

YSD SCOOP!

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YSD CELEBRATES 8TH ANNIVERSARY

Happy Anniversary



Celebrating
EIGHT YEARS
of Serving Youth & Families
in Palm Beach County









On January 3, 2023, Youth Services celebrated its 8th Anniversary. The Seeds of Success Cross-Divisional Action team hosted the anniversary and New Year's celebration at Highridge Family Center. The theme of the 8th anniversary celebration was a red Chinese theme with lanterns, calligraphies, and couplings.

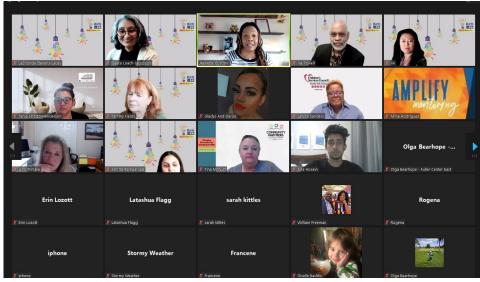
At the event, Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services Department, led the toast celebration for Youth Services being certified department-wide in the Sanctuary Model of Trauma-Informed Care by the Andrus Sanctuary Institute. Dorritt M. Miller, Assistant County Administrator, also joined Youth Services for the event. Staff enjoyed the Sanctuary rebus word game, reindeer games, and lunch.





BIRTH TO 22 HOSTS 2023 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS





The seventh annual Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures taskforce meetings titled 'Engaged Voices for Brighter Futures' was recently facilitated virtually. The annual meeting serves to inform, engage and plan with the key champions, coalitions, and young people about the work of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures. These meetings looked different than years past. This year, it was split into two meetings: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, and Saturday, January 21, 2023.

The goal was to be more accessible for parents and youth by holding an event on the weekend. Participation was incentivized with community service hours or gift cards for youth and parents. This resulted in 100 participants in December and 51 in January. Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist at Youth Services Department (YSD), hosted both events. Geeta Loach-Jacobson, YSD Director of Community Outreach and Programming, and LaNita Sanders, Community Planning and Partnership Lead at the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC), introduced the participants to Birth to 22 and shared videos about the 2022 accomplishments, Future Leaders United for Change, and the Girls Coordinating Council. The December meeting was tailored more towards Birth to 22 members, stakeholders, and community agencies than the January meeting, which focused on obtaining feedback from the youth and families.

In December, Tammy K. Fields, YSD Department Director, and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the CSC, presented the 2022 accomplishments and the benefits of collective impact. Jeannette Gordon, an independent consultant, facilitated breakouts and discussions around the newly identified strategic priorities.

In the 2022 Community Conversations, the community stated that the three most significant areas of need are mental health, economic access, and education. The taskforce meeting served to gather additional information around these strategic priorities. This information will then be used to build the Youth Master Plan 2.0: the blueprint for setting priorities and taking action to improve the lives of children and youth in Palm Beach County.

To stay connected with Birth to 22 and their upcoming events and initiatives, follow them on their Facebook and Instagram pages @Birthto22.



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YSD GOES 'DINO-MYTE' AT 2023 SOUTH FLORIDA FAIR



The Youth Services Department's booth at the South Florida Fair this year was a success!

The theme for this year's fair was "Dino-Myte."

Large groups of families and children were eager to play 'Dinosaur Trivia' when they visited the table in the Expo West building. YSD's Public Relations Specialist, Tevin Ali, and Student Tech Intern, Frederick DuBois, set-up and coordinated YSD staff at the fair from January 13-29. Visitors had the chance to win coloring books, dinosaur games, and stress balls.



YOUTH SERVICES PUBLISHES FY 21-22 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

The Youth Services Department has released its 2021-2022 Annual Impact Report. In eight years, the department has made remarkable progress in the provision of direct services, funding of community-based agencies, and collaboration with youth-serving partners as part of the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures initiative.

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



CROSS-DIVISIONAL ACTION TEAM (CDAT) KICKOFF MEETING 2023

Palm Beach County Youth Services cross-divisional action teams delivered presentations to the leadership team on February 2, 2023.

