

YSPD Scoop!



Volume 7 | Issue 3

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



Youth Services Employees at Sanctuary Training

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Youth Services Earns NACo Achievement Awards



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has been recognized with four Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the categories of children and youth and civic education and public information. The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized the department's Education and Training Center's Equity and Diversity Program, Highridge Family Center's Intensive Outpatient Program, and the Summer Camp Scholarship and Summer Food Service Programs During a Pandemic.

"The awards received this year from NACo really acknowledge the efforts of our staff to adjusting to change and recognizing the needs and issues most important to the youth and families we serve," said Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director.

For more information on the programs recognized, visit pbcgov.com/youthservices.

School District of Palm Beach County L.I.T. Summer Curriculum



On April 19, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) held a meeting for SCSP providers. The meeting provided information on summer monitoring as well as resource information from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Residential Treatment and Family Counseling program, and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County.

SDPBC's Dr. Debra Robinson introduced her team and a project they have been working on for SCSP providers; the L.I.T. Summer Curriculum.

The L.I.T. (Liberating Inspirational Transformative) Summer Curriculum was created by the School District of Palm Beach County's Teaching and Learning Division Office of African, African American, Latino, Holocaust, and Gender Studies. It provides free content that consists of culturally relevant activities for participants in grades sixth-eighth. Although the curriculum is aimed at the secondary grades, it also provides resources for primary grades K-fifth.

The goal of the program is to engage and inspire students through movement, art, music, and real-world experiences.

For more information about the L.I.T. Summer Curriculum, click [here](#).

Government Alliance of Race & Equity Membership Meeting



In May, members of Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Cross-Divisional Action Team along with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Core Team attended the 2021 GARE Annual Membership Meeting. Palm Beach County is the first community in the state to become a member of GARE. In addition to Palm Beach County, three additional communities from Florida joined the other 36 states at this year's meeting.

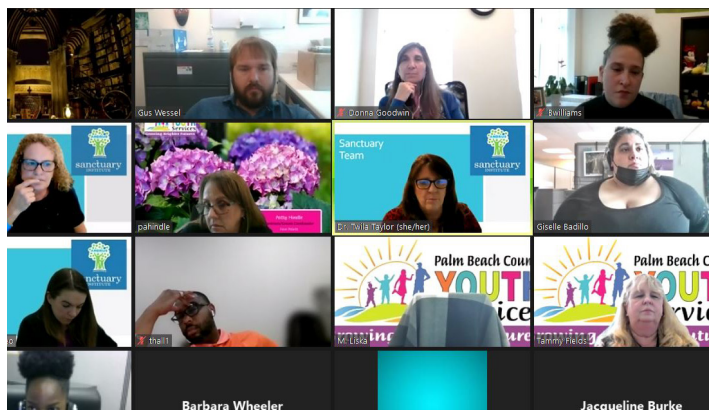
The exposure to the race equity discussion was vast, including richness of storytelling from the City of Durham, to elevate the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and to bring context and awareness to communities struggling with gentrification. Speakers provided hands-on tools to assist communities in creating action plans to advance racial equity within their respective

jurisdictions.

Through the experience of three arts administrators participants saw how the arts and arts education are essential for racial equity-driven governmental responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists provided important insights into how arts education grant-making, programming, and advocacy have been vital during the pandemic for the well-being and long-term recovery of their jurisdictions. Panelists described lessons learned regarding arts education, crisis response, and racial equity. Team members were provided with an understanding of how to re-center racially equitable arts education practices in their jurisdictions, as the country slowly emerges from the pandemic.

The meeting also included informational breakout sessions on recommendations for other entities to connect with GARE and to learn from the work, challenges and successes of other jurisdictions.

Leadership Presentations



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's cross-divisional action teams delivered virtual presentations to the Leadership Team on April 27. The event began with opening remarks and a thank you to the teams by Director Tammy K. Fields. Following the welcome, teams presented on their action plans and the progress made to achieve their respective goals. Each team has accomplished the following:

The Sanctuary Trauma-Informed Team has made significant progress with the year one Sanctuary certification requirements including holding trainings and rolling out a communications plan to aid employees in their understanding of the Sanctuary Model's key components. They have developed a "Sanctuary Theme of the Month" schedule and worked with the department's Public Relations Specialist to finalize marketing collateral such as seven commitments and S.E.L.F. posters. Moving forward the team will continue its efforts to complete the necessary steps of certification within three years.

Seeds of Success, now in its second year as a team, has successfully completed several rounds of their "Employee of the Quarter" recognition program, and will be preparing for the first "Employee of the Year" award process. The team, is also planning several upcoming events.

The Youth Engagement Team hosted multiple community based agency presentations. Each presentation features one of the funded agencies to an audience of Youth Services Department employees. These serve as a way to identify resources that the youth and families served

by the department may benefit from. As a result of the presentations, Dr. Laura Cruz referred one of her clients to an agency after hearing about the program. In the coming months, the team will host several "Breakfast and Dialogue," "Lunch and Learns," and "Dine and Dish" sessions. The team is also working on developing a youth employment panel to promote student internships.

In a much-needed effort, the Equity and Diversity team produced an "I am Your Community" video featuring the entire team with their message of inclusion. The video has been shared on the department's website, across its social media channels and as a way to highlight how communities can get involved. Additionally, the team has drafted an inclusion statement as a way to normalize equity, diversity and inclusion and are seeking to have the statement incorporated throughout the department. To provide further open communication, the team is looking into creating an "oasis," which will provide employees a safe space to discuss and learn about equity, diversity and inclusion.

"The work of these cross-divisional teams is amazing," said Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director. "Employees at all levels and across all programs are working together and implementing creative ideas."

The Youth Services Department's cross-divisional teams will continue to hold bi-weekly virtual meetings allowing team members to work with their co-chairs to accomplish their goals and improve overall organizational performance.

"Coming together is the beginning, staying together is the process, and working together is success."

- Henry Ford

Implicit Bias & Microaggressions Trainings

Things to Consider



"We all have cultural bias, racial bias. One of the difficult things around this subject matter is to deny that we have places we go to subconsciously, and unless you consciously decide that that's wrong and you've got to do something about it, especially if you're in a position of power, it won't change."

[David Ovelowo](#)



If you have a brain, you have a bias!



Race-talk can be difficult. Be mindful of your defenses, emotions, etc.

Workplace



Combined effects of microaggressions in the workplace can lead to...

1. Increased turnover/decreased commitment
2. Decreased productivity
3. Loss of work time avoiding the instigator
4. Less diverse workforce,
5. A hostile and invalidating work environment

(Williams, 2019)



Over the quarter, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Education and Training Center's Danniella Jones, Psy.D., presented "Impact of Racial/Ethnic Bias and Microaggressions," for staff and mental health providers in the community on multiple dates to accommodate requests to receive more information and training surrounding the topic.

