

YSD Scoop!



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Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



MBK Race to Equity Conference

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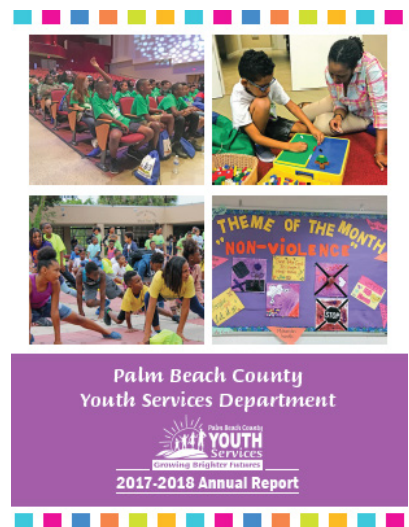
Youth Services Releases 2017-2018 Annual Report

The Youth Services Department released its 2017-2018 Annual Report.

The department has made remarkable progress in the delivery of direct services, funding community based agencies, and collaborating with the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures alliance.

"I experience a great sense of pride and gratitude. Pride in all that has been accomplished, and gratitude for everyone who makes it happen for the benefit of the youth in Palm Beach County."

- Tammy Fields, Director



To view the annual report, please visit pbcgov.com/youthservices.

MBK's 2019 Race to Equity Summit



My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Network, in partnership with Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, hosted the 2019 Race to Equity Summit February 20th-21st at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. The summit exceeded established goals and objectives aligned with the theme *Facing, Embracing and Leading with Equity*. For two days, more than 500 attendees, including 108 youth from 14 middle and high schools, along with local and national speakers, engaged in dialogue regarding racial inequities, structural and systemic barriers that adversely impact youth and young adults of color.

Among the speakers were Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard, Palm Beach County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker, Youth Services Department Director Tammy Fields, Chief of Clinical Services at Highridge Family Center Twila Taylor, Psy.D., Director of Community Services Department James Green, Deputy Director of Housing and Economic Sustainability Department Sherry Howard, Criminal Justice Commission Director Kristina Henson, youth and a plethora of others.

The summit opened with Keynote Speaker Jane Elliott, anti-racism activist, educator, feminist, and LGBTQ+ activist, followed by plenaries, 18 breakout sessions, a youth centric engagement session, and cultural arts performances led for the most part by our greatest asset, our youth. Youth expressed themselves through spoken word, dance, music, and martial arts. Our dynamic Future Leaders were involved under the leadership of Chilondra Sheppard and

Reginald Hayes. They ensured guests were welcomed and had an enjoyable experience. Attendees were engaged in dialogue through various sessions and an interactive mobile app, which fostered tremendous networking, social media interactions, conversation, resource sharing, a photo contest, and summit feedback surveys.

The summit provided a transformative learning experience that was truly a team effort with Ike Powell leading the way, several Youth Services Department staff participating on the team, support from Youth Services and County leadership, My Brother's Keeper Network, Birth to 22, Future Leaders, sponsors, community leaders and volunteers. Kudos to all!

Attendance Day 1 and 2

- 425 attendees checked in
- 365 downloaded the app (86%)
- 28 youth volunteers/ 15 were Future Leaders
- 80 youth participants
- 108 total youth participation

Most Attended Breakout Sessions

- *White People's Anti-racist Responsibilities*
- *A Culture of Stigma*
- *Race, Poverty and Educational Equity*

Mobile Race to Equity Glades Area Schools

The Race to Equity Youth Engagement team under the leadership of Ike Powell and the support of Chilondra Sheppard, Reginald Hayes, Gus Wessel and Marsha Guthrie (Children's Services Counsel), in collaboration with Glades area leadership and schools, hosted a half-day summit at Lake Shore Middle School in Belle Glade on February 22nd. The Mobile Race to Equity event was an extension of the larger 2019 Race to Equity Summit providing additional opportunity for our Glades area youth.

