



Dear Child Advocates,

The Birth to 22 Steering Committee and Action Teams leadership came together on September 7, 2022, to begin the process of action planning for our Youth Master Plan 2.0. We had great engagement where we reviewed input from our community conversations, which is helping to set our top priorities for the next few years. Residents, youth, and community members have shared three priority theme areas— Mental Health, Economic Access, and Education. We also heard loud and clear that we must incorporate targeted approaches for children in the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, our LGBTQ+ youth, and youth transitioning to adulthood. Ensuring equity in everything we do is a must.

As we build our next action plan, please attend and share our next Task Force meetings within your communities. They will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 13th (9am-12pm) and on Saturday, January 21st (12pm-3pm). We will be providing community service hours for youth participation and gift cards for parent participation. This is an opportunity for our entire community to come together and strategize for what's to come for this important Alliance.

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-6th-annual-taskforce-meeting-2022-tickets-446043677647>

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor
CEO, Children's Services Council

Tammy K. Fields
Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department



Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 | Issue 1 | December 2022

2022 Birth to 22 Retreat

The event brought 40 leaders from local organizations to collaborate on the issues facing youth ages 0 to 22 in Palm Beach County.

Alliance Spotlights

Since its inception, Birth to 22 and its community alliances, have been working towards providing youth and young adults resources to reach their fullest potential.

Upcoming Events

Check out the Birth to 22 community alliance upcoming events.

Share Feedback & Stories!

Do you have feedback or have an inspiring story to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact us at, pub-birthto22@pub.gov.org

Birth to 22 Hosts 2022 Retreat



On September 7, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its 2022 retreat at Palm Beach State College Public Safety Conference Center. The event brought 40 leaders from local organizations to collaborate on the issues facing youth ages 0 to 22 in Palm Beach County. Participants discussed plans to update the Youth Master Plan with community input and a recognition of a changing environment for young people. Four main questions were addressed “Where are we now? What is working? What are the challenges? What are future solutions?”

Birth to 22 plans to continue hosting annual conversations with community members about their needs. Based on the most recent community conversation, the top three resource needs expressed were mental health, the economic assistance, and education, including resources for afterschool programs and post-secondary education.

Learn more about the Birth to 22 Alliance at: <http://pbcbirthto22.com/>.



2022 Youth Survey Results



An abbreviated version of the Youth Survey was conducted this summer, and the results were released in October. The youth participants included those present at the 3-day Youth Summit on 6/28-6/30/22, and it was also distributed via email from 7/15/-8/31/22. The survey asked about the top concerns the youth are facing, as well as specific concerns around health,

employment, and safety/violence.

The youth shared the best form of communication to provide information and how they feel most comfortable sharing their feedback with agencies. This information was presented to the Birth to 22 Communication Subcommittee to see if they utilize the best communication methods.

All of this information was shared with the Steering Committee and Coordination Team. It can currently be found on at <http://pbcbirthto22.com/>.

Youth Services Department Receives Certification in Trauma-Informed Care



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department is excited to announce they have been certified in the Sanctuary Model of Trauma-Informed Care by the Andrus Sanctuary Institute.

The Sanctuary Model, originally developed by Dr. Sandra Bloom, is a blueprint for clinical and organizational change. The trauma-informed model promotes an environment emphasizing the seven commitments of nonviolence, emotional intelligence, social learning, open communication, social responsibility, democracy, and growth and change.

The department has worked towards this certification, building from the certification of the Highridge Family Center in 2019, for the last three years. Staff at all levels embraced this organizational model. The certification symbolizes the Youth Services Department's commitment to providing a higher level of care, a trauma-sensitive environment for the clients and community served, and a better work environment for employees.

"Some of the children and families we serve have experienced multiple traumatic events that impact behaviors and the ability to cope. Providing services with a trauma-informed lens is essential. Our goal is to build resiliency for our youth," said Tammy K. Fields, Director of the Youth Services Department.

Implementing the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care at Youth Services aligns with the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners' strategic priorities and the objectives in the Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures Youth Master Plan. The implementation of the model also increases measurable levels of hope, safety, trust, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving skills in both staff and clients.

