



Palm Beach County  
Youth Services Department  
Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division  
Education and Training Center



# Advocating for Clients on a Macro Level: How Therapists Can Influence Public Policy Changes

Presented by Monica Mendes, M.A.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

9:30 am - 11:30 am

**\*Location: Zoom Remote Video Conference\***

Once registration is confirmed, link to access the training will be provided

**Registration Fee:**

There is no cost associated with this presentation

**Continuing Education:**

2 CE credits will be offered

**Registration Link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DRJQDL>

*If you have trouble accessing the survey, please copy the link and paste it directly into your browser.*

Registration closes at 3:00 pm on May 3, 2022

## Description:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead. Public policy is how governments take action to solve problems that affect the population through various laws and regulations (CDC, 2019; Cochran & Malone, 2014; Kilpatrick, 2000). It is the built-in, unseen framework to all of our lives, and can be the key to changing some of the most complex problems in our society such as healthcare disparities, poverty, criminal justice reform, and issues of abuse and neglect (Cochran & Malone, 2014). In order to best advocate for our clients, mental health professionals must utilize their expertise to evoke change on the policy level to improve the health and wellbeing of our clients for generations to come. Mental health professionals require the necessary training in order to step confidently into this role. This intermediate presentation will define public policy and community-based interventions, and the impact of public policies on children, adolescents, and their families from a multi-systemic perspective. It will also provide ways in which therapists can advocate for their clients through influencing public policy and implementing community based interventions to best meet the mental health needs of children, adolescents, and their families on the macro level.

## Learning Objectives:

- 1) Define public policy and community-based intervention.
- 2) Describe the impact of public policies on children, adolescents, and their families from a multi-systemic perspective.
- 3) Identify how mental health professionals can influence public policy and implement community-based interventions to meet the mental health needs of children, adolescents, and their families on the macro level.

## Presenter:



**Monica Mendes, M.A.** earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology at Boston University. She earned her master’s degree from William James College and is on track to graduate with her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology this coming June. Ms. Mendes has considerable experience in treating children and families grappling with PTSD, suicidal ideation, non-suicidal self-injury, and mood dysregulation. She previously received clinical training at Cambridge Health Alliance as a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School as well as the University of Massachusetts’ Adolescent Continuing Care Unit. Ms. Mendes is currently a doctoral intern with the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, completing her current rotation at the Education and Training Center. She provides individual, family, and group therapy as well as psychological assessments to children and families, and she is currently involved in program development to aid in foster parent retention and influence public policy on a national level. Ms. Mendes is passionate about empowering communities to lead with compassion and to heal together through the shared understanding that we can each profoundly change the lives of one another.

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**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this program is based on methodological, theoretical, research, or practice knowledge base. The program is based on information from professional resources. Limitations of the content being taught are acknowledged, recognizing that there are additional resources available not referred to in this program. There is no commercial support for this program.

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### **Continuing Education Information:**

Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County is also approved to provide continuing education to LCSW's, LMFT's, and LMHC's by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling (Provider # 50-533, expires March 31, 2023).

Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County is approved to provide continuing education to RN's, ARNP's, LPN's and CNA's by the Florida Board of Nursing (Provider # 50-533, expires October 31, 2022).

**In order to receive Continuing Education credits, you must complete an electronic evaluation form. A link to the form will be provided to you at the conclusion of the training. You must include your name and license number. Certificates will be emailed once receipt of your evaluation form has been confirmed.**

**All mental health professionals will receive two (2) continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.**

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**Space is Limited:** Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first 200 registrants will be able to access the training link.

**What to Bring:** A pen and paper for taking notes. You may wish to use your personal headsets/earbuds for enhanced audio quality.

**Accommodations for the differently abled:** Individuals needing special accommodations, please contact [Cristal Montepeque](#) at (561) 233-4460.

**Registration contact person:** Cristal Montepeque at (561) 233-4460 or [CMontepeque@pbcgov.org](mailto:CMontepeque@pbcgov.org)

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**For information about other Education & Training Center trainings/workshops and clinical services please visit our website at**

[www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter](http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter)

or call (561) 233-4460

## Zoom Instructions

If you have never used Zoom before, you will need to click on the attendee link (below). Once you click join you will be prompted to download and install Zoom. You may also download the Zoom app on a computer or mobile device.

Please register for the webinar and make sure that software is working prior to Wednesday's 9:30 webinar.

### How to Ask Questions During Zoom:

1. Click the Chat icon in the top toolbar.
2. Use the "Send to" drop-down menu to select the recipients of the message.
  - **Everyone** – All participants will see the message in their Chat pane.
  - **Organizer(s) only** – All organizers will see the message in their Chat pane.
  - **Individual attendee** – Only the selected organizer or attendee will receive the private message.
3. Type your message in the text field, then click **Send**.

Please click the link below for more help:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>