Attendees included students representing the various Glades area schools, School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) regional leadership, School Board member Marcia Andrews, Belle Glade Mayor Steve Wilson, South Bay Mayor Joe Kyles, Pahokee Mayor Keith Babb, and other civic and community leaders along with support from our Summit Youth Engagement sub-committee. The session kicked-off with the Drum Line from K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary School, followed by Crossroads Academy Principal's Role Model Ensemble. Two of our summit national speakers (Dwayne Bryant and SaulPaul) facilitated a high energy and engaging session including very candid racial equity dialogue with the students.

Both student and adult attendees expressed their gratitude for the session, the high quality, engaging speakers and their relevant message to the Glades area. A special thanks to the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department for their support for this event.

Belle Glade Attendance Day 3

- 142 youth attendees



"On behalf of the students in the Glades Region, THANK YOU for including us in the Mobile Race to Equity Summit. It was AMAZING! I learned alongside our students. It appeared our students enjoyed it just as much as we did"

- Angela Avery-Moore, Regional Superintendent, SDPBC Glades Region

Future Leader Spotlight



Future Leaders United for Change member, Michaela Thomas, 13, was invited to speak with the Democratic Women's Club of Florida at the Capitol building in Tallahassee on March 5th. Michaela demonstrated her leadership skills and ability to engage her audience while discussing the motives behind why she's lobbying for equality. Invoking cheers among the crowd, "I'm a 13-year-old, I'm an African American, I'm a female, and I'm a lobbyist." It is clear that Michaela, who aspires to be a judge, is taking the necessary steps to ensure that not only her future is filled with equality, but the future for those who have been impacted by inequality will be provided with equal rights, equal pay, and equal opportunity. Michaela, along with many other youth from Future Leaders recently participated in the Race to Equity Summit. Future Leaders is the voice of youth as part of the Birth to 22 alliance.

County of the Year



The Florida Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Foundation selected Palm Beach County as the 2018 County of the Year in recognition and appreciation for "unwavering support of the Florida GAL Program." The County supported the program in various ways including funding of staffing needs, a visitation center and providing training on trauma informed care.

Team PBC Golden Palm Awards



Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department Director, and Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist, were each presented with a prestigious 2018 Golden Palm Award by our County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker on October 18th. Palm Beach County has been recognized as a leader in youth services as a direct result of Tammy's work. Ike collaborated with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management to recruit and interview candidates for the Green Futures Summer Internship Program.

Fair Housing: A Rainbow Of Neighbors

The Fair Housing Contest's purpose is to create awareness among youth along with the importance of fair housing, and of providing equal opportunities to all people regardless of their race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, marital status and gender identity or expression. It also aims to educate youth about problems relating to housing discrimination and elicit their thoughts and suggestions on ways to solve the problem through artistic expression.

Sean Martinez, 15, enjoys expressing himself through creative and artistic means such as writing lyrics and poems.

*What I'm asking for is the simplest simplicity
Please do not worry about my ethnicity
I've got enough money to pay electricity
Neighbors relentless on tryna get rid of me*

*I'm just trying to compete in the race
But they stomp me down every time I'm in first place
Rainbow of housing that's my flag cause I'm gay
But I can't have pride because they see me in a different way
No matter what we're all just tryna to get a plate*

*Landlord came to fix the dryer with a vest on
Feeling threatened cause I had a turban for my head on
Kind of like my dig when he had the color red on
Being ridiculed for something basic now he's dead gone
So I paid a professional to fix it now the money for the rents gone
Estrogen flowing through my body so you think I can't pay the rent*

*I know a lot of independent women who can protest
Discriminated for my sex even though I'm cashing checks*

-Sean Martinez



WPB Mayor's Village Action Plan



The West Palm Beach Mayor's Village Initiative (MVI) Action Plan was launched on February 12th through a press conference and various Community Conversation events. Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist and MBK Task Force Leader participated in these events and contributed to the development of the action plan. Ike along with Police Chief Sarah Mooney co-chaired the crime prevention and intervention workgroups to form an action plan. The MVI Action Plan targets three neighborhood areas and focuses on improving life outcomes for young African American males in five strategic pillars: crime prevention and intervention; re-entry and the criminal justice system; employment and training; education; and health. These pillars align with the Birth to 22 collective impact efforts and My Brother's Keeper (MBK) strategies.

Sanctuary Training



In preparation for certification, Highridge staff met with our national consultant November 5th-6th. During the visit, focus groups were conducted to test Sanctuary knowledge, find out more about how the implementation is progressing, and discuss areas where the program could be even further developed. The visit consisted of counselor and therapist interviews, group therapy observations, meeting with families and clients, as well as a comprehensive review of implementation standards.

Strategic Planning Workshop

How does Youth Services engage employees to help drive its strategy?

On February 27th, the Director of Strategic Planning and Performance Management, Dr. Keith Clinkscale held a 3-hour workshop to help answer that question.

The workshop leveraged some of the great work Youth Services has done. A new Mission Statement was developed, while the Vision Statement and Core Values were discussed, solidified and confirmed.

As Dr. Clinkscale explained, many organizations have strategies, but few drive implementation by getting everyone involved. Strategy is facilitated top down, but implementation is bottom up. That said, Department Director Tammy Fields took on the challenge, got her leadership team involved and assigned “Metrics Czar,” Program Evaluator Marlene Etienne, to facilitate the initiative.

Another take away from the workshop included how employee engagement can be accomplished and help to transform the department with the active participation of Action Teams focused on driving the vision, mission, goals, and performance metrics of the department. These teams, facilitated by Ms. Etienne in collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Division, will be made up of employees in the department. Empowered employees will drive internal changes, have the opportunity to be heard and to make a difference.

Youth Services is taking strategy to another level!



Strategy is facilitated top down, but implementation is bottom up.

- Dr. Keith Clinkscale



Broken Places Viewing Events



The Broken Places documentary focuses on how trauma that children experience early on can impact the outcome of their adult lives. The viewing sessions, which were held at multiple locations throughout the County earlier this year, featured two YSD staff members. Clara Hessing, Youth and Family Counseling Therapist, and Dr. Loren Berry, Education Center Psychologist, engaged with audience members during a panel discussion and open Q & A.

CBA Spotlight: Urban Youth Impact



1. What is your mission?

Urban Youth Impact exists to love, equip and empower inner-city youth to fulfill their God-given purpose.

2. What does your organization do?

Urban Youth Impact (UYI) serves nearly 250 youth weekly with afterschool programs featuring educational enrichment and job-readiness training while building lasting mentoring relationships. An additional 270 youth are impacted weekly through collaborations with community partners. On an annual basis, we impact over 2,500 at-risk, inner-city youth and their parents with our comprehensive programming and community outreach events. UYI help youth develop critical life skills to avoid juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, child abuse/domestic violence, and school dropout.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

In addition to focused literacy and servant leadership programming in *The Leadership Academy (TLA)*, our K-8 children are exposed to arts and sciences enrichment through our *SMART (Science Meets Art)* program. Mentoring and leadership development continues for high schoolers through our *Reframe* program. High school youth participate in self-discovery, college and career preparation, and internships. Our *Summer Jam* program, which is focused on literacy, science, and arts is the perfect antidote to the “summer slide.” The program is for up-to 90 kids over a seven week period. UYI’s day camp incorporates outdoor games, arts, crafts, field trips, and educational and spiritual

enrichment for children entering 2nd grade through 9th grade. Priority is given to students enrolled in TLA. We now deliver programming from 9-4pm, Monday-Friday.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

UYI serves children who live in the Tamarind Avenue corridor and surrounding neighborhoods as well as Riviera Beach. Regions served by UYI are among the most at-risk in Palm Beach County. Nearly two-thirds of kids in our communities are reading below grade level. Research shows students who lack proficient reading skills by fourth grade are at a higher risk of struggling academically and even dropping out of school. Low literacy rates are also linked to other consequences affecting UYI communities, such as poverty and crime. These kids are continuously exposed to poor life choices and dangerous activities. Access to safe and affordable afterschool programming is limited and desperately needed.

Regular participation in quality afterschool programs results in better decisions, improved work habits, grades, and higher graduation rates. UYI seeks to mobilize resources in response to lack of safe, quality and affordable afterschool programs for inner-city youth. UYI addresses the needs of youth by providing quality evidence-based programming for children in grades K-12.

5. What is your agency's focus for 2019?

Increasing reading scores in TLA, bolstering our investment in staff development, and promoting greater levels of student led programming and leadership.

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

Recognizing that early reading skills measured at school entry are statistically significant predictors of later reading and achievement, TLA has introduced an intensive early phonics and comprehension intervention for K-2nd grade students. TLA's *Headsprout* curriculum is computer-based and specially designed for younger readers. Funding from YSD helps us serve 15 K-1st grade children with group literacy lessons or reading tutoring to supplement school-provided instruction. Participants receive assistance with homework and academic enrichment. Specially trained staff spend between 1.5 to 3 hours per week with small groups of 3-6 students, providing enrichment until their reading levels reach those of other students in the class.

YSD funding also supports UYI's *Reframe* program serving inner-city teens and young adults. Students gain an understanding of basic job-skills (from resume writing, dressing for success to workplace etiquette, and importance of being on time), have a better sense of the careers in which they would have most success, and earn income while learning. Youth and young adults broaden their perspective in terms of developing themselves, working effectively with others, and understanding the importance of giving back to the community. Disconnected youth participating in UYI's *Reframe* program have a new attitude about the value of work and the personal attributes it will take to gain and keep meaningful employment.

For more information about *Urban Youth Impact*, please visit www.urbanyouthimpact.com.

Jayde

When Jayde started in our program in September, she knew that the letter "J" was in her name, but could not tell me the letter name. She would tell me "Jayde" when she saw the letter. I knew I had my work cut out for me with Jayde. Here was a 5-year-old who knew none of her letters or sounds, could hardly write a letter that looked like a "J," plus had several physical challenges. I set a goal for myself that by the end of the year she would not only be able to tell me the letters in her name, but also write them. I was able to have a couple of volunteers who worked with her on a regular basis and I made time to work with her one-on-one to be sure she reached my goal.

By April, Jayde could write her name and tell me the names of all the letters in the WHOLE alphabet when she sees them. If she is unsure of a letter's name, she can usually figure it out if given the letter sound. She is even beginning to read some words. I am so pleased with her progress and growth. She has surpassed my expectations and for that I am very proud of her. Her dream was bigger than mine.

*With Gratitude,
Sarah Pennell
Kindergarten Team Leader*

Mentoring Month Proclamation



On January 8th, Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard presented a proclamation declaring January as Mentoring Awareness month in Palm Beach County. The proclamation was received by Director Tammy Fields and Senior Program Specialist Ike Powell. In addition, on separate occasions several City Commissions including Belle Glade, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Pahokee, and the Town of Magnolia Park presented proclamations declaring January as Mentoring Awareness month.

Youth of the Year



Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County held their 5th Annual Youth of the Year Dinner at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa on February 28th. Among the judges for the Youth of the Year was our Youth Services Director Tammy Fields. Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County members nominated for this distinguished award demonstrate exceptional contributions to family, their school, community and their Boys & Girls Club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles. Youth of the Year nominees inspire fellow members to excel in academics and lead healthy lifestyles.

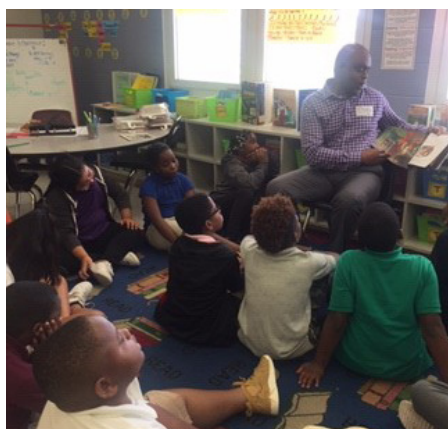
Kalayah Samuels



The Boys & Girls Club has opened my eyes to furthering my education post high school and given me a chance to participate in college tours and community events. It has given me that family bond I felt I was missing.

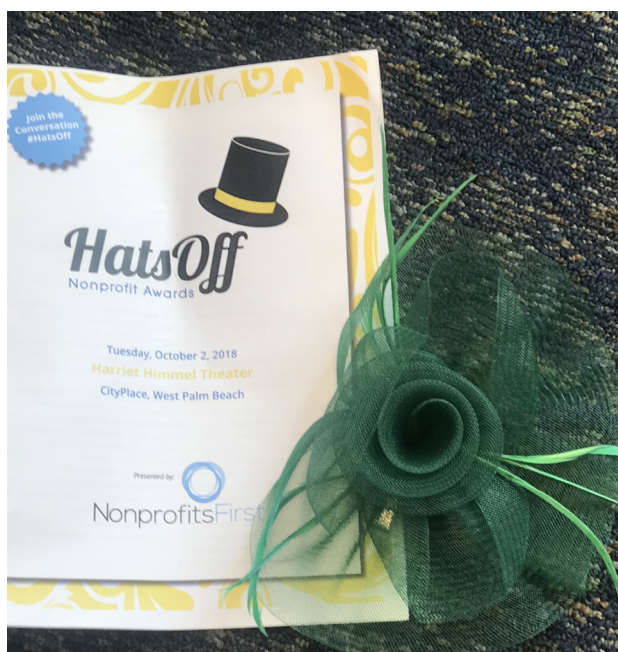


Delray Reads Day



Reading is fundamental to a student’s education, overall literacy skills and life outcomes. For the third consecutive year, Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist, participated in the annual “Delray Reads Day” promoting literacy on November 7th at Village Academy by reading to students and encouraging them to read more.

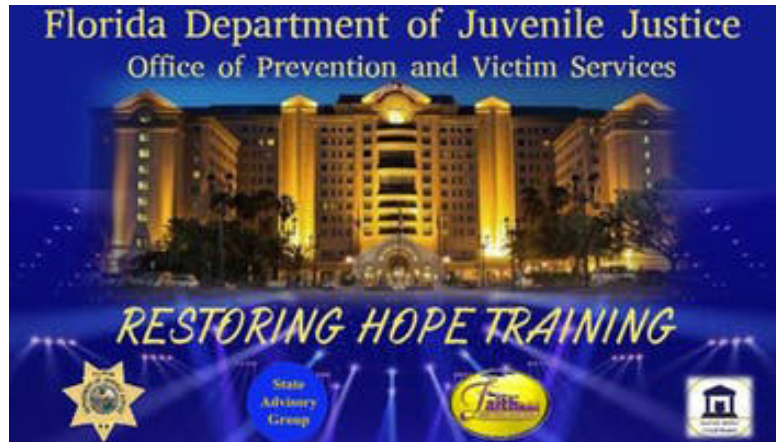
Award Nominees



The Get Your Green On campaign was a nominee at the 2018 Hats Off Nonprofit Awards held on October 2nd at the Harriet Himmel Theater in West Palm Beach. Two of the County funded Community Based Agencies won in their categories. Digital Vibez won for Small Non-Profit and Center for Child Counseling won for Medium Non-Profit.

Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Trauma Informed Action Team was nominated for an award at the 2018 Community Inclusion Awards held on October 10th. The Community Inclusion Awards celebrates those helping and showing support for the special needs community.

Restoring Hope Training Summit



The 2018 Restoring Hope Training Summit was held October 30th-31st in Orlando, Florida. The aim of the summit is to improve professional development and community engagement through effective prevention and intervention strategies. Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department Director, presented a workshop on "Creating and Implementing a Community Youth Master Plan." The session focused on the development of the Palm Beach County Youth Master Plan called "Strengthening the Steps to Success." Topics included: community conversations to prioritize community need, targeting funding to establish priorities, data collection and evaluation, and creating youth leaders.