The presentations 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.

Dr. Jones also presented the topic to criminal justice professionals working with youth in Palm Beach County. During the presentation, Dr. Jones defined microaggressions and implicit bias and discussed the impact of implicit bias on the criminalization of youth of color as well as in other areas (e.g., economic and educational opportunities, mental health). In addition, Dr. Jones provided strategies to increase awareness of implicit bias as well as to effectively respond to and mitigate the impact on youth within their care.

Sanctuary Conflict & Communication Training



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held a one-day conflict and communication training for the department's Sanctuary Steering, Core and Trainer teams as part of its pursuit of

department-wide certification in the trauma-informed care model by the Sanctuary Institute.

Remaining true to Sanctuary practice, the day kicked off with a community meeting. In addition to the standard three questions, "How are you feeling? What is your goal for today? Who can you ask for help?," a fourth question was added; attendees were asked to think of a time they were in conflict and share how they felt. The consensus was a feeling of anxiety and being unsettled. Taking the opportunity to reflect on such feelings opened the floor to incorporate Sanctuary methods of why conflict arises as well as why it is necessary for growth and change to occur.

The first breakout session required the group to write appreciation statements about one another and share what they appreciate about their colleagues. Sanctuary consultant Aaron James then led the groups through a series of conflict and communication topics and activities around conflict management.

Discussions focused on theory and application through the Sanctuary model including how our values and perspectives shape our conflicts, how conflict and lack of communication can lead to problems, the benefits of conflict and how language creates the contexts, as well as solutions to developing conflict management; such as the use of "I" statements, active listening, and "carefrontation."

The training gave participants the chance to S.E.L.F conflict to work through "hard to say" and "hard to hear" conversations to create win/win solutions. These four components (Safety, Emotions, Loss, Future) are the framework for treatment planning, community conversations and collaborative decision-making, and allow for healing from trauma in a simple and accessible way.

County Gets Its Green on for Mental Health Awareness



PBC Public Affairs



Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss



Commissioner Maria Sachs



PBC WUD



YSD Outreach & Community Programming



YSD Four Points



YSD Highridge Family Center

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, in partnership with Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and the Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community Action Team, celebrated the sixth annual "Get Your Green On" campaign and invited Palm Beach County to wear green on May 20 in solidarity. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners also issued a proclamation declaring May 2021 Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County.

To celebrate, the Youth Services Department's Education and Training Center held four Lunch & Learns. These events offered presentations on topics related to mental health, such as "Tapping Into Your Parent Super Powers: Strategies for Getting Young Children to Behave," presented by Dr. Laura Cruz; "Anxiety & Depression: Steps for Managing Your Mental Health," presented by Drs. Courtney Molina and Tonise Florelix; "Sleep Hygiene" presented by Lauren Stroker, M.S.; and "Let's Talk about Race Ethnicity: The Impact of Implicit Bias and Microaggressions," presented by Dr. Danniella Jones.

As part of the campaign, Dr. Laura Cruz and Doctoral Interns Meilyn Rodriguez, M.S. and Lauren Stroker, M.S., BCBA wrote articles about assertive communication, healthy relationships, coping with stress and improving sleep hygiene. Dr. Shayna Ginsburg teamed up with Environmental Resources Management for a video produced by Channel 20 and was also a guest on Parks and Recre-

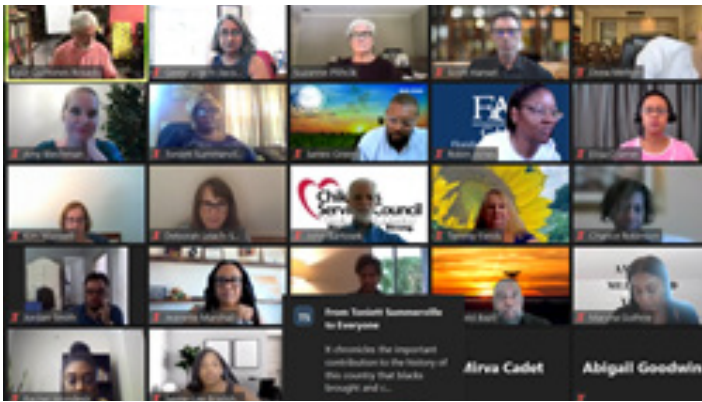
ation's Power of Parks Podcast. Both features focused on the positive effects of nature on a person's mental health and well-being. Youth Services Department's Public Relations Specialist Erin Baker worked with Information Systems Services (ISS) to revamp the Get Your Green On website, which features events and information, mental health resources, and an engagement toolkit, and developed campaign materials to share across social media.

Department Director, Tammy K. Fields participated in several outreach opportunities throughout May to spread the importance of mental health awareness and trauma-informed care. On May 20, she was featured in an [interview](#) with WPBF Channel 25 News reporter Angela Rozier.

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

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

Racial Equity Institute Phase 2 Training



Racial Equity Institute’s two-day Phase 1 training is designed to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms. Moving away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias through a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism. To expand on the concepts learned through REI’s Phase 1 training, REI’s two-day Phase 2 training helps emerging racial equity leaders identify their struggles and challenges in light of the racial equity analysis outlined in Phase 1. “Diagnosis determines treatment” is a frequent statement in Phase 1 training. In Phase 2, participants practice looking at problems through an equity lens and develop an appreciation for the power of narrative.

The REI Phase 2 workshop was held using a virtual platform and was sponsored by Children Services Council of Palm

Beach County and included leaders from more than ten agencies in Palm Beach County.

Leaders discussed their obligation to craft new narratives with the goal of building power that is sufficient to challenge power.

Using the problem solving wheel, to ensure clarity of awareness, analysis of the meaning of the information, taking the time to envision what the right solution would look like, and the action to achieve the plan.

The guiding principles for the work involve leaders getting proximate to the issue, changing the narrative, being willing to get uncomfortable, maintaining hope and committing to the work within their community.

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

Prime Time Palm Beach County Award Recipients



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services Division Director Michelle Liska, along with Aaron Maharaj, financial analyst III, and Bridget Williams, procurement specialist, received the Empowering Our OST Community Award during Prime

Time of Palm Beach County’s virtual Advancing Afterschool Awards Ceremony on May 14.

The award honors exemplary individuals for their work in the field and recognizes their commitment to quality standards, dedication to children and contributions to the afterschool field.

The team was nominated by department Director Tammy K. Fields for coordinating the procurement and distribution of one touch supplies for out-of-school-time programs. These supplies were critically needed throughout the county during the pandemic when sharing of supplies was not possible.

