

YSD Scoop!



Volume 7 | Issue 1

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department

Coordination Horsepower

Supporting Children,
Youth & Families
in Palm Beach
County



Vonda Daniels, Principal
Northmore Elementary



Suzette Harvey, President/CEO
Prime Time PBC



Marsha Guthrie, Program Officer
Children's Services Council of PBC



Tammy Fields, Director
PBC Youth Services Department



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Employee Q & A with Gus Wessel

At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Gus Wessel, Summer Food Service Program Coordinator. | 16

Youth Services Director Serves on National Panel

On December 8, Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields participated in a panel discussion on "[Making the Invisible Visible: Acknowledging the Need for Coordination Horsepower at Every Level](#)" hosted by The Readiness Projects of the Forum for Youth Investments.

Also on the panel were Vonda Daniels, principal of Northmore Elementary School, Marsha Guthrie of the Children's Services Council, and Suzette Harvey of Prime Time of Palm Beach County.

The national discussion gave participants an opportunity to engage with leaders of Palm Beach County on the coordination at multiple levels of the learning and development ecosystem through a Q & A facilitated by Merita Irby. Fields provided insight on intergovernmental coordination and cross-sector collaboration, particularly in light of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You have illustrated well how you were built to make your community and your agencies a hub of community resilience," said one audience participant. "Your commitment to your vision made you ready to address the current context, support mental health, healing-centered engagement, and youth voice/civic action."

Through the "Making the Invisible Visible" discussion series, ongoing projects, and engagement opportunities, The Readiness Projects coordinating partners and co-strategists are tackling issues in order to Build Forward Together.

Implicit Bias & Microaggressions Trainings



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center’s Danniella Jones, Psy.D. presented trainings on the topic of “Impact of Racial/Ethnic Bias and Microaggressions,” for staff and mental health providers in the community on multiple dates to accommodate the overwhelming requests to receive more information and training surrounding the topic. A total of 300 individuals attended the trainings over the quarter.

Each presentation defined racial and ethnic microaggressions and implicit bias, described the impact of implicit bias and microaggressions on persons of color,

and developed strategies to increase awareness of bias and mitigate negative consequences of those who are impacted.

In November, Dr. Jones published a blog on the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County’s EveryParent App. The blog featured tips and resources on how parents and caregivers can talk with their children about race and racism. Dr. Jones covered a plethora of topics related to implicit bias and microaggressions.

To read the full blog, click [here](#).

Prime Time Palm Beach County & Future Leaders



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Prime Time Palm Beach County have partnered to support Future Leaders United for Change efforts including further development of the county-wide youth council, youth leadership opportunities, community service and engagement activities, and opportunities for youth and young adults to provide input regarding their needs and concerns.

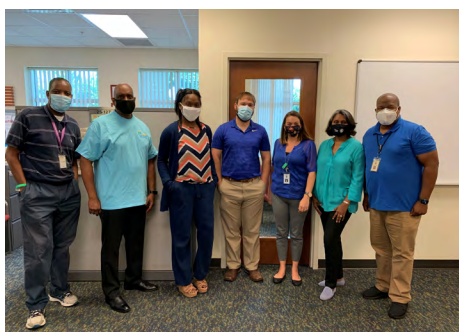
Prime Time engages with several Teen Advisory Councils (TAC) by hosting monthly meetings and leadership development opportunities. Currently, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and Prime Time Palm Beach County are working collectively to align TAC and Future Leaders opportunities in a more expansive and impactful manner for youth.

For more information about Future Leaders United for Change, click [here](#).

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

National Bullying Prevention Month



During the month of October, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department joined schools and organizations across the country to ‘Stomp Out Bullying’ in observance of National Bullying Prevention Month.

The campaign encourages institutions and communities to work together to stop bullying by increasing awareness of

the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying.

As part of the campaign tips, anti bullying quotes, and information was shared across the department’s social networks. Additionally, on October 5, staff wore blue to show support for bullying prevention and to increase awareness of the impact of bullying.

A Salute to Child Care Providers



The Early Learning Coalition shared a [letter of appreciation](#) and salute with Palm Beach County’s exceptional early learning and after-school community. Specifically, teachers, early educators, after-school practitioners, and child care owners who have given their time and support without fail to ensure the education, care, and safety of the county’s youngest learners.

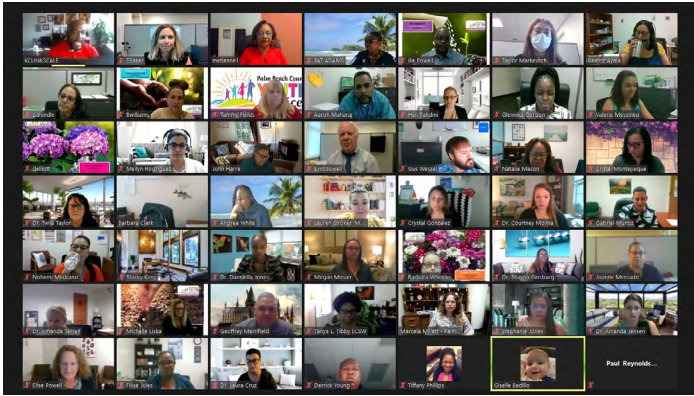
This letter was written on behalf of and in partnership with several of the leading Birth to 22 agencies, including the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, and Prime Time Palm Beach County.

Through this continual, local collaborative partnership, the Early Learning Coalition was able to shed light on the important issue of having a robust, high-quality child care systems in Palm Beach County.

This hot topic is being pushed higher on the priority list as the pandemic reveals the child care industry’s mission-critical nature, as a foundation for K-12 learning and beyond, and a pillar of our society’s future sustainability.

The Palm Beach Post also featured the point of view via a special [OpEd](#).

Cross-Divisional Action Team Kickoff



introduced to its newest action teams: Equity and Diversity, Youth Engagement, Sanctuary – Trauma Informed Care and its existing Seeds of Success action team. These teams will engage employees and help define improvements and performance metrics throughout the department.

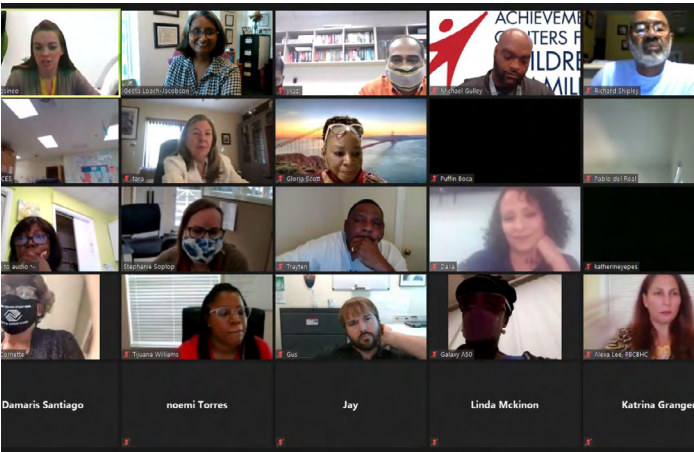
The teams will hold biweekly forums allowing members to work with their co-chairs to develop ideas and solutions to improve overall organizational performance. Teams will present to the Youth Services Department Leadership Team on a bimonthly basis. The presentations will provide a chance for the teams to gain feedback and guide their strategic plans forward.

On October 22, the Youth Services Department held a virtual kickoff for the 2021 Cross-Divisional Action Teams. The event gave the former teams an opportunity to suggest recommendations and provide an overview of projects that will move forward.

Following the recommendations, the department was

The kickoff included inspirational remarks from department Director Tammy K. Fields, Palm Beach County Strategic Planning and Performance Management Director Keith A. Clinkscale and Senior Strategic Planning Performance Analyst Marcela Carneiro Millett.

Summer Camp Provider Information Meeting

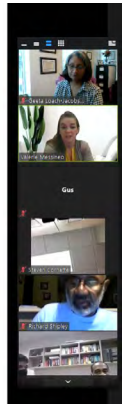


1) Purpose



The Summer Camp Scholarship Program provides full-tuition and fees for summer camp for children residing in families with income at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- It gives children educational and recreational opportunities for growth.
- Parents may choose from participating licensed camps in Palm Beach County.
- Serving children 5 -14 years old, or up to 17 years old for special populations



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held a virtual summer camp provider information meeting on November 18.

Current and prospective providers were encouraged to attend to gain information about the program, including important updates.

The Summer Camp Scholarship Program provides full tuition and fees for summer camp for children residing in families with income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. It allows parents to work with the knowledge

that their children are safe. It gives children educational and recreational opportunities for growth. Scholarships are funded by the Children’s Services Council and Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

The provider application was opened from November 18 through January 8. At this time, the only camp option for summer 2021 will be in-person attendance.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Summer Camp Scholarship Program.

Palm Beach County Non-Profit Grant Funding Program



Palm Beach County CARES for Nonprofits Grant

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners provided grant funding through its Youth Services Department to the United Way of Palm Beach County for nonprofit agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

Monies were made available through the county's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES)

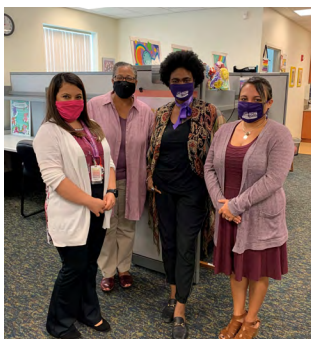
Act funding to meet the needs of qualifying 501 (c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant-funding program prioritized health and human services or veterans' services organizations in Palm Beach County with a focus on at least one of the following areas:

- Unemployed individuals needing job skills training, assistance with job search and employment applications
- Low-income individuals, youth and/or families
- Individuals with a disability
- Homeless
- Individuals with a mental/behavioral health issue
- Providing critical services in an underserved area
- Veterans

The application period concluded on November 30.

Domestic Violence Awareness



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff members wore purple to raise awareness and show support towards ending domestic violence. The Help End Silence Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign was spearheaded by Palm Beach County Community Services Department.

Leadership Palm Beach

On Dec. 9, Director Tammy K. Fields was invited to participate in the Education Day of Leadership Palm Beach County and highlight the work of the Youth Services Department, Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures, and the Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community Action Team.

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you imagined.”

- Henry David

Palm Beach County General Election

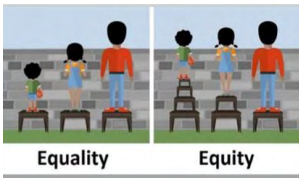
During the General Election, several Palm Beach County Youth Services Department employees worked at the Palm beach County Supervisor of Elections Call Center and at various polling sites throughout the county.

YSD would like to recognize the following staff for their efforts during the Election:

Pat Adams
Margaret Aikhionbare
Erin Baker
Felicia Daniels

Tammy K. Fields
Tyrell Hall
Cindy Roberts
Barbara Wheeler

Florida Race Equity Challenge



The Florida Youth Justice Commission in collaboration with the State Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) led the “Florida Race Equity Challenge” (FREC) for the various DJJ circuits and partners across the state during the period of June through December 2020.

Florida’s Race Equity Challenge is a web-based experience that provided collaborative groups with the education and tools to identify and tackle issues related to race, equity, and inclusion (REI) within the juvenile justice system. The series included three blocks of scheduled web-based learning that fostered attendees to have meaningful discussions on implicit bias, utilizing data, assessing race equity in policies, Equality Florida, identification and preparation of a proposal to address change within the Palm Beach County Judicial Circuit 15.

The Palm Beach County RED/DMC team led the local FREC team challenge with members from various agencies across

the county including; 15th Judicial Circuit, Children’s Services Council of Pam Beach County, Court Administration, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Gulfstream Goodwill, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State Attorney, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Palm Beach School District, School Board of Palm Beach County, St. John’s Baptist Church, Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office, West Palm Beach Police Department, West Palm Beach Mayor’s Office, Palm Beach County School District Police and others.

The team chose to focus on the probation part of the justice system with the intent of significantly reducing disparities and reducing recidivism. A race, equity, and inclusion solution proposal was developed and submitted to the Florida Youth Justice Commission.

Youth Services Department staff that participated on the FREC team included Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director; Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Outreach and Community Programming director; and Ike Powell III., senior program specialist.

Cross-Departmental Presentations



On December 15, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and County Administration heard presentations from Palm Beach County’s six Cross-Departmental Teams.

Each of the Cross-Departmental Teams align with one of the county’s strategic priorities.

Commissioners and County Administration provided positive feedback and complimented the staff for the work they have done.

“I want to personally thank Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Ike Pow-

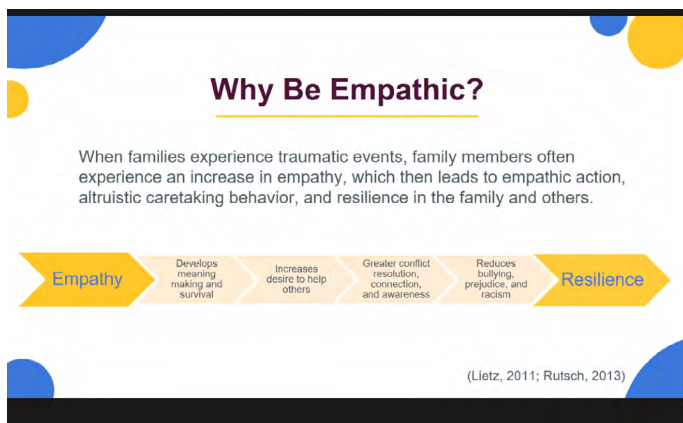
ell III., Tanya L. Tibby and Dr. Twila Taylor for their work in getting these presentations ready,” said Palm Beach County Youth Services Department Director, Tammy K. Fields.

The following staff represent the department on Cross-Departmental Teams;

- Tanya L. Tibby - Public Safety
- Geeta Loach-Jacobson - Housing and Homelessness
- Dr. Twila Taylor - Substance Use and Behavior Disorders
- Ike Powell III. - Economic Development

Congratulations to those employees who actively participate on each of the respective teams.

Train the Brian: Resilience and Self-Care Event



As part of Palm Health Foundation’s Train the Brain 2020: Resilience and Self-Care in the Face of Adversity event, two doctoral interns from Youth Services Department’s Education and Training Center provided training workshops.

On October 21, Essence O. Rivers, MA presented “Coping with Adversity Using Self Compassion” in which she described self-compassion, differentiated between self-compassion and other self-related constructs, and provided guidance to help participants select resources and practices to increase self-compassion.

On October 27, Gabriella Hill, MA presented “Building Family Resilience Through Empathy,” in which she defined the key terms and emphasized vital differences between empathy and other similar terms, engaged the audience in activities and discussion highlighting the four principle components of empathy that are critical for family resilience, and provided practical tips and resources for further development and implementation.

Click [here](#) to view a full list of trainings provided by the Education and Training Center.

Unity Day



This year, a worldwide pandemic and a growing movement for racial equity and social justice have further highlighted the need to unite communities for a better future. It is more important than ever to join together in creating a world that is kinder, more accepting, and more inclusive.

On October 21, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff members joined others across the country by wearing orange in support of kindness, acceptance and inclusion.

Birth to 22 Task Force Meeting



On December 15, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its fifth annual stakeholder task force meeting 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. Over 215 individuals participated in the annual meeting.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department director and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County welcomed the group with a brief overview of accomplishments and reminding participants of the alliance’s mission. Presentations included:

- Birth to 22 Ad Hoc Gaps Committee – created to support communities after the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing racial and economic disparities. This committee collaborated with Birth to 22’s Racial Equity Core Team to focus efforts on areas with the greatest disparities and identify gaps to align support and advocacy.
- Racial Equity Core Team, a Birth to 22 workgroup with

the primary charge of facilitating the responsibility of Palm Beach County G.A.R.E. (Government Alliance on Race and Equity), shared their accomplishments (including having 20 new organization commit to joining the local Advancing the Mission network), challenges, next steps, and recommendations.

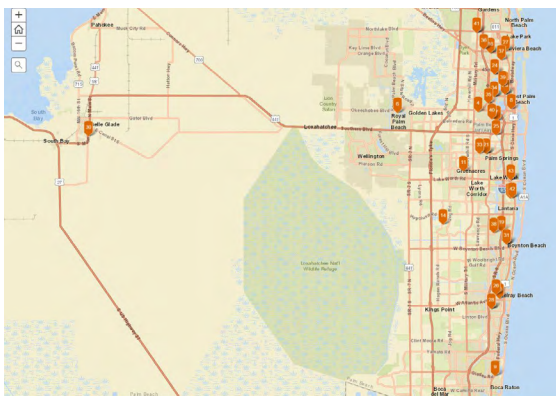
- Future Leaders United for Change introduced their new adult supporters from Prime Time Palm Beach County (Anton Spaulding and Andrea Hurtado) and highlighted their many 2020 accomplishments including a podcast and their involvement with the Youth Summit Quaranteen.
- Collective Impact 3.0, a structured form of collaboration, discussed bringing multiple stakeholders together to create lasting social change. Collaborations working with Birth to 22 include Hunger Relief, Achieve Palm Beach County, Securing Our Future and BeWell Palm Beach County.

The plenary portion of the meeting concluded with a compilation video of each action team and workgroup providing information on their teams. These videos are available to view on Birth to 22’s website.

Following presentations, breakout sessions were held allowing participants to join one of the nine action teams’ sessions. The sessions identified the data that drives their objectives, target work for 2020, and the needs of the action teams to continue moving forward in 2021.

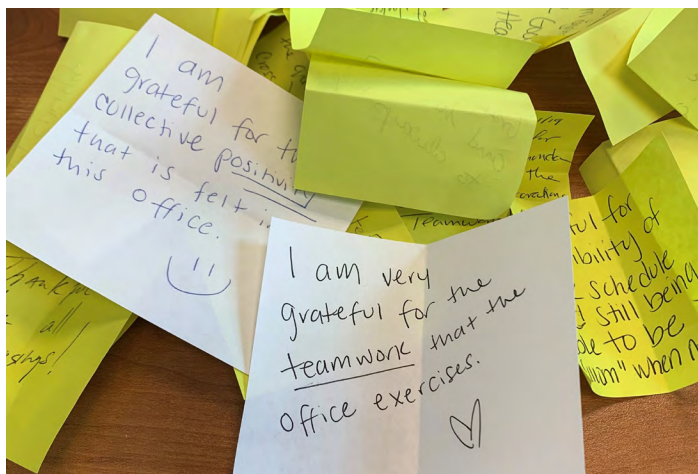
Click [here](#) to learn more about the work of Birth to 22.

OCP Launched CBA Area Map

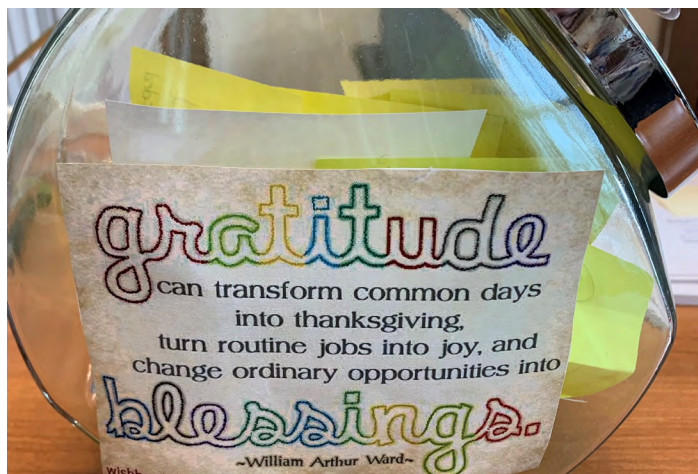


Over the quarter, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department launched its mobile-friendly Community Based Agencies (CBA) area map. This interface allows users to search nearby CBAs and get the scoop on program information, districts served, and which action area of the Youth Master Plan the CBA supports. *To view the area map, click [here](#).*

Youth Services Gratitude Jar



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department began a gratitude initiative by providing a gratitude jar in the common area of the Four Points main office location for employees to provide tokens of gratitude throughout



the year. At the start of the new year, Director Tammy K. Fields, opened the jar and shared its contents with the department.



Grateful for the collective positivity that is felt in this office.
- Youth Services employee



Grateful for all the great work of the cross-divisional teams.
- Youth Services employee

YSD Internship Through CareerSource PBC

Guest Article: Dayana Isoph



My internship with Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has been thrilling and demanding throughout these uncertain times with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I've had the chance to work closely with great people who are dedicated to the community and create opportunities for the underserved population, that would not have had such advantages otherwise if it had not been for the joint undertaking of all employees of the department.

I've seen throughout my time here how mutual respect

and teamwork can solve any problem. I learned how to use new software namely Clipchamp, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe After Effects to complete interactive projects with another intern, Keanna Davis. I have been exposed to a range of community partners here, which has helped to sharpen my communication skills and made me more of an engaged listener.

As I obtain my law degree and aspire to become a civil lawyer, these skills are advantageous for me. This was truly a wonderful experience and I am delighted to continue with the department's Summer Camp Scholarship Program for a seasonal role.

CBA Spotlight: Community Partners of South Florida



* Some pictures were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. What is your mission?

The mission of Community Partners of South Florida: Mentoring Pahokee is to partner with communities to change the odds for children and families facing social, emotional and financial adversity.

2. What does your organization do?

Community Partners of South Florida (CP) changes the odds for children and families facing adversity and creates lasting social change by providing comprehensive services and solutions that target three primary areas:

- Behavioral/mental health
- Housing
- Community

Using an evidence-based, targeted approach built on best practices and informed by 33 years of experience working with children and families, we are changing generations.

3. What key programs does your organization offer?

Mentoring at Pahokee program:

CP aims to link children with caring adults committed to their social and emotional development. The goal of our CP mentoring programs is to help build protective factors, foster a sense of connectedness, and support social-emotional learning through a positive adult mentor/mentee relationship. In these ways, mentoring programs help to build healthy communities and improve the quality of life of children and families.

Mentored youth have an opportunity to form lasting relationships with significant mentors who provide guidance and support. Participation in a nurturing, stable relationship with an adult in their life increases their protective factors. Our CP mentoring

programs are based on Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring. Mentors and mentees meet and participate in supervised, structured activities at school-based sites during traditional, after-school hours: Monday through Friday from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During the pandemic, mentoring matches are engaging and meeting virtually in order to follow all safety protocols.

Other programs provided:

- **Behavioral/mental health services:** CP brings behavioral/mental health services to children, adults, and families who are experiencing social and/or emotional difficulties. All services respect the values and desires of each individual or family. Most can be offered in one of our several locations throughout Palm Beach County, in the home, in the school, or in other convenient locations.
- **Housing:** The housing services program area partners with clients who are seeking to reach long term financial stability and self-sustainability. A home is more than just the concrete, stucco, and tile that go into it. A home is a place to raise a family, be part of a community, and to build wealth.
- **Community:** CP programs are rooted in our skill for identifying the strengths and talents that already exist within neighborhoods. We listen to residents as they tell us what's needed to maximize success in their communities. We identify and facilitate a neighborhood's own capacity to serve its residents and local youth.

4. How does your agency benefit the community?

Providing opportunities for our young people to connect with positive adults that can support them as they navigate life’s challenges.

The goal of our CP mentoring programs is to help build protective factors, foster a sense of connectedness, and support social-emotional learning through a positive adult mentor/mentee relationship. In these ways, mentoring programs help to build healthy communities and improve the quality of life of children and families.

What is your agency’s focus for 2021?

CP will empower residents to lead social change,

improve quality of life, and build healthy communities. CP is changing health, housing, and communities for generations to come by changing the odds today.

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

The funding from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department ensures services are made available to the children of Pahokee. Without the financial support, it would not be possible.

For more information about Community Partners of South Florida, visit www.cp-cto.org.

Meet Scarlett



Scarlett was matched in the 2nd grade. She was very shy and lacked self-confidence in expressing herself. Her parents reported that she didn’t make friends easily and was often timid with others. Over the past two years, Scarlett has grown into a confident, artistic and outgoing student.

Her mentor, Mrs. Martinez, a retired School District of

Palm Beach County teacher supported and helped Scarlett find her voice in her art work. They have developed a true friendship which is clearly evident during their match meetings. One would observe laughter, sharing of the love of art projects and experiencing new opportunities together. Scarlett continues to shine in her classes at school and has made many new friends.

Show of Appreciation for the CARES Act Application Assistance

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department employees worked in collaboration to assist Community Services Department to ensure food applications were processed as rapidly as possible to provide the community with much needed aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth Services staff members provided three-months of assistance reviewing level 1 applications.

In addition, Patty Hindle assisted the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability with business applications.

Click [here](#) for up-to-date information and operations.

CARES applications have all been assigned or completed for LEVEL 1! Thank you all for your assistance! We’re happy to report that we no longer need assistance with reviewing applications. Again, we could not have done this important work without you! - Doris Davis, Training Program Coordinator, Community Services

Thanks YSD Team! I’m so thankful for your assistance and we could not have reached this milestone without your assistance. - Taruna Malhotra, Assistance Director, Community Services

YSD would like to recognize the following staff for their efforts:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Vynteria Davis | Gabriel Munoz | Tanya L. Tibby |
| Patty Hindle | Megan Mosier | Elise Powell |
| Barbara Wheeler | Sabrina DuBois | Tiffany Phillips |
| Bridget Williams | Marjorie Auguste | Stephanie Jones |
| Tyrell Hall | Stacey King | Filise Jules |

Four Points Office Holiday Decorating



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff came together to spread some cheer and decorate the Four Points office tree and main lobby area.

Department employees were encouraged to bring in an

ornament that represents them to hang on the office tree throughout December. Employees that observe Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, were also encouraged to bring in an ornament or (small) item that represents their traditions.

