



# Birth to 22

## United for Brighter Futures

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 | Issue 1 | March 2025

### Alliance Spotlights

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

*Dear Child Advocate,*

*We at Children's Services Council and Palm Beach County Youth Services hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! As one of the backbone organizations for the Birth to 22 Alliance, Children's Services Council would like to share some exciting news – a new strategic plan.*

*Palm Beach County, like much of the world, has undergone tremendous transformation in the last few years. More children are coping with mental health and behavioral issues, and more families are struggling to put food on the table. For nearly 40 years, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County has strengthened our community with effective services – from helping expectant parents prepare for a healthy baby to offering eligible families scholarships for child care. But post-COVID, we knew we needed to re-evaluate our strategies and services to ensure we were being responsive to Palm Beach County families' changing needs.*

*So, we underwent an intensive, six-month strategic planning process, meeting with a cross-section of residents – families, partners, nonprofit providers and CSC staff – to hear what they had to say.*

*What did they tell us?*

- *They want more positive, supportive, social outlets for youth ages 6 to 18.*
- *They need more behavioral and mental health services for their children.*
- *Help with basic needs is vital to building healthy families.*
- *They trust local, grassroots nonprofits that understand their neighborhood's unique strengths and challenges.*
- *They want us to continue strengthening our early childhood system of care (programs for families with children prenatal to age 5), which has been the backbone of our work.*

Much of what we heard echoed the recent feedback from 13 Community Conversations held by the Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures alliance. After engaging with more than 700 youth and adults in those conversations and through the Youth and Young Adult Survey, the alliance – led by CSC, the county’s Youth Services Department and other community partners – identified priority areas that focus on youth well-being. Such priorities include addressing stigma and inclusive language, identifying trusted adults and building relationships, increasing internships and mentorships, and providing opportunities to learn financial literacy.

CSC’s research, bolstered by Birth to 22’s recommendations, led us to renew our focus and refresh our mission, vision, overarching goal and objectives. Today, we are thrilled to unveil Children’s Services Council’s strategic plan – its roadmap for the next five years and beyond.

CSC’s Mission: Improving the lives of all children and families through dedicated funding, community partnerships, and innovative leadership, to build a stronger Palm Beach County.

CSC’s Vision: All children grow up healthy, safe, ready for school, and ready for life.

CSC’s Goal: Improve the well-being of all children served by CSC.

To learn more about CSC’s 10 objectives, which firmly support the work of Birth to 22, please visit: <https://www.cscpsc.org/news/childrens-services-council-unveils-new-strategic-plan>

Our organizations are excited to continue to work with each one of you to ensure our children and youth thrive – thank you for all that you do to serve the children and families of Palm Beach County!

**Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor**  
CEO, Children’s Services Council PBC

**Elisa Cramer**  
Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department



Share Feedback & Stories!

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

Contact us at, [psc-birthto22@psc.gov](mailto:psc-birthto22@psc.gov)

## Insights To Action: 8th Annual Task Force

On February 18, 2025, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its 8th Annual Task Force Meeting at Westgate Recreation and Community Center. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the Youth Master Plan 2.0, a culmination of 11 community conversations across Palm Beach County (PBC) with youth ages 12-22, parents, service providers and community members. Attendance exceeded 200 participants, with over 100 youth and teens, representing over 30 agencies, high schools and various communities within Palm Beach County, young adults, parents, community leaders, agency representatives and system partners.

The evening kicked off with dinner and a warm welcome by Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor of Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County and Elisa Cramer of Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, representing the two backbone agencies of the Birth to 22 collective impact initiative. After a brief recap of the community conversation and data collection processes, participants were introduced to the new Youth Master Plan 2.0 (“YMP 2.0”) and the Action Areas resulting from the input of more than 700 young people: **Mental Health, Economic Stability, Educational Achievement** and **Safety**.

