

# YSPD Scoop!



Volume 6 | Issue 1

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County  
Youth Services Department



'Ink' art created by students at Highridge Family Center.

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## Sherron King, MS Receives Palm Beach County's Prestigious Golden Palm Award.



Sherron King, MS received a Golden  
Palm Award for her creation of the  
Therapeutic Intervention Breaks  
(TIBs) room at Highridge Family  
Center.



The TIBs room provides residents  
with various sensory opportunities  
to work through and regulate  
emotions when he or she finds  
them difficult to express.

## Child Abuse & Neglect Presentations



Throughout the quarter, the Youth Services Department's Education & Training Center provided several trainings related to child abuse and neglect.

Dr. Loren Berry presented training for the CAPE team School District personnel including Licensed Mental Health Professionals, Social Workers, Behavior Intervention Staff, Administrators, and Psychologists.

Postdoctoral Fellow Rachelle Sosu, PsyD and Doctoral Intern Drema Carpenter, MS presented a workshop to members of the foster grandparent program at the Area Institute on Aging. The audience was engaged, asked questions, and gave examples about current situations they are facing. The topics covered included: identifying different types of abuse, grooming, child abuse statistics, the difference between corporal punishment and spanking, diversity considerations for use of corporal punishment, statistics on corporal punishment, alternatives for corporal punishment,

red flags, effects of child abuse and neglect, what to do and what not to do in an abuse related situation and how to mandatory report according to Florida statutes with phone numbers and other information provided.

Additionally, Drema Carpenter and Rachelle Sosu provided the training to volunteers who are part of the Area Agency on Aging Foster Grandparents Program. The program matches a foster grandparent to students in Palm Beach County Elementary schools in need of tutoring.

The presentation allowed participants to learn about various forms of abuse and their effects on a child's development. Participants also learned about Florida statutes and reporting guidelines. At the end of the training, all participants reported that they felt more informed and more capable of reporting child abuse and neglect.

## Poverty Proclamation



County Commissioner Mack Bernard presented a proclamation declaring October as Poverty Awareness Month. Department Director, Tammy K. Fields, attended in support of the proclamation.

## Palm Beach County United Way Campaign Presentations



Christine Koehn, Ph.D.



Allison Overstreet



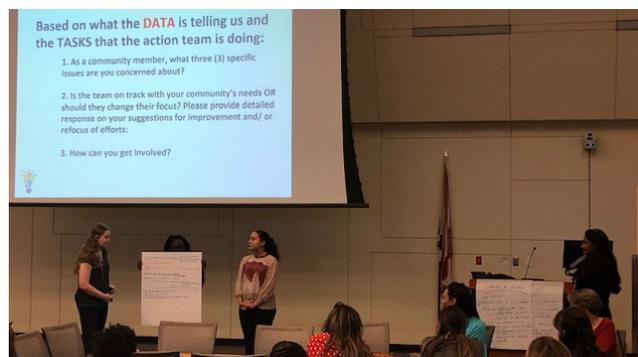
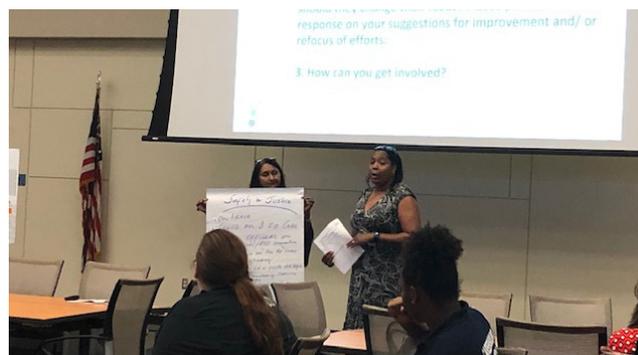
Gary Graham

United Way of Palm Beach County, Achieve Palm Beach County, and United Way of Palm Beach County's Mentor Center provided Youth Services Department staff with insightful presentations about the positive impacts made

by their organizations.

For more information about the United Way of Palm Beach County, visit [www.unitedwaypbc.org](http://www.unitedwaypbc.org).

## Palm Beach State College Hosts a Community Conversation



A Community Conversation took place at Palm Beach State College - Lake Worth Campus on October 16. Community Conversations provide Palm Beach County residents with an opportunity to speak with community leaders and continue the conversation around our greatest assets,

our youth. December's Community Conversation included Commissioner Weiss, community members, professionals and youth participants.