Mentor Recruitment Lunch & Learn



My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Network in partnership with United Way's Mentor Center held a Mentor Recruitment Lunch & Learn event on December 12th at the Town Center Cafe in Pahokee. Ike Powell, MBK Task Force Leader along with Gary Graham, Senior Director United Way Mentor Center, and Herbert Crawford, Glades area MBK Ambassador collaborated on the event. Municipal and community leaders from all three Glades tri-cities attended along with representatives from mentoring agencies.

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself"

-Oprah Winfrey

Halloween Wrap Up

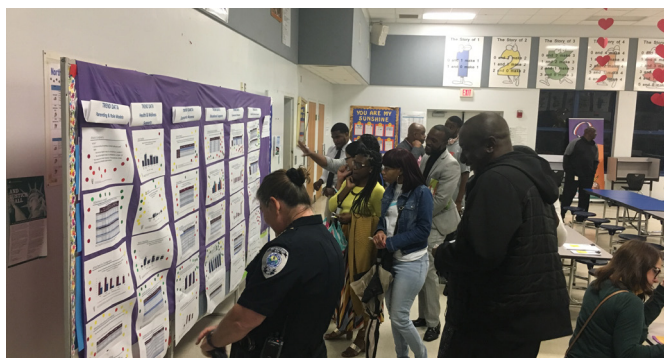
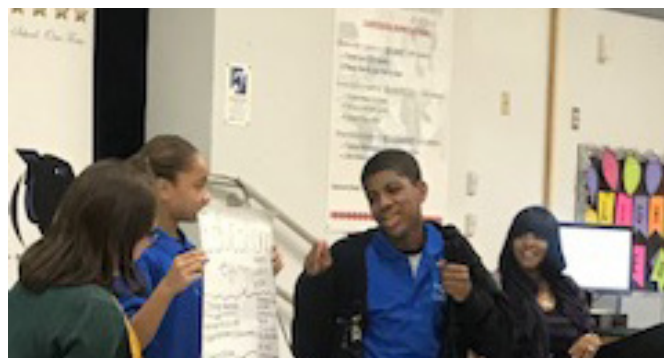


On October 18th, Palm Beach County’s Youth Services Department and Purchasing Department held a spooktacular afternoon of fun benefitting United Way of Palm Beach County. The event featured a pumpkin decorating contest and a Halloween themed bake sale. The contest included prizes for best small pumpkin, large pumpkin, and best costume. For individual pumpkin winners included 3rd Place: “Pumpkin Pi” – Gus Wessel, Youth Services Department 2nd Place: “The Great Pumpkin Patch” – Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Youth Services Department 1st Place: “Finding Nemo” – Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department. For individual pumpkin winners included 3rd Place: “Miss Piggy Pumpkin” – Purchasing Department, Admin Section 2nd Place: “The Nightmare Before Christmas (Jack Skellington)” – Facilities Development and Operations, Fleet Management 1st Place: “Pumpkin in the Everglades” - Facilities Development and Operations.



The Highridge Family Center staff showed off their festive spirit by wearing their Halloween costumes on October 31st.

Community Conversations



The Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures alliance set out to make sure all young people in Palm Beach County have the chance to thrive as children and succeed as adults. The voices of children, youth and adults are vital to implementing the Youth Master Plan and ensuring that a difference is made in our community. Continuing the Community Conversation provides individuals the chance to help shape the future of youth in Palm Beach County by joining in on the discussions that impact their lives. On January 17th, Community United Methodist Church hosted the Community Conversation in Belle Glade. A Community Conversation hosted by BRIDGES also took place at Northmore Elementary School on March 19th. Over 70 attendees had the opportunity to make their voice count.

Aspira Annual Conference



Ike Powell, My Brother's Keeper Task Force Leader, was recruited by his Mentee to participate as a workshop facilitator along with other leaders at the Aspira Annual Muchachas and Muchachos Conference held on March 22nd at Palm Beach State College. Ike facilitated a workshop on the topic of self-esteem to middle and high school male attendees and challenged them to embrace a daily self-empowerment pledge.

CHS Visitation Center



The Children's Home Society of Florida supervises 1,600 children with roughly 1,000 being in out-of-home placement requiring visitation services and other services from the Department of Children and Families working towards permanency for the children, either by reunification, permanent guardianship or adoption. The Visitation Center aims to provide quality and more regular visitation to children removed from their parents and involved in the child welfare system. Alliances with other community members and local universities offer supplementary interventions and supports to quality visitation between parents and their children. On average, 70 families are served monthly with approximately 400 visits a month. Typically, children removed from their homes will achieve permanency in under 12 months, and youth who achieve permanency will not experience re-abuse, verified or indicated, within 6 months of termination of services. The creation of the Visitation Center was a private and public collaboration including funding from Palm Beach County.



"Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate on such an important initiative. Our partnership on our new Visitation Center will help us serve families in a home-like environment that helps give our families dignity, increases normalcy and enhances the families' overall experience. The Visitation Center will also be an environment where caregivers, foster parents, relatives and non-relatives can feel comfortable being a part of the visitation process"

- Nicole Slade, Director of Program Operations, Children's Home Society

ASD Mental Health Convening



On February 8th, the FAU Card program convened mental health professionals to discuss the specific concerns of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their mental health concerns. Tammy Fields presented on the availability of counseling services through Youth Services, the need for summer camps for children with special needs and the coordinated efforts of Birth to 22.

Mental Health Community Education Exchange



On November 28th, Boca Raton's Promise and the Action Alliance hosted a Mental Health Education Exchange event at Palm Beach State College to allow community professionals to exchange information on what is happening in mental health in our community. Tammy Fields presented on the activities of the Youth Services Department and the coordinated efforts of the Birth to 22 Trauma Informed Action Team.

"We don't heal in isolation, but in community."

-S. Kelly Harrell

YSD Holiday Breakfast



YSD celebrated the holiday season with a pot-luck breakfast! Staff members also participated in a Secret Santa gift exchange! Throughout the week the YSD team got into the holiday spirit by placing gifts for their selected partner throughout the office. At the staff breakfast held on December 20th, each person had the opportunity to reveal who their partner was for the gift exchange.

Anniversary Celebration



On January 7th, YSD held their 4th Annual Holiday Employee Recognition & Anniversary Celebration to honor the childhood memories that make up our department. As part of the “holiday memories” theme, employees were encouraged to bring in pictures that reminded them of their favorite holiday memories. The celebration also featured the game “Oven Mitt Unwrap.” This hilarious game requires a person to unwrap gifts with oven mitts on their hands until their teammate rolls doubles on a pair of dice. A White Elephant gift exchange took place where each employee had the opportunity to select a gift and make the choice of “trading” with another employee. A special thanks to the events committee members Donna Elliott, Stacey King and Gus Wessel and to McCray’s BBQ for catering the event.

Birth to 22 Trauma Action Team

Elaheh “Ely” Niroomand is currently enrolled in the MD/Ph.D. program at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. On October 3rd, Ely launched her Capstone Project titled Adverse Childhood Experiences and Health. The presentation, which won a Hero in Medicine award, provides medical professionals with the importance of assessing adults using the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) assessment as a means to determine the effects on adult health. In addition, the presentation provides physicians insights for specific populations.



Ely Niroomand, MD/MPH Candidate 2019

To view the presentation, visit pbcbirthto22.com/trauma.

Out & About



YSD staff from the Education Center along with Highridge Family Center participated on the Palm Beach County team at the Palm Beach County Heart Walk on October 17th.



Dr. Loren Berry presented “Understanding & Responding to Bullying” at Florida’s Developmental Disabilities Conference on November 9th. More than 50 Attorneys, mental health and medical professionals, educators, parents and persons with developmental disabilities were in attendance.



The 15th Annual Turn on the Light National Conference on the Wellbeing of Children & Families took place on October 23rd with representatives from Residential Treatment & Family Counseling Division attending.



Chilondra Sheppard, Donna Elliott and Mary Lesson joined Director Tammy Fields for the first “Tea with Tammy” on February 13th.



