



Dear Child Advocate,

We would like to start by wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year! We look forward to a great year for the children and families of Palm Beach County. We know that in working together with youth, residents and all of you, we will meet the growing needs of our community.

We also are excited to take the work of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures to the next level. Can you believe it – it has been seven years since we first launched the Youth Master Plan? Now that years have passed and much has changed, it is a perfect time to re-imagine our plan. We have come a long way and have accomplished many great things collectively.

Here are just a few examples:

- A mental health professional in every school;
- A mentoring initiative for children in the child welfare/delinquency systems;
- A parenting campaign (EveryParentPBC.org);
- Increased opportunities for youth with internships and certification programs;
- A visitation center for children in the child welfare system;
- Increased educational enrichment summer camps;
- A trauma curriculum for health care providers;
- A Culture of Health Prize winner;
- Coordinated funding for Covid-19;
- And so much more!

Even with all these great accomplishments, we know there is still so much more to do. That's why we are eager to join efforts with the community to take a look at where we were when this Alliance was formed, where we are today and where we need to go to meet the future needs across our county. We look forward to engaging directly with youth and families in this important, strategic work. Please join us for our virtual community meetings, which will be held on March 8, 24, 29, and April 4 over Zoom. We encourage all youth and families to participate.

This will be an exciting year for the Birth to 22 Alliance as we work together in the next steps of our work.

We are looking forward to sharing more about how to get involved, so stay tuned!

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 3 | Issue 2 | March 2022

Birth to 22 Hosts  
6th Annual Task Force Meeting  
Birth to 22 sixth annual stakeholder task  
force meeting virtually titled *Reimagine &  
Create Pathways to Success.*

## 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, [pbcbirthto22@pbcbgov.org](mailto:pbcbirthto22@pbcbgov.org)

# Birth to 22: 2021 Community Indicator Report

The Child Youth and Community Data Team of the Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures Alliance in Palm Beach County is comprised of representatives from Children's Services Council Palm Beach County, the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Community Services, Florida Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

The team recently completed the 2021 Palm Beach County Indicators of Child, Family, and Community Risk, Well-being and Access to Supports. This presentation style data deck provides information on a comprehensive array of indicators for Palm Beach County children and families beginning prenatally and continuing through the transition to adulthood.

Examined over time, the Birth to 22 team observed differing trends by construct. Some areas evidence positive gains or maintenance of prior rates/levels (e.g., access to early prenatal care, juvenile justice involvement, high school graduation rates), while others saw decreases or losses (e.g., access to child care, enrollment in postsecondary institutions). Some areas were not clear cut in displaying a consistent upward or downward trend (e.g., healthy births, child abuse rates, school absences).

Birth to 22 United for Brighter Futures in Palm Beach County centers racial and ethnic equity in child outcomes

as a primary tenet of the initiative. Examined by race, it was seen that while there has been progress in certain areas, there remains ongoing disparities for Black and Hispanic children in areas of economic status, health, education, juvenile justice, and child welfare.

While there are always contextual and historical factors that are important to understanding what data means, it is important to acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 on children, families, and communities across the various realms of well-being (e.g., health, mental health, economic, etc.).

While individuals and families have been experiencing greater stress and trauma, the health, education, economic, child welfare and justice systems have faced extraordinary challenges to adapt to provide the supports and services needed.

This backdrop necessitates that a focus must be placed on looking at the trends in data from that lens. Can we only speak of gains if an indicator changes or is it a remarkable that some indicators are able to remain stable in the face of the global health crisis? The data team hopes this information sparks curiosity and further exploration by all of you.

To access the complete 2021 slide deck and companion guide containing definition and source information, please click [here](#).



## Birth to 22 Palm Beach County United for Brighter Futures

Palm Beach County Indicators of Child, Family and  
Community Risk, Well-being and Access to Supports



January 2022



# Birth to 22 Hosts 6th Annual Task Force Meeting



On December 14, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its sixth annual stakeholder task force meeting virtually titled *Reimagine & Create Pathways to Success*. 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 170 individuals participated in the annual meeting.

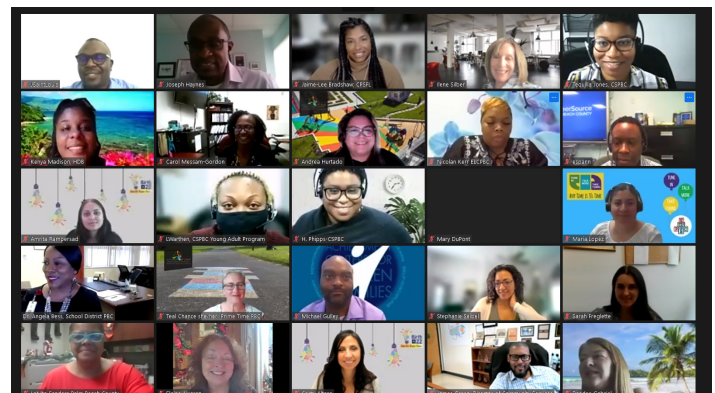
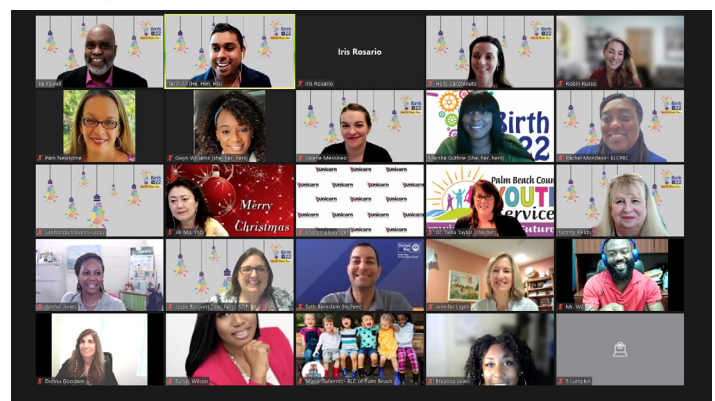
Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Youth Services Director of Community Outreach and Programming, kicked off the task force with welcoming remarks and reminded participants of the purpose of Birth to 22. The meeting transitioned to having participants pause with a Mindful Moment facilitated by Knellee Bisram from Prime Time Palm Beach County.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County presented an overview of accomplishments, including Palm Beach County being named a national winner of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Birth to 22 was noted as a major highlight of why Palm Beach County was named a recipient of this honor. Breakout sessions were held for participants to learn more about the various Birth to 22 action teams and to set forth proposed 2022 action team priorities.

Topics presented and the priorities set included:

- **Achieve Success In Higher Education:** Finalize transition to Palm Beach State College; Reignite workgroups.
- **Access to Health and Wellness:** Compile a resource guide to identify insurance assistance and safe spaces for youth in PBC.
- **Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community:** Increase participation in Get Your Green On; Expand reach to law enforcement, first responders and non-English speaking community members.
- **Economic Access:** Increasing agency participation in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.
- **Engagement Team:** Host Community Conversations: strengthen and expand Communication Subcommittee; develop centralized data platform.
- **Education to Employment Pathways for Disconnected Youth:** Identify and align databases to access resources.
- **Ensuring Safety & Justice:** Implementation of Enhanced Mentoring Initiative in PBC.

- **Future Leaders:** Develop and implement outreach strategies to connect with youth and sustain youth engagement.
- **Girls Coordinating Council (GCC):** Strengthening GCC Network and completing second network analysis survey.
- **Racial Equity:** Continue supporting Advancing the Mission's Learning Cohorts to implement proven practices and replicate success, changing the norm of what is expected and possible to advance racial equity in Palm Beach County.
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Build SEL capacity among youth serving organizations, youth leaders and families.
- **Strengthening Quality Out of School Time (OST):** Reactivating the OST team; Redefining the team's objectives and moving toward implementation.



# Friends of Youth Services Opens Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship for 2022 Academic Year

Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County, Inc. announces the call for applications for the 2022 Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship. The scholarship opened on February 1st, 2022, and will close on March 31st, 2022.

The Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship is dedicated to those who need a little extra assistance in achieving educational goals. The scholarship provides \$1,000 per year, distributed over two semesters to each recipient, and is renewable for up to four years, depending on the degree or certificate program.

The scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors and high school graduates who will attend an accredited college or technical vocational school beginning in Fall 2022. Currently enrolled college, technical, or vocational students are also encouraged to apply. Enhanced consideration will be given to applicants who are members of Future Leaders United for Change or involved in the dependency or delinquency systems.

For more information on the scholarship and the application criteria, please visit <http://pbcgov.com/ysd-scholarship> or contact Geeta-Loach Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming of Palm Beach County Youth Services, at 561-242-5713.

*The scholarship is in memory of Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson. Alyssa was committed to living a self-sufficient life and discovering her passions. Her determination to pursue education, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees, enabled her to live consistent with those commitments. She hoped others could have support to achieve their goals.*



2022 ALYSSA SANGEETA  
JACOBSON SCHOLARSHIP

**NOW OPEN**

Applications will close on  
March 31st, 2022.



## Girls Coordinating Council 2022 Update



It's a new year, everyone! 2022 means fresh starts, new finishes, and different opportunities. The last two years certainly have been a blur, with historical lows and amazing highs, but more importantly, it was a time for our community to come together and support our youth more than ever. This year, the Girls Coordinating Council (GCC) of Palm Beach County remains committed to be the lead collaborative in supporting the healthy development of all girls in Palm Beach County. GCC is moved by the

support of its council members and grateful to be close with the community.

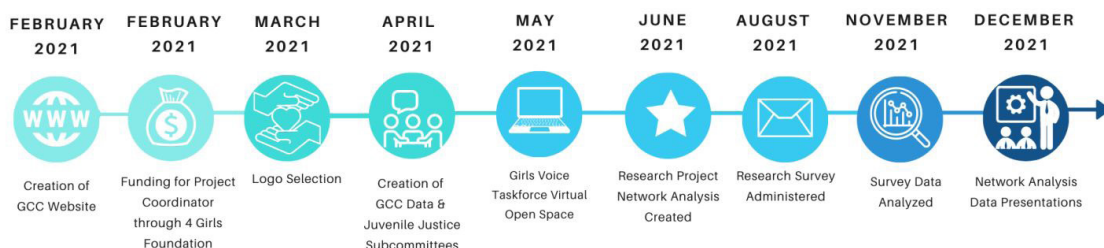
This year GCC has launched its first newsletter which you can check out [here](#). GCC hopes the community enjoys this newsletter which features some of the Girls Coordinating Council initiatives that will continue into this new year and upcoming meeting dates.

Take care,

April & Holly,

Co-Chairs, GCC of Palm Beach County

### 2021 MILESTONES





## Alliance Spotlights

### City of Greenacres' Teen Programs ran Santa's Tent at the City's Holiday in the Park Event.

The City of Greenacres hosted 'Holiday in the Park' on Saturday, December 4, 2021. It was the first time the event was held since COVID-19. The event's attendance doubled from pre-pandemic numbers with over 5,500 families. At the core of the event was the City's Teen Programs, who was responsible for setting up Santa's Tent and distributing toys to each child in attendance. Teens shined under the pressure and did an outstanding job helping Santa and Mrs. Clause.



### Youth in Local Afterschool Programs Took Center Stage this Holiday Season with Lake Worth Playhouse.

Click [here](#) to read full story.

The children and youth from Sacred Heart and City of Greenacres Afterschool Programs joined Prime Time's [Expanded Learning Opportunity](#) Provider [Lake Worth Playhouse](#) for a special holiday showcase in early December. The participants from these programs took the stage to sing, dance and act as they performed a collection of holiday classics, including: "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Mele Kalikimaka," "Feliz Navidad," "Jingle Bell Rock," "The Grinch" and "Blue Christmas."

"These afterschool students normally would not be able to receive an experience like this without the help of Prime Time. They positively impact our students' lives by providing these top-of-the-line experiences. Mr. Deshon Allen at The Lake Worth Playhouse came to our afterschool program two to three times a week to practice with our students and poured his time and energy into each individual student. This program taught our students commitment, time management, reading script, choreography, arts, theater and more."

-Taylor Garcia, Admissions Director, The Sacred Heart School



### Serena Williams Surprises Club Members



Tennis superstar Serena Williams surprised the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's members by making a winter wonderland at Marjorie S. Fisher Boys & Girls Club's playground in early December. Serena met a select number of Club members, played with them in the snow and gave them a special snow globe gift to remember the once-in-a-lifetime experience. 'Serena's Snowy Surprise' was created as an online commercial for Ford Motor Company's Lincoln brand. As part of the event, the agency overseeing the production made a significant contribution to the Club. The video made is now posted and is getting worldwide attention!

Williams interacted with the two dozen Club members

selected by the production crew to participate in the video. She asked if the children had fun at the Boys & Girls Club and the chorus of children screamed "yes!" All CDC-recommended guidelines were followed during the shooting, including mandatory testing for Club members, staff, and 50 plus crew members for the production.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our Club members. Not only did they get to see their Club turned into a snowy, winter wonderland, but they also got to meet an incredible role model Serena Williams," said Vice President of Corporate Partnerships and Marketing Eric Roby. "I want to thank Serena Williams, Lincoln and the production company Hudson Rouge for supporting the Clubs and making Serena's Snowy Surprise a reality. All involved fell in love with the Club members and gained a much deeper understanding of the importance of Boys & Girls Clubs in our communities."

It was clear that Williams had an amazing time during the 12-hour shoot. At one point, she told the children to hush and then followed up by saying with a chuckle, "I can say things like that now since I am a mother." She even got into a snowball fight with the Club members and gave out countless hugs and words of encouragement to Club members.

The video was released on the day that the Marjorie S. Fisher Boys & Girls Club held its holiday party. The Club turned the event into a viewing party.

"The kids must have watched the video at least 20 times," said Executive Club Director LaTrica Jenkins. "Each time they watched it, they screamed with excitement. It has been such a wonderful experience for them."

### City of Greenacres' Teen Programs partners with PBSO and Palm Beach County Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) to provide youth with a unique camping experience.

As 2022 was quickly approaching, teens expressed interest in returning to field trips that they enjoyed before the pandemic. City of Greenacres' Youth Programs Department worked with the Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group to plan a camping trip to Johnathon Dickinson State Park on November 27th – November 28th, 2021.

This was the Sierra Club's first trip since the COVID-19 shutdown. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) District 16 made the trip even more special by working with a donor to purchase six (6) brand-new high-quality tents for the Youth Programs Department.





## Project FACT hosts first Passport to Manhood Graduation

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's Project FACT program hosted its first-ever 'Passport to Manhood' graduation ceremony to celebrate young male Club members and their accomplishments throughout the three-month program. The graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, December 11, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at John I. Leonard High School 4701 10th Ave N., Greenacres, Fla. Over 240 Club members from seven Boys & Girls Clubs located throughout Palm Beach County participated in the special graduation ceremony. Each Club member received ties to wear provided by Edward Jones Insurance and walked alongside their father or an important father figure in their lives to receive a certificate of completion.

In attendance were underwriters Edward Jones Insurance, Nozzle Nolen and Kiwanis Club of Riviera Beach, along with representatives from the Children's Service Council, United Way of Palm Beach County, Impact 100 and the Palm Beach County School District. Over 75 father figure volunteers from the community were in attendance as well.

Project FACT is an original Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County program that encourages fathers and father figures to be more active in the lives of their children. Passport to Manhood encourages young boys ages 8 to 18 to develop and mature into responsible young men. With

this program, young boys engage in a variety of classes and activities that help to reinforce character, leadership and positive behavior.



## Commit to YOU(th) Program



Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) is proud to announce the implementation of their Commit to YOU(th) Curriculum specifically designed to support youth impacted by domestic violence.

The curriculum was created with the help and direction from current research and real-life experiences of adult survivors and child welfare providers. The overall mission and goal of this curriculum is to prevent first-time victimization and perpetration of domestic violence for youth participants.

**AVDA® & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

AVDA® Is Pleased To Announce  
**A New Prevention Initiative**

**Commit to YOU(th)**

A 10-session engaging curriculum developed by AVDA® for youth impacted by domestic violence.

<p><b>AVDA®'s Specialized Curriculum</b></p> <p>Every child needs information and support for their positive development, especially youth who have been exposed to the adverse experience of domestic violence. These three components of the prevention curriculum are designed to provide an opportunity for youth to learn and practice principles necessary for building healthy, equitable relationships.</p> <p><b>Developed with guidance from experiences of adult survivors and child welfare providers.</b></p>	<p><u>Highlights of Lesson Plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Gender-Based Violence</li> <li>◦ Impact of Violence</li> <li>◦ Healthy Relationships</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Information &amp; Support</b></p>	<p><b>Engaging Activities</b></p>	<p><b>Open Discussions</b></p>

**AVDA®**  
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**Starting January 2022**

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561-265-3797 Ext. 108

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

## Restorative Practices in OST Training Series Promotes Equity of Voice and Belonging for Youth, Staff and Families

Prime Time Palm Beach County is now offering Restorative Practices in out-of-school time (OST), a three-part training series, in which OST professionals are invited to learn how to create a culture of care through a structured process that supports all youth to have an equal voice while developing social and emotional skills.

The goal of this training series and cohort model will be for OST programs to move toward becoming more restorative in their discipline practices through implementing a plan that involves all stakeholders. Learn how to shift the

climate and culture of your program in a sustainable way to promote authentic dialogue, equity of voice, and a true sense of belonging for youth, staff and families.

Eighty percent of training participants reported that the training series had a strong impact on the youth they served and that they feel equipped to guide their youth through a problem-solving circle and implement a community-building circle.

In the video link below, hear from afterschool practitioners who discuss the impact the training series has had on them and the youth in their programs.

<https://youtu.be/tBIFe826A1k> [youtu.be]

## Department of Behavioral and Mental Health School District of Palm Beach County Focus on Crisis Assessment, Prevention, Education and Support (CAPE) Team

The Department of Behavioral and Mental Health in the School District of Palm Beach County continues to ground their work in 3 key beliefs:

- Mental health is our ability to live fully, engage with others, and respond to challenges.
- It's OK to be OK. It's OK to not be OK. It's OK to ask for help.
- Schools have highly trained and skilled professionals in place to support student mental health.

The **Crisis Assessment, Prevention, Education and Support (CAPE) Team** continues to support students, families and schools when behavioral and/or mental health challenges are persistent over time or acute with high intensity, and additional assistance is needed. The CAPE Team consists

of credentialed and skilled staff that are both flexible and proactive in supporting students who are experiencing complex mental health or behavioral challenges. The CAPE team utilizes diverse skill sets, including trauma-informed care, behavior management, and care coordination. CAPE also supports in the areas of Education (pre-crisis), Crisis, and Post Crisis to meet the needs of schools.



You can learn more about the Department of Behavioral and Mental Health and the District's comprehensive school mental health efforts by reviewing their [website](#) and the Caring First [website](#).

## Prime Time Event Educated and Encouraged SEL and Youth Development to Promote Healthy Relationships with Water

On November 17, 2021, Prime Time hosted 'Water is Our Medicine'. More than 50 attendees joined to screen the award-winning and Emmy nominated documentary, "Wade in Water, Drowning in Racism." The documentary takes a deep dive into Black Florida's 1960s fight for the right to swim in state beaches and swimming pools. Following the screening, attendees joined in small breakout groups to discuss their water experiences and their takeaways from learning about the obstacles that separated Black people from their historical connection to the water.

"Profound! That is the only word that can describe my feelings/reaction to the movie and discussion this morning. I learned so much and was so moved. I am a water soul and to hear the history/context that Thaddeus shared for Black and Brown people has awakened me." – Event Attendee

Click [here](#) to read full recap.





### Ensuring Safety & Justice



On December 1st, 2021 after several years of collaborative work and planning under Birth to 22, the Mentor Center launched a new initiative called Level Up Mentoring. This program works specifically with youth involved in the Delinquency and

Dependency systems or those who may be at risk of entering it. The program launch has been successful, with over 60 youth referrals made to mentoring organizations. Allison Jimenez (Mentoring Initiative Manager) and Brandon Johnson (Mentor Training Specialist) were certified as National Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors; they plan to offer this training on a monthly basis to mentors, teachers, and any other youth-serving individuals in Palm Beach County.

January was National Mentoring Month. Alongside PBC Youth Services, the Mentor Center was granted a proclamation at the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 4 declaring January as

Mentoring Month in Palm Beach County. Allison Jimenez, Brandon Johnson, Ike Powell, and Geeta Loach-Jacobson graciously accepted this proclamation.

The National Mentoring Summit was held in the last week of January. As the Florida affiliate for the National Mentoring Partnership, Allison Jimenez led the state of Florida as the state captain, speaking to our congressmen and women advocating for increases in funding for youth mentoring. The Birth to 22 Team looks forward to serving hundreds of youth through this initiative in the next few years.



### Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Registration for 2022 Kicks Off in Palm Beach County

Registration for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) for the 2022-2023 school year opened on January 1st. VPK is a free program designed to prepare four-year-old children for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. VPK is available to all four-year-olds that reside in Florida, regardless of family income. The program covers the cost of 540 hours of education during a full academic year. VPK provides an early childhood educational experience that supports the development of early literacy, pre-math skills, scientific thinking, and social and emotional development.

“The best way a parent can prepare their child for school is to enroll them in VPK. By joining a VPK classroom, students have a safe space to explore, learn and develop socially and emotionally,” says Aruna Gilbert, Chief Program Officer at the Early Learning Coalition. “The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program helps prepare students for school, and for life.”

Enrolling is simple and can be completed from a phone or computer at any time:

1. Determine if your child is eligible – if they’re four by September 1, 2022, and you live in Palm Beach County, they’re eligible for programs starting in the fall. (Children who are four by September 1, 2021, are eligible now!)
2. Enroll by completing the simple online application – you can do it from your phone!
3. Choose a local VPK provider

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County is ready to assist with VPK Registration and provider selection. Families are encouraged to visit their [website](#) or call the Family Resource Line at 561-514-3300.



**Early Learning Coalition  
of Palm Beach County**  
*Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.*

## Youth Empowered to Prosper (YEP) Takes on Mental Health Through Mentoring



YEP's mentoring program, Young Women Who Win, is a one-to-one middle and high school-based program in Palm Beach County. The girls YEP serve include underserved and diverse populations primarily in Title One schools and children in the foster care system. COVID has clearly impacted our youth emotionally, socially, and academically. The mentors YEP engage are professional women in the community who are nurturing and truly care about supporting their mentee's overall wellbeing and success. YEP has seen that mentoring decreases school absenteeism, increases coping mechanisms, and increases confidence in our girls.

With feedback from school administrators, guidance counselors, parents, behavioral health professionals, and the mentees themselves, there has been a huge uptick and need to address mental health issues ranging from anxiety, depression, poverty, negative influences of social media and the like. With the help of YEP's Board Secretary and licensed psychologist, Dr. Davis helped implement an evidence-based, present-focused treatment called Seeking Safety.

Here's the kicker—Seeking Safety consists of 25 youth-centric topics that replace unsafe coping strategies with safer coping strategies. More importantly, nonprofessional volunteers can use the program.

So far, the volunteer mentors have expressed that having this training has been instrumental in terms of approaching difficult topics with the help of a guide. The Director of the program, Lisa Cobb, holds monthly calls with the mentors in a group setting to discuss real-life scenarios. This is an opportunity for mentors to form a community to avoid feeling isolated, learn from each other, and become better equipped to handle social and emotional issues with their mentees as they arise. Should you like to become a part of this movement of empowering our young women, feel free to complete an application at [www.ye2p.org/mentor](http://www.ye2p.org/mentor).



## Be Present Palm Beach County

The School District of Palm Beach County invited educators and families to give themselves permission to have a mindful start to the new year with a call to action for 2022:

"Help us change the culture from being busy to being more present and promoting mindfulness through social media by using the hashtag #BePresentPBC. Also, don't forget to tag @selpbc."

Remember, mindfulness exercises make great brain breaks for both adults and young people! Below are some resources for mindfulness activities for adults, teens, and children.

- [22 Mindfulness Exercises, Techniques, & Activities for Adults](#)

- [30 Mindfulness Activities to Find Calm at Any Age](#)
- [9 Fun Mindfulness Exercises & Activities for Adults](#)
- [51 Mindfulness Exercises for Kids in the Classroom](#)
- [25 Fun Mindfulness Activities for Children and Teens](#)



## E-RoadMap Corporation Grand Opening

E-RoadMap Corporation had the Grand Opening for their latest Operation No Food Gap site located in Riviera Beach, Florida on January 8th. They are hosting FREE weekly events for the community! For more information, please visit [www.NoFoodGap.org](http://www.NoFoodGap.org) or call 561-898-9161

Click [here](#) to read an article about their Grand Opening event that occurred on January 8th.





## Finfrock gift creates path for Boys & Girls Club teens to attend Palm Beach State College

*New scholarship fund for Smith & Moore Family Teen Center members creates a pipeline of future qualified employees in the Glades.*



Palm Beach State College has received a generous \$20,000 donation from philanthropist Laura Finfrock to launch a scholarship for Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County members at the Smith & Moore Family Teen Center in Belle Glade.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County-Belle Glade Teen Center Scholarship Fund will cover up to \$1,500 per year for recipients to pursue an associate degree or career certificate at PBSC. By reaching youth early and supporting their college education, Finfrock aims to help develop a pipeline of qualified employees in the Glades, which has seen some of the highest unemployment rates in the county.

“To meet the challenges of tomorrow, we need to invest in our kids today,” said Finfrock. “I’m very impressed with the opportunities and technology available at the Smith & Moore Family Teen Center in Belle Glade. The obvious next step for the Club members is a scholarship program that creates a pathway to succeed. This investment can also ensure businesses in the Glades will have qualified employees in the near future.”

Laura Finfrock was introduced to the needs in the Glades region when the family business, FINFROCK, announced plans to expand operations into Palm Beach County. FINFROCK is Central Florida’s largest commercial contractor and one of the area’s largest employers. Early last year, the company purchased 100 acres in Belle Glade to house precast concrete manufacturing facilities totaling over 140,000 square feet. The plant will allow FINFROCK to better serve commercial developers in Palm Beach, Dade, Broward and Southwest Florida Counties and bring over 200 much-needed higher-wage jobs to the Belle Glade area.

The scholarship is only available to active members of

the Smith & Moore Family Teen Center who have been a member of a Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County for at least two consecutive years and have completed 20 volunteer hours at the Club. Scholarship eligibility includes a current GPA of 2.0 or higher and submission of a 250-word essay describing how the scholarship will benefit the applicant’s educational journey. Scholarship recipients can attend any PBSC campus. Priority will be given to students studying science, technology, engineering and math as well as industry, manufacturing, construction and transportation.

“This is an incredible opportunity for our Teen Center members. It builds upon our career readiness programs at the Club that focus on science and technology,” said Jaene Miranda, president & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County. “We opened our new state-of-the-art center last year, and I am thrilled that the community is building upon our mission to help all youth reach their full potential by ensuring they can continue their education after high school.”

The application process opens in February for the first round of scholarships. While the initial gift allows the scholarship program to begin, additional contributions are needed to serve more students in the future.

“I feel the Glades has been neglected for too long, and we need to turn around the expectation of our children,” Finfrock said. “We need their talents to help solve the problems of tomorrow, and this scholarship fund is one way to increase much-needed opportunities in the Glades.”

Dr. LaTanya McNeal, executive dean of the PBSC Belle Glade campus, said she is pleased to launch another partnership to help meet the education and workforce needs in the Glades.

“It has been an amazing experience to work with Chilondra Sheppard, Lotus Holem and Kimberly Sovinski from Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and our donor, Laura Finfrock, to create a new Foundation scholarship that links the vision of the organization for all youth to have a plan for their future to PBSC career pathways. These types of collaborations are a win-win for the College, the community and our current and future workforce. I appreciate Mrs. Finfrock for her passion, generous donation and willingness to support our youth,” said Dr. McNeal.

For more information on how to donate to Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County – Belle Glade Teen Center Scholarship Fund, please contact Kim Sovinsky at [kskovinski@bgcpbc.org](mailto:kskovinski@bgcpbc.org) or call 561-683-3287. To make a gift to the PBSC Foundation, visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/foundation](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/foundation) or call 561-863-3450.

### MacKenzie Scott donates \$133.5 million to educational nonprofit Communities In Schools

A donation from billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott could help millions of students who have had their lives and education impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has donated \$133.5 million to the education nonprofit Communities In Schools (CIS).

The organization's staff work at schools to help students navigate issues inside and outside the classroom — coordinating with schools and local services to ensure students can access critical resources like food, housing, physical and mental health care, and remote technology.

Rey Saldaña, the president and CEO of Communities In Schools, told "CBS Mornings" that he was overwhelmed with joy when he heard the news.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because you think about all of the work that you can do," Saldaña said.

Currently, the program is in 2,900 schools across the country, serving 1.6 million students in 26 states. During

the 2020-21 school year, 99% of students enrolled in CIS programs remained in school through the end of the school year and 96% were promoted to the next grade level. Saldaña said the donation is going to help break some barriers that students are faced with.

"What this allows us to do is really bring community support inside our schools to empower students to not just graduate from school but achieve in life," he said.

Saldaña, who is an alum of the program, said he has not spoken with Scott yet but would like to thank her for the donation and the optimism it has brought.

"To think about, we have this twinkle in our eye about growing into every Title 1 school. We are in 3,000 schools today, this helps us drive and because so much pressure has come down because of the pandemic, we can now bring more staff into the schools that we're in already. This is amazing," Saldaña said.

Scott's gift is the largest unrestricted donation in CIS's history.

## Upcoming Events

### Birth to 22: Virtual Community Conversations

Join the 2022 Birth to 22 Virtual Community Conversations on March 8, 24, and April 4. All are invited. Students can earn 2 hours of community service per conversation.

The team will go over each Action Team's achievements and receive suggestions for improvement. Click [here](#) to register.

**March 8, 2022**

**Community Conversation #1**  
**March 8, 2022 (Tuesday)**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Virtual**

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
 \*STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Achieve Success in Higher Education**

**Strengthening Quality Out of School Time (OST)**

**Ensuring Safety and Justice**

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-32124028061>  
 For more information, contact PBC Youth Services at (561) 242-5713

**March 24, 2022**

**Community Conversation #2**  
**March 24, 2022 (Thursday)**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Virtual**

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
 \*STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

**Trauma Sensitive Community**

**Health & Wellness**

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-32124028061>  
 For more information, contact PBC Youth Services at (561) 242-5713



March 29, 2022

April 4, 2022

**Community Conversation #3**  
**March 29, 2022 (Tuesday)**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Virtual**

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
 \*STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

**Education to Employment Pathways for Disconnected Youth**

**Social Emotional Learning**

**Parenting & Role Models**

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-32124028061>  
 For more information, contact PBC Youth Services at (561) 242-5713

**Community Conversation #4**  
**April 4, 2022 (Monday)**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Virtual**

ALL ARE INVITED: YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
 \*STUDENTS EARN 2 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

**Education to Employment Pathways for Disconnected Youth**

**Social Emotional Learning**

**Parenting & Role Models**

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/birth-to-22-united-for-brighter-futures-32124028061>  
 For more information, contact PBC Youth Services at (561) 242-5713

### Host a Workshop at Prime Time's Afterschool Symposium this May

Prime Time Palm Beach County is requesting proposals for its Afterschool Symposium 2022 that will take place on May 12-13, 2022, on a virtual platform. This year's theme is Emerge: Reaching New Heights in Out-of-School Time.

Prime Time is seeking educational workshops that focus on innovative strategies, activities, programs, systems and policies that support afterschool leaders and staff in the areas of racial equity, social and emotional learning (SEL), trauma-informed practices, leadership and learning. The workshops should be engaging, educational and enlightening.

Deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 16, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4960786> [tfaforms.com]



### Palm Beach County Youth Services Offers Upcoming Didactic Training's

Didactic training's are Palm Beach County Youth Services Department formal trainings that are primarily attended virtually. Trainings take various forms, including lecture and demonstration, formal continuing education workshops, and presentations from practitioners and agencies that work in collaboration with the Youth Services Department. The goals of these trainings are to maintain awareness of recent empirical literature, inform clinical practice with evidence-based findings, and develop skills in making professional case presentations. Upcoming trainings

include Game Changer: Developing Healthy Video Game Habits in Youth on March 9, Trauma-Informed Mindfulness on March 16, Group Therapy on March 23, Impact of Parental Incarceration on Youth & Families on March 30, Eating Disorders and Trauma: The Latest on April 6, Child Sexual Assault on April 13, The Role of Psychopharmacology in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Care on April 20, and Co-Parenting: Clinical Considerations on April 27. All training are from 9:30am to 11:30am over Zoom.

If you would like to request a remote training on these or other topics for your agency, please email Shayna Ginsburg, Psy.D., at [sginsbur@pbcgov.org](mailto:sginsbur@pbcgov.org) to discuss opportunities.

## Children Services Council Training's

Check out upcoming free trainings offered by the Children

Services Council (CSC) of Palm Beach County at [learn.cscpsc.org](http://learn.cscpsc.org).



A Four-part Series in partnership with Children's Services Council

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11am – 2pm**  
Black Fathers: Voice, Visions, Vanguard

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11am – 2pm**  
Hispanic & Latinx Birth Care Disparities & Solutions

**Monday, April 11, 2022 11am – 2pm**  
High-Risk Pregnancy Support & Reproductive Justice

**Wednesday May 11, 2022 11am – 2pm**  
Diversity Strength in Infant Mental Health: Case Review & Support

Register today at: [Learn.cscpsc.org](http://Learn.cscpsc.org)

Gain insight into principles for a diversity-informed practice. Working with infants, children, and families requires all individuals, organizations, and systems of care to reflect on our own culture, values and beliefs. It also requires attention to the impact that racism, classism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, xenophobia, and other systems of oppression have had on our lives in order to provide diversity-informed, culturally attuned services.

561.318.0814  
[www.tlmedicalsociety.org](http://www.tlmedicalsociety.org)

T. Leroy Jefferson  
Medical Society

4595 Northlake Blvd., Ste. 109  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**INTRODUCING**

**INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**DATE & TIME:**  
NOV 15, 2021 9:00-12:30 PM  
DEC 6, 2021 9:00-12:30PM  
JAN 14, 2022 9:00-12:30PM  
MAR 16, 2022 9:00-12:30PM

ONLINE WEBINAR



**Course Description:** This training will provide an in-depth look at the dynamics of domestic violence and examine the intersection of domestic violence and mental health from the perspective of advocacy and counseling services to address the needs of survivors of domestic violence who are seeking qualified mental health services. This course will also inform providers on community resources and protocol to support family wellness regarding domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

**Your Presenter:** For the many individuals that need our help, AVDA provides a Community of Hope through our state-certified domestic violence center that offers a comprehensive array of services for all victims of domestic violence including a 24 hour crisis hotline, emergency and transitional housing, advocacy, counseling and support to help them live violence-free and self-sufficient lives. We also work throughout the community to educate and engage people of all ages in our commitment to prevent violence. AVDA is accredited for Excellence in Nonprofit Management and was one of the first agencies in Palm Beach County to receive accreditation from Nonprofit's First. Accreditation recognizes AVDA's excellent business practices in the areas of governance, administration, board governance, human resources and financial management. Indeed AVDA's financial policies and procedures have been shared with other larger organizations as a "business model."

AVDA's philosophy - prevention through education, advocacy and intervention is the ultimate goal. All survivors of family violence should be provided with a safe haven. They must be treated with dignity and their right to self-determination encouraged.

**INTRODUCING**

**BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE & TIME:**  
PART 1: JAN 18, 2022 1:00-4:30PM  
PART 2: JAN 19, 2022 1:00-4:30PM  
PART 1: MAR 3, 2022 1:00-4:30PM  
PART 2: MAR 2, 2022 1:00-4:30PM

ONLINE WEBINAR

**Course Description:** This training will provide general information on brain development in the first 5 years of life, including the neuroscience of how the brain develops and its various functions, as well as the influence of brain growth on all other aspects of a child's development. The importance of a child's environment and caregiving relationship as shapers of the brain, and the impact of trauma on the developing brain will also be addressed. Lastly, ways in which practitioners can use this information when working with young children and their families will be discussed.

**Your Presenter:** Allison Golden, Psy.D., is a dually Licensed Psychologist, who received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. Although she has an extensive clinical background, providing psychological evaluations and interventions with a variety of populations, Dr. Golden specializes in Infant Mental Health. Her expertise lies in areas related to: trauma-informed systems; the impact of trauma on the overall development of young children; the assessment, diagnosis and therapeutic intervention of early childhood trauma; attachment related difficulties in the parent-child relationship; and child welfare related issues. Dr. Golden has also served as a facilitator for parent education groups and a consultant in early childhood classrooms with regard to developmental delays in young children and the use of positive discipline practices in the home and school environment. Dr. Golden is EAGALA certified as both a mental health professional and equine specialist, and has worked using this model with various ages and diagnoses, with a focus on young adult substance abuse.

**INTRODUCING**

**SYMPOSIUM SERIES: AUTISM & CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**DATES & TIMES:**  
DEC 16, 2021 10:00-1:00PM  
FEB 3, 2022 10:00-1:00PM  
APR 21, 2022 10:00-1:00PM

REGISTER @ [LEARN.CSCPBC.ORG](http://LEARN.CSCPBC.ORG)

**Course Description:** This workshop will highlight the importance of cultural awareness when working with diverse families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Beginning with a detailed analysis and explanation of culture broadly, the presenter will lead the conversation toward helping attendees understand their cultural development and biases. The presenter will discuss the methods they have used to coach parents, caregivers, and program leaders in the understanding of culture and shift their practice to be more culturally responsible. Participants will leave the workshop with practical tools to serve diverse communities as well as lead conversations with their peers on the topic of cultural responsibility.

**Your Presenter:** Angel Wilton, LMHC  
After working as a therapist for over a decade, Angel noticed a common thread amongst many of her minority clients: those on the autism spectrum were either not getting the correct diagnosis, or were getting it much later in development than their white counterparts. Being that autism is a condition that has a higher adaptation rate if uncovered earlier in childhood, the delay in treatment and a lack of understanding about autism in general was having a negative effect on the communities she was serving. So, she started educating the families during therapy sessions, and the results were noticeable.



In the cases where families gained more knowledge about autism, they became more invested because they now understood the child/teen/adult on the spectrum. With this investment came treatment goal success. Angel decided that, as expected, the front line had to be the parents and guardians. She created an introductory workshop for parents (along with a separate one for professionals) to better explain and understand autism. Angel hopes to build autism awareness and acceptance in the minority communities that she serves so that autistic children in those communities will no longer be left behind.

Angel holds a B.S. in Psychology from Howard University, a M.S. in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University, and an M.A. in Spiritual Guidance from Sofia University. She has worked in and with over a half-dozen non-profit organizations focused on youth, and especially youth on the autism spectrum or with developmental delays. Angel is also a certified Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist. She has from and currently lives in West Palm Beach, Florida.






## INTRODUCING

### CULTURAL HUMILITY

**DATE & TIME:**  
 NOV 22, 2021 9:00-5:00PM  
 DEC 1, 2021 9:00-5:00PM  
 FEB 9, 2022 9:00-5:00PM  
 MAR 9, 2022 9:00-5:00PM  
 APR 7, 2022 9:00-5:00PM

ONLINE WEBINAR



**Course Description:** This training is based on the infant mental health diversity-informed tenants and will cover standpoint theory, social location, and racial trauma. Participants can explore identity, personal beliefs and values and how these factors influence their own behaviors when working with clients and colleagues. Participants will be encouraged to use tools to practice the cultural humility principle of "client as expert" when serving individuals and communities. Safe space will be constructed for participants to practice respectful and curious inquiry about individual and community points of view, values and life experiences, holding the stance of "listen as if the speaker is wise".

**Your Presenter:** Dr. Christine Ajayi Bellard research centers on MFT's collaborative assessment and treatment of intimate Partner Violence, and the influence of historical racial trauma on couples of color. Additionally, she is committed to social justice and the provision of relevant mental health services to minority families through best practices in training and service delivery.

Dr. Bellard provides a number of community trainings and serves as a consultant and board member for a number of groups that align with her areas of interest. She also founded FAB Moms, Fabulous Adoptive Black Moms, when she noticed a need in her own adoption journey for more resources and community for Black families going through the adoption process. Christine's passion and wisdom dismantles stereotypes about Black family's involvement in the adoption/foster care world, and also sheds light on the need for more people to get involved in caring for vulnerable children. She is an alumna of the SAMHSA/AAMFT Minority Fellowship Program, has served as a mentor for the program, and is a member of the program's advisory committee. Teaches: Diversity, Ethics, Teaching, Supervision, Group, Couples, Doctoral Seminar, and Quantitative Research.





## INTRODUCING

### COMMUNITY TRAUMA & SYSTEMIC THINKING WEBINAR

**DATE & TIME:**  
 NOV 23, 2021 9:00-5:00PM  
 FEB 23, 2022 9:00-5:00PM  
 MAR 30, 2022 9:00-5:00PM

ONLINE WEBINAR



**Course Description:** An important part of systems thinking is the practice to integrate multiple perspectives and synthesize them into a framework or model that can describe and predict the various ways in which a system might react to policy change. Systems thinking and systems models devise strategies to account for real world complexities. This course provides an introduction to systems thinking. Systems in home visiting, mental health, public health, health policy, schools, and the nonprofit landscape tend to be complex with many people, institutions and risk factors involved. If an outcome depends on many interacting and adaptive parts and people, then the outcome cannot be analyzed or predicted with traditional methods. In this training, you will learn how systems thinking is a core skill that helps community leaders, nurses, therapists, teachers and nonprofit administrators build programs and policies that are aware of and prepared for unintended consequences.

**Your Presenter:** Dr. Christine Ajayi Bellard research centers on MFT's collaborative assessment and treatment of intimate Partner Violence, and the influence of historical racial trauma on couples of color. Additionally, she is committed to social justice and the provision of relevant mental health services to minority families through best practices in training and service delivery. Dr. Bellard provides a number of community trainings and serves as a consultant and board member for a number of groups that align with her areas of interest. She also founded FAB Moms, Fabulous Adoptive Black Moms, when she noticed a need in her own adoption journey for more resources and community for Black families going through the adoption process. Christine's passion and wisdom dismantles stereotypes about Black family's involvement in the adoption/foster care world, and also sheds light on the need for more people to get involved in caring for vulnerable children. She is an alumna of the SAMHSA/AAMFT Minority Fellowship Program, has served as a mentor for the program, and is a member of the program's advisory committee. Teaches: Diversity, Ethics, Teaching, Supervision, Group, Couples, Doctoral Seminar, and Quantitative Research.





## INTRODUCING

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE SIGNS, PREVENTION & CLINICAL TOOLS

**DATE & TIME:**  
 NOV 29, 2021 9:00-11:00AM  
 DEC 15, 2021 9:00-11:00AM  
 MAR 28, 2022 9:00-11:00AM  
 APR 26, 2022 9:00-11:00AM  
 MAY 24, 2022 9:00-11:00AM

ONLINE WEBINAR




**Course Description:** Working with caregivers who present with current (or past) substance abuse provides a unique challenge for nurses, therapists, and/or home visitors. This workshop will focus on how infant mental health providers can build their toolbox for work with 0-5 year olds and their caregivers when substance misuse is involved. This training will cover the effects of drugs on the caregiver's brain, signs and symptoms of substance use, and challenges of working with families in recovery. This course also aspires to support you in designing an appropriate treatment plan or goals with caregivers that reflect social and emotional attunement.

#### Your Presenter

Alexa Lee, MS Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition (PBCBHC), Executive Director

**PBCBHC Mission:** Transforming and Uniting Palm Beach County by empowering our children, our families and our neighborhoods through awareness, education and training.

**PBCBHC Vision:** The Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition, comprised of members from private and public organizations, plus concerned citizens, working together on community efforts to create and facilitate an environmental shift where children learn skills to help them successfully address adverse experiences, shed the stigma of mental health issues and grow up drug and alcohol free.




## INTRODUCING

### REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION

**DATE & TIME:**  
 MAY 12, 2022 9:00-1:00PM  
 MAY 13, 2022 9:00-1:00PM  
 AUG 4, 2022 9:00-1:00PM  
 AUG 5, 2022 9:00-1:00PM

ONLINE WEBINAR



**Course Description:** This course will provide directors and supervisors an opportunity to experience reflective supervision as a participant, and to practice the skills necessary to build reflective supervision competency for supporting and encouraging supervisees to examine their own thoughts, feelings, and experiences in determining actions to take related to service provision.

**Your Presenters:**  
 Dr. Harleen Hutchinson &  
 Jan Bogie, LMHC



## Center for Child Counseling Inc Hosted

### Lead the Fight: Giving Children with Trauma a Voice!

Center for Child Counseling Inc recently hosted *Lead the Fight: Giving Children with Trauma a Voice on February 22, 2022*, featuring Juleus Ghunta, Author and ACEs Advocate.

The organization is pleased to share that the event had

representation from 23 states and 11 countries! The Center for Child Counseling Inc expresses deep gratitude and a special thank you to Benjamin Perks, Juleus Ghunta, and Ashley Glass for bringing their voices and stories to this important conversation. If you missed any parts of the presentation, the full event is now on their [YouTube Channel](#).

## 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.

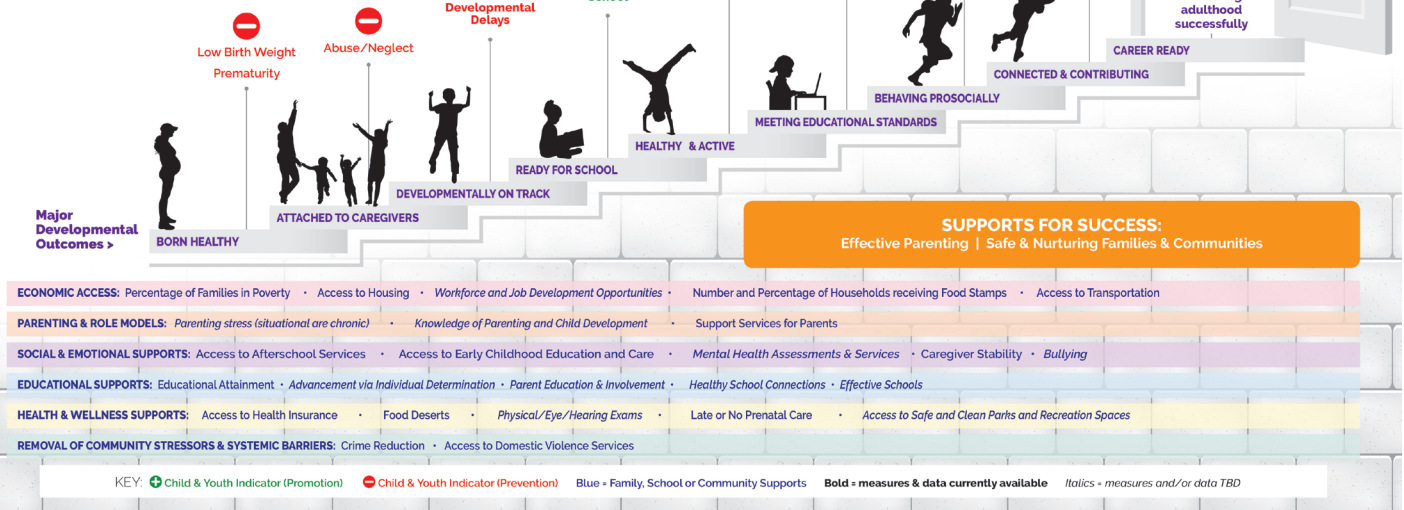
Click [here](#) to join us in envisioning and creating a culture that values our youth from cradle to career.

## 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](http://www.pbcbirthto22.com)