Palm Beach County Youth Services is the fourth government agency in the nation, and first in the State of Florida to receive this certification.

Girls Coordinating Council Hosts 2 Year Anniversary Symposium and 5K Run



The Girls Coordinating Council (GCC) of Palm Beach County celebrated its 2-Year Anniversary in October with a 5k Run/Walk at Okeeheelee Park and a Community Symposium hosted by Palm Beach State College, highlighting the experience of “Being a Girl Today.” The events coincided with International Day of the Girl, which takes place on October 11th every year.

Over 100 community members, providers and girls attended the 5k and symposium. The GCC would like to give a special thanks to their sponsors, including 4Girls Foundation, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Palm

Beach County Victim Services, Pace Center for Girls, Digital Vibez, Mint Eco Car Wash, and Choice to Change of Palm Beach County. Vendors from local organizations that serve girls provided information and giveaways to the girls in attendance, and Digital Vibez kept the party going with music and entertainment.

At the Community Symposium, girls spoke about “Being a Girl Today” and challenged the leaders and providers in attendance to tackle issues like programming for first-generation immigrant students in schools, increased research on girls and women, and building self-confidence in girls. Thank you to everyone who supported the GCC two-year anniversary events and helped invest in the future of girls! For more information on GCC please visit <http://pbcbirthto22.com/girls/>.



Alliance Spotlights

Why does Guardian ad Litem need YOU?



The Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office represents abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the courtroom and the community. Through the collaboration of a multi-disciplinary team

that includes a Guardian ad Litem Attorney, child welfare professional, and a trained volunteer, our team provides quality legal representation for the best interests of abused, neglected, and abandoned children while assisting the child in expressing their needs and wishes. Our unique approach allows us to support the whole child, addressing their physical, educational, mental, emotional, social, and legal needs.

The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office is a guardianship type of legal representation. In Florida, we recognize that children cannot make decisions for themselves that involve their health and safety. Guardians ad Litem must provide all information to the judge about the child and advocate for

what is in the child’s best interest.

Our volunteers advocate for needed services for the child, report information to the judge, case manager, and attorney via written reports/ testimony, and monitor the case from beginning to end. With a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer, a child is half as likely to languish in foster care and more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

Roz, a long-time volunteer, stated, “I was able to set my own schedule of visits and work from home, making the necessary phone calls regarding my case. It was very rewarding for me, frustrating at times, but so rewarding. Most of my cases have gone to resolution and some to adoption.”

To be a part of the Florida Guardian ad Litem Child Advocacy Team, there are no special legal skills necessary, just good common sense, the desire to help abused and neglected children, and time. Volunteering requires approximately 15-20+ hours a month and a year to a two-year commitment.

To VOLUNTEER or obtain more information regarding Florida Guardian ad Litem, visit our website at galpbc.org or call 561- 355-6224.

Florida Guardian Ad Litem Office

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office set up a table at “SpookyVille” at the South Florida Fairgrounds for Halloween handing out candy to all who stopped by. It was so much fun to see everyone dressed in costumes! Their office also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the newly opened Cayuga Center in Boynton Beach and the newly opened FLITE Center in West Palm Beach. Meeting members of the community helps spread the word about how we advocate for and represent Florida’s abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

Every child deserves an adult from their community who will be a consistent, positive presence in their life – you can be that person. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.galpbc.org and www.guardianadlitem.org for more information.



Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. (AVDA)



The 2022-2023 school year is in session! AVDA's Commit to Change: Violence Prevention Initiative is in full swing. Through renewed funding from Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), AVDA

is facilitating primary prevention programming with middle and high school aged youth at multiple high schools and after school community programs in Palm Beach County. AVDA is continuing to provide adult community education and professional trainings throughout Palm Beach County to strengthen the efforts to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, and teen dating violence.

#CommittedMen is a focus of AVDA's Commit to Change prevention programming supported by YSD and OVW. The goal of mobilizing committed men and boys in Palm Beach County to prevent dating and domestic violence through education and action starts with the Men of Strength (MOST) clubs. AVDA began MOST clubs with youth at local community centers and has since expanded with students at two high schools. AVDA invites male mentors and other youth influencing adults to join the #CommittedMen action group and engage in discussions to mobilize men as allies to women and girls.

