

YSPD Scoop!



Volume 5 | Issue 2

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



Highridge Family Center Class of 2019 Banner

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Highridge Family Center receives Sanctuary Certification

On May 29, Highridge Family Center, a Residential Treatment and Family Counseling program with the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, was formally certified by the Sanctuary Institute in its Trauma Informed Care Model.

The certification encourages, sustains and reinforces Highridge Family Center's commitment to the standards of a trauma informed care environment for residents and staff by emphasizing the following seven commitments: nonviolence, emotional intelligence, social learning, open communication, social responsibility, democracy, growth and change.

During the three-year certification process, the Sanctuary Institute offered direct support to the

center by providing trauma-responsive practice across all program operations. The multi-tiered process included 12 months of staff-focused engagement and building organizational culture, 12 months using standards as guideposts, and six months of self-evaluations on the sanctuary practice, followed by formal evaluations by peer reviewers from various practicing organizations.



Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence



On April 20, at Santaluces Community High School, Ike Powell III, My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Task Force Leader,

along with other community and civic leaders including members of the National Panhellenic Council of Palm Beach County attended the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., South Palm Beach County Alumnae Chapter’s “Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence” event.

Empowering workshops were held for young men to engage in candid dialogue with male leaders including topics on healthy relationships, physical and mental health, social media awareness, law enforcement interactions, personal development, goal setting and career paths. The day concluded with various leaders sharing their personal experiences and the challenges they faced as young men, along with recommendations on how to best prepare for a successful transition to manhood.

YSD Wellness Champs



Youth Services wellness champs enjoyed locally made all natural fruit pops to kick off their Strive For Five Summer Challenge on June 17. The Strive for Five challenge aims



PBC Employee Wellness

to boost health benefits by having participants eat 5 combined servings of fruit and vegetables each day. That’s 175 vitamin rich servings over the course of five weeks.

Youth Services Earns NACo Achievement Awards



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has been recognized with three Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the category of children and youth.

The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. NACo recognized the Department’s Youth and Family

Counseling program, Education and Training Center, and Visitation Center for children in foster care.

In conjunction with ISS, Youth Services Department Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) and Contract Monitoring Application also received recognition as county government innovations.

For more information on the programs recognized, visit www.pbcgov.com/youthservices.

Child Abuse Prevention Month



On April 5, Youth Services Department staff wore blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention month.

Highridge Family Center placed pinwheels in the lawn area located in front of their building in the shape of a ribbon to symbolize their support for Child Abuse Prevention month.

Pinwheels for Prevention stand for children in Palm Beach County who have been abused, abandoned or neglected, and need your help.

If you suspect abuse, report it by phone at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Student Intern Becomes Hip-Hop Artist's Book Editor

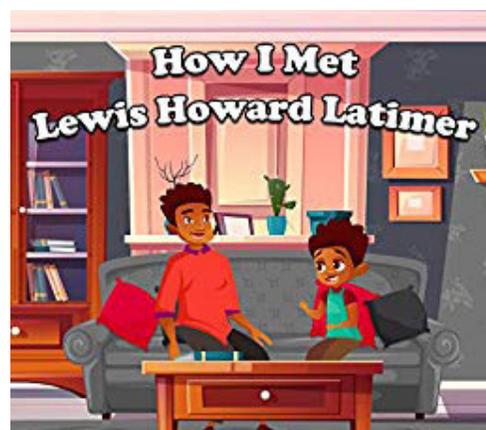
Lorenz Small, a student intern with Palm Beach County Youth Services Department was introduced to Ramon "Absoloot" Robinson while attending My Brother's Keeper Race to Equity Summit earlier this year. Lorenz attended a presentation the hip-hop artist and author was giving about how young people can shape their future by utilizing their passion.

At the time, Absoloot was finishing up "How I Met Lewis Howard Latimer," the first book in a series that highlights unsung heroes of color who have made a positive impact on society. Lorenz is also a member of the Future Leaders United for Change youth council, providing him with the opportunity to interview Absoloot about his message and the work he is doing to steer young people in the right direction.

During the interview, Lorenz and Absoloot developed a synergistic connection that led to them working on several projects together. Lorenz signed on as an editor of the book, which was recently released for distribution by Amazon's Kindle Books.

"I was initially reluctant to interview Absoloot during the summit, but from then on we have been working with one another," said Lorenz. "I am truly grateful for such a connection, and I can't wait to help complete another book."

In addition to his intern duties with Youth Services, Lorenz



attends Palm Beach State College and plans to transfer to Florida Atlantic University next year to pursue a degree in multimedia studies.

2nd Annual Birth to 22 Business Leaders Breakfast



Ashley Glass, Lillian Khanna, Ann Marie Sorrell, Alex Price, Carlos Vidueria, Fabiola Brumley



Mary Lou Berger, Margie Avila, Paul Leone, Kathy Leone, Denise Bober, Jay DiPietro, Robert S. Weinroth



Verdenia C. Baker, Donald E. Fennoy II



Tammy K. Fields, Ashley Glass, Lisa Williams



Dr. John Stockwell

The 2nd annual Birth to 22 Business Breakfast: Shaping Our Children’s Future Together took place on April 12, at the West Palm Beach Marriott. The Breakfast included welcoming remarks from Palm Beach County Administrator, Verdenia C. Baker and Palm Beach County Superintendent Dr. Donald E. Fennoy II.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County CEO, gave a presentation on the Birth to 22:United for Brighter Futures alliance that focused on the progress that has been made throughout the year.

Keynote speaker John Stockwell, Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM) Executive Director, spoke about how SAM emphasizes academic achievement for every child, and makes sure young people have the education and skills they need for work and life, in a thriving community.

Ashley Glass, Co-Ancor of CBS12 News, led a panel

discussion which featured Fabiola Brumley, Market President of Bank of America; Lillian Khanna, a member of the Future Leaders United for Change Steering Committee; Alex Price, National Director of Community Relations at Office Depot; Ann Marie Sorrell, President and CEO of The Mosaic Group; and Carlos Vidueria, President of Rybovich Superyacht Marina and Service Center.

Three Palm Beach County businesses working to help improve outcomes for children and youth were named “2019 Birth to 22 Business Champions”

Small Business: *Progressive Pediatric Therapy*

Mid-Sized Business: *Boca West Country Club*

Large Business: *The Breakers*

For more information about Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, visit www.pbcbirthto22.com.

Ready By 21 National Meeting



Photo by Timothy Eberly (Upsplash)



Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Marsha Guthrie

The 8th annual Ready By 21 National Meeting was hosted in Seattle, Washington April 23-25. The event brought together hundreds of leaders from around the country who are working to get all young people “ready by 21.”

Birth to 22 coordination team Co-chairs, Geeta Loach-Jacobson (Palm Beach County Youth Services Department) and Marsha Guthrie (Children’s Services Council) along with Tammy K. Fields (Palm Beach County Youth Services

Department) provided a presentation to attendees.

The national meeting offered keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops, peer learning circles and abundant networking opportunities, all built around both unique and common challenges. Sessions focused on key themes concerning ensuring readiness, promoting equity, increasing shared commitment and improving program quality.

Mental Health Education Integration Consortium Summit



The Mental Health Education Integration Consortium Summit was held June 5-6, in Deerfield Beach. The summit aims to improve the incorporation of mental health into the education system.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Renée Layman, Center for Child Counseling Chief Executive Officer presented ACEs and Birth to 22: Becoming a Trauma Informed Community during the summit. Tanya Tibby,



LCSW, Chief of Community Based Clinical Services at the Youth Services Department was also in attendance.

“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.”

- Nido Qubein

Mentor Con



Ike Powell III



Seth Bernstein, Geoffrey Campbell, Sydney Congdon, Ike Powell III, Gary Graham

The National Mentoring Partnership and its network of mentoring Affiliates from across the country held their annual MENTOR CON in West Palm Beach on June 18-19. MENTOR CON strives to engage mentoring Affiliates in professional development and networking in order to build the capacity of individual affiliates and networks to continuously advance the youth mentoring field.

This year's event was hosted by Mentor Center of Palm Beach County under the leadership of the United Way of Palm Beach County. The local "Mentor Center" serves as the mentor Affiliate for the entire State of Florida. United Way's Mentor Center receives funding from the Palm Beach

County Board of County Commissioners through the Youth Services Department's Community Based Agencies (CBA) program. The Outreach and Community Programming Division monitors the CBA funded organizations for strict program compliance and service integrity.

Ike Powell III, Senior Program Specialist provided opening remarks on the second day (June 19) of MENTOR CON. Ike shared a message highlighting the collective impact work in Palm Beach County by collaborative efforts of Mentor Center, our alliances such as Birth to 22 and My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Network.

The VoiceBox



The pilot episode of The VoiceBox aired on PBC TV Channel 20 throughout the month of May. The VoiceBox is a high-energy, educational and entertaining conversation between community leaders and

some of Palm Beach County's most engaging youth. The show, which features Future Leaders United for Change, a group of young people ages 11-22, who serve as the youth voice of the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures initiative, focuses on the County's youth, the issues that impact their communities and the steps they take towards success.

"The VoiceBox represents the youth voice in Palm Beach County, while spot-lighting programs funded by the Board



Josiah Cobb, Mayor Mack Bernard

of County Commissioners through the Youth Services Department, all from the perspective of the County's most important assets... young people," said Chilondra Sheppard, Palm Beach County Youth Services Grant Compliance Specialist.

County Gets Its Green on for Mental Health Awareness



Four Points



Community Alliance Proclamation



Education & Training Center



Division Therapists and Doctoral Interns



GYGO Leaders



Action Alliance



Palm Beach County Proclamation

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, in partnership with Healthier Delray Beach and Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, launched the “Get Your Green On” campaign and invited Palm Beach County to wear green on May 23. The Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation declaring May 2019 Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month in Palm Beach County.

The Youth Services Department’s Education & Training Center and Risk Management’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) held five Lunch & Learn sessions. These events offered presentations on topics such as “Myths

of Mental Health,” presented by Doctoral Intern Morgan Corbitt; “Chill Out!: Effective Relaxation Techniques” and “Parenting Skills: Addressing Behavior Problems in Young Children,” presented by Dr. Laura Cruz; “Understanding & Responding to Bullying,” presented by Dr. Loren Berry; and “Positive Parenting,” presented by Liz Ruiz, EAP.

As part of the campaign, Dr. Marcy Weiss and Dr. Laura Cruz wrote articles about mental health counseling, intervention, assertive communication and healthy relationships.

For more information about GYGO, visit www.healthierdelray.org/GetYourGreenOn.

“There is no standard normal. Normal is subjective. There are seven billion versions of normal on this planet.”

-Matt Haig

6th Annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference



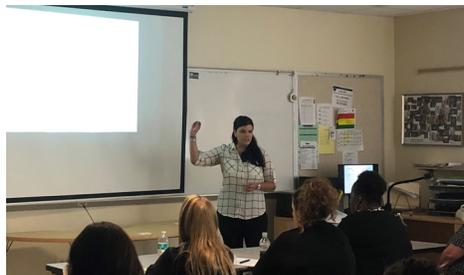
Morgan Corbitt, Nohemi Medrano, Filise Jules, Tammy K. Fields, Dr. Shayna Ginsburg, Dr. Laura Cruz, Gabriel Munoz, Dr. Loren Berry

The Youth Services Department participated in the 6th annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference that was held on June 7, at Atlantic Community High School. Several workshops were provided by Residential Treatment and Family Counseling team members including: “When Compassion Causes Concern” and “Understanding and Responding to Bullying” by Dr. Loren Berry; a group presentation on “Multicultural/Religious Aspects to Mental Health” presented by Nohemi Medrano, Filise Jules, and

Gabriel Munoz; “Motivational Interviewing in the Schools: Interactions to Enhance Student Performance” by Dr. Shayna Ginsburg; and “Promoting Emotional Regulation in Children: Applied and Evidence-Based Practices” by Dr. Laura Cruz. Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields, was also present at the conference. In addition, The Education Center team of psychologists and doctoral intern, Morgan Corbitt, staffed a resource table.



Gabriel Munoz



Dr. Laura Cruz



Dr. Loren Berry

Florida Business Leaders' Summit



Florida Chamber of Commerce held its Business Leaders' Summit on Prosperity and Economic Opportunity on May 22-23, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Business and industry leaders along with

elected officials and community voices analyze the path to prosperity for each Florida municipality. Youth Services Department Director, Tammy Fields, gave a presentation on the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures alliance's collective impact and community change.

United Way's 90th Celebration



Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields, joined over 400 friends and supporters for the United Way's Simply the Best Annual Award Ceremony and 90th Anniversary Celebration on May 14.

The celebration honors those volunteers, funded agencies, local businesses, and individuals for their continued community support.

Cross Departmental Action Teams



Economic Development



Housing & Homelessness



Public Safety

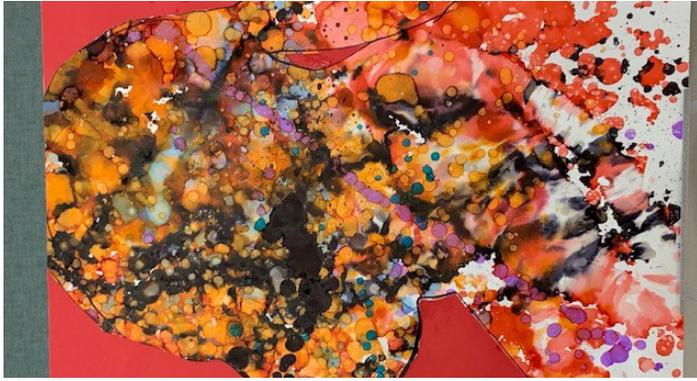


Substance Use & Behavior Disorder

On April 2, Dr. Keith Clinkscale kicked off Palm Beach County's cross departmental strategic action teams. Teams include staff from Youth Services Department, including: Ike Powell III on the Economic Development team, Geeta

Loach-Jacobson Co-chairs Housing and Homelessness, Tanya Tibby, LCSW on the Public Safety team, and Dr. Shayna Ginsburg on Substance Use and Behavior Disorders.

Highridge Family Center Highlights



- **Norton Afterschool**

Norton Museum of Art's Afterschool Outreach Program continued to run their art class, which included field trips and art exhibitions displaying resident's artwork.

- **Baby Shower for Dr. Terrell**

Highridge staff came together to celebrate the impending arrival of Dr. Terrell's new baby. In lieu of gifts, staff donated baby items and toiletries to Hannah's Home in Tequesta, Florida. Hannah's Home provides counseling, education, lodging and support to young single mothers.

- **Highridge got their green on**

On May 23, Highridge Family Center staff and residents wore green in support of Mental Health Awareness Month.

- **Class of 2019**

The Highridge Family Center was proud to honor 7 youth as they graduated from the residential program on May 31.

The ceremony was attended by Mary Lou Berger, Palm Beach County Commissioner; Gregg K. Weiss, Palm Beach County Commissioner; Virginia Savietto, Administrative Assistant to Palm Beach County Commissioner Weiss; Kelley Burke, Senior Administrative Assistant to Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay; Lisa De LaRionda, Public Affairs Director; Leilani Yan, Human Resources Manager; Helene Hvizd, Senior Assistant County Attorney; as well as youth, families and staff.

Each graduate received a certificate of completion and a medallion. The youth shared remarks and thanks for their experience at Highridge. Families also expressed feeling

grateful for the program and positive growth in their children and families.

- **Sanctuary Celebration**

On June 3, Highridge held an appreciation breakfast event to celebrate their Sanctuary Model certification. The purpose of the celebration was to commemorate everyone's effort as a team throughout the three year process and to discuss future directions for the program and more creative ways to incorporate trauma-informed care into our services.

The Sanctuary Model, is a blueprint for clinical and organizational change. Implementing the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care at the Highridge Family Center is in direct alignment with the priorities established in the Birth to 22 Youth Master Plan.



County Internship Leads to County Employment



One of the newer additions to our Youth Services Department is Reginald “Reggie” Hayes, Planner I. While Reginald is new to the Youth Services Department, he is not new to the County. His tenure with Palm Beach County began with an internship, while attending Florida Atlantic University, with Environmental Resources Management (ERM), in the division of Mosquito Control.

The collaborative effort between Palm Beach County and a Florida Atlantic University professor was the vehicle to Reggie’s County employment. Reggie’s significant

contribution to Mosquito Control as an intern supported digitizing service programming, using the GIS system. Upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree and the knowledge gained as an intern, Reggie secured his current role as Planner I.

At Youth Services Department, Reggie has created story maps, digitized Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures Connection Cards, and co-supported the Future Leaders Youth Council. He came to the interview well prepared with examples of his work at ERM.

Palm Beach County provides opportunities for college students to intern in many departments. It’s a great way to gain job skills, learn about the County and possibly obtain permanent employment.

Ties that Bind Mentoring Engagement



Supporting the healthy development, including life skills and outcomes of our young men and boys of color, is a key priority for Ike Powell III, My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Task Force Leader. The “Ties that Bind” Foundation and mentoring event led by City of West Palm Beach Commissioner Cory Neering, is one of many initiatives that provides mentorship opportunities. On May 4, at Lake Worth Community High School, Ike along with Mack Bernard, Palm Beach County Mayor; James Green, Director of Community Services; Emanuel Perry, Financial Analyst,

Department of Housing & Economic Sustainability; Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach; Gary Graham, Senior Director of United Way Mentor Center; and other leaders participated in an engagement event.

The event engaged and encouraged forty middle and high school boys in conversations about being unique, building your brand, communication skills, leadership, and other topics. Mentors concluded the day by teaching the young men to exude confidence and demonstrated how to tie a necktie.

“A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.”

- Oprah Winfrey

CBA Spotlight: Center for Child Counseling



1. What is your mission?

Center for Child Counseling is building the foundation for playful, healthful, and hopeful living for children, families, and communities. Our vision is healthy, resilient children and families through ACEs-aware and trauma-informed communities.

2. What does your organization do?

Since our founding in 1999, infant and early childhood mental health has been at the heart of our work. We focus on the youngest children in our community because research shows that this period of life is critically important in providing the foundation for health throughout the lifespan. We work to provide education, research-based interventions, and support for children and caregivers faced with adversity. Our model focuses on prevention and early intervention and includes building the capacity of adult caregivers and professionals to buffer the effects of toxic stress in young children. We also focus on healing the intergenerational cycle of abuse by promoting strong parent-child relationships.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

We run 8 programs that include direct clinical and therapeutic services, education/awareness campaigns, and accredited training modules to build a more trauma-informed community that supports healthy, happy children and families.

- Child and Family Center with Play therapy rooms
- Child First
- Infant Mental Health Program
- Childhood Trauma Response Team
- Childhood & Community Social Emotional Wellness (CCSEW)
- School-Based Mental Health Program
- Fighting ACEs
- Institute for Clinical Training

Recently, we were tasked with developing a White Paper about childhood adversity and effective ways

to address it. This in-depth, research-based material was created specifically for Palm Beach County and was distributed to leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The information provided in the paper will help inform the work of individuals and organizations who interact with children in our communities.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

Families are the building blocks of any community. Healthy family units build strong, resilient communities and our work focuses on equipping families with the tools they need to develop resilience and thrive. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Adverse Community Environments can impact the health and wellness of children, families, and communities so much of our work focuses on addressing these issues.

ACEs are situations where a child faces trauma or sustained stress that becomes toxic.

They include abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual), neglect, or household dysfunction.

Nationally, the most common ACEs are caused by economic hardship, divorce issues, community and domestic violence, family mental illness or addiction problems, or loss of a parent through death, abandonment, or incarceration. Children exposed to these experiences and the inherent inequity that accompanies disadvantaged communities can suffer lifelong mental and physical health problems.

If you're concerned about school shootings, domestic violence, substance abuse, or the national healthcare crisis, you need to learn all you can about ACEs. They're at the root of most societal problems and their effects pervade every aspect of our lives. Adult victims of ACEs are our colleagues, friends, neighbors, teachers, fellow shoppers, and commuters. Like it or not, we are interacting daily with this issue.

There is hope, however. Research shows that negative experiences can be counteracted or buffered by the presence of even one strong, positive adult in a child's life. It's our goal to surround the children in

our community with trauma-informed, ACEs-aware, compassionate adults who can shield them from adversity and help them heal. Improving the life of one child and one family at a time is the only way to ensure sustainable healthy communities for the future.

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

There is a critical need for infant and childhood mental health in Palm Beach County – not only for children who have been identified as needing extra support but for preventative and early intervention services that support children before they “fall apart”. Through our therapeutic services that help children and their families, our school-based mental health programs that benefit staff, teachers and parents, and our educational work on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), this year we're sharply focused on building a trauma-informed community, in line with Birth to 22, that is

fully equipped to recognize and effectively respond to childhood adversity.

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

We serve families at a time when they are likely going through some of the toughest challenges of their lives. We work in the most at-risk communities facing adversity and trauma that can seem overwhelming. With the support of Palm Beach County, we are able to support children when they need it most. We are also able to support adult caregivers, increasing their capacity to promote resiliency and social-emotional wellness for children in their care.

For more information about the Center for Child Counseling, visit www.centerforchildcounseling.org.

Meet Liz

Liz grew up watching her parents fight. Physically abusive relationships were normal for her. Her father was both controlling and explosive. He abused Liz, her sister, and her mother. Liz's parents used drugs and drank all the time. Violence was a daily occurrence. Liz was sexually abused by an uncle when she was 5 years old and was placed in foster care 2 years later. Over the next 10 years, she lived in 15 different homes. She was looking for someone to love and want her; she met Matt and was pregnant at 17. Liz was 8 months pregnant when Matt was killed. At that time, she thought her world had ended.

Liz was depressed. She felt hopeless. She knew her daughter, Sara, wasn't getting as much love as she deserved but she didn't know how to fix the situation. Liz wasn't connecting with her daughter and Sara was displaying emotional and behavioral problems at school.

One day, Liz met a therapist from Center for Child

Counseling at her daughter's childcare center. The therapist was located on-site to provide services, education, and consultation. Sara started Play Therapy and the therapist supported Liz, too. Liz opened up about the experiences and started to understand how her own childhood adversity had created negative thoughts and patterns that she had been repeating as she raised Sara. The therapist helped Liz work through and heal her own childhood trauma.

These days, Liz is connecting better with Sara and feels optimistic and empowered. She's breaking that chain of abuse and ending the cycle of neglect and sadness. Seeing Sara healthy and happy has provided Liz with confidence in her abilities to make a positive impact in her daughter's life.

**Names changed to protect confidentiality.*

Moving the Margins with LGBTQ+ Youth



On March 20, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming with the Youth Services Department presented the Moving the Margins training for LGBTQ+ youth. The training was created by Lambda Legal to provide an

overview to introduce participants to both the issues faced by LGBTQ+ youth and to foster cultural competence for

professionals working with LGBTQ+ youth. Participants had the opportunity to explore their personal views and values regarding this population, differentiate between a value or belief and a myth or stereotype, and develop strategies to balance personal views and professional responsibilities when the two are in conflict. Attendees also earned 2 CEUs for their participation.

For information about other Education & Training Center trainings/workshops and clinical services, visit www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter.

Green Futures Summer Internship & Mentorship Program



For the third consecutive year, the Youth Services Department has partnered with the County's Environmental Resources Management Department (ERM) to connect youth with summer internship opportunities for eight students interested in getting first-hand experience working with scientists to preserve, protect, and enhance Palm Beach County's land and water resources.

Ike Powell III, Senior Program Specialist, has developed and sustained a relationship with ERM that results in providing these summer internships, student internships and employment opportunities. Ike leverages partnerships with high schools, higher educational institutions, and other partners to identify students and connect them with ERM for these internship experiences and career pathway opportunities.

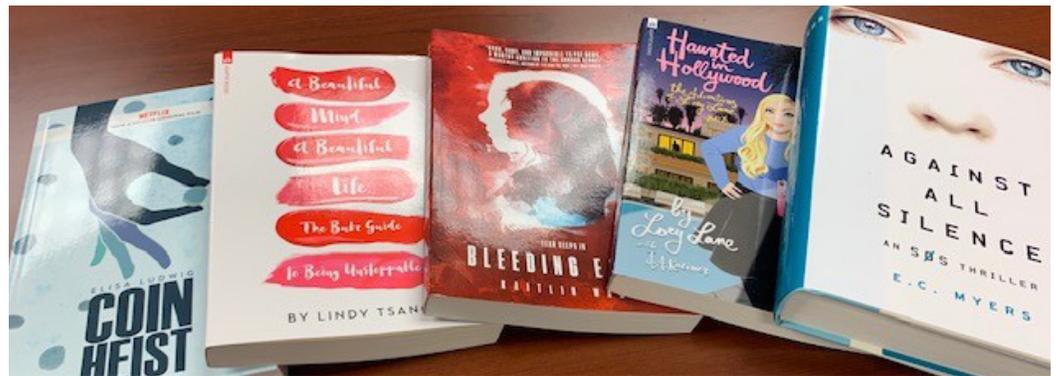
The Green Futures Summer Internship and Mentorship program scope of work provides students with valuable work experiences and skills including various tasks

inside and outdoors assisting ERM staff performing compliance inspections, plan review, environmental sampling, laboratory work, environmental monitoring, and producing educational, marketing, and social media content. Tasks may include using equipment, collecting biological samples, taking pictures and videos, documenting data, removing invasive and installing native plants, operating graphic design and photo/video software, and general office work such as data entry, filing, copying, and scanning.

Additionally, on June 18, Ike accompanied ERM staff and the summer interns at the County-wide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting under the umbrella of the County's Office of Community Revitalization (OCR). The meeting provided students with an introduction to various County departments including a hurricane preparedness presentation by the County's Public Safety Department, Emergency Management Division.

Books Donated to Highridge Family Center

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS



Barnes & Noble, Inc. provided a generous donation of almost 200 brand new books to Highridge Family Center on June 27. The books will provide additional reading

opportunities for youth and families receiving services through the Residential Treatment & Family Counseling Division.

Summer Food Service Program Monitors



YSD Program Coordinator Gus Wessel and YSD Summer Food Service Program Monitors Thelmarcia Williams (NOVA), Jaquir Grimsley (PBSC), Christian Allen (UM), Cheyenne Martin (USF), Vandi Allen (FAMU), Tyler Shoens (FAU), Kayla Dawson (FSU), Nia Michel (FSU), Keila Ramos (PBAU), Emily Ramos (PBAU)

Youth Services Department’s Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) currently has 83 open sites in Palm Beach County, from Boca Raton to Jupiter and the Glades. In 2018, the SFSP served 255,418 meals.

The SFSP provides healthy, free meals and snacks available to youth in Palm Beach County during the summer months. The SFSP, administered and monitored by the Youth Services Department and funded by the USDA, provides

free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas. This helps ensure children receive the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

For more information about the SFSP, visit www.pbcgov.com/SummerFoodServiceProgram.

Prime Time Palm Beach County’s Afterschool Symposium



Tammy K. Fields, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Jacqueline Burke and Alexina Jeannite of Youth Services Department joined other County leaders at Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.’s 2019 Afterschool Symposium.

The two day symposium of networking and learning,

highlights the accomplishments and progress made to create quality after-school programs that provide opportunity, education, positive relationships and fun to the children and youth who attend.

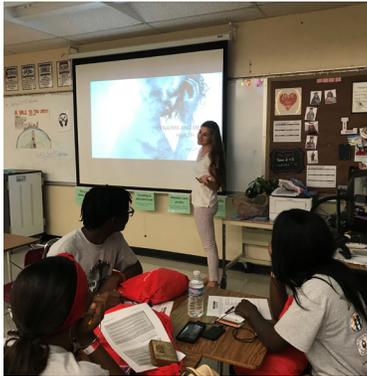
Youth Summit 2019



Keynote Speaker, Malik Yoba



Student Assembly



Ashley White



Ashley White, John Harre, Ike Powell III



Reggie Hayes, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Chilondra Sheppard, Gus Wessel, Lashonda Lacey, Jackie Burke, Ike Powell III

Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Heard.

The 2019 Youth Summit was held at Palm Beach Lakes Community High School on April 6 with over 550 young people in attendance. From start to finish, the event emulated its theme. Keynote speaker Malik Yoba's message was bold, performers in the dance competition were brave, and entertainment by Digital Vibez was heard.

The Youth Services Department worked in collaboration with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and Future

Leaders: United for Change to facilitate four of the scheduled workshops along with content experts, including Director Tammy K. Fields on the pitfalls of social media.

Additionally, Ashley White, MA, a doctoral psychology intern at Youth Services Education and Training Center, spearheaded two workshops on trauma informed mental health.

Thank you to the countless volunteers, parents and alliances who helped make this event such a success.

Education Center Supports Causes



Denim Day to raise awareness about rape & sexual assault.



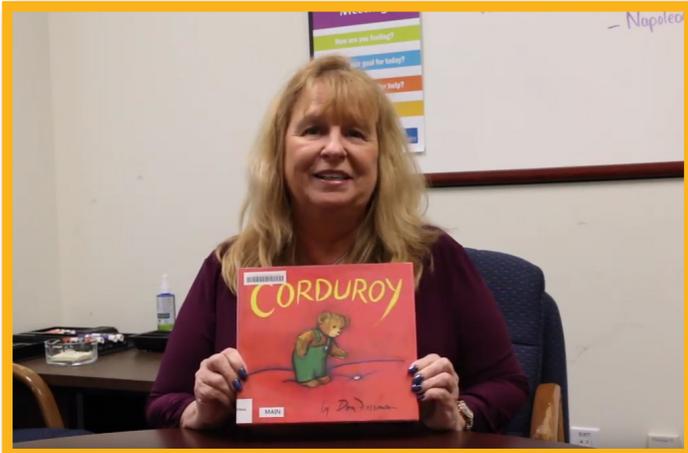
Red Nose Day to end childhood poverty.

Out & About



Dr. Loren Berry from the Education & Training Center provided a 3-hour trauma training for several Palm Beach County Guardian ad Litem on May 14. Attendees were taught trauma-related terms, the impact of adversity on youth, and ways of providing trauma-informed care.

In honor of the Get Your Green On campaign, Youth and Family Counseling Therapist Filise Jules, LMHC, attended the Healthier Delray Beach quarterly Community Connections event held on May 22.



Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields recommends "Corduroy," by Don Freeman & "A Thousand Splendid Suns," by Khaled Hosseini for Palm Beach County Library Systems' Summer Reading Program.



Tanya Tibby, LCSW Chief of Community Based Clinical Services at the Youth Services Department attended the Ocean Drive Networking event on April 30 benefiting Speak Up for Kids.



Education and Training Center's Liz Ruiz, Intern, EAP, and Morgan Corbitt, Doctoral Intern, presented Lunch & Learns on Positive Parenting and Myths about Mental Health during Mental Health Awareness month.

Out & About



On May 18, Beatriz Ayala, LCSW of Youth & Family Counseling attended the West Palm Beach Mental Health Coalition's 3rd annual Family Health & Wellness Festival.



While attending The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County's 2nd annual Early Childhood Educators Conference: Ready, Set, Learn! On May 11, Dr. Loren Berry from the Education & Training Center provided a training on Trauma-Informed Care.



On June 6, a graduate recognition ceremony was held at ChildNet in West Palm Beach to honor and recognize youth in foster care who have received their GED, High School diploma, Associate or Bachelor's degree.



Filise Jules, LMHC and Elise Powell, LMHC represented Youth Services Department's Youth and Family Counseling at the Walking for Success event on April 20.



Elise Powell, LMHC, Stacey L. King, MA, & John Harre, BSW, attended the Behavioral Health Resource Fair on April 12. The event spotlights the programs, services, & resources available for children, youth, adults & families.



On June 27, Dr. Loren Berry from the Education & Training Center provided a 1-hour trauma training for numerous Palm Beach County juvenile probation officers at the Children's Home Society.



Morgan Corbitt and Taylor Schnaper, Education & Training Center Doctoral Interns, attended Career Day at Crosspointe Elementary on May 21. They presented to several classes on the role of a psychologist and how they help people work through their feelings.



On May 14, Stephanie Jones, Tiffany Phillips, Tamika Kramer, and Jacqueline Burke joined Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields for this quarter's "Tea with Tammy."



Dr. Loren Berry and Stephanie Smith, BSW, Social Work Intern, represented the Youth Services Department at the Field of Hope event on April 2. Over 250 people joined together to support survivors of sexual assault.



On May 24, Laura Cruz, Ph.D., Psychologist with Education and Training Center conducted a training on 'Developing Cultural Competency' for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.



Tammy K. Fields, Tanya Tibby, Dr. Tony Spaniol and Dr. Loren Berry attended the Center for Child Counseling Fighting ACEs: Lead the Fight Breakfast on May 23.

Q&A with Bruno Koci



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Bruno Koci, Maintenance II at Highridge Family Center. As part of the Highridge Maintenance team, Bruno is the first point of contact for

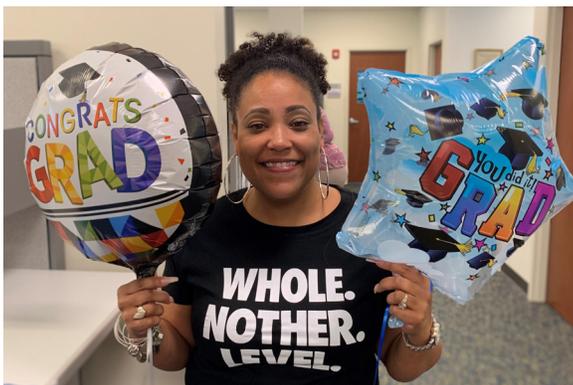
the operations at the center. His day-to-day work can involve cleanup, ordering products, filing reports, and overall upkeep of the center. "In general, I make sure that Highridge Family Center runs smoothly," said Bruno.

- 1. Where is your hometown?**
Tirana, Albania.
- 2. What was your first job?**
Chef, preparing meals at weddings.
- 3. What are the three most important skills you need for your job?**
To follow instructions, be able to work with a variety of tools, and to have strong communications skills.
- 4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?**
Working with fellow employees. Making sure that whatever is needed I get handled.
- 5. Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?**

The annual Christmas party. Having everyone get together for the gift exchange and potluck is always memorable. I love being able to cook for my fellow co-workers.

- 6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?**
Spending time with my family. I have two girls, so my wife and I will take them to the beach on the weekends. I also enjoy working out and cooking.
- 7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?**
To be prepared. Listening and preventative maintenance is crucial to avoid issues from occurring.
- 8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?**
Back home to Albania – Always to go back home. The food, beaches and culture make it my dream vacation.
- 9. What is your favorite quote?**
I don't have a favorite quote, but I do live by being kind, responsible, and I believe we need to love and respect all people.
- 10. Who or what inspires you?**
Family - my children have been inspiring me since they were born.
- 11. Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?**
I read A LOT. I enjoy reading books about different scenarios that may take place in the future.

Congrats, Graduate



On May 8, Tamika Kramer, Fiscal Specialist II, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Supervision and Management



from Palm Beach State College. Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishment.

Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between April 1 and June 30.



Employee	Position	Division
Jennifer Maberry	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Sabrina DuBois	Residential Youth Counselor	RTFC
Mouseline Lormaud	Residential Youth Counselor	RTFC
Vynteria Davis	Juvenile Residence Counselor	RTFC



Summer Intern	Position	Division
Melena Johnson	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Emily Ramos	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Christian Allen	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Tyler Shoens	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Nia Michel	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Cheyenne Martin	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Thelmarcia Williams	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Vandi Allen	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Kayla Dawson	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Jaquir Grimsley	Seasonal Paraprofessional	OCP
Kelia Ramos	Seasonal Clerical	OCP

Student Intern	Position	Division
Danielle Tuanda	Student Tech	FCA

Service Award Recipients

On June 18, the following YSD employees were honored for their years of service, loyalty and dedication by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners



Tanya Tibby, LCSW
RTFC
Chief Community Based Clinical Services



Carmen Bersch
Admin
Executive Assistant



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!



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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
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