

February 11, 2016

Volume II

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Youth Services Department.....1](#)

[Summer Food Program.....2](#)

[Spelling Bee.....3](#)

[What Works! Summit.....4](#)

[Paper Tigers.....5](#)

[My Brother's Keeper.....6](#)

[My Brother's Keeper Outreach.....7-8](#)

[United Way Donation.....9](#)

[Highridge Family Center.....10](#)

[Results Oriented Management and Accountability.....11](#)

[Teen Employability Program.....12](#)

[Youth Services Department In Action.....13](#)

[Youth Services Department New Employees.....14](#)

Director of Youth Services:
Tammy Fields

Director of Finance & Contracting
Administrative Services:
Michelle Liska

Director of Residential Treatment and Family
Counseling:
Tony Spaniol

Director of Outreach & Community
Programming:
James Green



Employees from the Youth Services Department meet with actor Quinton Aaron from the movie Blind Side.

The Youth Services Department (YSD) is divided into three divisions. Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC), Outreach and Community Programming (OCP), and Finance, Contracting, and Administrative Services (FCA). The direct service portion of the Department, formerly the Youth Affairs Division on Public Safety, is now known as the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division of the Department. The Outreach and Community Programming Division includes programs transferred from the Department of Community Services including Summer Camp Scholarships, Summer Food programs, and some of the Financially Assisted Agencies.

The Finance, Contracting, and Administrative Services Division is the central service division handling budget, procurement, payroll, human resources, payables, agenda items, records management, grant administration, and fixed assets for the YSD. 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 workforce.

For more information, visit <http://www.pbcgov.org/youthservices>.

[Back to Top](#)

Summer Food Service Program

Purpose:

Provides meals and snacks to low-income school-age children during the summer months (June-August). Youth Services administers and monitors this program, funded by USDA and the Department of Education. Sites are located throughout Palm Beach County in low-income neighborhoods.



Summer Food Interns introducing themselves to agencies who registered to become a summer food site for Summer 2015.



Civil Rights Requirement:

Meals are served to all eligible children, regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

On May 28 and June 3, nearly 100 agencies participated in training required to become a summer food site. Summer food sites are located throughout Palm Beach County providing meals and snacks to income school-age children during the months of June, July and August.

Children age 18 and under may receive meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This program, funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of

Education, also provides summer employment opportunity for young adults. Summer food sites are located in low-income neighborhoods throughout Palm Beach County. 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 résumé and experience.

Please email Keianna Williams at kwillia4@pbcgov.org, if you are interested in becoming a summer food site for Summer 2016.

Youth Services Hosts Kickoff Training for Summer Food Sites



Here are the winners of the first Super Summer Countywide Spelling Bee:

Grades K-2

1st Antasia Collins - Little Angels Learning Center

2nd Gabriel Perez - Marjerie Fisher Boys and Girls Club

3rd Xavier Mitchell - Canal Point Summer Camp

Grades 3-5

1st Kelsey Belamy - Westgate Youth Camp

2nd Kaleb Oscar - Loving Heart Learning Center

3rd Andrew White - Camp Fusion

Grades 6-8

1st Malachi Hobb - The Youth Spot

2nd Taylor Gonzales - The Achievement Center

3rd Roshakeria Banks - Pahokee Middle Youth Camp

On July 30, the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) partnered with the Library System, Children’s Services Council (CSC), School District of Palm Beach County, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., the Literacy Coalition, Friends of Community Services, and *The Palm Beach Post* to host its inaugural Super Summer Countywide Spelling Bee competition. Over 100 students represented by nearly 30 summer camps gathered at Palm Beach Central High School to participate. The purpose of the spelling bee was to engage students in summer learning activities that help prevent “summer slide.” YSD summer interns planned and facilitated the event and used grade-appropriate words provided by the School District.

Each camp had an internal competition. Camp winners in each of four grade groups (kindergarten-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th and 9th-12th) were sent to the countywide competition.



James Green and Tammy Fields with 9-12 Grade Winner Nadia Neil

In addition, YSD distributed approximately 3,000 books, backpacks and T-shirts donated from CSC to summer camp and summer food sites throughout the county. The judges for the spelling competition were Dr. Edwiygh Franck, CEO of the Greatest You Yet, Dawn Favata, Carol Rose and Janie Fogt from *The Palm Beach Post*, Connie Hoke, Literacy Coalition, Katherine Gopie, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., Jayme Bosio, PBC Library System, Natalie Diaz, PBC Youth Services Department, Youth Services Director Tammy Fields, and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the Children’s Service Council. Assistant Schools Supt. Dr. Joe Lee, Kristin Calder, CEO of the Literacy Coalition, and Houston Tate and Derrek Moore with the Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization were also in attendance.

Youth Services Event Spells Super Summer Success



County Administrator Verdenia Baker goes over the What Works! agenda with Youth Services Director Tammy Fields.



James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming emceed at the What Works! Summit.



Youth Services Planner Gregory Gabriel assisting at the What Works! summit.

The first What Works! summit was held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on September 30. The comprehensive seminar, sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners, the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, the United Way of Palm Beach County, the School District of Palm Beach County, and Career Source Palm Beach County, focused on developing more evidence-based programming for children and youth. The idea for the summit was borne out of the Youth Symposium in 2013 where community leaders presented a broad array of data and information dealing with children's health, safety, education, and transitioning into the workforce.

The organizations behind the symposium then made recommendations on how best to improve the health, wellness and future of Palm Beach County's youth. The What Works! summit brought together professionals, volunteers and stakeholders who work with agencies and programs that serve Palm Beach County's children and youth. Attendees heard presentations on evidence-based programming and policy implications, available resources, ensuring program fidelity, and how to implement them in a community context. Guests also participated in labs to gain practical information on specific evidence-based models dealing with child welfare, early childhood, education,

data collection, juvenile justice, re-engagement of disconnected youth, substance abuse and mental health, and youth development. James Green, director Outreach and Community Programming for Youth Services emceed the day-long program. County Administrator Verdenia Baker offered welcoming comments. About 400 people attended the summit, which was a better turnout than organizers had initially anticipated. "We were hoping for maybe 250, so this is just fantastic," said Youth Services Director Tammy Fields.



Register Now What Works!

A summit on Palm Beach County's journey toward evidence-based programs for children and youth
September 30, 2015
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Palm Beach County Convention Center
 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach

Join us for a stimulating tour through the evolving evidence-based landscape. This day-long summit will include:

- An introduction to evidence-based programming and policy implications
- Information on the importance of program fidelity
- Numerous labs to provide participants with practical information on program implementation and specific evidence-based models

Please note: This summit is offered at no cost to the attendees.



County Administrator Verdenia Baker, Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam, Youth Services Director Tammy Fields, and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., executive director and CEO of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, along with the Children's Services Council, PBC School District, United Way and Career Source hosted a screening of "Paper Tigers" on October 23. The documentary film highlights adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and their effects on brain development. Each year, millions of unloved and traumatic youth enter adulthood with damaged brains and hearts. Chronic exposure to ACES places a child in a permanent "fight or flight" status. Often they seek comfort or escape with drugs, alcohol, sex, food, and other destructive behaviors.



Dr. Anne Hogan with the Florida Association of Infant Mental Health.



Panelists Dr. Selena A. LaMotte, PBC Sheriff's Office, Elaine Hubbard-Williams, Riviera Beach Preparatory School, and Awilda V. Tomas-Andres, Hope Centennial Elementary School

The film featured several students affected by this type of trauma and how an alternative school helped them to heal and be successful throughout their high school years. The film evoked both laughter and tears and was followed by a panel of experts from the School District of Palm Beach County, the PBC Court System and the Sheriff's office. They shared their takeaways from the film and discussed strategies for implementing similar programs into Palm Beach County schools. Tammy Fields, director of the Youth Services Department, closed the event with a call to action and the announcement of a new initiative called "Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures." The collaborative effort is to create a youth master plan for Palm Beach County.

Youth Services Hosts Screening of "Paper Tigers"



[Click here to view MBK's 1st Anniversary Program.](#)

[Click here to view MBK local action plan.](#)

[Click here for Community MBK website](#)

[Click here to view MBK Video](#)

SAVE THE DATE

MBK Conference

Location: PBC Convention Center
October 7, 2016 & October 8, 2016

On November 10, the Youth Services Department's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Network celebrated its first anniversary. More than 150 representatives from Palm Beach County government, the Palm Beach County School District, law enforcement agencies, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and elected officials, community and business leaders, mentors and students attended the event.