Gary Blake Sr., Director of the Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center, was honored as a Hometown Hero during the South Florida Fair parade. Gary positively impacts the YEC Program, its services and students in the Glades community.



Natalie Macon, Tanya Tibby, Seth Bernstein, Kevin McCormick, and Michael Kane attended the 25th Annual Advancing School Mental Health Conference in Las Vegas, NV on October 11th.



The Family Engagement Night in Belle Glade held on October 11th, included sessions on activities to support learning at home, a presentation on Choice Programs and online resources.



In support of the United Way Campaign, YSD staff led the *Smarter Than a Third Grader... (but not by much)* team in the 4th Annual Greatest Palm Beach County Trivia Challenge on October 17th placing second.



Kimberly Perez and Stephanie Smith, both of Youth and Family Counseling, participated in the 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Festival on November 27th in Belle Glade.



Residents of Highridge Family Center visited Benzaiten Center in Lake Worth as part of the Norton's Afterschool Arts Outreach program. Residents created glass-blown paper weights.

Q&A with Amanda Terrell

At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This newsletter, we're featuring Amanda Terrell, Licensed Psychologist. As part of the Highridge Family Center team, Amanda implements trauma-informed interventions and techniques using the Sanctuary Model. This includes data collection, staff training, and engaging staff at all levels of the program. She also supervises psychology practicum students, interns, and fellows placed at the site.



1. Where is your hometown?

Richmond, Virginia

2. What was your first job?

I worked in a bridal shop. We tried on all the dresses after closing time.

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

Residential work is intensive and fast-paced. To be successful in this environment you need a relentlessly positive attitude, great time management, and the ability to see multiple perspective.

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

The best part is getting to see the transformation of youth and families firsthand. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my amazing team of colleagues though. I get to grow, learn, and laugh with great people every day I go to work.

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

One of my favorites is a mom who gave a graduation speech that took us through her parenting journey as a young mother and how she prayed for a place like Highridge. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

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

Spending time with family and friends, working out, cooking, caring for my two dogs, and preparing for our baby boy due in July.

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

Patience is key!

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

I am starting to plan our next vacation to Portugal and France. After that...Australia.

9. What is your favorite quote?

"Write all of life's injuries in sand and its kindness in marble." - French Proverb

10. Who or what inspires you?

My dad. He came from humble beginnings and lost his own dad at a young age. He has become successful over the years and has always supported my passions and goals (no matter how crazy they seemed). He is more of a quiet guy, but when he speaks everyone listens.

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

I graduated college at 20-years-old - I originally wanted to become a lawyer and planned to attend law school at Loyola. I cancelled at the last minute to work for a Congressman. And now here I am, not practicing law and not working in politics.

Welcome Aboard!



Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between October 1st & March 31st



Employee	Position	Division
Nilda Quirindongo	Secretary	RTFC
Wilna Triche (Medastin)	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Sheraine Wong	Residential Youth Counselor	RTFC
Erin Baker	Communications Specialist	FCA
Leslie Roman	Seasonal Paraprofessional	RTFC
Natacha Jacinte	Seasonal Paraprofessional	RTFC
Andrea White	Licensed Family Therapist	RTFC
Eryan Burrs	Student Clerical	OCP

Promotions



Gabriel Munoz
Licensed Family Therapist
RTFC

Stephanie Jones
Court Case Advisor
RTFC

Sherron King-Hill
Family Therapist
RTFC

Youth Services



Our Mission

What we desire and intend for our youth

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.



Our Vision

What we aim to achieve

Empowering youth and families to realize their full potential and be the driving force of a thriving community.



Our Values

What we stand for



Diversity and Equity



Compassion and Empathy



Open-mindedness



Commitment



Respect

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 Communications
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!



pbcyouthservices



PBCYSD



PBCYSD

Youth Services Department Director

Tammy K. Fields

Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services

Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming

Geeta Loach-Jacobson

Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling

Dr. Tony Spaniol

Editor/Graphics

Erin Baker



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners