



March 2025

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

Join us as we celebrate the Roundtable’s 30th anniversary. Our theme this year is “Come to the Table”. Reflecting on the theme, we have remained true to our mission “to sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition, and care of all children in St. Lucie County”. It speaks volumes that we have stayed on course for three decades to collectively make a difference in the lives of children and their families. Leaders, both formal and informal, care about our community and work closely together to make a difference. Why is this important? There are complex issues that communities face that no one agency can address alone. It takes collaboration to the highest degree to be effective and maximize the impact on positive outcomes for youth and families. There is a saying “the sum of the parts are greater than the whole”. The Roundtable and its networks, comprised of member and partnering agencies, grassroot organizations and community members create a space for us to know one another personally; to develop relationships that are necessary to discuss difficult issues faced by youth and families and the community at large. The valuable relationships formed over the years are key to the multi-level collaboration and essential to addressing the needs of the community collectively. Together, we utilize data to drive priorities and implement strategies consistent with the Roundtable’s mission. Throughout the state and nation, we are humbled that the Roundtable, which is essentially a children’s cabinet, has been recognized as a best practice. It is our hope that we can continue to be a model for other communities to replicate. If you are not at “the table” through our board or networks, we encourage you to join us. We need everyone’s voice to ensure we continue to move in the right direction. With all of the changes at the local, state and national level, youth and families will need us to work together more than ever to ensure we sustain a collective safety net to continue to advance our mission. Come. We invite you to “the table”, where we believe “all kids are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!”



Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates:

- Barbie’s Birthday 3/8
- Plant a Flower Day 3/12
- International Day of Mathematics 3/14
- St. Patrick’s Day 3/17
- First Day of Spring 3/20
- World Poetry Day 3/21
- Wear a Hat Day 3/28
- National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week 3/17-3/23

Youth On The Move!

In February, we hosted the H.Y.P.E All-Stars Youth Showcase! Guests included coalition members, guest youth, parents, and community partners. We embarked as a group on a scavenger hunt for local youth substance misuse data, shared resources for parent engagement, spoke on ways we can all be involved in youth substance misuse prevention in St. Lucie County, and celebrated our coalition members with **H.Y.P.E Youth Excellence Awards**.

Our coalition youth also continued their community mobilization and advocacy efforts in collaboration with the Port St. Lucie Police Department and New Horizons Prevention Specialists. Workshops focused on social skills, decision-making, Kids at Hope Time Travel career readiness, Community Assessment Mapping, and safe social media usage. Special thanks to our guest speaker, Officer LaGrega of the Port St. Lucie Police Department. A special shoutout to Youth Peer Advisors Amani and Zara, who led the Community Assessment Mapping workshops using skills they gained at CADCA's Mid-Year Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Our H.Y.P.E adult advisors are always committed to obtaining the most up-to-date data and methodology for working with youth! This month our adult advisors traveled to CADCA Forum in Washington, D.C , and participated in CADCA's Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill where we met with legislative aides for Senator Rick Scott. Our H.Y.P.E Lead Adult Advisor, Amanda DeMan, traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida for Drug Free America's Annual Prevention Summit to learn substance misuse prevention methods and youth trends.

Currently, we are preparing six of our coalition youth to travel to the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, to advocate to Florida legislators and representatives about issues that directly impact the youth and their peers. Stay tuned, because the H.Y.P.E Coalition continues to gain momentum and is moving forward on the frontier of youth substance use prevention in St. Lucie County!



Teresa Bishop, CEO and Amanda DeMan, KAH School & Community Liaison/H.Y.P.E Lead Advisor at CADCA



Amanda DeMan, KAH School & Community Liaison/H.Y.P.E Lead Advisor, Teresa Bishop, CEO, and Kevin Singletary, KAH Training Coordinator/H.Y.P.E Advisor at the H.Y.P.E All-Star Showcase

Kids at Hope In The Community



Kids at Hope (KAH) is a strategic cultural initiative aimed at engaging entire communities and supporting the success of all children—no exceptions. This mission was evident in the Kids at Hope Team activities this month, as the message of hope resonated throughout our community. During their visit to Washington, D.C., for the CADCA Forum, the Kids at Hope Team participated in individual and corporate trainings. They learned strategies and techniques for effectively communicating at all levels, advocating for funding, and implementing approaches to enhance our current mission.

Kids at Hope's presence was strongly felt in our local community this month. The team participated in various events, including the Early Learning Coalition's Childhood Conference, Inner Truth's annual Bagels and Bowties Men's Breakfast, Children's Services Council's Coffee Connection, and the White City Elementary Reading Across America Event. Service providers, fathers and father figures, community partners, and youth are witnessing the impact of caring adults believing in them.

The message of hope was further amplified as the Kids at Hope team conducted a parent training at the George W. Truitt HeadStart Center and the Francina Duval HeadStart Center. Parents are becoming "Parents at Hope" and are learning about the importance of the Kids at Hope Pledge. A Kids at Hope "ACE" is being a "caring adult" in a child's life. Kevin Singletary, Kids at Hope Training Coordinator, served as a caring adult in his role as guest speaker during the Black History Month 7th Grade Assembly at Forest Grove Middle School. Additionally, Fort Pierce Central High School staff and Francis K. Sweet Elementary staff received a KAH refresher training on "Unleashing the Power of Hope." This training reinforces our commitment to discovering every child's talents, skills, and intelligence.



Kevin Singletary, KAH Training Coordinator at White City Elementary's Reading Across America Event



Kevin Singletary, KAH Training Coordinator at Early Learning Coalition's Childhood Conference



Advancing Mental Health & Community Well-Being in St. Lucie County

Celebrating Our Milestones in Mental Health & Trauma-Informed Care Training

Within our initiative, St. Lucie RISE is committed to creating a community where mental health awareness and trauma-informed care are prioritized. This year has already seen incredible momentum, with the successful launch of our first Adult Mental Health First Aid training and the overwhelming response to our Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training series. These trainings are equipping individuals and organizations with the tools to support mental wellness, recognize signs of distress, and foster healing-centered environments. As we continue to grow these efforts, we celebrate the impact of our recent sessions and look forward to expanding opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Adult Mental Health First-Aid: High Demand & More Opportunities!

St. Lucie RISE, in collaboration with Alpert Jewish Family Service, successfully launched its first Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training in January. This training empowered participants with the skills to recognize mental health challenges, respond effectively, and connect individuals to appropriate support. Attendees engaged in interactive discussions and role-playing exercises that strengthened their ability to provide initial support in real-world situations. They also learned how to approach conversations with empathy, recognize the impact of stigma on help-seeking behavior, and de-escalate situations involving individuals experiencing mental distress. The response to this training was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing how valuable the skills were for both their professional and personal lives. Many attendees left feeling more confident in their ability to support friends, family members, colleagues, and community members facing mental health challenges.

The enthusiasm for this training has been overwhelming, with our next two sessions already full and waitlists in place. Good news! We have added another session on October 21st, and registration is now open! If you missed your chance before, this is your opportunity to become certified in MHFA. Space is limited, so secure your spot today!



Advancing Mental Health & Community Well-Being in St. Lucie County



Trauma-Informed Care Series: Full Sessions & Growing Interest

Our Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training series, hosted in collaboration with the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC) and facilitated by Tykes & Teens, has also been successful! Each session has been packed with participants and the demand continues to grow. The first training introduced the science behind Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the principles of trauma-informed care, emphasizing the widespread impact of trauma and the importance of creating healing-centered environments. Building on this foundation, the next session focused on mindfulness and motivational interviewing as powerful tools for mental health support and community engagement.

The interest in this training series has exceeded our expectations, and the next two sessions show great promise of being full again. We are thrilled to see such strong engagement from professionals, caregivers, and community leaders dedicated to fostering trauma-informed practices in St. Lucie County!

Upcoming Trauma-Informed Care Session

Date: March 27th

Time: 12 PM – 1:30 PM

Register Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPACTIC>

Sign up soon to join this transformative training!

For more information on the St. Lucie RISE Mental Health Collaborative, visit the initiative page at www.roundtableslc.org/stlucie_rise and follow us on Facebook @StLucieRISE.

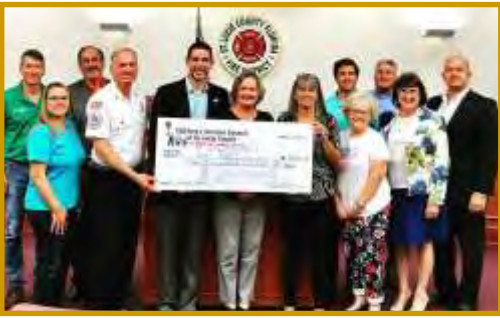


Trauma-Informed Care Training





For 30 Years the Roundtable has served St. Lucie County children and their families!



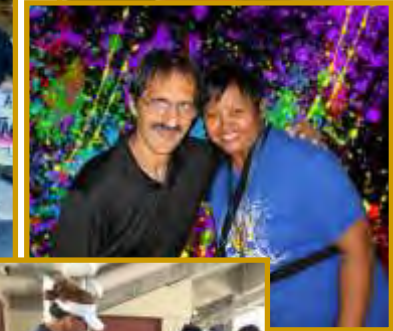


KIDS AT HOPE: 2016 CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE



Roundtable of St. Lucie County LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN KIDS AT HOPE SPRING BREAK 2016: TEEN RETREAT





For 30 Years the Roundtable has served St. Lucie County children and their families!

30th ANNIVERSARY

Roundtable
of St. Lucie County
LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN



For 30 Years the Roundtable has served St. Lucie County children and their families!





Mental Health **FIRST AID**
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

teen MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Bring teen MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID to your organization!

- This FREE training is conducted in-person and consists of six 45-minute sessions.
- Teen course manuals are provided.

For more information:
Shamra Gilles, Project Coordinator
SGilles@RoundtableSLC.org

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Build a powerful community of teens ages 15-18 by teaching them how to support a friend or classmate with the evidence-based **teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA)** course.

Adolescence is a time of critical change and development. It's when mental health challenges may first emerge and may be the cause for falling grades, problems with close relationships, and substance use. Young people will be prepared to provide support for their peers as well as better cope with mental health challenges themselves. **tMHFA** was brought to the United States by the **National Council for Mental Wellbeing** in partnership with **Born This Way Foundation**, and is tailored to the unique experiences and needs of young people. Its plain language ensures learners at all reading levels can easily follow along.

1 in 5



teens in the United States will experience a mental health challenge by the time they are 18.



64% of teens in the United States who experience mental health challenges don't seek help.

Suicide is the **THIRD-LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH**

for youth ages 15-19.



WHAT IT COVERS

- How to open the conversation about mental health and substance use challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges.
- The impact of school violence and bullying on mental wellbeing.
- How to seek the help of a responsible and trusted adult.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- Teens in grades 10-12 or ages 15-18.

WHO SHOULD TEACH IT

- High schools, organizations partnering with a high school, youth-serving organizations.



www.RoundtableSLC.org



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SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

This advertisement meets School Board Policy 9.40 for distribution of the advertisement. However, this acknowledgment does not represent an endorsement or recommendation of the product/services advertised.

To our small, but MIGHTY Roundtable team - THANK YOU to each of our staff for their incredible dedication and hard work every single day! The Roundtable would not be celebrating 30 years without the amazing efforts from every current and former Roundtable team member!



(L-R): Amanda DeMan, KAH School & Community Liaison & H.Y.P.E Lead Advisor, Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager (back), Shamra Gilles, St. Lucie RISE-Project Coordinator (front), Amanda Callaghan, Administrative Assistant (back center), Teresa Bishop, CEO, and Kevin Singletary, KAH Training Coordinator & H.Y.P.E Advisor.

Our Funders:



Our Board Members

- ◆ Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Tom Bakkedahl, 19th Judicial Circuit—State Attorney
- ◆ Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
- ◆ Ann Berner, SE FL Behavioral Health Network
- ◆ Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
- ◆ John Bolduc, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Joseph Cracchiola, Department of Corrections
- ◆ Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids
- ◆ Thomas Epsky, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ Diane Hogley-Burney, Fort Pierce Police Department
- ◆ Adrienne Huggins, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ Jeff Lee, St. Lucie County Fire District
- ◆ Diamond Litty, 19th Judicial Circuit—Public Defender
- ◆ Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
- ◆ Erin Lowry, Board of County Commissioners
- ◆ Robert McPartlan, Department of Children and Families
- ◆ Leo Niemczyk, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ◆ Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem
- ◆ Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice
- ◆ David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie
- ◆ Dr. Jonathan Prince, St. Lucie Public Schools
- ◆ Clint Sperber, FL Health Department - St. Lucie County
- ◆ James Taylor, City of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Peter Tesch, Economic Development Council
- ◆ Dana Trabulsky, State Representative
- ◆ Andrew Treadwell, Indian River State College
- ◆ Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County
- ◆ Rosetta Washington, Fort Pierce Housing Authority
- ◆ TBD, 19th Judicial Circuit-Judge

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Our Mission:

To sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition and care of all children in St. Lucie County.

Our Vision:

We envision a community where county leaders, businesses and residents are united to provide all children of St. Lucie County the resources they need to thrive, be successful and achieve their full potential.

2024-25 Executive Committee

CHAIR

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

VICE-CHAIR

Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids

SECRETARY

Ann Berner, Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network

TREASURER

Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice

PAST CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

STEERING COMMITTEE

Adrienne Huggins

AT LARGE

David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie

www.RoundtableSLC.org

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