Advancing the Mission



Advancing The Mission: Operationalizing and Institutionalizing Racial Equity within Your Organization

Advancing the Mission (Part V) webinar was held on December 17 and attended by more than 200 individuals representing local organizations including leaders of Palm Beach County Administration, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff and other county staff.

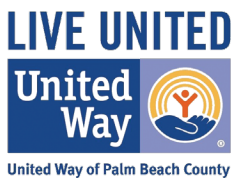
The webinar was a continuation of the series of discussions and collaborative work efforts regarding implementation of the G.A.R.E. racial equity theory of change model. The webinar provided a forum for discussion and sharing best practices on operationalizing and institutionalizing racial equity within local organizations.

Julie Nelson, Senior Vice President of Programs, Race Forward Founding Director of GARE and Cathy Albisa, Vice President of Institutional and Sectoral Change

GARE served as discussion moderators. Attendees were provided the opportunity to participate in either of the two breakout sessions entitled “Catalyst for Change”: (Driving Transformation by Building a Race Equity Culture) and “A New Way Forward” (Rooting out Racism by Building Cultural Intelligence).

Kudo’s to the members of the Racial Equity Planning Team for their leadership. The team includes James Green, Director of Palm Beach County Community Services, Department, Marsha Guthrie Community Planning and Partnerships Lead for Children Services Council of Palm Beach County, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Rachel Mondesir, Project Manager for Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Lauren Zuchman, Executive Director for BeWellPBC, and Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst for the Criminal Justice Commission.

United Way Campaign



The 2020 United Way of Palm Beach County Employee Campaign ran from October 1 through December 16.

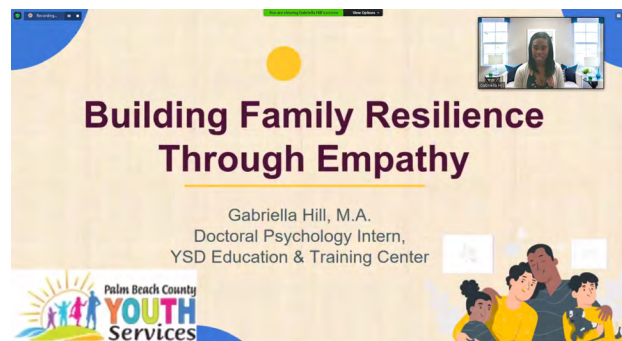
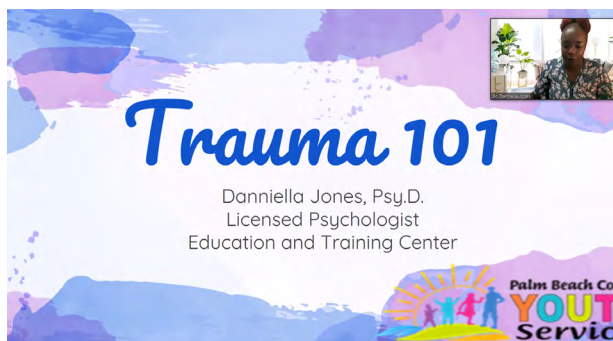
This year, not only did Youth Services Department staff participation rate increase, but the department exceeded it’s campaign goal by 121% making this campaign the best yet! The department’s staff

members generosity and commitment to strengthening and improving our community has been nothing short of inspiring.

A special thank you to those staff who contributed to this year’s United Way campaign and Erin Baker Youth Services Department’s United Way Coordinator.

Click [here](#) for more information about the United Way of Palm Beach County.

Education and Training Didactic Trainings



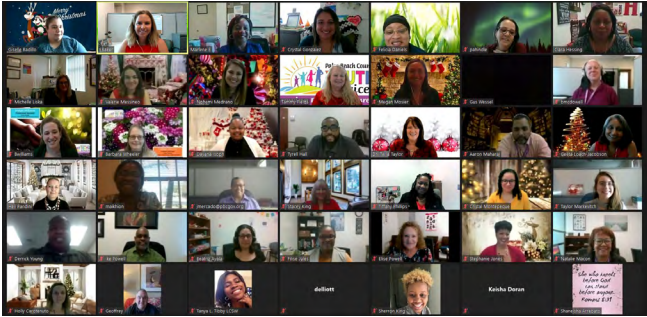
This quarter, the Youth Services Department's Education and Training Center held several remote didactic trainings for Youth Services staff, mental health professionals and community partners.

- Dr. Shayna Ginsburg presented "Ethics: Maintaining Professional Boundaries." The training offered three continuing education credits to licensed professionals and discussed professional boundaries related to client care, distinguished between a boundary crossing and boundary violation, identified areas of ethical ambiguity, and applied ethical standards to ethical dilemmas.
- Dr. Danniella Jones presented "Trauma 101." The training offered two continuing education credits to licensed professionals and defined trauma and related terminology, explained the impact of trauma, and identified ways to foster resilience and provide trauma-informed care.
- Dr. Laura Cruz presented "Incorporating Evidence-Based Practices in Treating Young Children With Disruptive Behavior Disorders: Using Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Skills." The training offered two continuing education credits to licensed professionals and summarized the efficaciousness of PCIT, discussed the theoretical underpinnings, explained the utility in treating disruptive childhood behavior disorders, and identified skills to be used across therapy sessions to improve child misbehavior.
- Dr. Kelly Everson of Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness presented "Suicidality." The training offered two continuing education credits to licensed professionals and discussed statistics and factual data related to suicidality and behaviors associated with suicide, assessed suicide risk using evidence-based measures, described the development of a safety plan, and identified the difference between self-injury and suicide behaviors.
- Dr. Stephanie Larsen of Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness presented "Coping With Self-Injury." The training offered two continuing education credits to licensed professionals and listed types of self-injury, identified common reasons for onset of self-injury behaviors, differentiated between self-injury and suicide behaviors, and identified potential ways of treating self-injurious behaviors.
- Gabriella Hill, MA, Doctoral Intern, presented "Building Family Resilience through Empathy." The training defined family resilience and empathy, explained principle components of empathy that are critical for family resilience, and reviewed practical methods of developing and demonstrating empathy towards others.
- Dr. Amanda Terrell presented "Your Brain on Poverty: Psychological Effects of Living with Financial Scarcity." The training identified the impact of poverty on behavior, health, and decision making; discussed recent research findings related to the relationship between poverty, mental health, and trauma; and explored the concrete experience of people in poverty and identify societal biases that may impact treatment.

"Education is for improving the lives of others & for leaving your community & the world better than you found it."

- Marian Wright Edelman

YSD Virtual Holiday Celebration



The department held a virtual holiday celebration on December 16 hosted by the Seeds of Success Cross-Divisional Action Team. The event gave employees time to reflect on the department’s accomplishments and come together for some holiday “togetherness.”

The event kicked off with a welcome and thank you from Director Tammy K. Fields and employees discussed holiday traditions they celebrate with their families.

Staff then viewed a video presentation chronicling the department from the annual retreat in the summer of 2019 through the office tree decorating which took place earlier in December. Event attendees enjoyed themed games including holiday trivia using Kahoot!, a virtual learning-



based platform. Congratulations to winners of the trivia contest: third place, Donna Elliott; second place, Tammy K. Fields; first place, Dr. Twila Taylor.

Attendees viewed and voted on holiday office decorations. Congrats to Dayana Isoph who took first place for her “Under the Tree” theme. Lastly, employees were able to unwrap their Secret Santa gifts as the gift givers were revealed.

The celebration concluded with employees expressing gratitude for each other and best wishes for the holidays. “We may be physically distanced, but let’s never be socially distanced from each other and the children and families we serve,” said Fields.

Wellness and Awareness Body, Mind, and Spirit

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s wellness and awareness corner, Body, Mind, and Spirit, comes to you from the Seeds of Success Cross-Divisional Action Team. Regardless of your lifestyle, this space features topics related to personal wellness and awareness.

Sanctuary Commitment: Social Learning

This quarter we will focus on the commitment to Social Learning. Social learning is learning from others. We all tend to view our own behavior as making sense and feeling if everyone fit into my world everything would be fine. Social learning is understanding that in order to get along, we have to learn how to integrate different points of view so that everyone is accommodated to one degree or another. The more we understand and accommodate each other, the more we are able to collaborate to reach individual and group goals. Having an open mind that we can learn from others is a great way to be present in the world.

Diversity: Culture, Food, and More...

Have you ever watched the Travel Channel? It’s a great way to vacation in exotic locales without the expense and the stress of actual travel. In particular, watching Bizarre

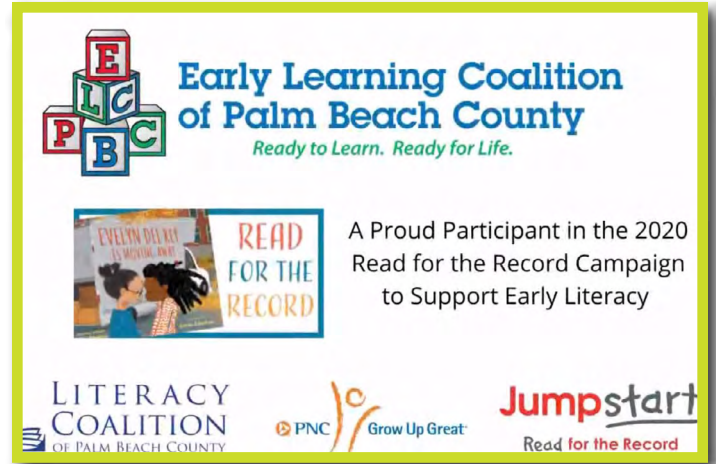
Foods, where culinary expert, chef, and social justice advocate Andrew Zimmern journeys to far flung regions of the globe “exploring and promoting cultural acceptance, tolerance, and understanding through food.” He embraces every adventure with an open mind and inquisitive spirit, primed for learning from the people and the cultures that give life to the food they prepare. From pit roasted camel with Bedouins in the Sahara, Ostrich eggs with Bushmen in South Africa, to Akutaq ice cream with Inupiats in Alaska, he lets his guard down, ingratiates himself, and respectfully partakes in whatever is brought to the “table” because it’s the company that really matters.

So what’s the point? There’s a great big world of diversity to be explored and appreciated. One doesn’t have to be a globe trotter to have an exploration. Diversity exists in your office, in the neighborhood, in the city, and throughout the globe.

Let’s willingly cease the momentum of social change to venture outside our comfort zones, to learn and grow from others, in the interest of creating a more inclusive world for all.



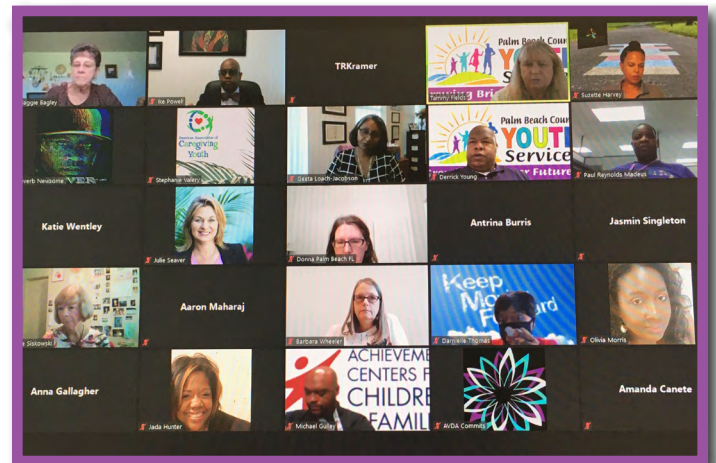
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department employees joined the Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization, Living Hungry Inc. and other organizations to pack Thanksgiving meals for families in need.



Youth Services Department Director Tammy K. Fields and other Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County Board Members read "Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away" by Meg Mendina as part of Read for the Record Day.



Dr. Twila Taylor, RTFC Division Director, participated in the Mental Health & the Church Conference sponsored by New Song Church. Dr. Taylor discussed the adaptations of services to meet the growing mental health needs of the community and fielded questions from conference participants.



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Outreach and Community Programming Division held their quarterly meeting virtually. The meeting served as a wrap-up of FY 2020 and kickoff for FY 2021. In addition to department staff members, 76 individuals representing 33 funded agencies attended.



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



In support of United Way of Palm Beach County, several department staff members participated in Palm Beach County Library System's annual 'Greatest Trivia Challenge.'

Q&A with Gus Wessel



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Gus Wessel, Program Coordinator for Outreach and Community Programming's Summer Food Service Program. Gus prepares and manages 10 food monitors and 70-100 summer feeding sites that provide meals and snacks to low-income school aged children during the summer months (June-August). "I ensure the safety of the residents that are in our programs," said Gus.

- 1. Where is your hometown?**
West Palm Beach, Florida.
- 2. What was your first job?**
Summer Food Monitor for the Summer Food Service Program.
- 3. What are the three most important skills you need for your job?**
To work well as a team, understand how to problem solve and communicate effectively.

- 4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?**
My favorite thing about my job is being able to not only give opportunities to college students for professional development but also to help mentor them.
- 5. Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?**
A memorable moment would be to see the college students who work for the food program over the summer(s) growth of work habits, public speaking skills and on job training to better prepare themselves for after they graduate.
- 6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?**
Sports, fishing, boating, trail riding, anything outdoors.
- 7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?**
Take time to enjoy and appreciate the little things in life.
- 8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?**
Montana.
- 9. What is your favorite quote?**
"Success isn't owned. It's leased, and rent is due every day." - J.J. Watt
- 10. Who or what inspires you?**
My wife and my parents.
- 11. Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?**
I went to college for Secondary Education: Social Science, I have my real estate license and I am certified in AutoCAD.

Staff Recognized for Years of Service



The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners recognized 11 Youth Services Department employees for their years of service with Palm Beach County.

Congratulations to the following employees for your dedicated 170 years combined service to the residents of Palm Beach County.

- 30 years – Tammy K. Fields
- 25 years – John Harre and Manuel Signo
- 20 years – Donna Elliott and Felicia Daniels
- 15 years - Andrea Morales
- 10 years - Aaron Maharaj and Heli Pandini
- 5 years - Gabriel Munoz, Giselle Badillo and Valerie Messineo

Welcome Aboard!



Join us in welcoming our newest team members!



The following Youth Services employees were hired between October 1 and December 31.

Employee	Position	Division
Holly-Lynn Carotenuto	Grant Compliance Specialist II	OCP
Courtney Molina	Therapist	RTFC
Robinson Rodriguez	Licensed Practical Nurse	RTFC
Jose Manuel Garcia	Sr. Clerk Typist	RTFC
Donna Goodwin	Program Evaluator	ADMIN



CareerSource Interns

Student	Position	Organization
Dayana Isoph	General Office Assistant	CareerSource Palm Beach County

Promotions



Gabriel Munoz
Youth Services Coordinator
RTFC



Erin Baker
Public Relations Specialist
FCA

Employee of the Quarter

Special to YSD Scoop!



Congratulations to Patty Hindle, for earning the Youth Services Department's "Employee of the Quarter" award.

Patty was nominated for her work and group leadership on

the Seeds of Success Cross-Divisional Action Team.

Thank you Patty for all you do for the department and the youth and families in our community.

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 Erin Baker
at ebaker@pbcgov.org.

Connect with Us!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram for more exciting updates!



pbcyouthservices



PBCYSD



PBCYSD

Youth Services Department Director

Tammy K. Fields

Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services

Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming

Geeta Loach-Jacobson

Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling

Dr. Twila Taylor

Editor-in-Chief

Erin Baker



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners