



THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

December 2018 Issue

A Message From The Director:

As we end this year, let us celebrate and remember the children and families that we serve in our beautiful community during this holiday season. This is the time of year that many of the people we serve, and sometimes our very own families, need support to make this season merry and bright. Let's spread the cheer at the annual Children's Services Council's "Sounds of the Season" free concert in downtown Fort Pierce for a great time of fellowship with people across the community. Sharing holiday music with others has a way of lifting the spirit and bringing smiles to the faces of all that attend, especially the little ones. Be sure to spread the word and make this the best holiday concert ever! See page 11 for details. Another opportunity to enjoy the season will be "Christmas on Moore's Creek" put on by Lincoln Park Main Street, in association with the City of Fort Pierce and the Florida Department of Health. There will be entertainment, giveaways, refreshments, great health information, and screenings provided. For more information about this exciting event, see page 12. While you are enjoying the festivities, please remember to give back! Whether a toy drive, food giveaways, or other efforts to help those in need, be sure to support the efforts of our community partners and others as they give a helping hand to many families across the community. As many of you have experienced, it truly is more rewarding to give than to receive.

Speaking of giving, I would also like to recognize some champions that spent years helping the citizens of St. Lucie and making our community a better place to live. First, we would like to remember the former Mayor of Port St. Lucie Bob Minsky who we recently lost. He was one of the first champions of the Roundtable and served as chair in the early years of its development. Over 20 years later, the Roundtable, its leaders and partnering organizations continue to still stand strong and are "United for Youth". Please see the great article by Nancy Brown, reminding us of Mayor Minksy's involvement to the Roundtable's beginnings on page 8. Next, we would like to thank Judi Miller for leading Big Brothers and Big Sisters for more than a quarter of a century, reaching and connecting countless families with mentors for the children. We hope Judi will enjoy a wonderful retirement in exchange for her tireless service to the families of St. Lucie.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday season and get ready to roll up your sleeves in the new year as we continue our labor of love together – the honor to serve children, youth and families in our beautiful community.

Happy Holidays!

Teresa Bishop





Youth Leadership St. Lucie Council creating their mental health PSA with the County!

The Roundtable of St. Lucie County is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of agencies working together with partners and stakeholders throughout the community to address the issues our children face at the root level. Its members are leaders of all aspects of society who come together to build a community of opportunity where every child succeeds.

The Roundtable operates through networks, each of which focuses on key aspects that affect the lives of our children.



At November's Roundtable Meeting, Teresa Bishop presented a Social Analysis (also known as a social autopsy) that was completed on 19 of the Restoring the Village Youth Initiative (RTVYI) clients ages 13-16, where their life histories were examined. Thank you to the Department of Children & Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, the School District, the Health Department, the Early Learning Coalition, and Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Staff for assisting with this effort.

When a Social Analysis is conducted, risk factors, developmental pathways and opportunities for interventions in the lives of the youth can be identified. The profile for those at greatest risk for engaging in physical assault is that of a young, conduct-disordered adolescent reared by physically punitive and substance-abusing parents, who upon reaching late adolescence, engage in antisocial and other risk-taking behavior (Woodward and Fergusson, 2000:254).

The Roundtable's findings were eye opening. Below is a sample RTVYI case.



The Roundtable and its partners will be working on strategies to interrupt the pathway for this population. One suggestion included exploration of options for the utilization of a local review and intervention team beginning in early elementary school for youth that are identified that are on a similar trajectory.

For the complete slide show, please contact Kim Thomas, 772-871-5880 or kthomas@roundtableslc.org.



Youth Leadership St. Lucie PSA

On November 10th, ten members of Youth Leadership St. Lucie happily "sacrificed" a Saturday to meet at the Roger E. Poitras Administration Annex at 9am for the long-awaited and anticipated filming of their grant-sponsored PSA on the topic of teen mental health. Under the superb direction of St. Lucie County Television Coordinator Mr. Mike Claus, and the supervision of youth advisors Kevin Singletary and Kim Reid, the youth spent the day changing locations and attire as each scene was filmed. The highlight of the day was the group's utilization of the "green screen", what an educational and enjoyable experience! Youth Leadership St. Lucie is grateful to have received this amazing opportunity to bring its vision to life and is looking forward to sharing this powerful message on teen mental health with you! Stay tuned... ©



