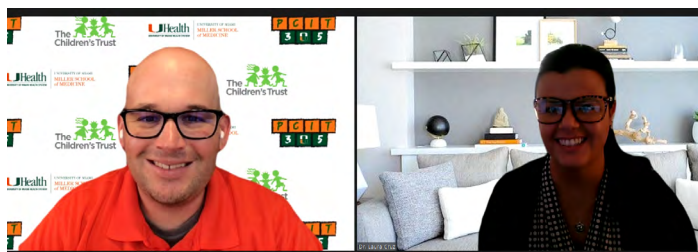
Employees began each session with a “community meeting” where they took turns asking one another three questions: “How are you feeling? What is your goal for today? Who can you ask for help?” Sanctuary trainers then led presentations and activities to introduce staff to a

variety of the Sanctuary standards and common practices, provided assessments, and discussed the implementation process. Virtual attendees entered into smaller break-out rooms via Zoom to ensure their training experience mirrored those attending in person.

Becoming Sanctuary certified reinforces the department’s commitment to the standards of a trauma informed care environment for clients and employees. During the two-and-a-half-year certification process, the Sanctuary Institute will provide direct support to the Youth Services Department by providing trauma-responsive practices across all department operations. The multi-tiered process includes staff focused engagement and building organizational culture, application of standards of sanctuary practice including the seven commitments and SELF (safety, emotions, loss, future), creation of a core team and introduction to tools to maintain Sanctuary standards.

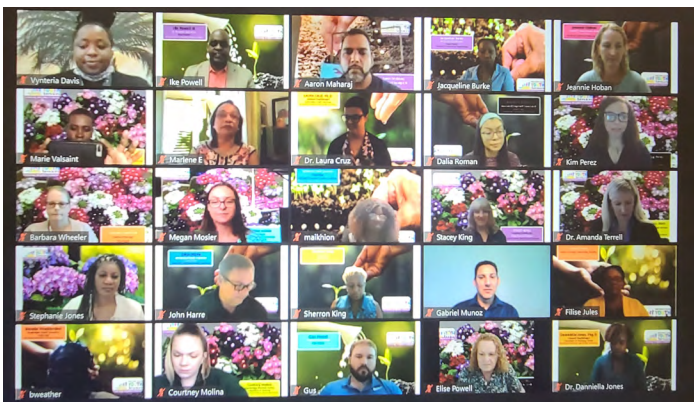
PCIT Within-Agency Trainer

Laura Cruz Ph.D., psychologist at the Education and Training Center is in the process of becoming a Within-Agency Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Trainer. Under the supervision and in partnership with a Regional PCIT Trainer, Jason Jent, Ph.D., associate professor of Clinical Pediatrics and the director of training from the Division of Clinical Psychology at University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development, Dr. Cruz has completed the initial competencies in her certification process and in turn is supervising three clinicians at the Education and Training Center, Drs. Shayna Ginsburg, Danniella Jones, and Rachelle Sosu, as they work towards becoming certified PCIT therapists.



The overall goal of these efforts is to be able to expand the provision of highly efficacious, evidenced-based treatment to the families served in Palm Beach County. At this time, Dr. Cruz is one of only two certified PCIT providers in all of Palm Beach County (as recognized by PCIT International).

Youth Services Holds Virtual Gathering



This year, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held its annual employee retreat as a department-wide virtual gathering via Zoom Video.

Youth Services Director Tammy K. Fields expressed her appreciation to the staff for their dedication and flexibility while adjusting to the new ways of doing business during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department’s three cross-divisional action teams provided presentations on their objectives and the progress of their respective goals. Plans were announced for new action teams that will address trauma informed care, equity and youth engagement. Although the goals and focus of each team varies, they all strive to create positive impacts from the bottom up.

Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of the Outreach and Community Programming Division, gave a presentation on the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and steps being taken by the county and Youth Services to address equity.

Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division Director Dr. Twila Taylor provided a presentation on the plan to seek department-wide certification in trauma informed care utilizing the Sanctuary Model. The certification will occur over a two-and-a-half-year period and focuses on the seven commitments and SELF (safety, emotions, loss, future). Both practices are at the core of the Sanctuary Model. Sanctuary certification encourages, sustains and reinforces the department’s commitment to the standards of a trauma informed care environment for clients and staff.

The gathering then shifted its focus to a self-care practice provided by the Palm Beach County Employee Wellness Program. Staff participated in a 15-minute guided meditation.

The virtual gathering concluded with a year in review video presentation. “With multiple offices throughout the county, our annual retreat is an opportunity for department camaraderie,” said Fields. “We did not want COVID-19 to interfere with that sense of connection. It was wonderful to see everyone’s faces and get updates on the work of the cross-divisional teams.”

Highridge Employee Wellness Challenge



Highridge Family Center hosted their 2nd annual Employee Wellness Challenge. Keisha Doran and Jeff Sinclair placed first and Vynteria Davis and Tristan Seupersad placed 2nd. Combined the four employees lost over 30% of their total body weight, which is equivalent to almost 80 pounds. Way to Go!

“Every great achiever is inspired by a great mentor.”

- Lailah Gifty Akita

RTFC Division Resumes In-Person Services



In accordance with Palm Beach County entering Phase 2, Step 1 reopening, mental health services provided by the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division resumed to in-person services on September 21. Palm Beach County Youth Services Department continues to adhere to CDC guidelines. Telemental health services remain available, based on client preference and needs.

The RTFC Division provides Palm Beach County residents free family and individual therapy, parent training services, a certified trauma informed care treatment program, weekly remote trainings on a variety of mental health topics, community based services including assessments, school-based behavioral health services and a court diversion program providing case management, case planning, referral advocacy and mediation.

Licensed therapists, social workers and psychologists can help by addressing the following areas:

Adjustment to virtual/in-person schooling anxiety, grief, depression, traumatic stress responses, parent-child relationships, school and behavioral concerns, self-esteem, bullying, isolation, loneliness, communication and social skills, emotion regulation and family violence.

For more information, click [here](#).

Employee Recognition Programs



The Seeds of Success cross-divisional action team launched two new employee recognition programs: Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year. The programs provide employees and management with opportunities to recognize the contributions, creativity and excellence of their colleagues each quarter and once a year. Nominations are made by the Department Director, Division Director, supervisor or peer. Awards may take many forms, such as incentive leave, trophy and/or lunch with Division and Department Director. To create a fair and equitable process, a selection committee made up of a representative from each Division

will review nominations and make a selection(s) for recommendation to the Department Director.

The first Employee of the Quarter nomination process was opened in late July with a total of five nominations being received. The Selection Committee reviewed and ranked the five nominations, and made a recommendation to the Division and Department Directors.

The team is very excited about these programs! The next nomination process opened on November 1.

For questions, please contact Stacey King by email at slking@pbcgov.org.

School-Aged Child Scholarships

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County opened their in-person child care scholarships for qualifying families with school age children grades K-5 who may be participating in the School District of Palm Beach County’s distant learning curriculum.

residing in families who work or attend school and have a household income at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

The Scholarship was made available through the county’s CARES Act funding to meet the need of access to childcare services for those families affected by financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, Palm Beach County Youth Services procured 1,000 headsets supplying them to child care centers allowing students to concentrate on their individual lessons in a congregate setting.

For more information about the scholarship, click [here](#).



The scholarship prioritizes homeless children or children

Youth Services Train the Trainer Conference



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held a three-day conference for employees as part of its department-wide certification process in the trauma informed care model by the Sanctuary Institute.

Sanctuary consultant Aaron James, conducted the “Train the Trainer” conference, which provided a team of employees with an in-depth overview of the trauma informed care model, direct staff care practices, the importance of community meetings, module presentations, facilitator and adult learner styles, teach backs, and strategies for holding successful training sessions.