To help explain the importance of B22 involvement, several attendees gave individual testimonials: Judge Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division, 15th Judicial Circuit; Julie Seaver, Compass Community Center Executive Director; Mindy Hanken, Pace Center for Girls Executive Director; Ms. Gloria, Pace Center Parent; and Madinah, a Pace Center Youth. After this motivational moment, all 180 participants broke out into three discussion groups, taking a deep dive into **Mental Health/Safety, Economic Stability/Safety**, and **Educational Achievement/Safety**. Each group was tasked with creating two (2) shared goals to serve as the driving force of our collaborative approach to addressing complex issues surrounding the action areas. After much discussion and brainstorming, several aspirational goals materialized, including:

### Economic Stability

1. Provide free bus passes to youth ages 12-22.
2. Host annual job fairs for high school students and recent graduates.
3. Collectively commit to securing jobs for 50 young people each year.

### Mental Health

1. Address the root causes of mental health crises among young people through peer specialist programs, located support in the communities where youth live, and

universal parent education that progresses as the youth progress.

2. Initiate coordinated mental wellness activities that are planned by youth, for youth, in ways that resonate with youth.

### Educational Achievement

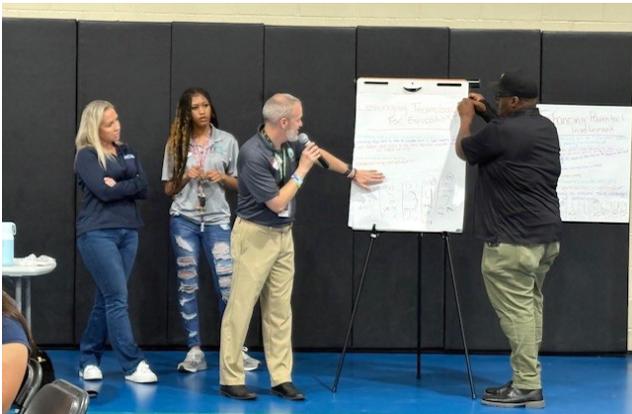
1. Enhance educational support and resources by offering more PSAT/SAT preparation programming and increasing one-on-one tutoring for coursework.
2. Foster safe and inclusive learning environments by creating meditation sports during lunch/free periods to manage stress and reduce classroom distractions (limiting cell phone usage).
3. Enhance career and life skills education by increasing paid internship and job training opportunities while establishing more career programs within high schools.
4. Address mental health in schools by implementing weekly mental health programs and expanding access to counseling services for students.
5. Boost parental involvement by scheduling activities during hours convenient to working parents and offer parent-child communication workshops,
6. Leverage technology to enhance learning experiences and utilize digital assignment tracking systems.
7. Create a system where students can attend any/all schools in the K-12 system.
8. Expand to include all schools in the Palm Beach County school district.

What’s next? Young people, parents, community members, youth-serving agencies, businesses, system partners and funders are invited to serve on the Action Teams to help bring these goals and objectives to fruition. By learning together, aligning and integrating our actions, we can achieve an impactful and sustainable change for our young people in Palm Beach County.

Scan the QR Code and join today.



# Insights To Action: 8th Annual Task Force



# Taxes Filed Free Campaign



**If your staff, client’s, neighbor’s, friends, etc. household income was \$76,000 or less in 2024, they can get their taxes filed for free!**

United Way of Palm Beach County’s Taxes Filed Free Campaign gives taxpayers with low-to-moderate incomes several in-person and online options to prepare and file their return for free. The campaign which will enter its twenty second year on January 22, 2025 is an invaluable service to the community. Visit [www.TaxesFiledFree.org](http://www.TaxesFiledFree.org) to learn more about the Taxes Filed Free Campaign, the services offered and where our sites are located throughout Palm Beach County. Site locations with days and times of operation can also be learned by calling 2-1-1.

**Please help us promote this free tax service.**

For your convenience, we have attached the promotional poster in English. We also created a [webpage with free downloadable resources](#) to make it easy for you to help United Way of Palm Beach County promote this FREE tax service.

I encourage you to view the resources available including:

- Web Banner - Post on your website and link to [www.TaxesFiledFree.org](http://www.TaxesFiledFree.org).
- Flyers - Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole. Place in a brochure rack, on a table and in paycheck envelopes.
- Posters - Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole. Hang on community bulletin boards or in lunchrooms.
- Email, social media and newsletter templates to send to staff, board members, clients, and friends at [www.TaxesFiledFree.org](http://www.TaxesFiledFree.org).

Printed copies of the flyer are available in all languages. Let us know if you are interested and we’ll be happy to deliver them at no charge.

On behalf of United Way of Palm Beach County, we would like to thank you in advance for helping to promote this FREE service to our residents and we look forward to the 2025 tax filing season.

Any questions can be directed to [vivianpazmino@unitedwaypbc.org](mailto:vivianpazmino@unitedwaypbc.org) or [donnapulda@unitedwaypbc.org](mailto:donnapulda@unitedwaypbc.org).



**For more information: Go to <https://pbcbirthto22.com>, or email [PBC-Birthto22@pbc.gov](mailto:PBC-Birthto22@pbc.gov), or scan the QR code below.**



# Annual Symposium: Prime Time Palm Beach County



Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is [requesting proposals for its annual Afterschool Symposium](#), to be held on May 9, 2025, in West Palm Beach. The deadline to apply is March 14, 2025. Prime Time Palm Beach County is Florida's only independent afterschool intermediary and works with more than 200 afterschool programs in Palm Beach and Martin counties. This year's theme - Empowering Young Minds, Engaging Communities, Creating Lasting Impact – brings together the vision of expanding opportunities for youth, inspiring adults to strengthen their power and engagement potential, and ensuring that afterschool programs create lasting, positive change in the community.

The symposium provides an excellent opportunity for workshop presenters to connect with more than 100 out-of-school time (OST) professionals in the region. To support presenters, Prime Time offers dynamic speaker kits that include customizable messaging and graphics to help promote workshops and raise awareness about the impactful work being done in the community. Additionally, presenters will receive access to a distribution list of workshop attendees following the event.

Workshops should focus on effective, proven methods that yield tangible results, allowing participants to learn and apply strategies for delivering safe and engaging OST programs and experiences that help youth to reach their full potential.

## **Event Sponsors**

The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, The Frederick A. Deluca Foundation, Palm Beach State College and Mizzen Education.

## **About Prime Time Palm Beach County**

The mission of Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is to help children and youth succeed by strengthening and expanding quality in the out-of-school time field. Prime Time offers support to OST programs through coaching and assessment for continuous quality improvement, as well as program enrichment through its expanded learning providers. For the individual practitioners, Prime Time offers career advising, training, scholarships and financial incentives to increase the quality of out-of-school time programs in Palm Beach County. [www.primetimepbcc.org](http://www.primetimepbcc.org)

## **About the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County**

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County is an independent special district established by Palm Beach County voters in 1986 and reauthorized in 2014. Today, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County provides leadership, funding, services and research on behalf of Palm Beach County's children, so they grow up healthy, safe and strong. [www.cscpbcc.org](http://www.cscpbcc.org) [www.everyparentpbcc.org](http://www.everyparentpbcc.org)

## **About the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department**

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's mission is to grow brighter futures by providing quality service, education, and access to resources and opportunities. All services provided by the Youth Services Department are FREE and further the mission by empowering youth and families to realize their full potential and be the driving force of a thriving community. The Youth Services Department is certified in The Sanctuary® Model of Trauma-Informed Care, which promotes an environment emphasizing the seven commitments of nonviolence, emotional intelligence, social learning, open communication, social responsibility, democracy, and growth and change. For more information about the free supports provided by the Youth Services Department, you may visit the website at: <https://discover.pbccgov.org/youthservices/Pages/default.aspx>.

# Children's Bereavement Center: Grief-Informed Training Series



## OVERVIEW:

This continuing education seminar series will focus on the ways in which death can affect children, teens, and adults, and how grief can be experienced across the lifespan. You will learn practical strategies for providing compassionate and effective grief support both individually and within a community-based organization as well as multicultural/diversity issues and personal self-care as it relates to grief. Attendees will also learn more about Children's Bereavement Center and Lift From Loss adult programming which offers free-of-cost grief support group services to the community.



### SESSION 1

What is Grief and How Can We Support a Grieving Individual?



### SESSION 2

Spotlight on Traumatic Grief



### SESSION 3

Interventions and Strategies to Providing Compassionate Grief Support

\* School specific considerations when student/staff member dies



### SESSION 4

Self-Care and Personal Trauma Stewardship

## YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Access to seminar materials and digital resources for one year after registration.
- Live Office Hours on Zoom with CBC Programming Staff for each training session module.
- Grief-Informed Training Certificate of Completion for those who complete all four professional development sessions and additional office hours as required.
- Continuing education credits (up to 10 CEs) provided to licensed mental health professionals in the State of Florida and licensed psychologists nationally.

## FORMAT:

Flexible schedule with On-Demand and live interactive online options

### \$450 PER TRAINEE

Contact us to see if you qualify for FREE training; limited spots available for qualified mental health professionals and nonprofits



REGISTER



888-988-5438

training@childbereavement.org

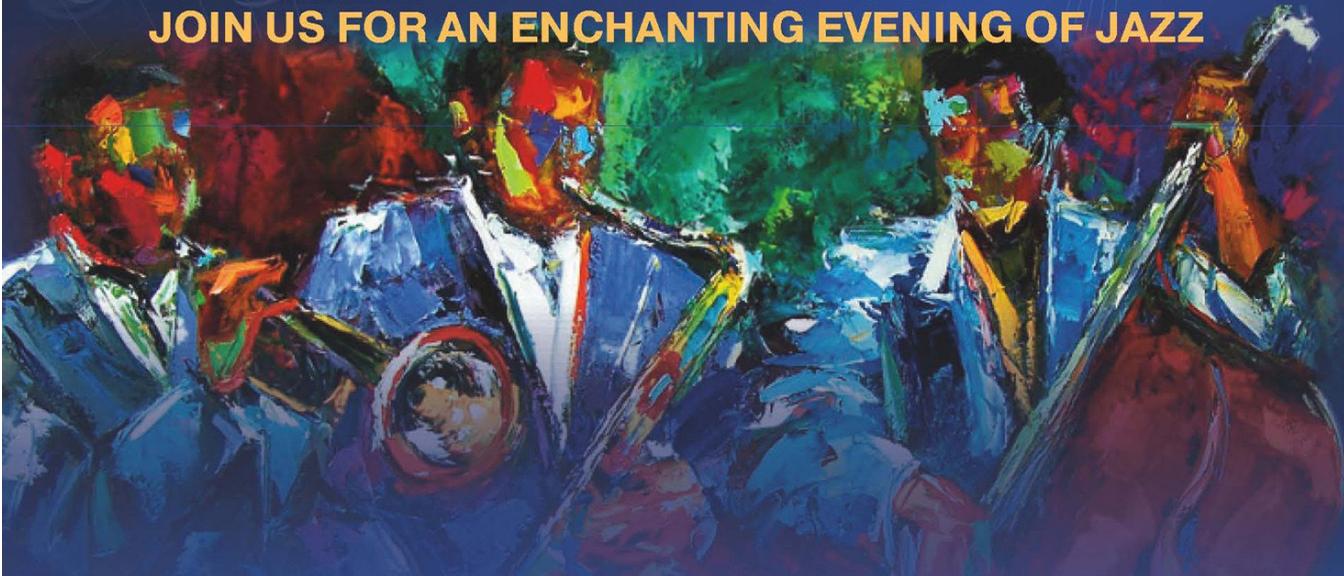
liftfromloss.org

# Pathways To Prosperity's 2nd Annual Evening of Jazz

PREPARE TO BE CAPTIVATED BY THE SOULFUL  
MELODIES AND VIBRANT RHYTHMS OF

# BLUE HARLEM

AT PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY'S 2ND ANNUAL EVENING OF JAZZ!  
JOIN US FOR AN ENCHANTING EVENING OF JAZZ



**SATURDAY**  
MARCH 8, 2025



**START AT**  
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM



**BENVENUTO'S**  
1730 N FEDERAL HIGHWAY  
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435

### BUY TICKETS AT

[www.eventbrite.com/e/1030538748137?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/1030538748137?aff=oddtcreator)

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$175**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISCOUNT**

**TABLE FOR 10 - \$1600.00**

*THIS PRICE WILL END 2/14/2025.*

**FREE COCKTAILS FROM 7-8 PM**

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR CIGAR LOUNGE ON THE PATIO**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT!**

**DRESS CODE: ROARING TWENTIES**



EVENT HOSTED BY PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL  
[HESTERF@P2PPBC.ORG](mailto:HESTERF@P2PPBC.ORG) OR CALL (561) 903-7743

# Scholar Career Coaching Highlights

Scholars at Boynton Beach Community High School engage in their after-school College & Career Readiness Club meeting with the support of Teacher Advisor Ms. Ina Rosenthal.

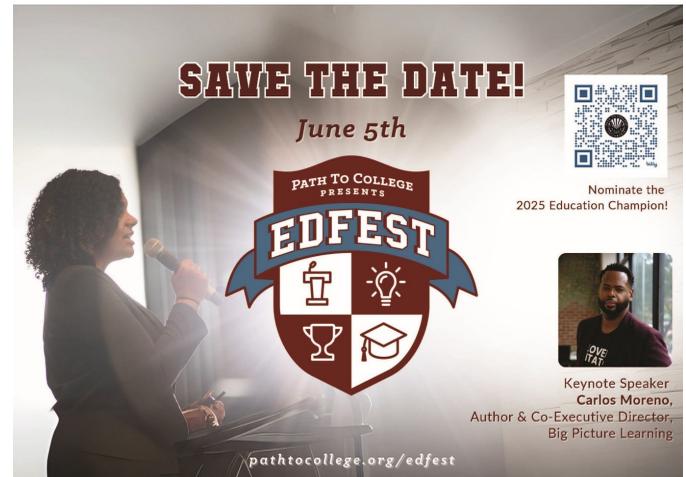


Scholars at Santaluces High School gather after attending a mental health talk by NAMI, joined by College Success Coaches Isabella Borges and Leah Richards.



# EdFest: Celebrating Today’s Champions, Elevating Tomorrow’s Leaders

**EdFest** is more than an event—it’s a movement. Join Path to College on **June 5th** for a luncheon celebrating the power of education (location to be announced soon)! This annual gathering brings together community leaders, educators, and changemakers to celebrate our collective work toward equality. At the heart of EdFest are the powerful **EDTalks**—students sharing deeply personal topics that impact their communities and addressing issues of deep importance. Join us in uplifting their voices and shaping the future of education together! Learn more here: [www.pathtocollege.org/edfest](http://www.pathtocollege.org/edfest)



# Lighting the Way to Behavioral Health and Wellness in Palm Beach County



We’re thrilled to share **BeWellPBC’s 2024** Impact Report, celebrating our collective journey to improve mental health and wellness right here in Palm Beach County. With the support of community partners, we’ve been able to reach more residents —expanding

access to behavioral health resources, reducing stigma, and empowering our neighbors to thrive.

Inside the report, you’ll discover key milestones that showcase how community-driven initiatives, partnerships, and advocacy are shaping a healthier future. Personal stories of impact that spotlight the real differences we are making together, and the progress in creating a more connected and supportive environment for everyone, guided by our “simple rules” to listen, share, innovate, connect, and commit.

At BeWellPBC, our goal is to build civic muscle and strengthen belonging through three primary impact areas:

- **Stewardship Coordination & Alignment**
- **Community Solutions**
- **Workforce Pipeline**

Thanks to the shared dedication of grassroots initiatives, partner organizations, and funders, we’ve been “**Lighting the Way**” for mental well-being in Palm Beach County—and we’re just getting started. Join us in writing the next chapter of this inspiring story.

Visit [www.bewellpbc.org](http://www.bewellpbc.org) to explore our 2024 Impact Report and learn how you can play a part in continuing this momentum. **Follow us on social media:** [@bewellpbc](https://twitter.com/bewellpbc)

# Center for Child Counseling: Updates and Events



## CFCC’s Senior Program Specialist Named Everyday Hero

Noah Gordon, a Center for Child Counseling senior program specialist with the Education and Prevention Services team, has been named an Everyday Hero by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Youth Foundation. She received the prestigious Everyday Hero Provider Staff of the Year Award in recognition of her dedication, passion, and commitment to serving children and families. Since joining Center for Child Counseling’s Stop Now And Plan (SNAP®) facilitation team in 2023, Gordon has played a key role in supporting families and mentoring colleagues. Her leadership, positive attitude, and deep understanding of the SNAP® program have made a lasting impact. Funded by the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, SNAP® provides free support to children ages 6-11 and their caregivers, equipping them with effective strategies to manage behavior and make positive choices.

## Lead the Fight with Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

For the past decade, a powerful partnership between Center for Child Counseling and Leadership Palm Beach County has transformed the community’s approach to childhood trauma and resilience. What started as an initiative to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) has become Palm Beach County’s leading platform for advancing children’s mental health. To mark this milestone, Center for Child Counseling is hosting a special luncheon on February 28, 2025, featuring renowned physician and public health leader Dr. Nadine Burke Harris. As California’s first Surgeon General, Dr. Burke Harris pioneered statewide trauma-informed care initiatives, training thousands of healthcare providers to screen for ACEs. This event will bring together influential leaders for meaningful discussions, networking, and a celebration of Center For Child Counseling’s impact in Palm Beach County.



## Center for Child Counseling, United Way Workshops

Center for Child Counseling is offering free community workshops, sponsored by United Way of Palm Beach County. These virtual workshops cater to a diverse audience, including professionals, parents, and caregivers. Topics include Trauma-Informed Care, Resiliency, Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences, A Way of Being with Children, and more! Please see below for upcoming training dates and registration.

[Addressing and Preventing Suicide 2/19](#)

[ACEs, Trauma and Racism 3/12](#)

[PACEs: Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences 4/16](#)

[PACEs: Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences 5/14](#)

[Trauma-Informed Care 6/16](#)

**Education and Prevention Services in the Community**

The Education and Prevention Services team is kicking off the year on a strong note with a range of impactful programs! Starting with [SNAP \(Stop Now And Plan\)](#) Clinical groups, the engagement from both children and caregivers is promising.

The team’s co-location at various sites around Palm Beach County (PBC) seems to be helping them stay connected with the community, which is important for fostering relationships and ensuring the programs reach as many people as possible. This wide reach is being bolstered by partnerships with other sites that are setting up mental health consultations, parenting groups, and psychoeducational workshops—clearly expanding the support system for families in need.

The Brain Architecture Game at Lake Worth High School was also exciting. The team provided students a chance to explore the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s) on brain development. More importantly, the focus on the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework highlights the positive side of the equation. It’s crucial to show how positive experiences can actually buffer against the effects of adversity. This kind of education is incredibly powerful, as it not only raises awareness but also empowers people with strategies to foster healthier outcomes.

The team also engaged with the Esperanza Community Center about mental health and its importance to break

the stigma around these topics, especially in communities where such conversations may not always happen. By talking directly with caregivers about mental health, the team is helping to normalize these discussions and provide a space for families to feel comfortable expressing their concerns.

The emphasis on safety at school and within their communities also shows a proactive approach in addressing broader issues that affect kids’ well-being. Creating an environment where caregivers can openly talk about their feelings of safety—whether physical or emotional—at school and in their neighborhoods is so important for their mental and emotional health. It also empowers the families to understand their rights to feel secure and supported, both at school and in their community.

The team’s work at Esperanza seems like it’s having a powerful ripple effect, giving families the tools and support they need to thrive.

In addition, our team has developed new Tip Sheets free for anyone in the community:

[Withdrawn Teenagers](#)

[Discussing Body Image](#)

[The Social Media Effect](#)

[Building Boundaries](#)

And even MORE available on [www.bekidsafe.org](http://www.bekidsafe.org).



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

**Palm Beach County Youth Services Department**

# FREE Therapy Services

Trauma-Informed Care      In-person and Virtual



**Youth and Family Counseling**  
Outpatient Services  
West Palm Beach - (561) 242-5714  
Delray Beach - (561) 276-1340  
Belle Glade - (561) 992-1233  
Palm Beach Gardens - (561) 242-5714

**Highridge Family Center**  
Residential Program  
(561) 625-2540

**Education & Training Center**  
Outpatient Services  
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy  
(561) 233-4460



**Issues Addressed**

- Bullying
- Self Esteem
- Communication
- School Concerns
- Behavioral Problems
- Separation and Divorce
- Social Skills
- Family Violence
- Grief Counseling
- Emotion Regulation
- Traumatic Experiences
- Parent/Child Relationships