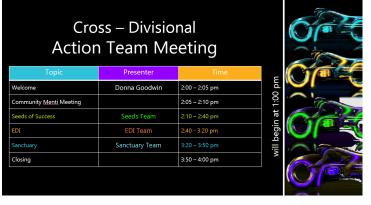
The meeting started with a welcome from Donna Goodwin, Program Evaluator. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Sanctuary, and Seeds of Success teams each successfully presented their goals for the upcoming year. Some of the many goals presented by the teams included planning YSD events to promote cross-divisional interaction and value our diversity, provide a safe and supportive workplace, and continuing quarterly department-wide new employee training and add booster training.











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PBC COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT TRIP

Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services, participated in the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project trip in Montgomery, Alabama, from February 23 to February 25, 2023. Part of this moving experience was moving the soil from the spot where Sam Nelson was lynched in 1927 in Delray Beach to the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum. This jar with the soil will remain at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PALM BEACH COUNTY NAMES 2023 YOUTH OF THE YEAR



At the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's 2023 Youth of the Year Dinner, seven finalists competed for the county title that provided a four-year university scholarship plus room and board from The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation. Alonza Lloyd from Neil S. Hirsch Family Boys & Girls Club of Wellington was named the 2023 Palm Beach County Youth of the Year. The event was record-breaking as it raised \$404K for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County.

The dinner was held at the Hilton West Palm Beach and was the culmination of the event, where the seven finalists gave a three-minute speech. The finalists were selected to represent their Club by a preliminary competition that included a comprehensive application, three essays, three letters of recommendation, and an interview in front

of a panel of judges made up of:

- Hollani Davis, News Anchor with WPTV NBC-5
- Ed Dunn, Vice President, Supply Chain, Carrier Corporation
- Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director, Outreach & Community Programming with Palm Beach County Youth Services
- Ava Parker, President of Palm Beach State College
- Glenda Sheffield, Chief Academic Officer, Palm Beach County School District

The 2023 finalists for Youth of the Year included:

- Lynnshelsie Antoine of Boys & Girls Club of Boca Raton
- Frank Zamor of Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach
- Kelvin Rolle of Florence De George Boys & Girls Club

- Kimberly Pierre of Marjorie S. Fisher Boys & Girls Club
- Eric Wilson of Max M. Fisher Boys & Girls Club
- Alonza Lloyd of Neil S.
 Hirsch Family Boys & Girls Club
 Jada Lovely of Smith
 Moore Family Teen Center

All finalists received a brandnew laptop from Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, a brandnew tablet from K12Print and the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, and a four-year Florida College Scholarship, provided by The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation. " It was an amazing night as these impressive youths wowed the audience with their accomplishment, poise, and personal stories.
All seven individuals perfectly exemplify the spirit of our Clubs as their hard work and dedication to succeed is inspiring."



-Jaene Miranda,
President & CEO of Boys
& Girls Clubs of Palm
Beach County

YSD REPRESENTS AT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOGNITION PICNIC

Palm Beach County Youth Services Staff represented at the County Administrator's Annual Employee Recognition Picnic held on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach.

Great work YSD. Thank you to all our employees for the meaningful work they do each and every day.







YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPRESENTS AT THE 2023 #TEAMPBC EMPLOYEE 5K

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, Youth Services Department and family members attended the 11th Annual Palm Beach County Employee & Family 5K Walk/Run held at John Prince Park.

Great work YSD! #TeamPBC



CHANNEL 20 & YSD PREPARES FOR 'GET YOUR GREEN ON'



Save the Date! Thursday, May 18, 2023, is 'Get Your Green On' (GYGO) Day in support of Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month. Wear green in support of mental health.

Youth Services Department Public Relations Specialist, Tevin Ali, recently worked with the Palm Beach County Channel 20 Team to help promote the campaign.

For more information on 'Get Your Green On' please visit https://pbcbirthto22.com/gygo/.



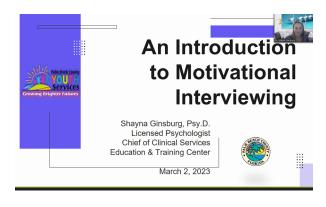
EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER PRESENTATIONS

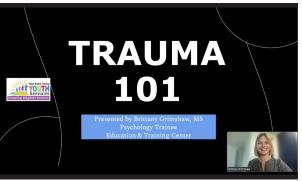
During the second quarter of FY23 the Education and Training Center was invited to present to numerous community agencies and groups on various topics. Brittany Grimshaw, MS, and Shayna Ginsburg, PsyD, presented "Trauma 101" and "An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing," respectively, to Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches.

