



Dear Child Advocates,

We've had a busy winter and start of spring, with exciting activities such as our Youth Summit 2023 and our "Get Your Green On" mental health events. Now summer is right around the corner. That means it's time for us to think about how best to keep our kids safe and engaged while they're out of school!

Especially in Florida, summertime = pool time. That's why we're so excited to share a new partnership between the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSCPBC) and the County Parks and Recreation Department to increase the number of local lifeguards and swim instructors. Palm Beach County is no exception to the nationwide shortage of lifeguards and swim instructors, which has grown significantly since the start of COVID-19. As a result, the number of children receiving swim lessons has dropped dramatically – despite receiving the vouchers for free lessons from the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County. While exploring solutions to address the capacity issue, we determined the cost of certification is a major barrier to becoming a lifeguard or swim instructor. Through the new partnership, CSC will cover the processing fees for lifeguard certification, while Parks & Recreation will provide the pool space and instruction. This will allow us to reach our goal of having one lifeguard course and one water safety instructor course per month. CSC is working with the School District and other partners to inform high school students about this exciting opportunity.

In another proud partnership example, the County's Youth Services Department has raised income eligibility for summer camps scholarships – with CSC's support. More scholarships mean more children and youth engaged in safe and stimulating summer camp opportunities. Youth Services also is expanding Education Enrichment Camps, with curriculum assistance from the School District, which will add an academic component to all CSC/County-supported summer camps. Hopefully, this will help reduce the summer learning slide, which was exacerbated by the pandemic.

These are just a few examples of exciting collaborative projects happening in our community this summer as a result of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures. We want to thank all those who devote their time and energy to keeping our children safe and engaged during the summer. We couldn't do it without you!

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 3 | June 2023

Birth to 22 Hosts
Safety & Justice Kickoff Meeting
Birth to 22 hosts inaugural ensuring safety
& justice community kick-off event.

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

Ensuring Safety & Justice Community Kickoff Event



Governmental agencies, community stakeholders, youth advocates, service providers, citizens, and young adults joined forces on Monday, April 17th, to learn more about Birth to 22's Safety & Justice initiative to support youth in Palm Beach County. The first inaugural community kick-off event, held at Mounts Botanical Gardens, was

hosted by PBC's Birth to 22 Ensuring Safety & Justice Action Team. The mission of the Action Team is to "develop and implement a collaborative process to support youth (ages 13 to 18) who are involved in the justice and/or criminal justice systems by enhancing and expanding resources and activities to reduce criminal activities."

The event kicked off with entertainment courtesy of Digital Vibez and a vendor marketplace where attendees had the opportunity to network and learn about resources and programs in Palm Beach County while enjoying refreshments provided by United Way. Motivational speaker Caleb Walesco got the crowd pumped up for an exciting session, followed by Marie Victor, who impressed everyone as she bravely shared her personal story and journey.

The Birth to 22 Ensuring Safety & Justice Action Team Co-Chairs provided an overview of the committee's work and highlighted their priorities for 2023. This included a presentation on youth data by Sarah Freglette and a presenta-

tion of the first two Birth to 22 Partner Badges by Randi Taylor. The event concluded with a call to action by Winter Jones and Holly Carotenuto, encouraging attendees to join the work of the Action Team. Special thanks to everyone who attended and an extra heartfelt thanks to those who helped make the day a huge success....despite a tornado warning in the area at the time of the event!



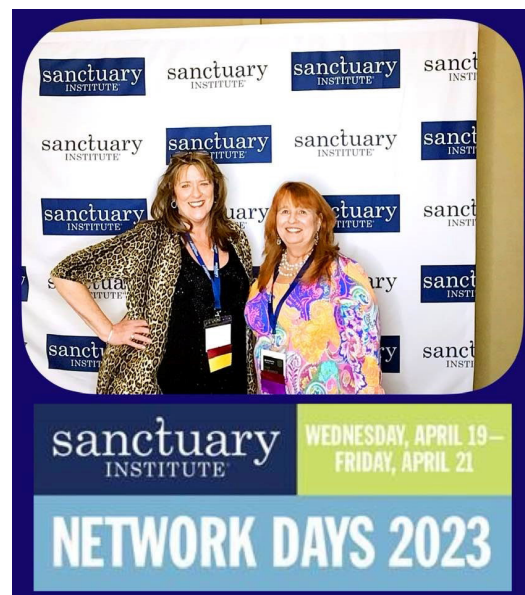
Palm Beach County Youth Services Presents at the 2023 Sanctuary Institute Network Days



Tammy K. Fields, Director of Youth Services, and Dr. Twila Taylor, Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling at Youth Services, presented "One Size Doesn't Fit All, But Everyone Fits in the Sanctuary Tent" at the Sanctuary Institute Network Days 2023 in White Plains, NY on April 19, 2023.

The theme of the conference was Agility Through Loss and Change. Attendees came from all over the United States and internationally as far away as Australia.

Palm Beach County Youth Services is certified as a department by the Sanctuary Institute in its trauma-informed care model.



Youth Services Collaborates with Channel 20 to Promote ‘Get Your Green On’

May was Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month. Youth Services Department Public Relations Specialist, Tevin Ali, recently worked with the Palm Beach County Channel 20 Team to help promote the ‘Get Your Green On’ (GYGO) campaign. The Get Your Green On campaign aims to raise awareness by creating visible support and fostering safe spaces to talk openly about mental health and trauma. The GYGO committee invited everyone in Palm Beach County to wear green on May 18, 2023 and all month long.



Palm Beach County Youth Services Director Presented with ‘Spirit of Sanctuary’ Award for Dedication to Implementing Positive Change in the Community

On April 19, 2023, Tammy K Fields, Director of Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, was presented the ‘Spirit of Sanctuary’ Award at the 2023 Sanctuary Institute Network Days in White Plains, NY.

At this year’s Sanctuary Institute Network Days, the Sanctuary Institute honored individuals whose organization was nominated for living and breathing the tenets of The Sanctuary Model. Tammy K Fields was recognized for exemplifying the Sanctuary commitments and values of being kind, compassionate, trustworthy, humble, capable, ethical, brave, and generous. Recipients of this award were also recognized for creating a safe haven for colleagues and/or clients, who approach their work from a place of curiosity and support rather than judgment and are dedicated to motivating others for positive change in their communities.

The Sanctuary Institute provides training and consultation services to organizations that work with vulnerable adults, children, and families to help an agency’s leaders reclaim a culture of hope and innovation. 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.

In September 2022, the Sanctuary Institute certified the Youth Services Department department-wide in the Sanctuary Model of Trauma-Informed Care. Palm Beach County Youth Services Department and the communities within Palm Beach County have benefited from the leadership of Tammy K Fields for bringing the Sanctuary Model of Trauma-Informed Care to the department and nurturing a safe haven environment for colleagues and the community the department serves. “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.



400 Youth Learn “The Best of Me and We in 2023” at Palm Beach County Youth Summit

The 2023 Palm Beach County Youth Summit took place on April 29th at Palm Beach Central High School, attracting nearly 400 middle and high school students. The annual event focused on the theme “The Best of Me and We in 2023” and featured engaging discussions on topics such as healthy relationships, mental health, substance abuse, and more. A highlight of the summit was the presence of renowned motivational speaker SaulPaul, whose inspiring words were accompanied by his guitar and loop pedal, creating a unique and captivating experience.

Participating students had the opportunity to earn ten community service hours for their attendance at this full-day event, which aimed to empower and educate young individuals.

Interested in helping out next year? Please contact Marcia Bahia at the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office at mbahia@pbso.org.



Alliance Spotlights

Florida Guardian ad Litem Office Joins Speak Up For Kids at Enchanting Story Book Village, Building Books and Spreading Joy in Palm Beach County



The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office in Palm Beach County participated in the vibrant and engaging 6th annual Story Book Village organized by the Speak Up For Kids nonprofit on March 12, 2023. The event was filled with enchantment as children enjoyed the company of captivating storytellers, talented face painters, delightful snow cones, and

captivating activities. Police horses and motorcycles added an element of excitement to the occasion.

A highlight of the event was the adoption of approximately 2,000 books by kids in the community, allowing them to bring home the magic of storytelling.

At the Guardian ad Litem booth named “Build a Book Workshop,” children had the opportunity to unleash their creativity. They could write short stories, respond to prompts, complete adlibs, draw illustrations, solve puzzles, and engage in various other activities. Each child contributed their unique page to our collaborative book, resulting in an incredible collective effort to build a book that showcased

the creativity and imagination of all participants. The event was a joyful celebration of the power of storytelling and community engagement.

Join us in representing Florida’s abused, neglected, and abandoned children in court and in the community! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact GALrecruitment15@gal.fl.gov or call 561-355-6224.



Talented Teen Club Spring Camp 2023 Empowers Students with Success Principles and Real-World Experience



The Talented Teen Club’s Spring Camp 2023 was a transformative experience where students delved into the principles of success encapsulated by the 7 C’s: Consistency, Commitment, Conception, Confidence, Character, Capacity, and Concentration. Guided by Monique M. Barbour, MD, MHA, FAAO, and Dr. Martine Senatus, the Spring Camp ‘Med Day’ was an exceptional event that instilled mentorship, leadership, and entrepreneurship skills in the young participants, paving their way to success. Marlon D. White and Pamela Stewart were recognized for their invaluable support in nurturing the next generation of leaders.

The camp also included visiting The Lending Hub, where LendingHUB provided insights into various aspects of home

loans, mortgages, finances, W2s, and pre-qualification letters. The hands-on activity of playing different roles, such as loan officer, realtor, and client, was particularly enjoyable and informative for the participants. Destiny, one of the mentees, expressed her enthusiasm and gratitude for the learning experience. With Coach King’s guidance, the Talented Teen Club expanded students’ knowledge and exposed them to real-world scenarios, enhancing their understanding and preparing them for future endeavors.



Prime Time Palm Beach County brings STEAM to Everglades Elementary School



Everglades Elementary Afterschool Program brought hands-on STEAM activities to the children in attendance by calling on Nexplore, a Prime Time PBC expanded learning opportunity provider. Each child had the opportunity to learn how to build a propeller-powered race cart. As youth worked through successfully building and powering up their carts, they found themselves assisting others by offering lessons learned and a helping hand.

Nexplore offers STEAM opportunities: Lego Robotics, Build-A-Bot, Etiquette, Art in a Box, and more. Prime Time strives to provide youth in grades 3-8 with a wide range of hands-on learning experiences in partnership with local content expert organizations.

“It’s teaching them problem-solving, team building, and sharing. It’s nice to see them do physical things like building.”
-Mrs. Teully, Nexplore Instructor



Local event brings the community and the Superintendent together



Members of the community came together in April to host “Supporting Black Futures” that included such guests as Palm Beach County School District Superintendent Mike Burke, who expressed his intention to listen and learn from the participants. He highlighted that the meeting was a result of presentations made by members of the Black Student Union (BSU) to the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee for Black Student Excellence.

Representatives from the BSUs of Palm Beach Lakes High School, Atlantic High School, and Jupiter Middle School shared powerful accounts of their experiences within their schools and the community. These testimonies provided valuable insights for everyone present, generating thoughtful discussions and applause in support of the students’ endeavors. “Supporting Black Futures” was made possible thanks to the collaboration and contributions of various organizations, including the Coalition for Black Student Achievement of Palm

Beach County, Palm Beach County African Diaspora Historical and Cultural Society, Superintendent’s Advisory Committee for Black Student Excellence, and U.B. Kinsey Educational & Community Center.

The meeting also welcomed community leaders, including Reverend Kevin Jones, who delivered the invocation, seeking blessings and protection for the students, educators, and community members. Dr. Andre Poole, Port of Palm Beach Commissioner, and Janelle Floyd, Director of Racial Justice and Gender Equity at the YWCA, were among those who attended in support of the School District’s Black Student Unions.

Ms. Floyd commended the students for their self-awareness, selflessness, and black pride, highlighting their potential for greatness. She challenged the community leaders present to make a commitment to support the students. Superintendent Burke echoed this sentiment, calling for various opportunities such as part-time jobs, internships, mentoring, training, sponsorship of events, and financial contributions through the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County as ways to actively contribute to the success of these students.



Florida Department of Children and Families Recognizes National Child Abuse Prevention Month with Pinwheel Planting Ceremony at Historic Capitol

The Florida Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with key partners, marked April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month by planting pinwheels at Florida’s Historic Capitol. Symbolizing the desire for every child to have a joyful and safe environment, pinwheels serve as the national symbol for child abuse prevention. Governor Ron DeSantis officially declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Florida, highlighting the state’s commitment to improving the lives of children and families.

Secretary Shevaun Harris emphasized the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, underscoring the Department’s focus on prevention efforts. Collaborative programs like Family Navigation and First Lady Casey DeSantis’ Hope Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity support the well-being of families and contribute to the safety of all children in the state. Agency and community leaders joined together to recognize the significance of Child Abuse Prevention Month and reaffirm their commitment to promoting the well-being of Florida’s children and fostering resilient and strong families.



Intergenerational Partnership Program: Fuller Center and Volen Center Join Forces to Empower Families and Seniors



Tomorrow begins today.

To empower families and seniors alike, the Fuller Center and Volen Center have formed an intergenerational partnership program. The Fuller Center, dedicated to providing resources and support to under-resourced families and children, offers a range of educational programs and services. The Volen Center, focused on serving seniors and their families, provides comprehensive healthcare and support. By combining their efforts, both organizations aim to enhance their capacity to meet the needs of families seeking childcare while enriching the lives of seniors.

Intergenerational programs have proven to yield positive

outcomes, benefiting both children and seniors. Research shows that such programs foster educational exploration for children and provide health benefits for seniors through intergenerational companionship. Additionally, these initiatives address common challenges childcare and senior care facilities face, such as limited funding and staffing. By offering quality care for children and elderly parents, this partnership not only supports families and caregivers but also boosts the local economy. Moreover, the program promotes diversity and fosters positive attitudes towards aging and disabilities among children while reducing loneliness and improving the well-being of seniors.

To learn more about this program opening this fall, contact Gabrielle Aleksinko, Executive Administrator for the Fuller Center, at galeksinko@fullercenterfl.org or (561) 391-7274.



Youth Services Student Intern and FCAN Fellow Promotes Policy in Tallahassee



Achieve Palm Beach County selected YSD’s Humberto Sigler, Student Intern, to participate in the 2022-2023 Florida College Access Network (FCAN) Fellowship program.

As an FCAN Fellow, Humberto has developed and grown his advocacy skills and participated in FCAN Advocacy Days in Tallahassee.

On Feb. 7-8, 2023, FCAN hosted its first in-person Advocacy Days at the Florida State Capitol. FCAN’s Fellows learned about the key components of advocacy and how to apply these best practices during meetings with legislators. “I got to learn so much about our government and the creation of legislation,” Humberto said. “In a small way, I also got to be a part of that process.”

With 14 meetings over two days, our fellows were able to connect with the legislators from their communities to advocate for FCAN’s advocacy agenda while also discussing the important work of local college access networks.

Congratulations to all of the Fellows for their hard work.

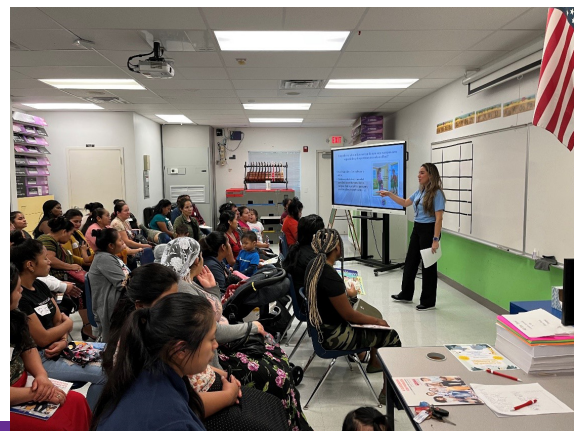


“ACEs: Trauma to Resilience” for Palm Beach County School Counselors



The Center for Child Counseling organized a highly successful training event titled “ACEs: Trauma to Resilience” in March. The training brought together more than 150 Palm Beach County School Guidance Counselors for an interactive session focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma. The sessions provided a platform for counselors to engage in meaningful conversations, share their experiences, and learn from one another. Additionally, participants enjoyed a fun-filled brain game that added an element of excitement to the training. To extend the enjoyment, the Center for Child Counseling personally visited the winning participants at their respective schools to hand-deliver their well-deserved prizes, further fostering a sense of connection and appreciation.

The “ACEs: Trauma to Resilience” training not only provided valuable insights and knowledge to the counselors but also created a vibrant and engaging environment for collaborative learning. By actively involving the participants and recognizing their achievements through the brain game prizes, the team aimed to enhance the overall experience and foster a sense of camaraderie among the counselors. We are proud of the positive impact this training had on our dedicated school counselors and the lasting connections it forged within the Palm Beach County School community.



Upcoming Events

Talented Teen Club (TTC) Track and Field Summer Camp and Programs



The Talented Teen Club Track and Field Program (TTCTP) has achieved remarkable success, with both the Men's and Women's Teams winning numerous conference, regional, and national titles. The program has also produced a significant number of All-American athletes. The track camp offered by TTCTP provides comprehensive training in various events, including sprints, hurdles, and jumps. The camp caters to participants of all skill levels, offering up-to-date techniques, video analysis, and detailed instruction. With the opportunity to train in a world-class facility and receive guidance from experienced coaches, students can improve their skills and reach their full athletic potential. Additionally, TTCTP has a strong track record of securing athletic scholarships, with \$5.8 million worth of scholarships awarded to student-athletes in the past 12 years, showcasing the program's commitment to

holistic development and using sports to promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

As the TTC track program enters a new era in 2023, the acquisition of a state-of-the-art training facility marks an exciting beginning. The facility, with amenities such as a weight room, locker rooms, classrooms, and a world-class track, enables effective training and mentoring of the youth under TTC's guidance. The program's dedication is evident through their participation in high-profile events like the high indoor nationals in Boston, where athletes gained valuable experience and motivation to strive for scholarships. With the athletes performing well in district track meets, they are expected to excel at the upcoming regional meet, with the girls already demonstrating top performances in their respective events.

The TTC track program continues to nurture talent, foster growth, and propel athletes toward success in both academics and athletics. For more information, contact Shawn Ho-Hing King at shawn_king@talentedteenclub.org or (561) 649-1234.

American Heart Association



The American Heart Association surveyed parents of children living with congenital heart defects, and they reported feeling overwhelmed and anxious with all the information, tests, appointments, and follow-up needed for their child.

We are offering a chance for parents to talk about these challenges and learn ways to cope and ease the stress for them and their child. Please share this opportunity and ask interested supporters of CHD children to join us for a Virtual Conversation on Coping Skills to guide them through this healthcare maze.

Parents of Congenital Heart Disease Children are spread across our communities. This is open to anyone to attend, so please share. Please register [here](#).

Feeling anxious? Overwhelmed?

The American Heart Association-American Heart Heroes program invites you to join a **FREE** webinar to learn

COPING SKILLS TO NAVIGATE YOUR CHILD'S HEALTHCARE JOURNEY

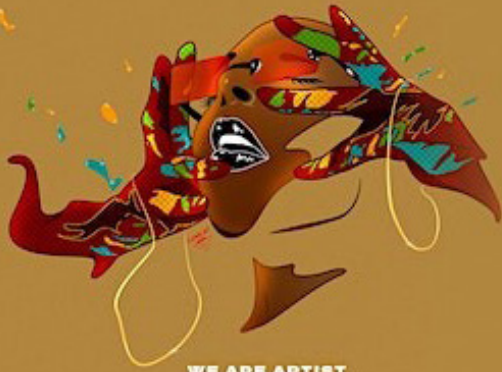
Allie Corder, CCLS, MA, a certified child life specialist, is trained in helping children and their families process and cope with the healthcare environment. Allie will be on the webinar to give an overview on how to navigate your child's healthcare journey. She will go in depth on ways to cope with caregiver stress in the healthcare environment, common stressors for your child based on developmental age and ways to help your child cope with their healthcare journey.



THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Register [HERE](#) to join the webinar

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



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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.

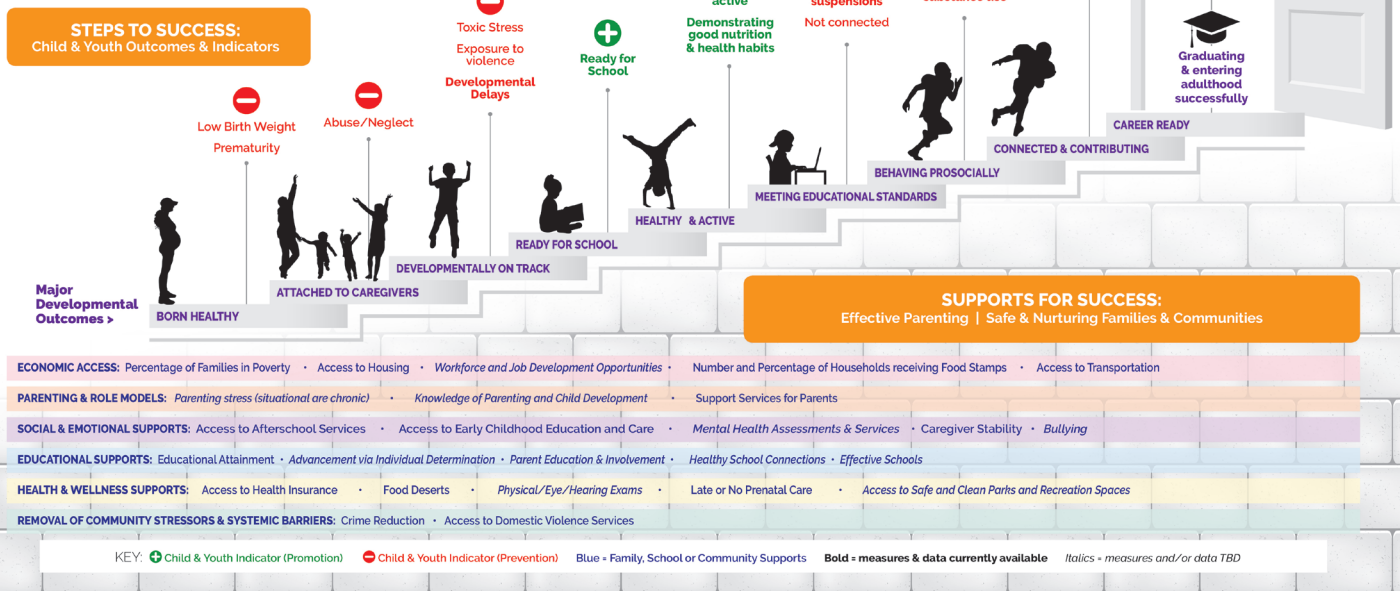
Take the *Pledge*, be listed as a Collective Impact Partner of the Birth to 22 Alliance to improve outcomes from cradle to career for all Palm Beach County children, youth and families.

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



www.pbcirthto22.com