Youth Services Department’s new team of trainers will supplement the existing Highridge Family Center training

team, allowing for great diversity and social responsibility. Members of the training team will help new employees and provide the foundational training in various modules of the trauma informed care model. Additionally, they will conduct booster trainings for sections of Youth Services as more complex components of the model or various tools are implemented during the certification process.

Becoming Sanctuary Institute certified reinforces the department’s commitment to the standards of a trauma informed care environment for clients and employees. The Sanctuary Institute will provide direct support by providing trauma-responsive practices across all department operations.

Back to School PBC



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department participated in the Back to School Palm Beach County event on August 1. The event provides students with many of the tools they need to succeed in school. This year, Youth Services provided 42,000 meals to families that attended the event at various locations throughout the county. A special thanks to all of the volunteers including Palm Beach County Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss.

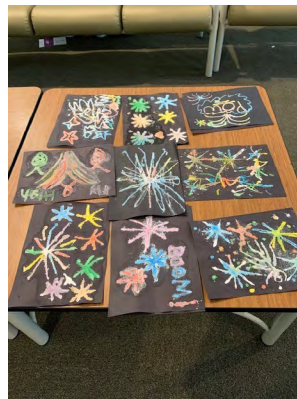
Highridge Family Center Highlights



Highridge Family Center



Fourth of July art projects



Self-care day art projects



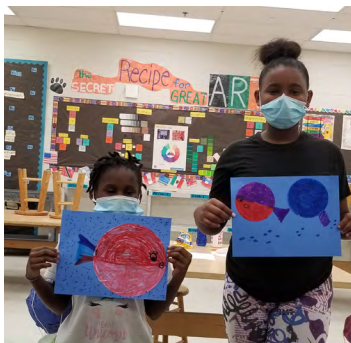
Residential program resumes

- Highridge Family Center provided a free 4-days-per-week Trauma Informed Summer Day Program for youth ages 11-16. Highridge staff offered supervision of recreational and creative activities throughout the day. Students who had not been successful with distance learning were provided an opportunity to recover credits, if possible. As part of Highridge Family Center's Trauma Informed Summer Day Program, youth celebrated the Fourth of July holiday by creating art projects.
- On July 6, Highridge Family Center began their virtual career talks inviting different professionals from the community to talk to youth about their careers. Among the professionals featured during the virtual talks, were representatives from trading companies, nurses, veterinarians, firefighters, and barbers. Students expressed interest pursuing some of the careers after high school.
- On July 20, Highridge Family Center held a self-care day for the youth with meditation, healthy snacks and infused water. Youth also made sugar scrubs, dream catchers, vision boards and the Norton Museum of Art provided a weekly art project.
- On August 31, Highridge Family Center began their

Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for youth who were experiencing mental health or behavioral concerns and needed more intensive supervision than at-home distance learning provided. IOP offered structured and supervised distance learning, recreational and creative activities throughout the day along with family and group therapy components.

- On September 29, Highridge Family Center resumed its free certified trauma informed care residential treatment program. In addition to licensed clinicians providing therapeutic services, residents attend small in-person classes from School District of Palm Beach County certified teachers. Youth also participate in recreational, therapeutic, and creative activities throughout the day. Family, individual and group therapy are required components of the program and available in-person or virtually.
- Highridge Family Center continues to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing, hand-washing and face coverings (provided). Changes have been made to restroom and meal service procedures to decrease any transfer of germs. Due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the \$75 registration and activity fees have been temporarily waived.

Summer Camp Scholarship Program



Achievement Center



Boys & Girls Clubs



Boys & Girls Clubs



Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders

The Summer Camp Scholarship Program came to a close on August 28. In total 115 camps were available utilizing in-person, virtual, and combination/hybrid platforms. These platforms allowed families to select the camp that fit their needs and met their safety preferences. The providers needed to think outside the box with their programming and how to best support their community. Some camps offered multiple platforms while others adjusted the platform as families requested more in-person services.

Virtual providers needed to be creative to keep the kids engaged. One camp called its campers each morning to greet them and assist with signing on. Another (Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders) created a weekly theme for lessons and activities. Parents would pick up activity packets and there would be a corresponding surprise each week (Kona

shaved ice during Hawaiian Beach Week, Paw Patrol mascot during Animal Week, astronaut ice cream during Space Week). This creativity led to consistently high attendance for this camp.

Any camps providing in-person services were required to provide an updated Safety & Sanitation Plan specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan included precautions taken by the staff, camper, and the site, as well as how they would handle a positive case. The campers were resilient and adjusted well to these new precautions. Families felt safer sending their kids to camp with the additional measures in place.

In total, 2,401 campers utilized their scholarships in 2020.

Mental Health Services in the Glades Area



On August 24, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields discussed the free mental health services available through the department's Youth and Family Counseling program to Glades area residents during an interview with News Channel 5 WPTV.

Mental health services provided by Youth and Family Counseling (YFC) are available at no charge for Palm Beach County residents with youth ages 0-22.

YFC's community-focused services include assessments, family and individual therapy, parent education, school-

based behavioral health services, and the "Real Talk" virtual teen support group.

YFC licensed clinical social workers, licensed mental health counselors, and masters-level therapists can help families by addressing the following areas:

Bullying, self-esteem, family violence, isolation, school and behavioral concerns, emotion regulation, grief, loneliness, parent-child relationships, adjustment/anxiety to virtual school, communication and social skills.

Mental health services are offered in English, Spanish, French and Creole.

To watch the interview, click [here](#).

CBA Spotlight: Seagull Services



** Some pictures were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

1. What is your mission?

The mission of Seagull Services is to assist individuals with life challenges affecting their self-sufficiency to live in dignity and realize their full potential by providing education, training, employment, community integration and support services.

2. What does your organization do?

Seagull Academy for Independent Living (SAIL) is a public charter middle and high school for students with intellectual disabilities. Our students range in ages from 11-22 years old and we provide them with a state standard access point curriculum and diploma. We also infuse life skills, social skills, independent living skills, pre-employment skills, on-the-job-training, internships, and job placement services into their day. Our small class sizes and a 1:7 teacher/student ratio allows us to provide individualized educational services to every student at the academy.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

We offer a plethora of programs and opportunities at SAIL. We have partnered with several organizations across Palm Beach County to help our students prepare for employment by offering on-the-job trainings and internships. This hands-on approach gives our students an edge on real-life scenarios

within the workplace including;

- Virtual life and employability skills training to prepare students for different stages of transitions of independence.
- A 20-hour Employment Launch workshop taught by Certified Employment Specialists to enhance our students' employability skills to become job ready.
- Best Buddies with A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts after school enrichment.
- Extracurricular activities including Special Olympics basketball, track and field, and bowling.
- Summer camp for students with disabilities from all schools.
- Culinary skills and farm to table education.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

At SAIL, we equip students with intentional services needed to thrive within the community. We provide educational services infused with life and employability skills to prepare students when they leave high school. We help develop our students individually by teaching them lifelong skills to assist them when life circumstances arise.

Our Life Skills and Transition classes help students start to think about and prepare for their futures and our Supported Employment department builds upon that by taking students on internships to explore possible careers, by conducting mock interviews, and providing follow-along services once a job is secured.

Additionally, our Food Pantry provides food to over 100 families per month.

We work hand-in-hand with community employers to eliminate obstacles for job seekers with disabilities, enabling them to find and sustain paid employment. Our team of Certified Employment Specialists place employees within local businesses alongside non-disabled employees. Through intentional placement of job-ready disabled employees, Palm Beach County communities are enriched with talented motivated employees who possess strong work ethics.

What is your agency's focus for 2021?

Our continued focus at SAIL is to provide our students

with a quality education, hands-on experiences, and expose them to as many different opportunities within Palm Beach County. Equally important, we will continue to provide a safe and effective learning environment for our students, prepare students to be job ready, provide access to resources for our families in need, and to serve additional families and students in the coming year.

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

The funding from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department assisted us to expand our Supported Employment department and the services provided to students to ensure increased job readiness, employment, graduation rate, and continuing education in independent living and job skills.

For more information about Seagull Services, visit www.seagullacademy.org.

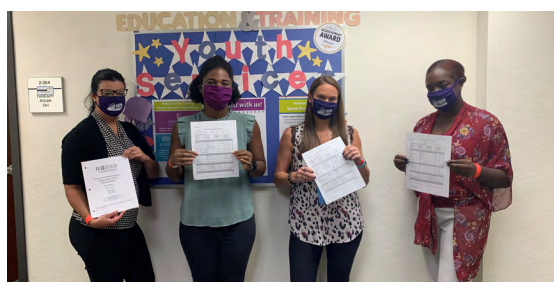
Meet Jason

Jason attended SAIL from January 2014 to June 2018. At the beginning of Jason's journey at SAIL his daily attitude was negative and he had poor hygiene. However, after consistent positive reinforcement and instruction on the importance of hygiene from the teachers and staff of Seagull, Jason, began to trust and listen more. His attitude became more positive and he was more open to receiving instruction. In the spring of 2019, Jason became a father for the first time and began to recognize he needed to be more independent and responsible. In the summer of 2019, Jason with the help of our Certified Employment Specialist/Job Coach at SAIL, applied and interviewed for a job at Publix Supermarket. Before applying for employment, the Certified Employment

Specialist/Job Coach instructed Jason on professional dress, effective communication skills, time management and conducted several mock interviews. Jason stated he understood the requirements and would do his best. Jason successfully interviewed for the part-time position of Front Customer Service Personnel and he got the job! We recently celebrated Jason's one year anniversary of employment at Publix.

Jason's positive attitude and new position at Publix Supermarket has given him a sense of pride as a father and a new world of independence. Equally important, our community gained a motivated and job-ready employee who possesses strong work ethics.

PCIT Therapy Certification



The Education and Training Center team of psychologists, Drs. Shayna Ginsburg, Danniella Jones, and Rachelle Sosu, continue to meet training requirements for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Therapist Certification under the supervision of PCIT Certified Therapist, Dr. Laura Cruz. Most recently, all psychologists met the competency of Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System.

Super Summer Spelling Bee



Palm Beach County Youth Services hosted its sixth annual Super Summer Spelling Bee on July 14. This year the competition was held virtually with over 150 campers from 27 Summer Camp Scholarship Program sites participating.

Using Kahoot!, a virtual learning-based platform, campers' spelling skills were tested through identifying the correct spelling of a spoken word, filling in the blanks, listening and typing the correct spelling of a word, and selecting the correct word in a sentence. The spelling bee provides academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide.

“Using a virtual platform, we embraced the need for safety and social distancing while highlighting our children’s resilience and capacity to learn and grow over the summer months,” said Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of the Outreach and Community Programming Division. “This

Super Summer Spelling Bee is a product of the dedication, community engagement and partnership of our parents, camp staff and funders. I am extremely proud of the work that we continue to do for and with the children of Palm Beach County.”

Participating agencies included the County Attorney’s Office, Community Services, the Public Defender’s Office, The Palm Beach Post, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County, Inc., the City of West Palm Beach, and Florida Power & Light.



Spelling Bee Winners

K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
Jordan Grant East Coast Flam Allstars	Alany Jean Digital VibeZ. Inc.	Christopher Marquez City of Greenacres	Destiny Haynes Destiny Fulfilled
Kayla Farmer Digital VibeZ, Inc.	Kailey Brown East Coast Flame Allstars	Shane Gimmy Quantum Youth	Jermaine Lovely Boys & Girls Club – Belle Glade Teen Center
Jade McCoy Destiny Fulfilled	Addie Lafortune Achievement Center	Zona Black Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders	Keiana Haines Destiny Fulfilled

Summer Camp Extension



The Youth Services Department’s Summer Camp Scholarship Program selected 29 in-person camps to remain under the program while extending their operation dates to accommodate childcare needs until Palm Beach County schools began on August 31.

In-person camps provided a minimum of six daily programming hours and operated through August 28, with state, county, and CDC guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Summer Camp Scholarship Program was made available to scholarship recipients that were currently enrolled at that time of the extension.

The Summer Camp Scholarship Program offers eligible children, ages 5-14 and a special population up to age 17, a full scholarship to day camp for the entire summer. The scholarship includes all tuition and fees for children residing in families with income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. Parents may choose from participating camps in Palm Beach County.

La Primera Radio Interview

Beatriz Ayala, LCSW, licensed therapist with Youth and Family Counseling appeared on the radio station, La Primera. Beatriz discussed the services offered through the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division including education and training, psychological services and residential services available at Highridge Family Center.

Beatriz also discussed the Youth and Family Counseling (YFC) three-month community based program providing free family and individual therapy, parent education and school-based behavioral health services to Palm Beach County residents. YFC services are offered in person or virtually in English, Spanish, French and Creole at office

locations in Belle Glade, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach.



Norton Museum of Art Annual Student Exhibition



Collagraph print on paper, age 13



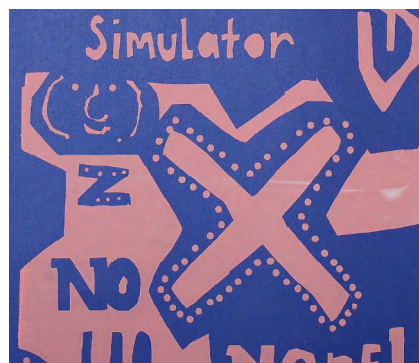
Mosaic tile on panel, age 16



Mixed media on canvas, age 13



Screen print on paper, ages 15 & 16



Screen print on paper, ages 12, 14 & 16



Screen print on paper, ages 15 & 16

In partnership with the Norton Museum of Art's Afterschool Arts Outreach program, residents from Highridge Family Center were chosen to participate in creating various art projects including mosaic tile, screen prints, mixed media and collagraph print to paper. The virtual student exhibition can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Education and Training Didactic Trainings



Enhancing your Family Therapy Skills from a Multicultural Perspective

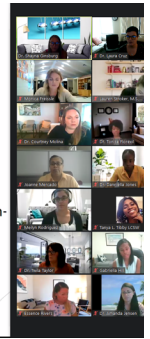
Presented by:
ANDRES TORRENS, LCSW
Clinical Director-Families First of PBC
Adjunct Professor-Barry University SSW

Presented to:
PBC Youth Department Services
July 01, 2020



Other Boundary Considerations:

- ▶ Space between therapist and client
- ▶ Language
 - ▶ Different language, silence, first vs. last name, tone of voice, choice of words, etc.
- ▶ Clothing
 - ▶ Professional vs. casual, unique or consistent/neutral, sexually suggestive/form-fitting/revealing
- ▶ Sharing food with clients
 - ▶ Candy in waiting room, drinks, etc.
- ▶ Lending of items
- ▶ Giving greeting or sympathy cards



This quarter, the Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center held several remote didactic trainings for Youth Services staff, mental health professionals and community partners.

- Andres Torrens, LCSW presented “Enhancing Your Family Therapy Skills from a Multicultural Perspective.” The training identified cultural considerations when working with diverse populations and described skills to use in working with families. There were 60 individuals in attendance at this training.
- Drs. Shanya Ginsburg, Laura Cruz and Danniella Jones presented “The Basics of Telemental Health.” The training offered continuing education credits to licensed professionals and described the efficacy of telemental health, identified ethical considerations in the delivery of telemental health, and explained strategies for improving rapport and increasing engagement in the delivery of telemental health.
- Dr. Kelly Everson of Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness presented “Genograms.” The training offered continuing education credits to licensed professionals and described the history and background of using genograms in practice through evidence-based sources, identified which situations genograms are useful and important for clinical care, demonstrated the utility of genograms, and evaluated how genograms impact clients in session.
- Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented “Florida Laws & Rules of the Board.” The training offered three continuing education credits to licensed professionals and

reviewed ethical principles and codes of conduct, identified laws, principles, and statutes concerning mandated reporting of abuse, and applied statutory knowledge and ethical standards to legal and or ethical dilemmas.

- Dr. Kelly Everson of Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness presented “Structural Family Therapy” and “Strategic Family Therapy.” Both trainings offered two continuing education credits to licensed professionals. “Structural Family Therapy” identified etiological causes of family organization dysfunction from multiple perspectives of treatment, identified commonalities of empirically based family therapy methods, and discussed key features, goals and interventions of structural family therapy methods. The training “Strategic Family Therapy” identified etiological causes of family organization dysfunction from multiple perspectives of treatment, identified commonalities of empirically based family therapy methods, and discussed key features, goals and interventions of strategic family therapy methods.
- Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented “Ethics: Maintaining Professional Boundaries.” The training offered three continuing education credits to licensed professionals and discussed professional boundaries related to client care, distinguished between a boundary crossing and boundary violation, identified areas of ethical ambiguity, and applied ethical standards to ethical dilemmas.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

- Benjamin Franklin

Hurricane Isaias Special Needs Shelter



Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director and Special Needs Shelter manager, coordinated efforts at the South Florida Fairgrounds in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Isaias in early August.

This year, additional safety protocols were in place to ensure the safety of the clients and staff working at the shelter such as temperature checks, health screenings and hygiene stations. The shelter also had a revised layout to accommodate for proper social distancing measures.

Department staff assisted with set-up, registrations, checking in clients, serving food, making arrangements for clients to go home, as well as breakdown. Youth Services Department's mental health team provided crisis intervention and counseling services.

Staff collaborated with doctors and nurses, with the goal of providing a safe shelter environment for geriatric, adult, and youth occupants, as well as staff and volunteers.

Wellness and Awareness Body, Mind, and Spirit

Special to YSD Scoop!

Youth Services Department's wellness and awareness corner, Body, Mind, and Spirit, comes to you from the cross-divisional action team We Plant Seeds of Success that Grow. Regardless of your lifestyle, this space features topics related to personal wellness and awareness.

Sanctuary Commitment: Non-violence

This quarter we will focus on the commitment to nonviolence. Traumatized individuals have often experienced violence as part of their trauma: physical, psychological, social or moral. This commitment attempts to give the opposite experience.

Part of being nonviolent is being able to express empathy. Empathy allows others the opportunity to fully express themselves before we turn our attention to solutions or requests for relief. We need empathy to give empathy. When we sense ourselves being defensive or unable to empathize, we need to a) stop, breathe, give ourselves empathy, b) scream nonviolently or c) take a time out.

In nonviolence, no matter what words others may use to express themselves, we simply listen for their observations, feelings, needs, and requests.

Holiday Shuffle: Celebrating Family and Friends

This year's holiday season may be very different. Our gatherings won't look the same where family and friends travel around the country to sit together at the same table enjoying each other's company. Instead, we may have to connect with loved ones by way of technology. See below for a virtual gathering suggestion courtesy of the University of Vermont Medical Center and UVM Children's Hospital.

The most important thing to do is schedule a time for your virtual family dinner that works for your family members. The next step is a little tricky, because to recreate the atmosphere of eating together, you want to identify a meal that everyone is able to make a variation of in their own homes. At your scheduled family dinner time, you and your family can sit down to the "same" meal while video chatting or talking to each other on the phone. You may not be able to be right next to them, but you can still catch up and feel like you are all sitting at the same table.

Let's celebrate life and good health. Let's be kinder, more empathetic and thankful for family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, frontliners, essential service workers, first responders, our pets, competent and ethical leadership, and anyone else who has inspired you with their unselfish care and regard for humanity.

Q&A with Cindy Roberts



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Cindy Roberts, Juvenile Residence Technician and youth counselor during the night shift at Highridge Family Center. Cindy provides the residents with advice and help regarding any personal issues they may have. "I ensure the safety of the residents that are in our programs," said Cindy.

1. Where is your hometown?

Trinidad.

2. What was your first job?

I worked in a daycare while living in Brooklyn.

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

To be caring, have patience, and to be a great listener.

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

Being there for the residents.

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

One of the residents informed me that she listened to the advice I shared with her.

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

Hanging out with friends, shopping and cooking.

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

To trust God in everything I do.

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

Dubai.

9. What is your favorite quote?

Everyone is special in their own way. - Stephen Chbosky

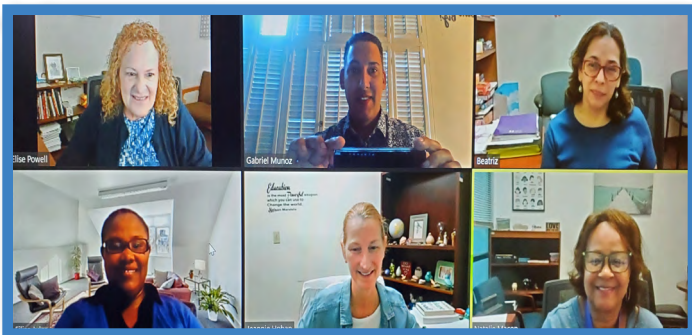
10. Who or what inspires you?

My mother.

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

That I am a shy person.

Youth Services Virtual Check-Ins



Youth and Family Counseling - South Office team decided to hold weekly "check-in" team meetings as a way to stay connected. Supervisor Natalie D. Macon gives news or updates. Therapists share ideas and resources with each other. Of course, there's always time for some light-hearted fun.



Outreach and Community Programming (OCP) Division held their monthly meeting via Zoom. New to the team were five Highridge staff members that have been temporarily placed with OCP as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting allows staff to check-in, utilizing the Sanctuary Model's Community Meeting. All team members provide updates on their assigned programs. Division Director, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, facilitated a discussion that impacts the division and provides department information to the team.

Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between July 1 and September 30.

Employee	Position	Division
Bridget Williams	Procurement Specialist	FCA
Brian McDowell	Fiscal Specialist II	FCA
Amanda Jensen	Psychologist	RTFC



Employee of the Quarter

Special to YSD Scoop!



Cristal Montepeque has earned Youth Services Department’s first “Employee of the Quarter” award. Cristal was nominated for providing support to the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division when the COVID-19 pandemic began. She took on scheduling duties for Highridge Family Center therapists in addition to the Education and Training Center psychologists and developed fillable forms and translations needed for virtual

counseling. Cristal has also been involved in setting up the necessary procedures for implementation of the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and the New Student Orientation.

Thank you Cristal for all that you do for the department and the youth and families in our community.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Assistant County Administrator Dorritt M. Miller on being named one of South Florida’s Most Influential and Powerful Black Professionals of 2020 by the Sun Sentinel newspaper.

Ms. Miller has been with Palm Beach County for a year following a long and productive career

with the City of West Palm Beach where she served as deputy city administrator, assistant city administrator and deputy internal auditor. She oversees the county departments of Housing & Economic Sustainability, Parks & Recreation and Youth Services, and serves as liaison to the Housing Finance Authority, the Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA, the Business Development Board and CareerSource Palm Beach County.

Share Feedback and Stories!

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

Contact Youth Services
Department Public Relations
Specialist Erin Baker
at ebaker@pbcgov.org.

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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

Erin Baker



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