Allie Picardi presented "Child Abuse Prevention" to school personnel from the Harvey Academy, Brittany Grimshaw presented "Trauma 101" to a guardian ad litem audience, and Danniella Jones, PsyD presented "Fostering Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" to representatives from various non-profit organizations that comprise The Spirit of Giving.

These presentations offered information on important topics and spread the word about the great services provided by YSD.

For flyers on upcoming trainings and recordings of previous trainings, please visit our website at: www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter. To request a training for your organization, please contact Dr. Shayna Ginsburg at sginsbur@pbcgov.org.





YSD YOUTH COUNSELOR COMPLETES SUPERVISOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to Jeff Sinclair, Residential Youth Counselor at Highridge Family Center, who completed the county's Supervisor Apprenticeship Program on March 13, 2023.

Jeff embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly. For six consecutive weeks, Jeff attended classes at 8:30 a.m., extending his workday another 3 to 4 hours, and completed homework assignments that included self-reflection exercises and asking for feedback.

In the words of Jeff, the opportunity allowed him to "learn some things about myself."



HIGHRIDGE 'ART IN THE AFTERNOON'

On January 25, 2023, residents at Highridge Family Center spent an afternoon as guests of the Norton Museum of Art. The field trip was in recognition of Black History Month. Activities included a gallery tour led by a teaching artist, an art workshop, and time in the Sculpture Garden.

The Norton provided transportation and lunch. Participants had such a wonderful time, they immediately began brainstorming ideas for other educational field trips around the county.





COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNER DISCUSSIONS



On February 7, 2023, Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services, and Rachel Clemons, Licensed Therapist, joined the Office of Resiliency and Community Partners in a discussion with Pahokee area residents about Palm Beach County's sustainability and climate change resilience efforts.

Tammy K Fields attended the Community Climate

Change and Resiliency discussion on February 9, 2023, at the Palm Beach County Main Library, supporting the Office of Resiliency.

On February 15, 2023, Rachel Clemons and Tammy Fields attended the Community Sustainability Partner Discussion in Belle Glade.

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YSD SHARES SANCTUARY CERTIFICATION JOURNEY BY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

On January 25, 2023, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department was the featured presenter for the Andrus Sanctuary Institute community conversation, where seventy-five network members attended to hear Tammy K Fields, Director of YSD, discuss the topic "Our Sanctuary Journey: One Size Doesn't Fit All, but Everyone Fits in the Tent."

Tammy shared how the department implemented the Sanctuary model of trauma-informed care in the organization's residential, outpatient, education, diversion, and non-clinical areas. YSD highlighted their practice and experience on how they have successfully integrated the Sanctuary Model into their depart-

ment to the national membership. The event was a great opportunity to practice the commitment to social learning and celebrate YSD's certification with the Sanctuary Community.

A replay of the community conversation is available to view on the Sanctuary Institute website under the free forums link:

https://www.thesanctuaryinstitute.org/past-events/ community-conversation-january-2023/





YSD HONORS 'PINK SHIRT DAY' IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-BULLYING



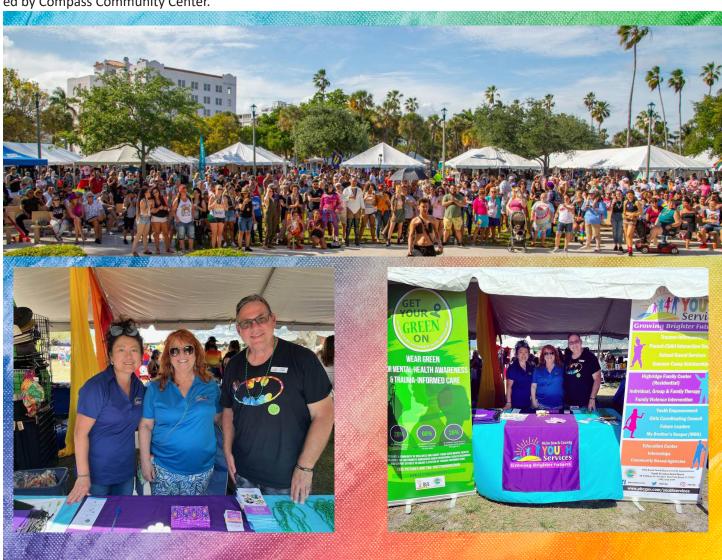
On February 22, 2023, Youth Services participated in 'Pink Shirt Day' or Anti-Bullying Day. It is a day when people come together by wearing pink shirts to school or work to show they are against bullying.

Pink Shirt Day aims to reduce bullying by celebrating diversity in all its forms and supporting workplaces, communities, and schools to be safe, supportive, welcoming, and inclusive of all people.

Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new 10th grade student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. These students bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them to their classmates to wear the next day. The word got out online, and hundreds of students showed up in pink, some from head to toe, to stand together against bullying.

PALM BEACH PRIDE FEST WEEKEND

On March 25 and March 26, 2023, YSD represented at Palm Beach Pride Weekend, held at Bryant Park in Lake Worth, hosted by Compass Community Center.



'PAST TO PRESENT' CULTURAL TOUR

Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Planning, and Tammy K Fields, Director of Youth Services, attended the Past to Present Cultural Tour on February 13, 2023, hosted by the Palm Beach County Community Services Department.

Understanding our history allows for improvements to our future. This experiential learning approach's purpose was to promote community involvement and contribute to a more positive organizational culture.





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BULLYING: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Rachel Clemons, Licensed Therapist, attended the 'Bullying: Let's Talk About It' discussion held at the Boys and Girls Club in Belle Glade.

The event resulted from a young girl committing suicide after being bullied. The community responded by connecting with communi-

ty partners to discuss how these types of situations can be prevented in the future and to inform the community of the services available to the Glades area.

Rachel shared the free therapy resources Palm Beach County Youth Services offers the community.



YSD HONORS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 is International Women's Day, a global recognized day celebrating women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Youth Services staff celebrated the day by making tailored virtual backgrounds.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (CJC) TRAINING

On January 19, 2023, Tammy K Fields, Director of Youth Services, and Tiffany Phillips, Court Case Advisor, conducted a training for the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) titled "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses."

The training focused on women's and men's mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders, and the criminal justice system.



PACE 'BELIEVING IN GIRLS' LUNCHEON

On March 31, 2023, Pace Center for Girls Palm Beach hosted its annual 'Believing in Girls' Empowerment Luncheon at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport. This heartwarming, inspirational and motivational event welcomes 325 of Palm Beach County's most vibrant business and community leaders alongside philanthropists and community partners. Palm Beach County Youth Services staff attended the luncheon.



YSD STUDENT INTERN AND FCAN FELLOW PROMOTES POLICY IN TALLAHASSEE

Achieve Palm Beach County selected YSD's Humberto Sigler, Student Intern, to participate in the 2022-2023 Florida College Access Network (FCAN) Fellowship program.

As an FCAN Fellow, Humberto has developed and grown his advocacy skills and participated in FCAN Advocacy Days in Tallahassee.

On Feb. 7-8, 2023, FCAN hosted its first in-person Advocacy Days at the Florida State Capitol. FCAN's Fellows learned about the key components of advocacy and how to apply these best practices during meetings with legislators. "I got to learn so much about our government and the creation of legislation," Humberto said. "In a small way, I also got to be a part of that process."

With 14 meetings over two days, our fellows were able to connect with the legislators from their communities to advocate for FCAN's advocacy agenda while also discussing the important work of local college access networks.

Congratulations to all of our Fellows for their hard work.

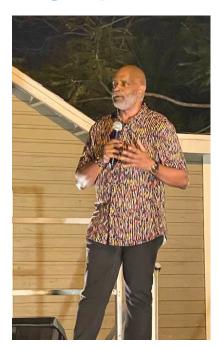




BLACK HISTORY MONTH YOUTH ARTS AWARENESS FESTIVAL

YSD staff Racquel Walford, Residential Youth Counselor, Nicole Ecudero, Residential Youth Counselor, Tammy K Fields, Director of Youth Services, and Tamika Kramer, Grant Compliance Specialist II hosted an information booth at the 2nd Annual Black History Awareness Youth Art Showcase at Spady Museum. Ike Powell, Senior Program Specialist shared remarks at the event.