To join in on the conversation, visit [www.pbcirthto22.com](http://www.pbcirthto22.com)

## Education & Training Center's Employee Trainings



"Trauma 101"



"Foundations of Clinical Supervision"

As part of Education and Training Center's weekly training sessions at Highridge Family Center, Doctors Shayna Ginsburg & Loren Berry presented "Ethics: Maintaining Professional Boundaries" to an audience of mental health professionals on October 2.

Dr. Loren Berry presented "Trauma 101" to an audience of mental health professionals, counselors, Guardian ad Litem, nurses, and teachers.

Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented "An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing" to an audience of mental health professionals on November 6. She also presented a training on "Foundations of Clinical Supervision" to Youth Services Department staff on December 18.

For more information about the Education & Training Center, visit [www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/edcenter.com](http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/edcenter.com).

## Wellness Promotion Task Force



The School District of Palm Beach County held its first Wellness Promotion Task Force (WPTF) meeting and Resource Fair on October 3. Tanya L. Tibby, Youth and Family Counseling Chief Clinical Services and Sherron King, Highridge Family Center Therapist attended.

The District's WPTF purpose is to create an educational forum that allows students, staff, parents, community



partners, and members of the public to successfully collaborate in the promotion of healthier lives. With the District's ultimate goal of improving student performance, the direction of the Wellness Promotion Task Force is to encourage a proactive approach to holistically address the health, wellness, and safety of all school children and staff.

# Palm Beach County Employee Recognition Picnic



Megan Mosier, Abraham Greene, Tanya Tibby



Erin Baker and family

Youth Services Department staff and their guests volunteered at our vendor table during the Palm Beach

County Employee Recognition Picnic held on October 19. Thank you to all who volunteered your time!

# Leading with Authenticity Panel



Tammy K. Fields, Department Director, served as a panelist at the Leading with Authenticity: The Power of the Lived Experience event hosted by Palm Health Foundation. The

panel discussion focused on local leaders and how their personal experiences have shaped the work they do in the community.

## Palm Beach Behavioral Health & Wellness Trainings



*"Suicidality"*

Doctors Kelly Everson and Stephanie Larsen from Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness presented trainings on "Suicidality" and "Coping With Self-Injury" for an audience of mental health professionals at Highridge Family



*"Coping with Self-Injury"*

Center. Continuing Education credits were provided by Youth Services Department's Education & Training Center.

For more information about Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness, visit [www.pbbhw.com](http://www.pbbhw.com).

## Unicorn Foundation's Community Inclusion Awards



The Youth Services Department was honored to be among the finalists for Unicorn Children's Foundation's 2019 Community Inclusions Awards in the category of "Innovation & Collaboration of the Year."



Michelle Liska, Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services attended the award ceremony on behalf of the Youth Services Department.

*"Strength lies in differences, not in similarities."*  
- Stephen R. Covey

# 2nd Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Frozen



Starbucks



Dr. Seuss



Jurassic Park



F-SEA-A



Minions



Green Dot



Just Murdered



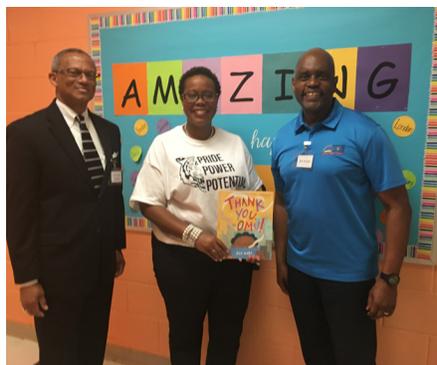
Black Sea

Youth Services held its second annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest, benefiting United Way of Palm Beach County, on October 31. Representatives from United Way of Palm Beach County Tatum Kelley and Melissa Wise were judges. The Purchasing Department also held a bake sale.

Of the pumpkins entered, in the category of Best Theme: 3rd Place: "Dr. Seuss" – Admin Section, Public Safety Department; 2nd Place: "Jurassic Park" – Contract Section, Purchasing Department; 1st Place: "Starbucks" Pumpkin Spice Latte" – Admin Section, Purchasing Department. In the category of Most Creative: 3rd Place: "Just Murdered" – Specialized Equipment Shop, Facilities Development and

Operations, Fleet Management; 2nd Place: "Frozen" – Education and Training Center, Youth Services Department; 1st Place: "Green Dot" – Heavy Equipment Shop, Facilities Development and Operations, Fleet Management. In the category of Best Carved: 3rd Place: "F-SEA-A" – Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services (FCA) Division, Youth Services Department; 2nd Place: "Minions" – Finance and Support Services, Environmental Resources Management; 1st Place: "Black Sea" – Pahokee Shop, Facilities Development and Operations, Fleet Management. Best Costume: "Queen of Hearts" – Suzanne McIntyre, Purchasing Department.