RESTORING THE YILLAGE YOUTH INITIATIVE



FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE TRAINING

On November 2nd, Kids at Hope and Restoring the Village Youth Initiative (RTVYI) introduced the Nurturing Father's Program to its young men. The training is an extension of parent training being offered by Kids at Hope. The Program defines nurturing father as "a man who actively provides guidance, love, and support to enhance the development and growth of children for whom he cares". This curriculum is designed to enhance the parenting skills of young fathers and potential fathers. There are several young men in the RTVYI Program that are currently fathers and others are expecting to be fathers in the near future. The program deals with fathering issues and male nurturing. Some of the topics covered during the course are self-nurturing principles, the roots of fathering, healing the father wound, and a time and place to fathering. At the conclusion of the course, these young men will be better equipped to handle the task of fathering their children and enhance their parenting skills. The entire course takes 13 weeks and its being offered bi-weekly. Margaret Mead said, "The supreme test of any civilization is whether or not it can teach men to become good fathers."





The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, in coordination with the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce, presented the November 2018 Community Impact Award to an outstanding individual who works hard to ensure that all children in our community are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!

This month, the Community Impact Award winner is Kevin Singletary, Kids at Hope Community Liaison at the Roundtable of St. Lucie County.

Mr. Singletary has been an important part of the Kids at Hope movement in our community and works with schools and organizations to ensure that the staff is trained in Kids at Hope to find the talents and treasures in every child they come in contact with.

Additionally, Mr. Singletary has worked to establish a Nurturing Fathers Program targeting young fathers and providing the skills they need to be active and positive participants in the lives of their children.

The Children's Services Council is committed to recognizing the good work being done in our community by the individuals who dedicate their lives to helping others. The Community Impact Award is given each month at the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce's Coffee with the Port St. Lucie Council event held on the second Friday of every month at 8:30am at Port St. Lucie City Hall Chambers.









St. Lucie County Sheriff's Pop-Up Party

On November 15th, 2018, Kids at Hope and Drug Free St. Lucie joined the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office at their Pop-Up Party at Ilous Ellis Park on Avenue M in Fort Pierce.

Kristy Conway, Coordinator of Drug Free St. Lucie, handed out appealing giveaways to attending children and youth, and seized the opportunity to engage them in conversation that explained the meaning of "Drug Free St. Lucie".

Kim Reid, Kids at Hope School & Community Liaison, invited children and youth to "Time Travel" with her to the four Kids at Hope destinations: Home & Family, Education & Career, Hobbies & Recreation, and Community & Service. Using age-appropriate worksheets and booklets, several intrigued and excited children ambitiously documented and verbally shared their plans and dreams for their future.

Thank you, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, for inviting the Roundtable to be a part of this meaningful and fun community event!

"The members of this Office are made up of the kind of people that make me especially proud to be Sheriff of St. Lucie County. Often the Sheriff's Office, in its role as the law enforcement arm of our county, deals with the negative element in our society. Each time we receive a correspondence such as yours, we are reminded of how proud we are to work with such outstanding deputies." ~ Sheriff Ken Mascara



RESTORING THE YILLAGE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Promoting prosocial behavior and norms is an essential part of the mentoring activities RTVYI outreach workers perform with youth in our program, and a critical component in making adolescents aware of and able to accept the social norms and moral standards of society. Encouraging prosocial behavior can also lead to an increase in empathy for others, (potentially decreasing retaliation and violence between groups of youth from different gangs), as well as reducing or eliminating other undesirable social behaviors. We also know from experience that engaging our youth in social activities are often the means from which outreach workers can build trust and encourage them to participate in other essential services, such as mental, behavioral and substance abuse counseling. Nevertheless, it can be difficult to get youth with multiple challenges and little family support to dedicate themselves to something outside of what they have been accustomed to and to commit to attending any activity on a regular basis.

This fall, we are so excited that our outreach team was able to connect four of our young men to organized basketball, and that they have not missed a practice or a game so far. John Riphin, participated in the Westwood High School Varsity try-outs and successfully made the team. He is currently an intricate member of a 2-0 team that is looking to have a formidable season. Thank you to Eckerd's Project Bridge for paying his athletic fee!

For the program, and for an outreach worker, it is a sweet reward to see the young men playing organized sports and being passionate about winning as a team, when they are rivals in the street. Each of them was given a role on the team by Coach Cooper. Tyreik Williams was asked to play center. Although he is tall, he has always played on the perimeter, so at first, he was reluctant about the change in position, but he overcame his reservations and embraced the role and when he is reminded of his leadership role on the team, he excels in his position. Robert Porter is the team's defensive ignitor and his role is a concise one. He's known to come off the bench with a fiery desire to impact the game. When the opposing team has been lulled to sleep by poor defensive play, he is put in to remind them what intense physical play is like.

Robert joined the team with very little experience, but through his relationships with teammates and his coach he is gaining the fundamentals, which a primary goal of the league. He continues to grow as a player and has been part of crucial moments attacking teams defensively. Malik is a starting member of the team and one of the team's leading guards. He has also been one of the team's leading rebounders and scorers. Malik is shy and has been a challenge to engage, but this experience has brought him out of his shell, and we will be able to build on this to help him develop other necessary skills for future success. All of them have actively participated in weekly practices and games and have developed a strong friendship bond among themselves and other players on the team. Each of them also attends other RTVYI programs such as our newly started Nurturing Fathers Program, facilitated by Kids at Hope Coordinator Kevin Singletary.



Nurturing Fathers Program

ACADEMIC SUCCESS NETWORK

Academic Success Network Update

Debbie Hawley- Chair

Priority	Progress	Biggest Challenge
#1 Develop and implement a county-wide, multi-cultural strategic campaign emphasizing the importance of regular school attendance	Students at PSLHS and FP Westwood HS who missed 10 or more days of school were identified and tracked through the school year. Graduation Coaches met with the identified students to implement a plan to minimize absenteeism.	Student complacency about the importance of regular school attendance. Lack of parental support encouraging attendance.
#2 Explore evidence based reading recovery curriculum that can be incorporated into out of school programs to supplement classroom based reading interventions.	The Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) implemented the Moby Max reading recovery program for the second graders through middle schoolers they serve in their out of school program. MRC staff were trained prior to implementation, and the program remains in use.	Fidelity of use due to attendance issues with some attendees.
#3 Reduction of summer learning loss with students	Saint Lucie Public Schools enacted a full media campaign to equip parents and summer programs with easily accessible tools to keep children learning during the summer months.	Accessibility to high-quality summer learning experiences.

Steering Committee Chair – Angela Roberson

Remembering Former Port St. Lucie Mayor Robert "Bob" Minsky

By Nancy Brown

In 1994, the Roundtable was initiated through a Florida Department of Education project under the DOE's new Shared Services Network. The concept was that many child and family issues go unresolved because agency heads don't communicate or "share" in the problem-solving process. The goal was to build a network for multiagency problem-solving. Mayor Minsky chaired the Roundtable at a time when this concept was young and CEO level leaders were building the Roundtable as an essential entity. As a DOE project, the Roundtable was first staffed by school district personnel, who had other primary jobs. I have many fond memories of meeting with Mayor Minsky to prep for Roundtable meetings and to work with him to successfully build the network.

Institutional history is important. It demonstrates that good things start with an idea. It also serves as a baseline for measuring growth. Mayor Minsky played a role in the establishment of strong roots for the Roundtable so that it could grow and flourish.



DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

Congratulations Drug Free St. Lucie Coordinator Kristi Conway!

After three weeks of intense training and successful completion of the required projects, Drug Free St. Lucie Coordinator Kristi Conway has met the graduation requirements for CADCA's National Coalition Academy and will be present for the graduation ceremonies held in Washington D.C. February 4-7, 2019.

Drug Free St. Lucie has applied for the CADCA's Chairman's Award. CADCA's Chairman's Award Panel will make the final decision by the week of December 3, 2018, identifying one coalition to receive the award. The awardee coalition will receive a free Forum registration and will be recognized by Chairman and CEO, General Arthur Dean, during the National Coalition Academy Graduation held at the National Leadership Forum (February 4-7, 2019). Wish us Luck!

Congratulations Dr. Judi Miller!

After more than 27 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of St Lucie, Indian River & Okeechobee Counties CEO Dr. Judi Miller will step down from the Agency and step into retirement. Judi said "I've had the chance to do inspiring work for children over more than three decades. My life has always been full, and I know retirement will be no different."

During her twenty-seven years with the Agency Judi has seen the number of children served "grow from less than 50 matches (1991) to 1,460 children annually (2018) with the help of our volunteers and BBBS Reads Members," she said. While there is still a need for more mentors in the community that we serve, Judi asks that you consider the joy and potential you can ignite in a child's life through volunteering and sharing the gift of mentoring. It only takes an hour or two a week, but it can make a lifetime of difference!

While she is leaving the agency, our children will always be a huge part of her heart. Of course, she will continue mentoring as a Big.

Dr. Miller said, "I've been so lucky to be surrounded by an incredible team of people who are inspired and passionate about making a difference for our families each and every day. That kind of dedication, compassion and energy helps to ignite potential in kids and is something I'm truly going to miss."











PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: Only County Health Department in the Country Partnering to Prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Youth

The Department of Health in St. Lucie (DOH-St. Lucie) for the 8th year, has developed a national model to increase access to health care services through a partnership with the Jessica Clinton MVP Foundation, a powerful advocate for preventing sudden cardiac arrest in children and young athletes.

Over 335 children/young adults ranging from the ages of 5 to 20 years were tested. Estimated value of volunteer services rendered: \$731,125.00.

This model links DOH-St. Lucie infrastructure with the passion of a non-profit foundation to benefit the community. The Jessica Clinton MVP Foundation single focus is preventing sudden cardiac arrest in children and young athletes. Jessica died at her school following a cheerleading practice in 2003. It was determined that her cause of death was from a condition known as Mitral Valve Prolapse. Although this condition rarely leads to sudden death, Jessica's was severe. Her condition was not detected in routine physicals during her time as a cheerleader and her school did not have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site.

Jessica's parents promised to keep her memory forever alive and to prevent similar tragedies from occurring by holding *Know Your Heart Screenings* and advocating for AEDs at all schools and parks.







A magazine for and about PORT ST. LUCIE, ST. LUCIE WEST, PGA VILLAGE AND TRADITION



Teresa Bishop, executive director of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, heads a three-pronged effort, with the input from many agencies, to help improve the lives of all St. Lucie County residents. ANTHONY INSWASTY

BY PATTIE DURHAM

After years of lugging her suitcase around the nation and overseas for consulting work with various federal agencies, Teresa Bishop has finally been able to put that suitcase on the shelf after taking a job right in her own backyard.

Bishop has worked as a consultant for the past 20 years, helping communities prevent substance misuse and work on juvenile justice reform. A year ago, she was hired to serve as the executive director of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, a multi-agency facilitator coordinating efforts to work on positive youth development in the community.

"The Roundtable creates a mechanism for people to develop new strategies for their agencies," Bishop Says.

The agency addresses three initiatives: Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, an anti-violence strategy to prevent youth involvement in gang activity; Kids at Hope, which offers hope to students in St. Lucie County schools; and Drug Free St. Lucie, which is looking at environmental factors contributing to substance misuse in the community. The Roundtable and its networks are looking at policies, practices and approaches so youth do not have access to drugs.

Bishop says she grew up as a "Kid at Hope" in a poor household in Connecticut before moving to Florida at 21 to marry. Her husband was from Indian River County and they moved to Gifford. She also lived in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce before moving to Port St. Lucie in the mid-1990's, where she met and married her current husband.

"I love Port St. Lucie," she says. "Unless God says otherwise, I will meet my Maker here." In Connecticut, Bishop says, a young woman could get a good-paying job with just a high school diploma. Florida was very different, she continues, and so she began studies at Indian River Community College. After graduating with her associate degree, she went on to the University of Central Florida to complete a bachelor's degree.

All her life's work – the skills she learned, the strategies she employed, the contacts she made – is coming to fruition in her latest endeavor. During the early days of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Bishop participated in a network dealing with violent juvenile offenders. She was working at the time with the Project Independence, a federal program for single mothers that assisted with education and career training in the hope of moving the clients from public assistance to the workforce, and many of her clients had children who were involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice. "I became an advocate for these women and their families," she explains.

Much of the knowledge she brings to her new position is gleaned from her years as a counselor at Project Independence and the 20 years she spent developing and working in her consulting business. Bishop started the business and traveled all over the country – and even to Capetown, South Africa – assisting communities with the establishment of substance misuse prevention strategies and procedures. Funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, her work took her to more than 40 states and U.S. territories.

"I went to small communities of 2,200 people and to cities of eight million," Bishop says. "Frontier, rural or urban, I went anywhere there was an opportunity to help with community problems. I was in the right place at the right time," she adds. "I was able to sit at the feet of many national experts working on various community issues. They took me under their wings and taught me the ropes of working on these issues. They saw some promise in me and helped teach me what I needed to know."

Through her previous work with a Department of Juvenile Justice network that formed through the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, she met Shaniek Maynard, the former executive director of the Roundtable. When Maynard resigned and moved on to a new job, she encouraged Bishop to apply for her job. Bishop says she is on a learning curve with this new job. During her years as a consultant, she was living out of that suitcase and working with a small group of peers deciding on the best approach to an issue. Now, she is listening to advocates from many small pockets in the community and guiding them in their establishment of successful practices that will control the problems. These people, she says, know what is going on in their neighborhoods and all of their information needs to be gathered, assessed and factored into any actions taken.

So, although the suitcase is gone, Bishop still finds herself working to improve life for residents in a community; the only difference is now it's her own community.





L & L Clinical Assoc. Florida Community Health Centers Florida Health of St. Lucie County Jackson Jewett Sam's Club Addiction Windsong Wellness Hillmoor Optical Treasure Coast Opticians Helping People Succeed



The Roundtable's Youth Leadership Council is collecting bottle caps - Please Help Us!

Future Meeting Dates

NETWORK MEETINGS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

First Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm at Children's Services Council.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH (Healthy St. Lucie)

Healthiest Weight: Meetings are bi-monthly. Infant Mortality: Meets quarterly. Teen Pregnancy: Meeting date TBD

SAFE KIDS COALITION (Unintentional Injury)

First Thursday of every month at 9:00am at Garber Buick GMC on US1. (Does not meet in July or November)

CHILD WELFARE

First Tuesday quarterly at 10:00am at Children's Services Council.

ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY (Bridges to Prosperity)

Third Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm at the United Way of St. Lucie.

LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Thursday of every other month at 12:00pm at the Department of Health 714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Location and time TBD.

DELINOUENCY WORKGROUP

December 10th at 10:00am. Location TBD.

STEERING COMMITTEE TBD.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Drug Free St. Lucie)

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 11:00am at Children's Services Council.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

January 30th at 1:00pm. Location: Health Department on Milner Rd.

Roundtable of St. Lucie County LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN

Executive Committee

Chair: Mayor Linda Hudson, City of Fort Pierce
Vice Chair: Cint Sperber, Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County
Secretary: Wydee'a Wilson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Treasurer: Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition
Past Chair: Chief John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department
At-Large Member: Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
Steering Committee Chair: Angela Roberson, Florida Department of Health

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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"Roundtable of St. Lucie County"

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Please email newsletter submissions to Dana Stonelake: DStonelake@RoundtableSLC.org

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- * 19th Judicial Circuit State Attorney, Bruce Colton
- * 19th Judicial Circuit Judge, Tony Schwab
- * Board of County Commissioners, Linda Bartz
- * Career Source Research Coast, Brian Bauer
- Children's Services Council, Sean Boyle
- City of Fort Pierce, Linda Hudson
- * City of Port St. Lucie, Stephanie Morgan
- Communities Connected for Kids, Carol Deloach
- * Department of Children & Families, Robert McPartlan
- Department of Juvenile Justice, Wydee'a Wilson
- * Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, Tony Loupe
- * Economic Development Council, Peter Tesch
- Florida Department of Corrections Circuit 19, Michael Davis
- * Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County, Clint Sperber
- * Fort Pierce Police Department, Diane Hobley-Burney

- Guardian ad Litem, Paul Nigro
- * Housing Authority of Fort Pierce, Andrea Kochanowski
- * Indian River State College, Andrew Treadwell
- * Kids Connected by Design, Lisa von Seelen
- * Lincoln Park Council of Ministers, Pastor Trevor Banks
- * Port St. Lucie Police Department, John Bolduc
- * St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Terissa Aronson
- **St. Lucie County Department of Health**, *Clint Sperber*
- St. Lucie County Fire District, Nate Spera
- St. Lucie County School District, E. Wayne Gent
- * St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Garry Wilson
- Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network, Ann Berner
- **State Representative**, *Larry Lee, Jr.*
- * Steering Committee, Angela Roberson
- United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp

Our Networks & Sub-Committees

Steering Committee

Angela Roberson, Chair Angela.Roberson@flhealth.gov

Academic Success

Deborah Hawley, Chair Deborah.Hawley@StLucieSchools.org

Economic Sufficiency

"Bridges to Prosperity" Wydee'a Wilson, Chair Wydee'a.Wilson.djj.state.fl.us

Child & Adolescent Health

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Safe Kids Coalition Ronda Cerulli, Coordinator Ronda.Cerulli@FLHealth.gov

Child Welfare

Paul Nigro, Chair Paul.Nigro@gal.fl.gov

Kids At Hope

Kevin Singletary, Coordinator KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison KReid@RoundtableSLC.org

Safe Neighborhoods

Chair, TBD

Delinquency Workgroup Bill Tomlinson/Will Armstedt, Chairs

Lincoln Park Advisory Committee Betty Bradwell, Chair BJBradwell52@gmail.com

Restoring the Village Youth Initiative

Monica Jakobsen, Coordinator MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org

Substance Abuse Prevention (Drug Free St. Lucie)

John Poli, Chair JPoli@nhtcinc.org Kristy Conway, Coordinator KConway@RoundtableSLC.org

Behavioral Health Task Force

Cassandra Burney, Tonya Andreacchio, and Jody Hays