Available Prevention Education Services:

- Youth Primary Prevention programs
- Youth workshops
- Adult Community Education for parents and community members

- Professional training
- Men and boys' workshops and programs

As October wrapped up Domestic Violence Awareness Month, AVDA highlighted the continued need for men and boys, young people, and adults in the community to receive domestic violence prevention education supporting the development of healthy, safe, and equitable relationships. Commitment is a choice and an act. Join their community of hope to end domestic violence. Are you committed?

Connect with them at:

www.avdaonline.org

@avdacommits

Hotline 561-265-2900

Outreach Dept. 561-265-3797



Wellness Promotion Task Force



The Wellness Promotion Task Force was developed 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.



Students are More Powerful Than You Think at Path to College Orientation



Path to College (PTC) launched with ten students from one flagship high school in 2017. Fast forward five years to their October 2022 Orientation at the Cox Science Center welcoming 55 new students! These standouts bring the fellowship to their largest enrollment ever-- 107 for this school year!

Multiple guest speakers and the science center's exhibits inspired students from 12 local high schools: Inlet Grove, Boynton Beach, South Tech Academy, Palm Beach Lakes, John I. Leonard, Lake Worth Community, Dreyfoos, Palm Beach Gardens, Suncoast, Santaluces, Forest Hill, and Atlantic. Fellows completed career aptitude assessments, community impact brainstorming, a FAFSA, and a Common App review. Together, they recited the PTC pledge, veteran students provided testimonials on their experience as Fellows, and the class of 2023 participated in a college acceptance visualization activity.



A Parent Orientation provided in-time translation into Creole and Spanish to a room of engaged parents. Additionally, new Mentors mingled with students before matching with one for the 2-3 year journey towards high school graduation

and college acceptance season. Garnering this community of support, wrapped in college-going culture, provides the foundation for student success.

The following community partners and guest speakers made this Path to College Orientation brighter, bigger and better: Whitney Walker with Florida Power & Light Company, Kate Arrizza with Cox Science Center and Aquarium, Paul Martin with College Money Method, Ammu Warriar, Shaundelyn D. Emerson, Jason R Hill, Chrissy Gass and Tamsyn Carey from FAU's Financial Aid team, The Kenan Social Enterprise students from the Wilkes Honors College at FAU, Lisa Poscanzor with Improve 2 Improve, Susan and John Damon of the Tux Shop Palm Beach, and Brian Larrabee of LarrabeePhoto.

The Path to College Fellowship is a rigorous academic commitment for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. With targeted tutoring, individual mentoring, leadership development workshops, service days, and challenging enrichment projects students achieve their ambitious academic goals. Since its inception, the program has seen \$4 million in scholarships granted to graduates, \$150 thousand in expert college advising and entrance exam tutoring given for free to the community, and a \$58 million estimated increase in earning potential once Fellows begin their future careers. These impressive students are rockets primed for take-off; their spark is ignited by this community that has their back.

To become a mentor or learn more about this mission to expand minds and ignite potential, please visit pathtocollege.org.



2022 Mental Health & the Church Conference

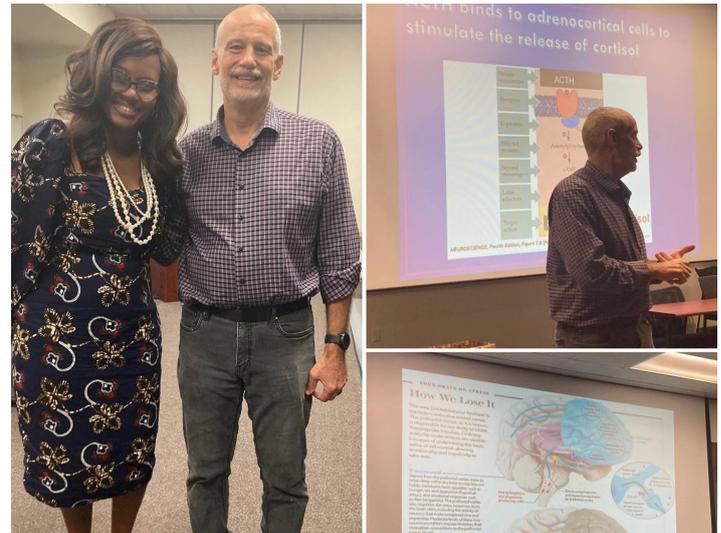


The COVID-19 pandemic created a global crisis for mental health, fueling short and long-term stresses undermining the mental health of millions. Estimates put the rise in both anxiety and depressive disorders at more than 25% during the first year of the pandemic. At the same time, mental health services have been severely disrupted, and the treatment gap for mental health conditions has widened.

For this World Mental Health Day 2022, the community tried to close the gap locally by connecting families, therapists, and faith leaders to sing a new song of hope and joy at the 3rd annual New Song: Mental Health & the Church Conference. This conference was sponsored by BeWellPBC in partnership with Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Education and Behavioral Health, New Song Church, and Protective Factors Group (Nonprofit private practice). The conference focused on healing, support, and overcoming mental health stigma.

The guest speakers and panelists included:

- Judge Ginger Wren (*Presided over first mental health court in America)
- Commissioner Cathleen Ward
- Commissioner Shalonda Warren
- Palm Beach County Drug Czar John Hulick, MS
- Lisa Johnson, NAMI PBC Board Member
- Lauren Zuchman, BeWellPBC Executive Director
- Jeanette Gordon, McArthur’s Own, Inc.
- Representative Jervonte Edmonds
- Sarah Claire Smith, LMHC, Providencia Collective
- Pablo Del Real- Mindfulness Educator
- Philip Henry, Phd, Substance Abuse Counseling Expert
- Marcken Volmy, LMHC, NCC, EMDR/Trauma
- Abasi Hanif, Living the Rhythm



Communities In Schools



Communities In Schools Announcements: They Are Growing! They have expanded to provide needed services to the students at two schools.

First, Howell L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens. Communities In Schools of Palm Beach has placed a phenomenal bi-lingual academic coach at the school. Ms. Rengifo (academic coach) has already started collaborating with administration, students, and parents to support the school's mission; "All students will be Global Citizens that are prepared for life."



Ms. Rengifo/Howell L. Watkins

Second, they have also hired (Jose Gomez-Miguel) a second Graduation Coach at Lake Worth High School, because the need is so great. They bring community support to students at Communities In Schools; we are working to ensure students have everything they need to engage in learning. We are there for them daily, providing emotional support and resources like school supplies, meals, and access to technology and learning materials. Now more than ever, they are being called on to reimagine public education and find new pathways to equitable learning conditions.

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is approaching fast, and Communities In Schools want to recognize Mr. Evans, Graduation Coach at Lake Worth High School, because of his dedication to the underserved population. Communities

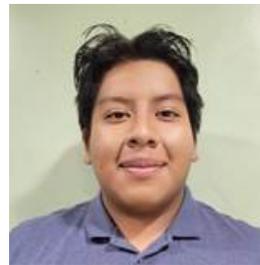
In Schools believes that every Palm Beach County student deserves a chance to achieve in life. However, that is not the case for thousands of students. They must go beyond the basics because the Florida housing crisis and the recent hurricane have left thousands of our students without regular or adequate housing.

Many of our students are doubled up because of economic family hardships. Students lack the stability and support to succeed academically. Our students want to be able to graduate, go to college or technical school, and pursue careers. Communities In Schools focuses on keeping the students engaged by providing access to resources, one-on-one support, skill development, or a snack between classes.



Mr. Evans/Lake Worth High School

Learn how we go all in for kids in schools, in communities, and beyond at www.cispalmbeach.org.



Mr. Gomez-Miguel/Lake Worth High School

Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses



The goal of the School District of Palm Beach County is to meet the requirements of HB 1421. At least 80% of staff must be trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) by June 30, 2023.

The District is making outstanding progress towards this goal by providing at least two daily training sessions.

To meet the needs of all learners and individual schedules, courses are offered in person and a virtual or blended setting. Employees may attend during the day, evenings, or weekends. Since June 2022, over 5000 employees have been trained, and hundreds are being trained weekly.

This past professional development day, October 14, District Youth Mental Health Instructors trained 884 employees. The District is set to train over 1500 employees this coming professional day. Great work, School District of Palm Beach County, and the YMHFA Team!

Center for Child Counseling (CFCC) & KidSafe Merger



Center for Child Counseling recently merged with KidSafe foundation, a long-time partner for many years. Through this merger, KidSafe will become a program under Center for Child Counseling, together they will be able to expand the critical work of preventing sexual abuse, human trafficking, and exploitation. To read the full press release please visit: <https://www.centerforchildcounseling.org/kid-safe-merger/>

Center for Child Counseling at Leadership Palm Beach County’s Health and Human Services Day:

Center for Child Counseling President and CEO, Renée Layman alongside Center for Child Counseling Board of Directors Chair, Dr. Eugenia Millender, and CROS Ministries Executive Director Ruth Mageria, teamed up together to co-chair Leadership Palm Beach County’s Health and Human Services Day. Renée and Eugenia led an informative presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Epigenetics for the attendees. The Leadership Palm Beach County’s (LPBC) Health and Human Services Day is near to Renée and Eugenia’s heart as they are both graduates of the LPBC Class of 2010, along with former CFCC Board Chair and member Bill Lynch and Board Treasurer Jeff Petrone.



Center for Child Counseling ACEs: Trauma to Resilience training for U.S Committee for Refugees and Immigrants:

Center for Child Counseling has provided a series of Trauma Informed Trainings for the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, including PACEs: Trauma to Resilience; ACEs, Trauma and Racism; and ACEs Train the Trainer.

In addition, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants will receive training on Trauma Informed Care in Spanish. Over 120 staff members were trained in the series.

Center for Child Counseling at the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County Board Retreat:

Center for Child Counseling and the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County are expanding their partnership to better support the children and families of Palm Beach County. Center for Child Counseling will provide Positive Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) and Trauma-Informed Care training for the entire Boys and Girls Club Palm Beach County staff.

Over the next year, the Center for Child Counseling will train and support over 400 Boys and Girls Club staff members. This initiative was recently launched with CFCC training the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County Board of Directors and Key Leadership at their Board retreat.



Upcoming Events

Birth to 22 Taskforce Meeting 2022



Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures (Birth to 22) is an alliance of Palm Beach County community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems, and youth-serving organizations, as well as connecting families, community members, and most importantly, with local young people directly. The ultimate goal is to support the healthy growth, development, and education of our children and youth prenatally through young adulthood to graduate from high school and succeed in life.

Annually, a Taskforce Meeting is held to inform, engage, and plan with the key champions, coalitions, and young people about the work of Birth to 22. This meeting serves as an opportunity to review the work of Birth to 22 for the previous calendar year and plan for the upcoming year.

The meeting is open to community members, agency representatives, and interested participants to learn more about the goals being accomplished and give feedback to the teams as they plan their 2022 objectives.

The 2022 Taskforce Meeting, “Engaged Voices for Brighter Futures,” will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

Please register for the event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-6th-annual-taskforce-meeting-2022-tickets-446043677647>

BIRTH TO 22: UNITED FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

Engaged Voices for Brighter Futures

The 6th Annual Taskforce Meeting

Nothing about us without us

- We heard your concerns during the 2022 Community Conversations
- Now, we want your help to create the 3-year Youth Master Plan 2.0

3 identified areas of focus:

1. Mental Health
2. Economic Access
3. Education

CONTACT US

+561-242-5713

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Youth, young adults, parents, families, community members, agencies, etc.

Students will receive community service hours

2 VIRTUAL EVENT DATES:

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 | 9 AM to 12PM
Saturday, January 21, 2023 | 12 PM to 3 PM

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-6th-annual-taskforce-meeting-2022-tickets-446043677647>

School District Wellness Promotion Task Force (WPTF)

The School District of Palm Beach County would like to promote their Wellness Promotion Task Force (WPTF) upcoming meetings for February 2023 and April 2023.

SAVE THE DATE: The School District of Palm Beach County established a Wellness Promotion Task Force (WPTF) meets at least twice a year to share progress of overall health and wellness initiatives throughout the District and Community. They welcome all who wish to attend. If you are interested in attending, you can contact them at wellness@palmbeachschools.org

Wellness Promotion Task Force Purpose: 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.

WPTF Meetings SY 2022-2023

Thursday, February 2, 2023*
(8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Thursday, April 20, 2023*
(2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please RSVP prior to each meeting date to the following email: wellness@palmbeachschools.org

*Meetings are subject to change.

Collective Impact Pledge



Birth to 22 is committed to a common agenda, we are an alliance of community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems and youth-serving organizations as well as connecting families, community members, and most importantly, young people.

Take the *Pledge*, be listed as a Collective Impact Partner of the Birth to 22 Alliance to improve outcomes from cradle to career for all Palm Beach County children, youth and families.

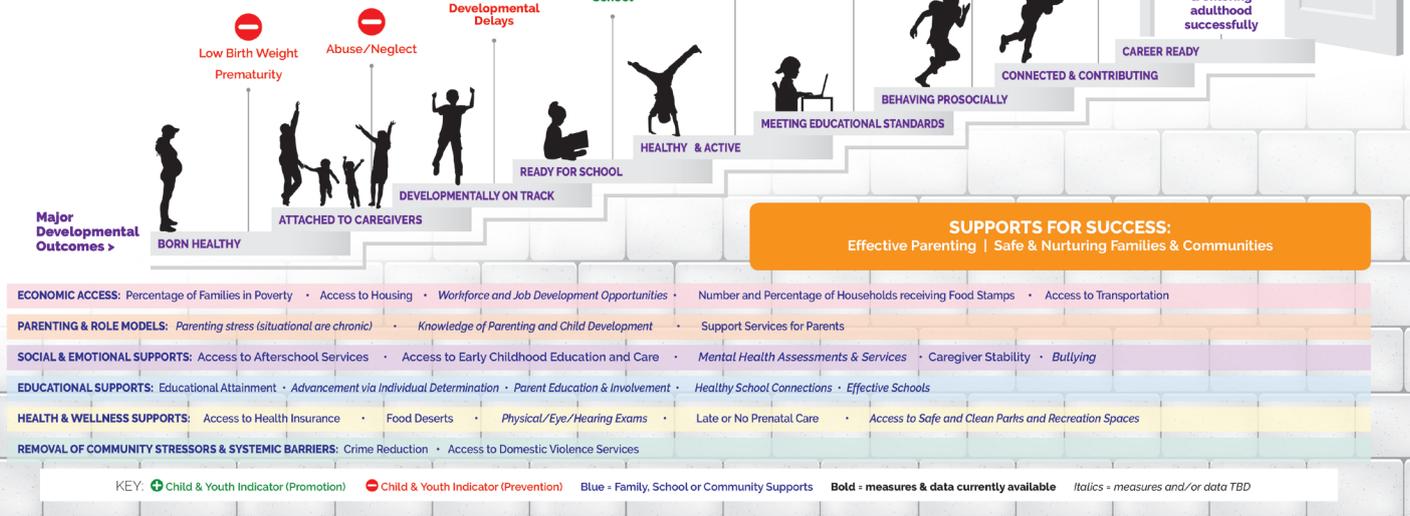
Click [here](#) to join us in envisioning and creating a culture that values our youth from cradle to career.

Steps to Success

The Steps to Success represent 6 domains of child and youth development – physical health, behavioral health, academic readiness, social/emotional well-being, career readiness and connection and contribution to community and society. These steps represent key markers of success that allows us to access developmental outcomes. As children and youth make their way up these stairs, we are able to track their progress or lack thereof. The indicators, or measures, for these different areas are shown above the stair steps in the green text (for things we are trying to promote) and orange text (for things we are trying to prevent). Understanding what this data looks like for different subpopulations within Palm Beach County is also essential. In order to achieve those outcomes, children and youth need key supports along the way, through a combination of effective parenting and safe and nurturing families and communities. A sample of possible measures are listed below.

Steps to Success & Supports for Success

STEPS TO SUCCESS:
Child & Youth Outcomes & Indicators



www.pbcbirthto22.com