## Read for the Record



As part of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's Read for the Record, Ike Powell III, Senior Program Specialist, read "Thank You Omu" by Oge Mora, to a kindergarten class at Village Academy School in Delray Beach for the annual 'Delray Reads Day'.

Tammy K. Fields, Department Director, also had the

opportunity to read to Tiny Tots in Loxahatchee.

The campaign to promote grade level reading, invites community partners to read to more than 5,000 children in Delray Beach and thousands of children throughout Palm Beach County.

## Leadership EXperience Graduation



Aaron Maharaj



Twila Taylor



Aaron Maharaj, Commissioner Mack Bernard



Twila Taylor, Commissioner Mack Bernard

Aaron Maharaj, Financial Analyst III, and Dr. Twila Taylor, Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division Director, accepted certificate awards for their completion of The Leadership EXperience.

The Leadership EXperience focuses on higher-level leadership skill building that includes activities and

opportunities to broaden knowledge and networks within Palm Beach County.

The graduation ceremony included presentations from each of the program's teams. Palm Beach County Commissioner Mack Bernard presented the awards to the 2019 graduates.

## Prime Time's Lights on After school



Several Youth Services Department staff members celebrated with Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. at their Lights On Afterschool event.

Tammy K. Fields, Department Director, joined Prime Time

Palm Beach County, Inc.'s CEO, Suzette Harvey during "Coffee with a Cause" earlier in the day in celebration of the National Day of Lights On for Afterschool. A highlight of the event was a performance by the Roosevelt Middle School Drum Line.

*"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."*

*- Rita Pierson*

## Young Men of Distinction Ceremony



In partnership with My Brother's Keeper, students were inducted into the Young Men of Distinction – Mentoring Group during a ceremony held at Lake Worth Community High School on December 11.

Ike Powell III, Senior Program Specialist, spoke on the importance of emotional intelligence including self-awareness, self-regulation, social skills, motivation and empathy.

A plethora of ties were made available by Assistant Principal Ms. Clemons. The young men in attendance showed the students how to properly tie a tie.

Dawn Marie, Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention activist and Dr. Elvis Epps, Principal also attended the ceremony. Noted, was a sense of empowering and excitement by the students.

## Behavioral Health Professionals Initiative



Youth and Family Counseling staff Beatriz Ayala, Licensed Therapist, John Harre, Residential Youth Counselor and Dianeven Edouard, Social Work Intern attended resource fair hosted by the School District of Palm Beach County. The event rolled out the School Behavioral Health Professionals (SBHP) initiative. SBHPs will be key members of the mental health teams available in each school. Youth Services representatives provided SBHPs with a strong working knowledge of the resources provided by the department and other agencies in Palm Beach County.

# CBA Spotlight: Florida Fishing Academy



## 1. What is your mission?

The Florida Fishing Academy's objective is to positively influence South Florida's youth by providing inspiration and direction through recreation. Using marine-related activities, we teach children a healthy lifestyle and constructive hobby; guide them away from drugs and violence; engage them in efforts to preserve Florida's fragile natural resources; and introduce them to the marine industries as a potential career path.

## 2. What does your organization do?

Our Youth Service Angling for a Healthy Future program allows us to work with middle school and high school youth in our introductory program. This program allows participants to build new skills, work in groups, practice planning and reflection skills and experience new things.

## 3. What key programs does your organization offer?

- Angling for a Healthy Future
- Mobile Marine Lab
- Charting a Course in the Marine Industries
- Riviera Beach Community Boating Program

## 4. How does your agency benefit the community?

As part of our mission, we aspire to instill positive values in the young people we educate and mentor. These values include a respect for the law; a responsibility to preserve and protect the environment; a commitment to personal health and hygiene; a desire to protect the safety of local neighborhoods; a belief in the value of education; and an urge to be positive role models.

## 5. What is your agency's focus for 2020?

Our focus for 2020 is to expand our new job training program in collaboration with the Children's Service Council of Palm Beach County and United Way of Pam Beach County. We will be working with youth to teach them valuable skills that can help them secure apprentices or jobs in the marine industries

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

The funds we receive from Palm Beach County allow us to serve more middle and high school students in our introductory course, Angling for a Healthy Future.

For more information about the Florida Fishing Academy, visit [www.floridafishingacademy.com](http://www.floridafishingacademy.com)

## Turn on the Light Conference



Several Education and Training Center employees attended the 16th Annual Turn on the Light conference, a national conference on the well-being of children and families.

Psychologists who participated in workshops provided by the Education and Training Center earned continuing education credits. Topics included presentations by Dr. Loren Berry, who presented on “Stepfamilies: A Greater Understanding for Professionals Working with Blended Families.” Dr. Laura Cruz provided a workshop on “Evidence-

based Practices in Treating Disruptive Behaviors.” Former postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Danniella Jones, presented on “Implicit Bias/Racial Micro-Aggression and the Impact on Child Welfare.”

In addition to providing attendees with workshop presentations at The Children’s Healing Institute’s Turn on the Light Conference, Youth Services Department employees also staffed a resource table where they shared information about the services the Department provides.

## Families First Celebration



Tammy K. Fields, Department Director, attended the Families First of Palm Beach County’s annual Children’s Day Luncheon on October 4 to celebrate their 30th anniversary.



The luncheon included a special musical performance by local school children.

## Group Therapy Training



Sherron King, MS presented on “Group Therapy” to Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Therapists and Counselors on November 20 at Highridge Family Center. She included interactive activities for the group.



For more information about Residential Treatment and Family Counseling, visit [www.youthservices/counseling.com](http://www.youthservices/counseling.com).

## YSD Potluck & Holiday Celebration



Youth Services Department 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 18, each person had the opportunity to reveal who their partner was for the gift exchange.

## Interns recognized by County Administration



*All Youth Services Interns*

On December 17, Youth Services Department Interns received special recognition by the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker.

Those recognized received certificates of appreciation



*RTFC Interns*

for their services, and were encouraged to consider Palm Beach County for future employment opportunities.

The Youth Services Department was also recognized as having one of the largest Intern programs.

## Back to School BASH Recognition



*Assistant County Administrator Todd J. Bonlarron*

On October 16, Erin Baker, Communications Specialist, attended a County-wide Community Revitalization Team meeting to accept an award on behalf of the Youth Services



*Erin Baker, Houston Tate, Ruth Moguillansky*

Department. The award recognizes the Department's continued contribution to the Palm Beach County Back to School Bash.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation.  
It is about making a difference."*

*-Kathy Calvin*

# Out & About



Chilondra Sheppard, Grant Compliance Specialist attended Urban League of Palm Beach County’s unveiling of their new program, Project Moving Forward program. The program reduces and prevents court-appointed, first-time offenders from re-offending.



Tammy K. Fields and Dr. Amanda Terrell were a part of panels that spoke at the Juvenile Crime Conference “Kids that Kill 2.” Tammy K. Fields also received special recognition for her superior public service presented by the Broward County Crime Commission.



Royal Palm Beach High School held a two-day ‘Map Out Your College & Career Game Plan’ event. Nohemi Medrano, LMHC, Marie Valsaint, MS, and Intern Soilena Rodriquez Barco, BSW had the opportunity to speak with students about the Department, and provided brochures on healthy coping skills and stress management.



On October 5, Felicia Daniels and Clara Hessing of Youth and Family Counseling attended the “Jam for Peace” Domestic Violence Awareness event hosted by Bridges at Belle Glade.



Tammy K. Fields, attended Grandma’s Place Holiday Luncheon at the Sailfish Club. Proceeds from the luncheon benefit Grandma’s Place, a shelter for abused and neglected children, which also provides respite care to children with disabilities and support services to their caregivers.

## Out & About



Tammy K. Fields attended Digital Vibez, Inc's stakeholder brunch and received a tour of their new office. The Department was recognized for its continued contributions to the Jamathon and assistance in bringing the Jamathon to the Glades.



Dr. Loren Berry from the Education and Training Center participated in a panel for the community on October 29. The panel discussed the impact of domestic violence on women's health. The event was hosted by the YWCA in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



In support of United Way of Palm Beach County, several staff members participated in the Palm Beach County Library System's 5th annual 'Greatest Trivia Challenge' on October 17.



On November 16, Education & Training Center's Shayna Ginsburg & Loren Berry participated in Palm Beach County's 2019 Heart Walk team at the West Palm Beach Meyer Amphitheater.



Youth and Family Counseling Therapist, Filise Jules, LMHC spoke at a Mental Health & Church 'Self Care' therapy session on October 8 in Delray Beach.



Our Education & Training Center's psychologists and doctoral trainees got festive this holiday season with their ugly sweaters.

## Q&A with Tamika Kramer

At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Tamika Kramer, Fiscal Specialist II in Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services (FCA) Division. As part of FCA, Tamika is responsible for monitoring and processing fifty-two current contract reimbursement claims, processing payments for the Department's service contracts, processes payroll for our doctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows, prepares our Department's travel, and provides support in additional areas when needed.



**1. Where is your hometown?**

Boynton Beach; A true "Floridian."

**2. What was your first job?**

McDonalds "Mickey Ds."

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

Pay attention to details, accuracy, and research.

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

I enjoy the interactions with my fellow colleagues and agencies within the community.

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

The most memorable moment is when Youth Services Department staff celebrated my accomplishment of graduating from college.

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

Enjoying family and being the unpaid Uber / Lyft driver for my children.

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

Trusting that God will supply all of my needs.

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

Family cruise to the Caribbean Islands.

**9. What is your favorite quote?**

*"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

**10. Who or what inspires you?**

My family and great friends.

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

I enjoy reading and studying new challenges.

## Well Done



This quarter we said congratulations and farewell to Tyler Shoens.

Tyler graduated from Florida Atlantic University, and is working towards acceptance into Law School.

Tyler had the following to share about his time with Youth Services:

Youth Services has been life changing. I began as a summer intern, with little to no aspirations for bettering myself.

Being a part of the Department has helped mold me into the man I am now and the one I will continue to become—a man with a strong work ethic, determination, grit, and perseverance. I had spent so much of my life hurting and now I feel inspired to help others who cannot help themselves.

My time with Youth Services has reshaped my mindset to strive to be better than I was the day before. No matter where life may take me, I have 25 new family members at Four Points cheering me on. I am ready for life's next challenges thanks to Youth Services and I am ready to face any challenges with determination, perseverance, and the willpower to succeed.

# Welcome Aboard!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between October 1 and December 30.



Employee	Position	Division
Laura Castillo	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Marjorie Estime	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Carlton Harper	Residential Youth Counselor	RTFC
Schmidley Tanis	Sr. Clerk Typist	RTFC
Fonda Newbold	On-Call Paraprofessional	RTFC
Glennika Gordon	Planner I	OCP
Cristal Montepeque	Secretary	RTFC

## Promotions

**Twila Taylor**  
Division Director  
RTFC



**Amanda Terrell**  
Chief Residential Clinical Services  
RTFC

## Congratulations



This quarter we said farewell and thank you to Dr. Tony Spaniol, Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division Director. Tony celebrated 23 years of dedicated service to the residents of Palm Beach County. We all wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

Congratulations to Nohemi Medrano, LMHC and her family! She and her husband welcomed their third child, Adrian Alexander Mejia Medrano on December 23. Earlier in the year, her YSD family surprised her with a baby shower.



# Establishment of the Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship



Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson, 23, passed away on November 9, from injuries sustained while walking near her home.

Alyssa was born October 17, 1996, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She was a graduate of Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, and recently

obtained her Master's Degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University.

She brightened every room she went into and inspired her friends and family to enjoy each moment. Alyssa's smile was infectious and she had a zest for life. She took nothing for granted and strived every day to be a good person to everyone that she interacted with. Her love of learning

included a desire to travel.

Alyssa was committed to higher education and to the needs of those who struggled to achieve their educational goals. She truly believed that potential existed in every person. She was an active volunteer with the Youth Services Department - always willing to help and interact with youth.

Alyssa's family is proud to announce that a scholarship fund has been established in her name.

The Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship is dedicated to those who need a little extra assistance in achieving education goals.

To apply to the Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship, visit [www.friendsofyouthservices.com/scholarship.htm](http://www.friendsofyouthservices.com/scholarship.htm).

Alyssa will be missed and never forgotten.

## Palm Beach County 2020 Census

### COLORING BOOK



**I count, you count,  
everybody counts!**

The U.S. Census counts people.

Make sure it counts you!



**The U.S. Census counts  
people. Make sure it  
counts you!**

In an effort to encourage Palm Beach County residents to take part in the 2020 Census, the Youth Services Department designed a coloring book as a resource for families to understand the impact the Census has for our County, and as a reminder that when completing the census, individuals must include everyone living in their home on April 1.

The coloring book is currently being distributed among

community partners such as the Early Learning Coalition, Center for Child Counseling, and Friends of Foster Children.

If interested in receiving copies for distribution, reach out by email to Erin Baker, Communications Specialist, [ebaker@pbcgov.org](mailto:ebaker@pbcgov.org).



## 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](mailto: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. Twila Taylor

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*Editor-in-Chief*

Erin Baker



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners