



# YSD Scoop!

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

June 10, 2015

Volume I

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The Youth Services Department (YSD) opened its doors for business on January 5, 2015 as staff from the County Attorney's Office, Community Services Department, Public Safety Department, and Criminal Justice Commission were transferred to the department to begin its operations. Tammy Fields, a Chief Assistant County Attorney became the Department's first Director after being appointed by the Board of County Commissioners on December 2, 2014. James Green, Program Director for the Palm



*Employees from the Youth Services Department raise awareness about children and young individuals living in poverty in the United States by wearing their "red nose" on Red Nose Day.*

Beach County Community Action Agency was appointed Division Director for YSD and Brenda Oakes and Mandi Grunwald were transferred from the Criminal Justice Commission and Palm Beach County Community Services Department, respectively. The mission of YSD is to

“administer programs and initiatives of the Board of County Commissioners to ensure the healthy growth, development, education and transition of children and youth to young adulthood and the workplace.” For more information, visit [www.pbcgov.org/youthservices](http://www.pbcgov.org/youthservices).

*YSD works in conjunction with the School District, Children's Services Council (CSC), United Way, Criminal Justice Commission, Department of Juvenile Justice, CareerSource and other entities to assess, plan, implement and evaluate youth programs throughout the County.*

**OUTCOMES:**

- (1) Increase positive birth outcomes;*
- (2) Improve healthy, safe, permanent and nurturing environments;*
- (3) Improve physical, developmental, mental/behavioral health;*
- (4) Improve school readiness;*
- (5) Increase educational performance;*
- (6) Increase adolescent pro social behavior; or*
- (7) Increase career readiness.*

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the *Infant, Child, Youth and Young Adult Symposium* was held among community leaders. The overall goal of the symposium was to share information and identify actions and programs to support the healthy growth, development and education of children and youth in Palm Beach County.

Members of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), the Palm Beach County School Board and the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County met with leadership from various agencies and boards to discuss programs and initiatives related to healthy children, safe schools, educational success, transition to workforce, and reduction of youth violence.

At the closing of the symposium, recommendations were made and approved and the planning Steering Committee was directed to create a comprehensive plan for implementation of the recommendations. A primary recommendation was to consolidate County

programs and services for children, youth, and young adults into one Department within the County. Youth programs that were previously administered by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), Public Safety (PSD) and Community Services Departments (CSD) were transferred to the newly formed Youth Services Department (YSD). YSD was divided into three (3) Divisions: Outreach and Community Programming, Residential and Family Treatment and Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services.

Youth programs from PSD were transferred to the Residential and Family Treatment Division. These programs included the Highridge Family Center, the Youth Services Bureau and the Education and Training Center. Youth programs from CJC and CSD were transferred to the Outreach and Community Programming Division (OCP). These programs included the Youth Violence and Prevention Project, Summer Camp and Summer Scholarship and the Financially Assisted Agencies that serviced the Youth Violence/Diversion category. The Board of County Commissioners began funding the Youth Services Department on October 1, 2014.

## ***Child & Youth Symposium***

**Youth Services  
Department Mission  
Statement:**

*Administer programs and initiatives of the Board of County Commissioners to ensure the healthy growth, development, education, and transition of children and youth to young adulthood and the workforce.*



***Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department Director facilitates a branding discussion for the Department.***

**CORE TEAM VALUES**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Strong Work</b> | <b>Effective</b>     |
| <b>Ethics</b>      | <b>Communicator</b>  |
| <b>Trustworthy</b> | <b>Knowledgeable</b> |
| <b>Flexible</b>    | <b>Efficient</b>     |
| <b>Dependable</b>  | <b>Resourceful</b>   |
| <b>Positive</b>    | <b>Sharing</b>       |
| <b>Team player</b> | <b>Compassionate</b> |
| <b>Commitment</b>  | <b>Competent</b>     |

Much thought and work went into the development of the Youth Services Department logo, and we are very grateful to Virginia Savietto, of the Public Affairs Graphics Division, for her work on it. “Growing Brighter Futures” accurately summarizes our mission.

We are devoted to helping children progress to adulthood. The kids in our logo represent the various ages we work with, concentrating our attention on youth ages 6-22. The youth are well grounded in the logo with the sun shining brightly on their futures.

***Teambuilding and  
Visioning Session for Youth Services Department***



*The Local Action Plan calls for policy reviews to determine if there are systemic factors contributing to the poor academic performance and higher arrest and incarceration rate.*



**Division Director James Green presents MBK Local Action Plan to participants.**

On May 26, 2015, the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department My Brother's Keeper Network launched its Local Action Plan to address the challenges faced by boys and young men of color in Palm Beach County. Nearly 150 representatives from the community, School District,

School Board, County Commission, law enforcement, business community, non-profit and faith-based organizations came together to discuss this local action plan that seeks to improve the lives of black and Hispanic boys and young men by maximizing their educational and economic opportunity.



**James Green discusses MBK with League of Cities Board of Directors.**

**Make a Difference NOW Through Mentoring**



**Recruiting MALE MENTORS**  
Ages 21 & UP  
**Take The Challenge!**

**Who Can Take The Mentoring Challenge?**

- County Residents
- Business Owners
- Associations
- School District
- Law Enforcement
- Government Municipalities
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations
- State, Colleges & Universities
- Greek Organizations
- Health Care

**3 TYPES OF MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES:**



Contact Information:  
**Lashawna Howard**  
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department  
(561) 242-5713 • LHoward@pbcgov.org

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## **Youth Services Department Teams Up With Other Departments for Vendor Meeting**

*"It was extremely helpful for me as a director," said Sarah Vizcarrondo, director of Our World Learning Center. "I now have new information of available resources that I can use to improve the activities for our campers, and incorporate new ones that I had no idea existed. I was amazed to learn of all of the different local organizations that we can collaborate with to offer new opportunities that will greatly enhance our campers experience during their summer."*

On March 27, 2015 Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) staff met with approximately eighty-five (85) representatives from various agencies in preparation for summer camp programming. The purpose of this meeting was to provide agencies with an overview of the newly formed YSD, discuss program expectations, and to proactively provide them with the resources and support needed to enhance summer programming.



***Mandi Grunwald YSD Program Specialist presents information to Summer Camp vendors.***



Representatives from Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department, Libraries, Cooperative Extension and Prime Time delivered presentations offering participants a variety of programs and activities to implement during the summer. Each agency received the 211 Youth Directory as well as other materials left by the presenters.

***Donald Campbell, Recreation Program Supervisor, informs agencies about resources available through PBC Parks and Recreation Department.***

## **Summer Camp Scholarship Program**

*The employees hired to assist in monitoring the program are summer college interns from colleges and universities throughout Florida. This internship offers extensive experience in operating a federal and state funded program and is a great opportunity to build their resume and experience.*

## Youth Services Host Trainings for Summer Food Sites

Over 100 agencies participated in the training required to become a summer food site. Summer food sites provide meals and snacks to low-income school-age children during the summer months (June-August). Children age 18 and under may receive meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. Sites are located throughout Palm Beach County



**Summer food interns introducing themselves to agencies who registered to become a summer food site.**

# Summer Food Program

2015 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM REGISTRATION LINK:  
<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f-2-KYjKJMO-8t8cy-YH15ZA> For more information about our programs visit our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Palm-Beach-County-Summer-Food-Service-Program/275464805907575>  
 To follow updates about the Summer Food Program follow us on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/PBCYSD>



**Over 100 agencies attended the training required to become a summer food site.**

in low-income neighborhoods. Registration for the 2015 Summer Food Service Program is open! If your agency or organization is interested in providing free meals for children throughout the summer please follow the link on this page and register. A Youth Services Department representative will contact you with the date for the next summer food training.

# Youth Empowerment Centers



A Youth Empowerment Center has been established in each targeted area to provide activities and services to youth ages 13-18, including after school programs and activities, tutoring/mentoring, job

training for in school and out of school youth, information on resources, gang prevention outreach, parenting classes, employment services, Safe Schools Programs and transportation.

*Youth from Riviera Beach and Belle Glade participate in college tour.*



*James Green poses with youth from Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center after facilitating a teambuilding activity on leadership and problem-solving.*

## **YEC Locations:**

**Lake Worth**  
1699 Wingfield Street  
Lake Worth, FL  
33460

**Belle Glade**  
227 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Belle Glade, FL  
33430

**Riviera Beach**  
1550 W 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Riviera Beach, FL  
33404

*Tanya Tibby poses with students from Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center during the Martin Luther King Parade in Riviera Beach.*





**Active Law Enforcement Agencies that are participating in G.R.E.A.T.:**

**PBC School District –  
Off. Samuel Berkman  
Samuel.berkman@palmbeachschools.org**

**Riviera Beach PD –  
Major Snow  
vsnow@rivierabch.com**

**West Palm Beach PD –  
Off. Ariel Munoz  
amunoz@wpb.org**

**Lantana –  
Off. Nelson Berrios**

**Boynton Beach PD –  
Rachel Loy  
Loyr@bbfl.us**

GREAT is an evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. The program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and

gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior. Since January 2015, GREAT has conducted two graduations with approximately 200 students completing the programs.

***The vast majority of the students increased their knowledge about ways to resist gangs and violent behavior.***

The goals of the GREAT program are:

- To achieve 1,000 students completing the GREAT program annually.
- To support and coordinate GREAT by increasing the number of officers who receive the GREAT certification and increasing the number of sites served.
- To increase efficiency and effectiveness of the GREAT program by completing the website, streamlining the data collection process and providing more resources and support for the GREAT graduations.
- To continue the outreach in the community around youth centric issues such as the youth symposium, youth in the juvenile justice system, and youth mental health.



# Highridge Family Center

*The mission of the Highridge Family Center is to provide the families of Palm Beach County with the highest quality residential treatment for "at-risk" adolescents ages 11 through 16. Highridge is committed to offering an intensive level of care to those families who need significant professional support in their efforts to develop healthy functioning children. This is accomplished by developing healthy functioning families. Competence, consistency, caring, and concern are the cornerstones of the Highridge program. Maintaining and strengthening the integrity of the family is our highest goal.*



***Youth Services Director Tammy Fields presented County Attorney Denise Nieman and Assistant County Attorney Helene Hvizd with a certificate of appreciation at the Highridge Family Center graduation. Sports equipment, books, and puzzles were donated to the Highridge Family Center by the County Attorney's office.***

On April 16, Youth Services Director Tammy Fields presented County Attorney Denise Nieman and Assistant County Attorney Helene Hvizd with a certificate of appreciation at the Highridge Family Center graduation.

Department and the appointment of former Chief County Attorney Tammy Fields as the Department Director, the County Attorney's Office decided to direct its "Dress Down for Charity" donations to the Youth Services Department.

The County Attorney's Office has done a "Dress Down for Charity" drive for several years and contributions have gone to many worthy nonprofits. With the recent creation of the Youth Services

Donations of sports equipment, books, and puzzles were collected delivered to the Highridge Family Center for which the grateful Highridge staff members and students say thank you!



***Staff participated in teambuilding activities at the Highridge Family Center. Youth Services interns Patti Russo and Kelly Kamel take down trainer and family therapist John Harre during CPI training at Highridge Family Center.***



## Poverty

## Simulation

*"Poverty is not just about money, it's about a mindset. It is time for us to be proactive in breaking these mental barriers in order to break the cycle. The Cost Of Poverty Experience (COPE ) Simulation provides the opportunity to see for ourselves the difficulties that low-income Americans face daily."*

*Kelvin Bledsoe*



*Kelvin Bledsoe debriefed with poverty simulation participants.*

The Palm Beach County Community Action Agency partnered with Youth Services Department, Circles Palm Beach County and Lutheran Services to host a poverty simulation for the Children's Services Council (CSC) on Wednesday May 19, 2015. The Cost of Poverty Experience (Poverty Simulation) is a powerful tool that is used to break down the stereotypes of poverty. The portrayals of real stories of families living both in generational and situational poverty go beyond the stereotype of what is seen on the news

or written about in the paper. This simulation was designed to give CSC employees an inside look at issues related to poverty and provide more insight as to why the cycle continues. CSC employees took part in scenarios for various real life situations and were challenged to apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. Also captured in the experience is the role that the broader community plays in their interactions with families in poverty, and how policies and systems either help or hinder progress.