“We are going to see a lot of effects from the pandemic on many of the youth in our communities,” said Michelle Liska. “Ensuring that the department was able to empower out-of-school-time programs to continue to provide services and reduce the disruption that children were experiencing was very important for us to achieve.”

Florida Youth Justice Commission on Race, Equity & Inclusion Initiative



The Circuit 15 Racial Equity and Disparity/Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee (RED/DMC) participated in the Florida Youth Justice Commission on Race, Equity and Inclusion Solutions Initiative with the focus of restorative justice for youth on probation.

The project is called Bridge to Justice. On April 12, 13, 19 and 20, 24 people attended the training by the River Phoenix Center for Peace Building on how to facilitate restorative justice circles. The training was sponsored by the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department.

Training participants included representatives of the Palm Beach County School Police, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Department of Juvenile Justice, Center for Child Counseling, Pace Center for Girls, Families First, Choice to Change, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Rep. Kelly Skidmore's office.

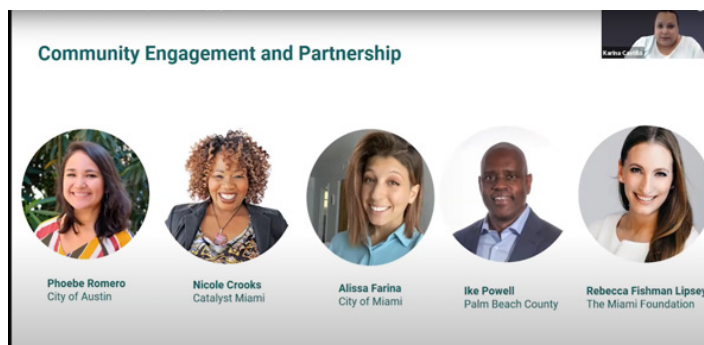
Restorative practices focus on building, maintaining

and, when necessary, repairing relationships not just for those involved, but among all members of a community. Restorative justice supports and restores balance and is likely to lead to more effective accountability as it centers the personal responsibility of the offender and support reclaiming of humanity.

In Palm Beach County, the intent is to ensure that restorative justice practices utilize a racial equity lens and a trauma informed approach. Implementation of restorative justice practices in the county will bring together persons harmed with persons responsible for harm in a safe and respectful space, promoting dialogue, accountability, and a stronger sense of community.

While restorative justice is important, it isn't ripe for all cases especially if there hasn't already been some acceptance that a harm has been perpetrated. It is the hope of the RED/DMC that with success in the probation population, they will be able to expand the reach of restorative justice into other areas such as diversion programs.

Climate Equity Workshop



On May 26, Ike Powell III, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department senior program specialist attended the Southeast Florida Regional Compact Climate Change Implementation Workshop "Climate Equity 2021."

Objectives for this workshop included:

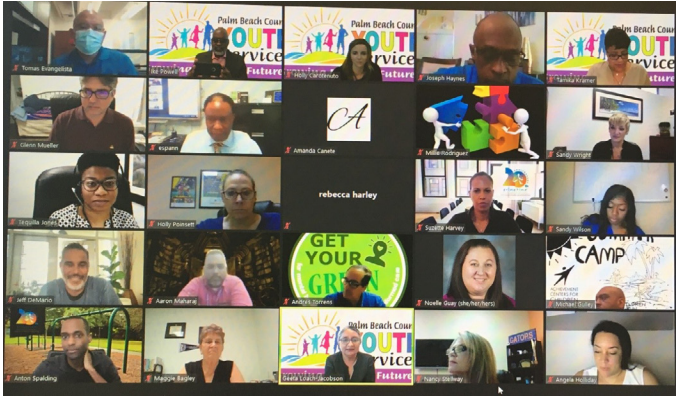
- Understanding vulnerabilities and challenges affecting Southeast Florida's front-line communities' exposure and ability to respond to climate impacts.
- Building capacity of local governments to integrate social vulnerability data with climate data sets and to embed equity into climate action plans, projects, and institutional goals.
- Learning best practices for community engagement.

Ike was invited by the county's Office of Resilience and participated on the workshop's "Community Engagement and Partnership" panel along with other civic and municipal leaders from Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, and the City of Austin. Ike spoke about how the department engages community stakeholders (including youth) county-wide in community conversations related to collective impact and equity based initiatives including the Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures Alliance, the Youth Master Plan, Future Leaders: United for Change, My Brother's Keeper Network, and didactic trainings. Additionally, specific examples of best practices for providing equitable access to opportunities for youth, young adults and the community were highlighted.

Excerpt from the workshop agenda:

To create equitable climate solutions and advance social equity, local governments must understand how existing policies and processes are explicitly and implicitly biased to certain populations. By understanding the implications of climate threats and solutions for all members of the community, and encouraging authentic dialogue with groups made vulnerable to climate change, local governments can create effective policies and practices that equally distribute benefits and burdens, build resilience and trust, and promote additional community-wide co-benefits.

Community Based Agency Quarterly Meeting



The Community Based Agency quarterly meeting was held virtually on April 22 with (61) attendees including representatives of each of the (33) funded Community Based Agencies and Youth Empowerment Centers in attendance. Ike Powell III, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department senior program specialist facilitated the meeting with the outstanding support of Holly-Lynn Carotenuto and Tamika Kramer, Youth Services Department’s grant compliance specialists.

Tammy K. Fields, department director and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Outreach and Community Programming Division director both expressed their appreciation to the agencies for their great work providing programming, services and support to youth and families throughout Palm Beach County.

Special guests included Eugene Spann, senior trainer at CareerSource Palm Beach County, Amanda Canete, youth program director at Compass, and Noelle Guay, 4-H agent at Palm Beach County 4-H Youth Development. Each representative provided informative presentations on the programs and services their agencies provide to the community.

In addition, the meeting included a Sanctuary Model based “Community Check-In” activity asking attendees to type in the chat responses to the question, “what are two of your self-care activities?” Responses included meditation, walking and exercising, reading, breathing exercises, getting massages, unplugging from work, visiting the beach, cycling, cooking and other hobbies.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Certifications



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center Drs. Laura Cruz and Daniella Jones, obtained certifications from PCIT International. Dr. Cruz, is now recognized as a certified therapist and within agency trainer. Dr. Cruz completed a yearlong training process under the supervision of a Regional Trainer and supervised three clinicians within the Education and Training Center until they obtained their certification as PCIT therapists. Danniella Jones, Psy.D., become a certified PCIT therapist.