Many network participants were recognized and thanked for their involvement.

My Brother's Keeper Network Celebrates First Anniversary

National Goals:

1. Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready.
2. Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade.
3. Ensuring all youth graduate from high school.
4. Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training.
5. Ensuring all youth are out of school and employed.
6. Ensuring all youth remain safe from violent crime.



About 150 people attended the celebration in the commission chambers.

Guest speaker Trabian Shorters, CEO of BMe, discussed ways to change the narrative around boys and young men of color. Newly recruited mentors, community partners, and volunteers were recognized for their contributions. The network's accomplishments to date were noted, the vision for the future expressed, and there was discussion of various ways for participants to continue their involvement.

My Brother's Keeper Outreach



My Brother's Keeper initiative being discussed at the Glades Roundtable.

James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming Division, presenting My Brother's Keeper to the United Way Board.



James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming Division, presenting My Brother's Keeper to Glades Tech Advisory Committee.

My Brother's Keeper Male Mentor Orientation



[Back to Top](#)



Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor presented a proclamation declaring August 1 – November 10, 2015 as “MBK Male Mentor Recruitment Period” in Palm Beach County.

My Brother's Keeper anniversary celebration



My Brother's Keeper presentation with Pastoral Alliance!



My Brother's Keeper make mentor recruitment event

Youth Services Supporting United Way



Natalie Diaz, United Way campaign coordinator for Palm Beach County Youth Services, celebrates the department's successful food drive.

Palm Beach County Youth Services joined the fight against hunger in Palm Beach County by hosting a food drive to benefit United Way's Project Thanksgiving. Seven full boxes of non-perishable food such as canned yams, sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing, macaroni and cheese, potatoes, and onions were collected. This year, in collaboration with CBS12 and the Palm Beach County Food Bank, United Way is celebrating 25 years of ensuring that the entire community enjoys a healthy, hearty Thanksgiving meal. Thank you for all of your generous donations and for making a difference in Palm Beach County!



Youth Services Department participates in "Give a Kick" for United Way

United Way



On October 21, boisterous, youthful voices springing from the cafeteria on a Wednesday morning echoed down the halls of Highridge Family Center. Huddled around six dining tables, middle and high school students were vying for space to see their individual peat pellets grow like magic in an aluminum tray of water. Cheering them on were four Memory Tree organizers, 28 Florida Power and Light (FPL) volunteers, Highridge Family Center staff, and teachers from the Palm Beach

County School District. This hands-on learning project is coordinated by Memory Trees, Youth Services Department's Highridge Family Center, and the School District. Memory Trees is a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring healthier kids and communities through community gardens and educational curriculum. "What resonated with me the most about the Memory Tree project was the parallel

and families achieve while in our program and the growth they will see as their plants thrive with their care and nourishment," said Dr. Twila Taylor, chief of Clinical Services for Highridge Family Center. Highridge Family Center is a therapeutic residential center for at-risk youth ages 11 to 16 years young. The treatment team includes a clinical director, behavioral specialists, therapists and nurses, and provides comprehensive supportive services to these young people and their families, so they may work through their challenges at home, school, with peers, and in their communities. During FPL's Week of Giving and Memory Trees' ongoing Let's Get Growing projects, both organizations donated their time and funding for an organic garden and six planters, one for each dormitory, to our center. The FPL volunteers constructed the six planters and weeded the old garden adjacent to the commercial kitchen, then re-sodded and re-planted it to prepare for the new growing season.

After being placed in water, the "magic pellets" swelled up, offering a rich moist base for planting a seed. The junior botanists carefully planted their pinto beans into the expanded biodegradable peat pots, for nurturing; some even marked their territory with wood chips. Items planted in the three garden beds include mature pineapple, sweet basil, cabbage, collard greens, sweet peppers, zucchini, lettuce, tomatoes, eggplant, and herbs such as rosemary, thyme and oregano. The Food Service manager and staff of the kitchen care for their garden, while the youths tend to their six planters (one beside each house). Food Service Manager Mary Lesson makes her own salad dressing from seasonings and camouflages the greens in smoothies. She challenges the youth to identify what ingredients are in the drinks. Some can't believe that spinach and avocado could taste so delicious. Nutritious yummy programming is an ideal way for young people to learn how taking care of something (other than themselves) can pay lasting dividends. Youth can learn to grow their own fresh vegetables and herbs in limited spaces like apartments or college dorms. In addition to patience, the youth learned about collaboration. "I feel good. I'm responsible. My plant is growing. I water it every day," said one proud Highridge resident. Another said, "I learned people are helpful. The volunteers took time and energy to help us." While some Highridge youth keep gardens at home, a majority had never gotten their hands dirty, and all wanted to incorporate more of this "outside-the-classroom" instruction. As I observe them awaiting evidence of their seeds' growth, it occurred to me that I am doing the same thing -- awaiting their growth and sprouting in the same way they are awaiting the sprouting of the seeds they planted.



Highridge Family Center Planting Seeds of Responsibility

Youth Services Trains for Results



Natalie Diaz and James Green, National Certified ROMA Trainers, provide instruction.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)

"To Strengthen and expand the existing National Peer to Peer Network"

On November 18 and 19, the Youth Services Department conducted training on Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) for more than 30 participants. Representatives from Youth Services, Community Services, Communities in Schools, Prime Time of PBC, Urban Youth Impact, Goodwill, Aspira and the City of Pahokee participated in this 16 hour training. ROMA is a complete management and accountability process that focuses on the outcomes achieved as a result of an agency's activities. The workshop uses concepts from the world renowned

management consultant and educator, Peter Drucker and Dr. Reginald Carter, author of *The Accountable Agency* to train participants on the development of a mission statement, community needs assessment and logic model. ROMA explores each component of the logic model and teaches participants how to improve program performance through better planning and analysis. It provides instruction on ways to strategically align program activities and outcomes with the needs of the community. It also educates participants on ways to use industry standards to measure performance and calculate return on investment.



Representatives from Community Services present their logic model.



Representatives from Youth Services Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division present their logic model.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County (BGCPBC) seeks to partner with Palm Beach County to deliver the Summer 2015 Teen Employment Initiative to participants of its *Job Start to Job Smart* program. Launched in

2013, *Job Smart to Job Start*

provides a two-pronged approach through each foundational training that imparts knowledge and skills that prepare teens to compete for jobs and succeed in the workplace and employment opportunities at the BGCPBC whereby the teens gain real work experience in Printing and Graphics; Food Service, Sports Officiating, Clerical Support, or as a Counselor-in-Training.



James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, poses with youth who were employed with the Teen Employability Program with the Boys and Girls Club.



James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, poses with youth who were employed with the Teen Employability Program with the Boys and Girls Club.

This project seeks to engage current teen members, ages 16-18, who are already participating in *Job Smart to Job Start* and BGCPBC alumni through age 22 who are returning home for the summer break from college and seeking employment at the BGCPBC as means to explore youth development and/or BGCPBC careers. Participants will gain employment experience; increased employability; knowledge of post-secondary education opportunities in fields of interest; and interpersonal competencies that enhance job readiness and the pursuit of career aspirations, including time management and self-esteem.

Teen Employability Program



Youth Services Department participated in an Anti-bullying Conference hosted by PBC School

Youth Enrichment Center (YEC) have elections to choose their Youth/Teen Advisory Council members.



Tony Spaniol, Director of Residential Treatment & Family Counseling, receives pumpkins donated by the County Attorney's office donated Lynn Reilly.



Youth Services Department participated in the annual Back To School Bash

James Green, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, enjoying the YSD Fitness Expo



Youth Services Department In Action

Welcome Youth Services Department New Employees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Division</u>
JULY		
Tiffany Dent	Sr. Clerk Typist	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
AUGUST		
Keianna Williams	Program Coordinator	Outreach and Community Programming
SEPTEMBER		
Amanda Terrell	Psychologist	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
Aline Jesus Rafi	Program Evaluator	Youth Services
Gregory Gabriel	Planner I	Outreach and Community Programming
OCTOBER		
Carlisa Andrews	On-Call Juvenile Residential Tech.	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
Katherine Breeden	Licensed Family Therapist	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
NOVEMBER		
Sherry Moesly	On-Call Professional	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
Melinda Simon	Licensed Practical Nurse	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
DECEMBER		
Nohemi Medrano	Family Therapist	Residential & Treatment Family Counseling
Geeta Loach-Jacobson	Sr. Program Specialist	Outreach and Community Programming