*"If we are serious about breaking this cycle, we must begin by addressing children and youth who are living in poverty,"  
James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming for PBC Youth Services Department.*

## ***Palm Beach County Point in Time Homeless Count***



***Youth Services Department collaborated with Palm Beach County Homeless and Housing Alliance in the Point in Time Homeless count.***

***Youth Services Department staff participated in a focus group with the new Palm Beach County School District superintendent.***

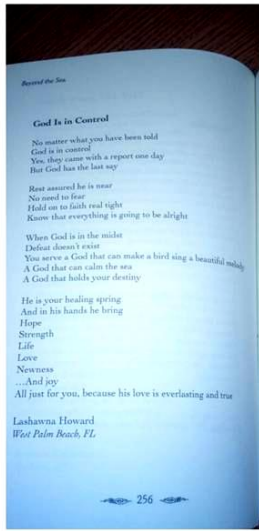


***Tanya Tibby, Chief of Community Based Clinical Services, Youth & Family Counseling Program, attended the PACE “Believing in Girls” Luncheon on February 25th. PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training, and advocacy.***



***Contracts with The Unicorn Children’s Foundation, Inc., Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County, Inc., and Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners.***

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**Youth Services  
Department  
introduces their new  
Finance, Contracting,  
& Administrative  
Services Division!**



**Tammy Fields, Youth  
Services Department  
Director celebrated 25  
years of working for Palm  
Beach County. John R.  
Harre, Manuel Signo, and  
Lorna E. Banks were also  
awarded for their years of  
service to the County.**



**“My poem was published in the  
book entitled "Beyond the Sea  
Mystique". I, along with other  
amateur poets, had the  
opportunity to have our poems  
published by Eber & Wein  
Publishing Company of  
Pennsylvania.” –LaShawna  
Howard, Senior Secretary**

## Celebrations



**Celebrating Administrative  
Professional's Day!**



**Dylan and Hannah came to help Mom (Michelle L.) @  
work during "Bring your kids to work day"!**



**Divyanshu and Kiarra are currently volunteering  
their time to the MBK program.**

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# Upcoming Events

**SUPER SUMMER SPELLING BEE**



**1st Annual County-Wide Spelling Bee**  
**THURSDAY**  
**JULY 30, 2015**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
 Palm Beach Central High School  
 8499 Forest Hill Boulevard  
 Wellington, FL 33411

*With the purpose of providing academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide!*

Limited to Summer Camps Only.

**Awards • Prizes • Food • And Much More!**

**Categories:**

- K - 2nd Grade
- 3rd - 5th Grade
- 6th - 8th Grade
- 9th - 12th Grade

**Registration & Information:**  
**LASHAWNA HOWARD**  
 Tel: (561) 242-5713 • E-mail: LHoward@pbcgov.org  
 Website: www.pbcgov.com/youthservices




**MBK**  
 MY BROTHER'S KEEPER  
 NETWORK  
 OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

**TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Tuesday**  
**July 14, 2015** **DATE**

**5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** **TIME**

**Palm Beach County Library (Main Office)** **PLACE**  
 3650 Summit Blvd, WPB, FL 33406

**FOR WHOM?**  
*Members & Non Members Are Welcome!*

- County Residents
- Business Owners
- Associations
- School District
- Law Enforcement
- Government Municipalities
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations
- State, Colleges & Universities
- Greek Organizations
- Health Care

**PURPOSE?**

- Vision & Direction of the Network
- Get local and national updates

**For More Information Contact:**  
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