Young people displayed their visual, spoken word, dance, and musical talents in a funfilled inspirational evening.







LEAD THE FIGHT FROM ACES TO SAFETY

Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services Department, attended the Fighting ACEs breakfast hosted by the Center for Child Counseling on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

The 'Lead the Fight' breakfast attendees heard first-hand how feeling safe is essential to positively addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma.



MARTIN LUTHER KING BRUNCH

On January 16, 2023, Tammy K. Fields attended the Martin Luther King (MLK) Brunch held at St. John Primitive Baptist Church.

Verdenia Baker, Palm Beach County Administrator, gave remarks at the event honoring Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.





FAMILIES FIRST ANNUAL DONORS BREAKFAST

On March 1, 2023, Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services, attended the Families First Annual Donors Breakfast.

Families First thanked all the funders, donors, and guests who attended and for their dedication to supporting their mission.







ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY LUNCHEON

On March 1, 2023, Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services, attended the 3rd Annual Spring Luncheon for Children's Home Society. The event was held at The Colony Palm Beach.

With the community's generosity, more than \$180,000 was raised to benefit the organization's Family Visitation Center.







CBA Q&A: HOUSING PARTNERSHIP PAHOKEE MENTORSHIP

What is your mission?

Community Partners of South Florida (CPSFL) partners with communities to change the odds for children and families facing social, emotional, and financial adversity.

What does your organization do?

Since 1986, CPSFL has helped individuals navigate the intersection of their health and housing needs. Our programs address residents' most pressing issues through a Comprehensive Community Development model. Comprehensive Community Development is an intentional approach to improving lives and strengthening communities.

The Mentoring at Pahokee, a program of CPSFL, is under the community services portion of CPSFL and blends into the CPSFL commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities.

Community Partners of South Florida's mentoring program links children with caring adults who are committed to their social and emotional development.

CPSFL- Mentoring at Pahokee (MPE) offers a fun, safe, and school-based mentoring program supports 25 mentor/mentee matches during afterschool hours

and Saturdays.

What key programs does your organization offer?

We offer these programs and services: Individual and family therapy; Wraparound behavioral and mental health; Schoolbased mental health; Psychiatry; Homeownership counseling and Supportive housing; Financial literacy and coaching; Youth Clubs and School-Based Mentoring Programs; BRIDGES community centers and positive parenting; Child safety education and car seat/helmet giveaways; Health equity and digital inclusion.

How does your agency benefit the community?

Mentoring at Pahokee is part of the model that benefits the children that do not have out-of-school opportunities and can benefit from a positive adult in their lives.

A supportive mentor-mentee relationship can impact the child's success at school, home, and with their peers as they increase their socio-emotional health. Research shows that mentoring increases coping skills and prosocial skills that can yield long-term outcomes. Our program strives to develop meaningful relationships with both the parents and the youth. We value open communication

and connection with the program coordinator and the mentors.

Mentoring strategies help youth overcome risks to achieving successful academic outcomes.

What is your agency's focus for 2023?

Community Partners of South Florida's mentoring program links children with caring adults committed to their social and emotional development.

CPSFL- Mentoring at Pahokee (MPE) offers a fun, safe, and schoolbased mentoring program that will support 25 mentor/mentee matches during afterschool hours and Saturdays in Pahokee.

The mentoring program aims to build protective factors, foster a sense of connectedness, and support social-emotional learning through a supportive, positive adult mentor/mentee relationship.

We focus on connecting our youth to positive adults in the STEM field professionals, Young adults, retired professionals, and community members that will commit to mentoring youth for one year (four hours a month).













CBA Q&A CONTINUED





In the mentoring program, we provide opportunities for the youth to participate in activities during out-of-school time. We attend the COX Science Center monthly; we offer field trips, skill-building workshops, and community service projects.

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

An array of funder and partner support keeps our programs running optimally.

The funds and support from Palm Beach County Youth Services and United Way of PBC make the program a possibility. With the support, CPSFL has the opportunity to offer mentoring services in Pahokee.

We are grateful for partners like Palm Beach County Youth Services, who recognize that the positive effects of a mentoring relationship are priceless.

What is your central website?



Do you have a youth success story you would like to share?

Matches Jessica, Miley, Emily, and Monica have something in common; they are sisters! Mentors Jessica and Monica are sisters, while mentees Miley and Emily are twins! Regarding their mentoring sessions, seeing one twin with the other is easier. Jessica and Monica have strong relationships with both twins and will gladly include them in their mentoring sessions.

One of their favorite things to do is to play basketball games together for some friendly competition! It helps that both mentors and mentees are into sports, with Jessica and Monica being coaches for multiple sports and Emily and Miley playing soccer. They push each other to do their best on the field, in school, and in their community! They have all been matched since December 2021, and they look forward to the fall season.



Second story:

Mentor David and mentee Joshua were matched in September 2022.

David is a Pastor at First United Methodist Church, and his passion is to make reading fun for children. Joshua is in the 4th grade, and is excited to meet with his mentor every Wednesday.

Some activities they do together include reading, playing games, and doing homework. Their favorite activity is playing chess!

Pastor David has been teaching Joshua how to play since their first meeting, and Joshua's goal is to one day beat him in chess.

Since starting, Joshua has improved his reading and always informs Pastor David of his test scores and other accomplishments.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



BEATRIZ AYALA





At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Beatriz Ayala. Beatriz works as a Licensed Therapist in the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division.

In her role as a Licensed Therapist, she provides individual therapy for youths from 18 to 22, individual therapy through the School-Based program, and family therapy at YFC - South office. Beatriz provides therapy in English and Spanish.

- Where is your hometown?
- Bogotá Distrito Capital, Colombia.
- What was your first job?
- My first job was as an entertainer in a company that organized children's parties.
- What are the three most important skills you need for your job?
- The most important skills for my job are reflective listening, empathy and analytical thinking skills.
- What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?
- I love to provide support and guidance to youths so they can overcome traumatic experiences and enhance their resilience.
- Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?
- I was able to represent YSD on a **[] Who or what inspires you?** Hispanic radio show and talk about 1 find my parents to be a significant

- our agency and the programs we offer to the Palm Beach community.
- What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?
- 🔼 I love to volunteer in a non-profit 💶 organization that supports Hispanic immigrants. I also like to read books, watch movies and shows, and enjoy nature.
- What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?
- I learned that difficult moments allow us to see God's hands in our lives and grow personally.
- Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?
- I would like to go to Australia, South Africa or Europe.
- What is your favorite quote?
- As long as God is at the wheel of your life, Each day will be a success.

- source of encouragement. They focused on family, education, upholding strong values, and being dedicated.
- Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?
- My role as a social worker provided me the opportunity to work with native communities in the south of Colombia.





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EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER KATIA CAVALIE



Katia Cavalie was awarded this quarter's YSD Employee of the Quarter for her hard work, dedication, and service to the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division's Chief of Community Based Services role.

Thank you, Katia, for all you do for the Youth Services Department.
We are proud of you.



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



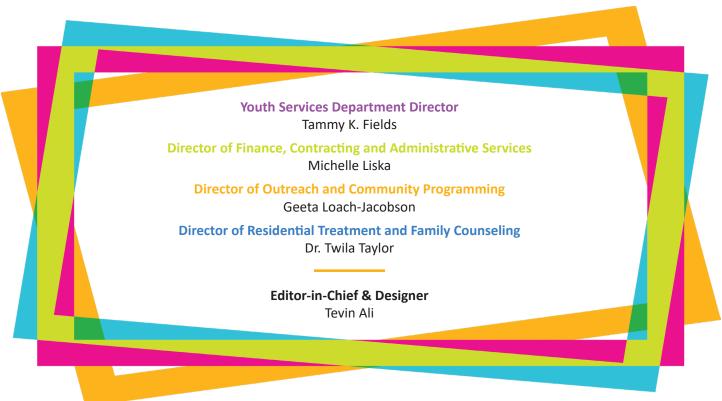


Share Feedback and Stories!

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 Tevin Ali at TAli@pbcgov.org.



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor, Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor, Maria G. Marino, Michael A. Barnett, Marci Woodward, Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard



County Administrator

Verdenia C. Baker

Assistant County Administrator
Dorritt M. Miller