Dr. Jones completed a yearlong training process including supervision, 40 hours of initial training, completion of two cases to demonstrate competency across areas of the intervention, and passing a PCIT Experience exam. Plans to expand the PCIT training program to other clinicians within Youth Services Department will grow the department’s ability to offer this evidenced-based treatment to more families in Palm Beach County.

Sanctuary Trauma-Informed Care Key Concepts

The Sanctuary Trauma-Informed Team provided information to Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff monthly from April through June via email to help staff become more familiar with key concepts related to the Sanctuary Trauma-Informed Model.

In April, the team explained the Community Meeting.



*How are you feeling?
What is your goal for today?
Who will you ask for help?*

These meetings should be conducted with co-workers and clients. They ask the three questions: "How are you feeling? What is your goal for today? Who can you ask for help?"

The community meeting is a fundamental component of Sanctuary involving emotional learning as well as remaining future focused. The questions are designed to build connections, set measurable goals, and acknowledge that individuals are not alone.



In May, Coping Plans were reviewed. Each member of the department has a coping plan card that can be attached to their badge. Tips were provided to identify feelings, triggers, and coping skills.

In June, the Seven Commitments became the area of focus starting with Democracy. The Commitment to Democracy is:

- Shared decision making.
- Participation by giving ideas and using open communication to talk about what they think and feel about a problem.
- Hearing all sides of a problem and finding a solution that reflects that majority opinion.

The Sanctuary Trauma-Informed Team will continue to share information and key concepts to staff as the department moves forward with its department-wide certification process.

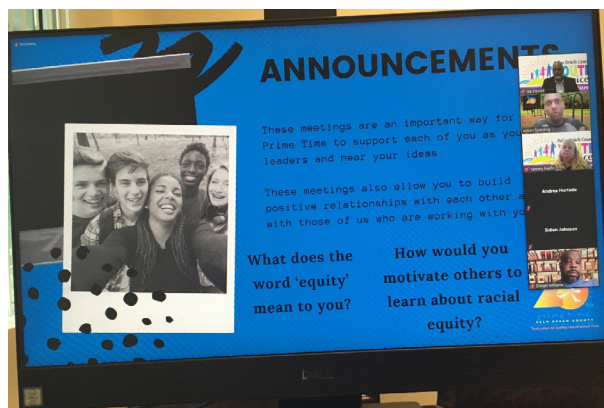
Future Leaders: United for Change Meeting



Future Leaders: United for Change and the Teen Advisory Council (TAC) held their monthly meeting virtually on April 20. The meeting was co-led by Anton Spalding, middle school professional development specialist, Andrea Hurtado, quality advisor at Prime Time Palm Beach County and Ike Powell III, senior program specialist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department. The meeting included a featured Prime Time Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) on "entrepreneurship" facilitated by Daniel Williams of the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Additionally, youth were provided the opportunity to share their input, perspectives and feedback on current matters including "what does the word equity mean to you?" Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, the trial of Derek Chauvin

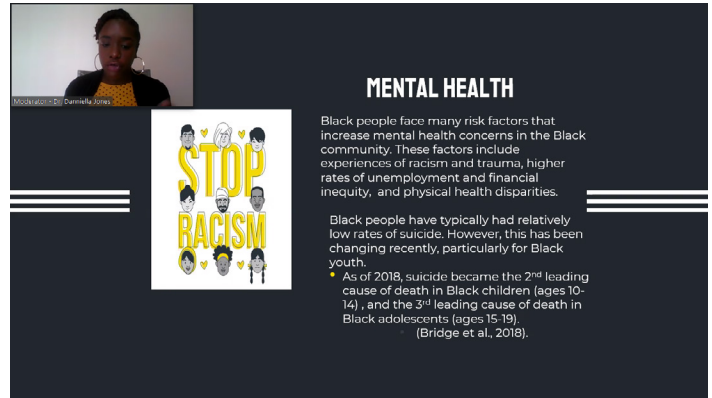
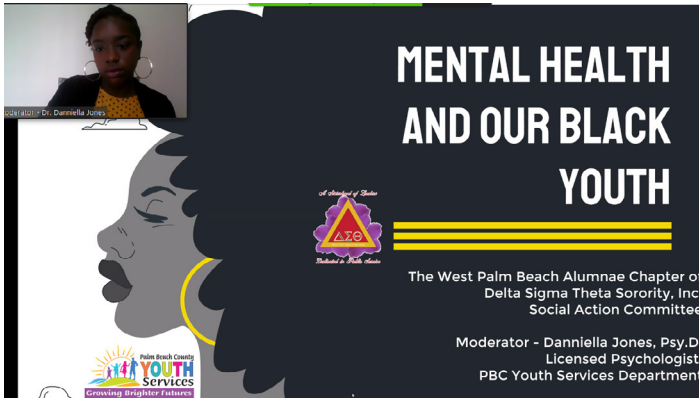
concluded with the verdict being announced and aired on local and national television networks. Time was allotted to discuss how the group was feeling and to allow a safe space to process the news.



"Today I will do what others won't so tomorrow I can accomplish what others can't."

- Jerry Rice

Mental Health & Our Black Youth



Dr. Danniella Jones, psychologist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center, moderated the panel session “Mental Health and our Black Youth” hosted by the West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The panel discussion aimed to raise awareness on mental health disparities with Black youth, connect participants

with policy makers, identify ways to advocate for change, and provide community resources.

Panelists included professionals from various organizations including The School District of Palm Beach County, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, Florida Department of Children and Families, Families First of Palm Beach County and state legislature.

Education & Training Quarterly Presentations



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

- Allie Weiser, Psy. D. and Liz Motta, LMHC of the Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness co-presented “Eating Disorders and Trauma: The Latest Information You Need To Know.” The presenters listed statistics that dispel common misconceptions about eating disorders, identified different types of trauma, including the concept of gender-based violence, and explained the function of the eating disorder for an individual with a trauma history.
- Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented “Foundations of Clinical Supervision.” Dr. Ginsburg defined clinical supervision, described different approaches to supervision, and

identified problems of professional competence. Diversity considerations were infused throughout the training.

- Dr. Danniella Jones, presented “Trauma 101” to an audience of Guardian ad Litem. During the training she defined trauma and explained its impact, and identified ways to foster resilience and provide trauma-informed care.
- Dr. Danniella Jones, presented “Child Sexual Abuse.” During the training, Dr. Jones defined child sexual abuse and explained common misconceptions, described the impact of child sexual abuse on children and families, and identified evidence-based interventions for youth and families effected by childhood sexual abuse.
- Marshall Teitelbaum, M.D. presented “The Role of Psychopharmacology in Child and Adolescent

Mental Health Care.” Dr. Teitelbaum explained why psychopharmacology for children and adolescents can be either a helpful or necessary part of treatment, identified when to seek out potential psychopharmacologic intervention and available psychopharmacologic treatment options for children and adolescents.

- Lauren Stroker, M.S., BCBA presented “The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health.” Mrs. Stroker illustrated the prevalence of social media use, identified both positive and negative effects of social media on mental health, and explored considerations for treatment.
- Paola Granados-Radlick, Licensed Psychologist and owner of Frame of mind Psychology, P.A. presented “Dialectical Behavior Therapy.” Dr. Granados-Radlick identified which children benefit the most from DBT treatment and the five primary skill areas or “modules” of DBT for Adolescents (DBT-A), identified four hierarchical DBT treatment targets helpful in determining what needs to be addressed as a priority, and described DBT techniques like dialectics, validation and walking the middle path.
- Meilyn Rodriguez, M.S. presented “Cultural Concepts of Distress.” During the training, Ms. Rodriguez defined and provided examples of cultural concepts of distress, described its impact on individuals and families, and explored treatment considerations and interventions to address cultural concepts of distress.
- Craig Kramer, Psy.D. presented “Disability: Culture, Treatment, and Assessment.” The training identified three models of disability, discussed the history of discrimination, identified general treatment and assessment considerations.
- Essence O. Rivers, M.A. presented “Community Violence: Exposure and Victimization.” The presentation defined and explained community violence, the impact of community violence exposure, and provided select resources and strategies to support individuals exposed to violence.
- Dr. Laura Cruz presented “Externalizing Behaviors in Adolescents: Behavioral Parenting Training Approaches.” Dr. Cruz described the etiology and

presentation of disorders related to externalizing behavior problems in adolescents and identified Behavioral Parent Training (BPT) approaches to reduce externalizing behavior problems in adolescents and improve familial functioning.

- Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented “Introduction to Motivational Interviewing.” During the presentation, Dr. Ginsburg defined Motivational Interviewing (MI), described the spirit of MI, explained the stages of change, and identified MI strategies and techniques.
- Tonise Florexil, Psy.D. presented “Stepfamilies: A Greater Understanding for Professionals.” The training defined the topic, discussed unique challenges in relation to stepfamily dynamics, and identified how to provide adequate supports.
- Essence O. Rivers, M.A. presented “Allyship 101: Steps to Showing Up, Stepping Out, and Supporting Marginalized Groups.” The presentation discussed barriers to allyship, defined what an ally is, listed steps to becoming an ally, and provided strategies on what to do when things become challenging.
- Dr. Danniella Jones presented “Trauma 101” to United Way of Palm Beach County mentors and other Palm Beach County professionals. The training defined common trauma terminology and discussed the connection between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and later emotional, physical, and behavioral functioning. It also explored the impact of trauma on youth and caregivers and provided a framework for fostering resiliency and delivering trauma-informed care.
- Dr. Cruz presented “Improving Child Behavior by Using Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Skills during Play” at Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County’s Empower 21 Virtual Educational Conference to an audience of parents, childcare providers, and administrators. During the session, participants learned about PCIT skills they could incorporate into play to reduce disruptive behavioral problems in children while strengthening their relationships.

For a list of upcoming trainings, click [here](#).

“There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking.”

- Brian Tracy

CBA Spotlight: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)



1. What is your mission?

The mission of Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. (AVDA) is to promote violence-free relationships and social change by offering alternative choices to end violence and domestic abuse.

2. What does your organization do?

AVDA provides a community of hope through their state-certified domestic violence center that offers a comprehensive array of services for all victims of domestic violence including; a 24 hour crisis hotline, emergency and transitional housing, advocacy, counseling and support to help them live violence-free and self-sufficient lives. AVDA also works throughout the community to educate and engage people of all ages in our commitment to prevent violence.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

- 24-hour confidential, text-enabled hotline
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing
- Outreach advocacy

- Community education and professional training

AVDA also provides “Commit to Change,” a primary prevention initiative focusing on educating and engaging youth in developing and sustaining healthy, respectful, non-violent relationships.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

The agency provides immediate access to life-saving services for survivors of domestic violence and their children to increase their safety and overcome the traumatic impacts of experiencing domestic violence. AVDA’s Commit to Change programming creates the social change necessary to reduce inequities and disparities within our community that work against women’s empowerment, self-determination, economic, and gender equity by empowering young women and mobilizing young men as allies in reducing violence against women and girls. AVDA participates in multiple collaborative efforts in Palm Beach County to ensure systems and organizations that interface with survivors and their children understand the dynamics of domestic violence and create trauma informed,

survivor-centered approaches to serving survivors of domestic violence.

5. What is your agency’s focus for 2021?

AVDA’s focus for 2021 is the expansion of the Outreach Advocacy services. To ensure the health and safety of survivors in our residential programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, AVDA reduced residential capacity. This created an increased need and demand for outreach services, including financial assistance, to help survivors relocate away from their abuser. AVDA’s Outreach Department secured funding to add additional staff to meet the demand for services and support.

With the additional costs associated with maintaining all of AVDA’s life-saving services for survivors during the pandemic, AVDA will continue its fundraising and donation efforts to support the ongoing costs associated with providing services that maintain the health and wellbeing of those we serve.

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

Funds received from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department enhanced AVDA’s Commit to Change programming to provide Men Can Stop Rape’s evidence-based Men of Strength Clubs (MOST Clubs) with young men in Palm Beach County. Men of Strength (MOST)

Clubs provide a structured and supportive space for young men and boys to build individualized definitions of masculinity that promote healthy relationships. MOST Club’s curriculum aims to expose young men to healthier, nonviolent models and visions of manhood, build young men’s capacity to become peer leaders and allies with women, and serve as a hub for social justice activism and nonviolence.

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s funding also enhances AVDA’s ability to facilitate domestic/dating violence workshops with youth, healthy relationship workshops with parents, domestic violence trainings with youth serving professionals, and engage and support youth in developing and implementing community impact projects.

The department’s funding enhances AVDA’s overall capacity to promote healthy, equitable, and safe relationships in Palm Beach County and educate various intersecting social, health, legal, and youth serving professionals on the dynamics of domestic violence to build a coordinated community response and systemic culture that effectively identifies, responds to, and prevents domestic and dating violence.

For more information, visit www.avdaonline.org.

Meet Edwen Dieujuste & Joel Jean Baptiste

Atlantic Community High School students and MOST Club members, Edwens Dieujuste and Joel Jean Baptiste went above and beyond in their efforts to positively impact others in their community and prevent domestic and dating violence. Dieujuste and Baptiste dedicated their personal time after school to connect with middle school students at the Milagro Teen Center in Delray Beach to mentor their younger peers before they entered high school. They encouraged the middle school students to engage in and model respectful behaviors in their interpersonal relationships and provided them with

tools to become effective bystanders when they witness teen dating violence. Dieujuste and Baptiste also spoke about the importance of joining groups and programs in high school that help improve grades and social skills, as well as prepare students for their goals and plans after high school. They provided a safe space for their mentees to ask questions and discuss their personal thoughts and feelings. Dieujuste and Baptiste built friendships with the group of middle school students and extended their support in the upcoming school year to those students attending Atlantic High Community School in the fall.

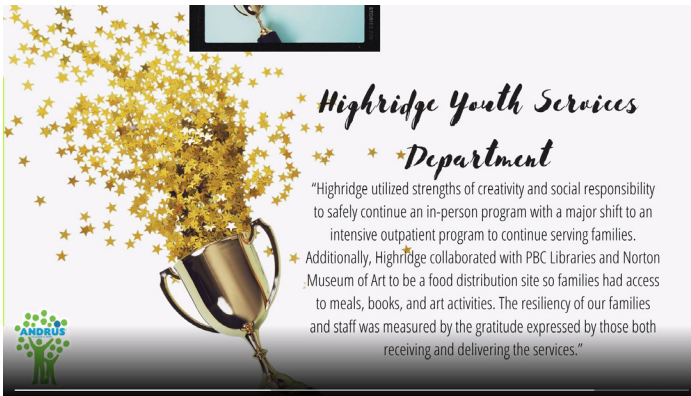
Trauma & Resilience Certificate



On May 23, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields, received her certificate of completion from Florida State University in recognition of completion in their Trauma and Resilience: Level One Series.

The series provides a comprehensive foundation of knowledge of the effect of trauma and the elements of resilience; and prepares professionals to provide culturally competent, trauma-informed services, and build resilience in themselves and the people they serve.

Highridge Family Center Receives Resiliency Award



On May 5-7, representatives from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department participated in a virtual Network Days Conference held by the Sanctuary Institute to explore new ways of utilizing knowledge around trauma-informed care best practices.

During the conference, Highridge Family Center was recognized for becoming certified by the Sanctuary Institute in 2019 and received a Resiliency Award for their adaptability and resiliency during the pandemic. Highridge provided several offerings to the community during the

pandemic including telehealth, intensive outpatient programming, and virtual parent groups. In addition, Highridge and its staff worked as a food distribution site.

The Sanctuary Institute specifically noted Highridge Family Center's social responsibility and creativity in accessing resources for families during a time of difficulty. Highridge collaborated with the Norton Museum of Art and the Palm Beach County Library System to offer free materials and activities for youth and their families during the pandemic.

"We are honored to accept this award for our work throughout the past year. Sanctuary has been a vital part of our work plan since the onset of the pandemic," said Amanda Terrell, Chief Residential Clinical Services at Highridge Family Center. "Our commitments to nonviolence, social responsibility, and emotional intelligence have been crucial and have allowed us to continue to work as a team to serve our community."

Highridge Family Center is seeking re-certification in 2022 through the Sanctuary Institute.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, and Tammy K. Fields, director of Palm Beach County Youth Services Department have been selected to serve on the Family First Prevention Services Act Community Prevention Subcommittee for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

DCF is collaborating with a large cross-section of community stakeholders to establish a human-centered continuum of services that aims to promote community and family strengths through primary prevention and the expansion of evidence-based services, safeguard children and families by controlling active danger threats, enhancing caregiver protective capacities, and restore family conditions with complex dynamics through trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions. In addition, the model will support focused post-intervention and aftercare support to build resilience for families who have been in crisis and to prevent re-entry.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law February 9, 2018. The act aims to keep children and youth safely with their families and emphasizes the importance of children and youth being placed in the

least restrictive, most family-like setting. Florida's planning and initial implementation of FFPSA began in March 2018 with the engaging of stakeholders from across the state to understand the requirements and impact of the act on Florida's child welfare system of care.

Florida has successfully implemented several of the FFPSA provisions and is currently moving toward the implementation of evidence-based services and ensuring children are placed in the most appropriate and family-like setting when removal is necessary. FFPSA planning and implementation efforts will continue through the successful completion of all implementation tasks and post-implementation support.

The FFPSA Community Prevention Sub-Committee will serve to make recommendations to the Florida Department of Children and Families to help guide the planning and implementation efforts necessary to implement the section of the continuum that aims to promote community and family strengths by fostering and maximizing the implementation of evidence-based prevention services within local communities.

Special Needs Advisory Coalition Presentation



During the Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) meeting hosted by the Unicorn Children's Foundation Valerie Messineo, senior program specialist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, provided an overview of the department's 2021 summer programming, which includes the Summer Camp Scholarship and Summer Food Services programs. Both programs serve Specialized Populations and offer extended age ranges and accommodations to eligibility requirements.

To view the full presentation during the SNAC meeting, click [here](#).

Racial Equity Core Team Advancing the Mission



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

As a member, Palm Beach County is able to engage in building local, regional and national collaborations, access technical support and resources that will enable our community to establish new pathways to deepen our racial equity work.

In May, the Core Team members conducted an inaugural cohort on organizations for racial equity. The session delved into a review of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, the history of race equity and the urgency of now as we recap the impact of the global pandemic on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), the Capitol insurrection, the global protests following the killing of George Floyd and the Derek Chauvin verdict.

Also addressed in this session was the intent and plan to strategically advance the mission of equity through the development of cohorts with a parameter that meets the needs of the agencies that have officially taken the pledge to advance equity in their institution and community.

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

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

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Outreach and Community Programming Division Director, Geeta Loach-Jacobson is a Core Team member and presenter at the Advancing the Mission (ATM) sessions. The team has the primary charge of facilitating the responsibilities of the Palm Beach County GARE Associate Membership in partnership with the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Alliance.

"The more proactive you are the less reactive you'll need to be."

- Eric Harvey & Paul Sims

Milagro Center Graduation Celebration



On June 30, Ike Powell III, senior program specialist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department attended the Milagro Foundation's Teen Center graduation celebration. Milagro's leadership, staff, teens, supporters, parents and community stakeholders were in attendance to celebrate (16) high school graduates and their accomplishments.

The teens are all members of the Milagro Youth Inspire Greatness (YIG) Program which is designed to prevent teens from entering the delinquency system by providing comprehensive services to improve behavior, stimulate academic achievement, social emotional learning, and

empower teens to reach their full potential.

The YIG program serves high school students and includes life skills, academic support and tutoring, financial literacy, mentoring, career exploration, leadership development, cultural arts, parent engagement, mentor in and other youth development services to inspire greatness and success.

The Milagro Foundation receives funding from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through its Youth Services Department and is a partner in the My Brother's Keeper Network.

Family First Assistance & Survivor Center

On May 11, the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management held a tabletop exercise for the Family Assistance and Survivor Care Center (FASCC). Tammy K. Fields and John Harre participated on behalf of Palm Beach County Youth Services Department along with many other county departments and emergency responders. The purpose of the exercise is to prepare for a mass casualty

event. Tammy K. Fields commented "I hope we never need to establish a FASCC but I do take comfort in knowing that a plan is in place with dedicated individuals to respond if it is ever needed." Both Fields and Harre were able to provide valuable input on the potential needs of children and families including mental health needs.

Coordinated System of Care Steering Committee



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields was appointed by Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) to serve on the Steering Committee for the Planning of a Coordinated System of Care pursuant to House Bill 945. House Bill 945

was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 27, 2020.

This legislation focuses on children's mental health and requires the Managing Entity – SEFBHN in Palm Beach County – to develop a Coordinated System of Care with feedback and input from community partners.

Highridge honored with Safety Award



On June 10, representatives from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Highridge Family Center attended the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.'s 24th Safety Awards Luncheon at the West Palm Beach Marriott. The award ceremony recognizes dedication and commitment to public safety.

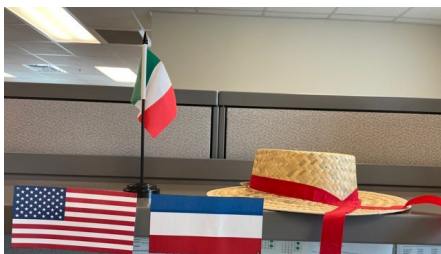
During the conference, The Highridge Family Center Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) received a COVID Outstanding Service Recognition award for the drastic

programming changes necessary in order to re-open last summer for in-person services in a safe and ethical manner for youth who needed more intensive support and structure during the pandemic. The staff designed a summer program that was therapeutic, trauma-informed, and "safe" by following CDC, state, and local guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The summer IOP staff worked directly with youth all day, every day when most businesses were closed to in-person services," said Dr. Twila Taylor, Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division director. "I acknowledge, appreciate, and respect their dedication to serving the youth and families of Palm Beach County."

This year, the theme of the luncheon was "Heroes for Safety" and the agenda included opening remarks by Dr. Alina Alonso of the Palm Beach County Health Department, followed by WPEC CBS News Channel 12's morning anchor, Sam Kerrigan raffling off gift cards and baskets. The program wrapped up with both silent and live auctions with the proceeds going to the Safety Council's nonprofit programs.

World Day for Cultural Diversity



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The day is a reminder for everyone to do their part to bridge the gap between cultures. As part of the celebration, the department's Seeds of Success cross-divisional action team shared a heritage map, developed a cookbook of various cultural recipes and asked staff to decorate their office space.

Mentoring in Palm Beach County



Ike Powell III, senior program specialist at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and his mentee Jhash Sankar were interviewed by WPTV News Channel 5 about the positive impacts of mentoring.

"I immediately went into the mindset of wanting to provide guidance and give advice, but I learned after a few years that it's not all about that," said Powell. "The biggest component of it is active listening and being there as a champion and supporter for that person you're mentoring."

To read the full article or to view the interview, click [here](#).

Residents at Highridge Visit the Norton



In partnership with the Norton Museum of Art's Afterschool Arts Outreach program, the Highridge Family Center provides its residents enrichment through art exploration. Teaching Artist Jill Lavetsky provides art instruction, motivation and encouragement to residents as they explore the world of art through a variety of mediums and projects.

Despite the challenges related to the pandemic, Ms. Lavetsky continued with her weekly sessions, virtually during the onset of the pandemic and most recently through in-person instruction. This term, Ms. Lavetsky



collaborated with residents to build collages inspired by Colombian-American artist María Berrío using the art genre "magical realism" as inspiration. Residents used colorful tissue papers, mulberry papers, and fabric to construct kites. The term culminated with an annual field trip to the Norton Museum of Art. This was an especially meaningful event for Highridge residents this year, as it was the first field trip since the pandemic began last March.

Residents' artwork will be on display at the Norton Museum of Art located in their Marden Gallery as part of the Afterschool Arts Outreach Annual Student Exhibition.

American Association of Caregiving Youth Graduation



During a graduation ceremony held at the American Association for Caregiving Youth (AACY), Brady Bloom, a recent graduate and recipient of the Firestone Award, discussed the positive impact of the Caregiving Youth Project.

"Being a part of the AACY has truly been a huge part of being successful emotionally, scholastically, and beyond. The support you give us all helps us in so many ways; both small and really big," said Brady. "Thank you so much for all you do. It truly does make a difference."



The American Association of Caregiving Youth receives funding from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through its Youth Services Department.

The Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) is an expansion of the existing program serving children and families to ensure that children with caregiving responsibilities attend school, remain in school, progress, graduate and move on to post-secondary education. Services are being extended to students at two new Title I schools.

CAN Community Health Clinic Grand Opening



On June 25, Ike Powell III, Youth Services Department senior program specialist and Gary Graham, senior director at United Way Palm Beach County attended the Compass Community Center ribbon cutting and grand opening for their new partnership with CAN Community Health. This

exciting partnership brings the CAN Community Health Clinic to Palm Beach County. The clinic is located inside the Compass facility and will provide vital services to the community. Both Compass and United Way of Palm Beach County are county funded agencies.

Wellness and Awareness Body, Mind, and Spirit

Special to YSD Scoop!

Palm Beach County 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 will feature topics related to personal wellness and awareness.

Sanctuary Commitment: Democracy

The commitment focuses on creating and modeling civic skills of self-control, self-discipline, and administration of healthy authority. Democracy works to counteract experiences of disempowerment by encouraging community members to share decision making responsibilities and provide and accept diverse opinions amongst the group. In order to empower others, a person must first feel confident in their own ability to make and execute decisions.

Personal empowerment is a collection of beliefs, actions and skills all working together. Using your own personal empowerment is a great way to gain more strength and motivation to tackle challenges you might be facing in different areas of your life.

Me time: Rest and Relaxation

"Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is relax"
- Mark Black.

In order for us to feel empowered, and hence be able to actively participate in Democracy, we need our brain functioning at its best. Optimal brain power often times depends on our amount of rest and relaxation. It is important for us to take time for ourselves to decompress, collect our thoughts and discover and embrace who we are. In order to feel empowered and encourage others we need this type of "me time" to be able to process our collections of beliefs, actions and skills and learn how to confidently share them with others.

Take a few moments of each day to try some of these simple ways to rest and relax.

- Meditation
- Visualization – imagine a relaxing place and focus on the details
- Take a gentle walk being mindful of your surroundings. Focus on the plants, trees and sunshine
- Listen to music
- Be creative
- Read a book

YSD Awareness



On April 1, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff wore blue to raise awareness and show support towards Child Abuse Prevention month.

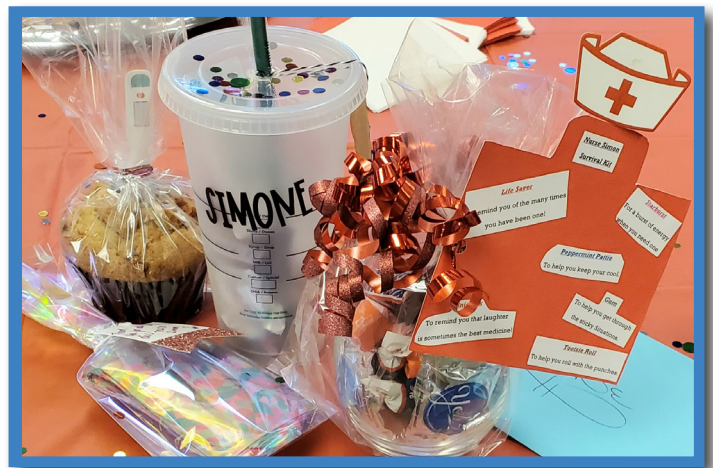
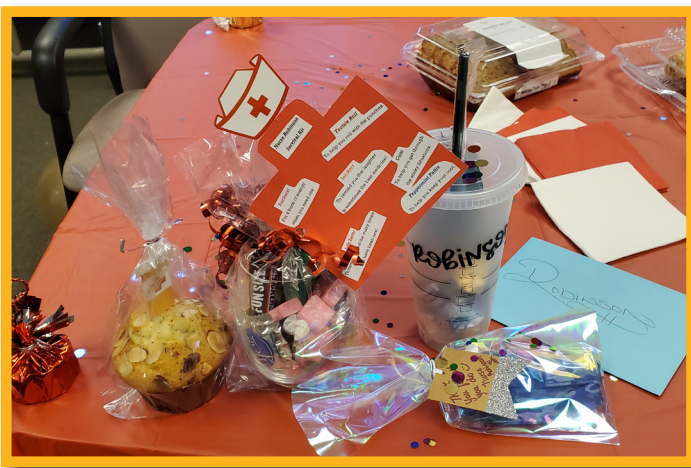
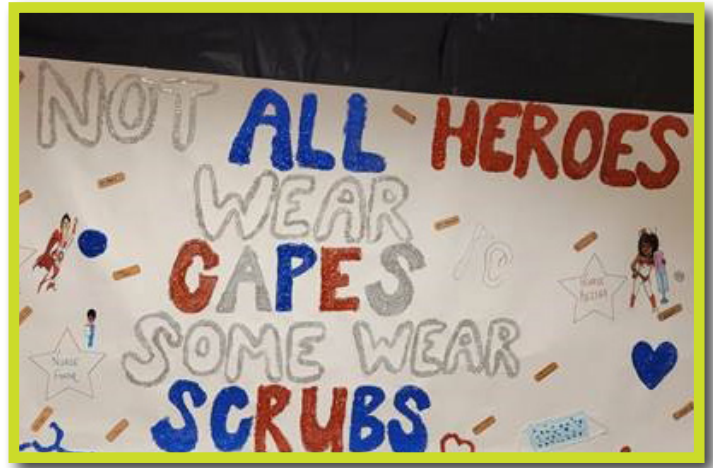


On May 7, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department employees wore orange in honor of Thank a Youth Worker Day. Each year, this international celebration of youth workers recognizes those individuals who make a difference in the lives of young people.



As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, residents at Highridge Family Center showed their appreciation by creating a banner for their teachers. Teacher appreciation week recognizes teachers who has made a positive impact in the lives of the children and youth.

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Education & Training Center employees showed their support for survivors of sexual assault by wearing jeans for denim for Denim Day.



On National Nurses Day, nurses at the department's Highridge Family Center received special tokens of appreciation for their dedication and quality of care they provide to the residents that are served at the center.

Q&A with Ralph Engle



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Ralph Engle, Cook III at Highridge Family Center. Ralph Oversees food preparation, and service of food, and quality control.

- 1. **Where is your hometown?**
Levittown, Pennsylvania
- 2. **What was your first job?**
I worked at Waffy's Car wash in 1972.
- 3. **What are the three most important skills you need for your job?**
To be observant, Multi-task, and have leadership skills.
- 4. **What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?**

Serving the kids.

- 5. **Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?**
The most memorable, was when I dressed up for Halloween as a Kitchen Zombie. I wore a Mop head and had ketchup spilled all over me and carried a bucket that had smoke coming out of it for the kid's lunch.
- 6. **What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?**
I used to coach Little League for over 10 years. Long naps.
- 7. **What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?**
Come in and do your job to the best of your abilities so you can go home with no worries.
- 8. **Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?**
Travel out west.
- 9. **What is your favorite quote?**
"To-it (when I get around to-it)."
- 10. **Who or what inspires you?**
My mother is 90 years old. I look forward to seeing her all the time. She is my inspiration.
- 11. **Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?**
I used to love to play hopscotch, my age and the number of grandchildren I have.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Palm Beach County Assistant County Administrator Dorritt M. Miller for earning Leadership of Palm Beach County's Leadership Excellence Award for Public Sector Service. The award recognizes an individual who makes significant contributions to improve our community.

Congratulations to Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Damon Folkes for 20 years of service with Palm Beach County. To celebrate, staff presented Damon with a "gold" t-shirt, medallion, and a service certificate during a surprise presentation.



Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

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



Employee	Position	Division
Ralph Fretz	Psychologist	RTFC
Shakwandra Beckford	Administrative Technician I	RTFC
Devani Allen	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Elysa Smith	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Inayat Sood	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Jevon Hamilton	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Jorge Valle	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Vandi Allen	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP

Promotions



Andrea White
Residential Counseling Coordinator
RTFC



Holly-Lynn Carotenuto
Program Evaluator
Admin

Employee of the Quarter

Special to YSD Scoop!



Congratulations Marjorie Auguste for earning Youth Services Department's "Employee of the Quarter" award. Marjorie was selected for stepping up at Highridge Family Center to assist with administrative tasks. Marjorie masterfully navigated through intake appointments and working with

the public. She is self-motivated, takes initiative and her professionalism shines through with her interactions with co-workers and clients alike.

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

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.

Connect with Us!

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



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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. Twila Taylor

Editor-in-Chief

Erin Baker



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