

Community & Law Enforcement Workshops and Services (CLEWS)

Youth Workshop #5: Summary Report

Jennings Middle School

8799 Williams Road, Seffner, FL 33584

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

CLEWS Service Providers in Attendance

Darrell Daniels, Workshop Training Director

Fred Hearn, Program Manager

Clarence Fort, Workshop Training Facilitator

Gilbertina Wright, Workshop Training Facilitator

Viola Luke, Assistant Program Manager

Fifty-four (54) people – 45 students and 9 HCSO deputies – attended the fifth CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #5) of Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The workshop was held at Jennings Middle School.

Fifty-one (51) of the 52 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (or 98% of the participants), rated the Overall Workshop as either “Excellent” or “Very Good”. The highest ratings of all thirteen (13) categories were: 1. Exploring Patrol Cars; 2. Lunch; 3. Overall Workshop experience; 4. the Training Director; 5. My New Partner Exercise activity; 6 Let’s Have a Talk Exercise (school safety discussion); and 7. A Conversation with Adults (what to do after the workshop).

Student Participants (45 Individuals)

Jennings Middle School
April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Grade 7

1. Christian Arana
2. Nakira Barnett
3. Baldivio Basado
4. Shyia Brooks
5. Synniah Carroll
6. Deborah Daniel
7. Japhia Dunbar
8. Da'Mario Evans
9. Michael Grimshaw
10. Ebony Hale
11. Lakissa Hart
12. Damion Hunt
13. Gabriel Jackson
14. La'Nya Lewis
15. Gabriella Martinez
16. Jalen Matthews
17. Mikah Mackey
18. Hiba Mrabtaissa
19. Steven Negron
20. Lashauna Patterson
21. Rodolfo Perez-Garcia
22. Desean Ramsay
23. Cheyanna Shields

24. Dontavious Strong
25. Jason Velasquez
26. Kari Worleman
27. Samaria Washington

Grade 8

28. Frances Gonzalez Cruz
29. Fredreia Garrison
30. Anna Fisher
31. Joslyn Freeman
32. Emoni Jones
33. Elvis Martin
34. Jazlyn Perez
35. Donovan Perez
36. Jamarion Petersen
37. Kennedy Reid
38. Yezen Salem
39. Zaria Segarra
40. Jonathan Sosa
41. Francesca Teira
42. Elias Valdez
43. Brianna Vamos
44. Sasianna Washington
45. Jaharia Watts

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Representatives (1 + 8)

- *Deputy J. Footman (Community Outreach Division)*
(8 Participants)

1. Ayalia, Jacob
2. Baker, Elizabeth
3. Booth, Mark
4. Hymes, Robin

5. Melton, Brooke
6. Moriarty, James
7. Nicholson, Orenthial
8. Smith, Tobias

Youth Workshop #5: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

STUDENT RESPONSES: Participants (45)

*(Majority Answers are **Bolded** & Underlined for Ease of Review)*

*(NOTE: One student left early; therefore there are 44 **Post-Workshop** Questionnaire answers)*

1. I know some of the reasons law enforcement officers and youth do not always agree with each other:

Pre-Workshop Responses (45 responses):

Yes - 21 Somewhat - 16 No – 5 Not Sure - 3

Post-Workshop Responses (44 responses): **INCREASE OF 17 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 38 Somewhat – 4 No – 0 Not Sure - 2

2. I believe the youth in this room know what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniforms:

Pre-Workshop Responses (45 responses):

Yes - 20 Somewhat - 16 No – 6 Not Sure - 3

Post-Workshop Responses (44 responses): **INCREASE OF 18 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 38 Somewhat – 6 No – 0 Not Sure - 0

3. I believe the youth and law enforcement officers in this room would be willing to be “partners” if they spent more time together:

Pre-Workshop Responses (45 responses):

Yes - 20 Somewhat - 16 No – 6 Not Sure - 3

Post-Workshop Responses (44 responses): **INCREASE OF 15 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 35 Somewhat – 5 No – 1 Not Sure - 3

HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (8)
(Majority Answers are **Bolded** & Underlined for Ease of Review)

1. I know some of the reasons law enforcement officers and youth do not always agree with each other:

Pre-Workshop Responses (8 responses):

Yes - 6 Somewhat - 2 No - 0 Not Sure - 0

Post-Workshop Responses (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 1 "YES" RESPONSES**

Yes - 7 Somewhat - 1 No - 0 Not Sure - 0

2. I believe the youth in this room know what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniforms:

Pre-Workshop Responses (8 responses):

Yes - 0 **Somewhat - 8** No - 0 Not Sure - 0

Post-Workshop Responses (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 5 "YES" RESPONSES**

Yes - 5 Somewhat - 3 No - 0 Not Sure - 0

3. I believe the youth and law enforcement officers in this room would be willing to be "partners" if they spent more time together:

Pre-Workshop Responses (8 responses):

Yes - 6 Somewhat - 0 No - 0 Not Sure - 2

Post-Workshop Responses (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 1 "YES" RESPONSES**

Yes - 7 Somewhat - 1 No - 0 Not Sure - 0

Youth Workshop #5: STUDENT Pre-Workshop Comments

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

I hope this workshop will:

- Understand what CLEWS means
- Make me understand what sheriffs and the “CLEWS” program do
- Inform us about law enforcement (5)
- Help me learn more about the officers and what they have to do every day (3)
- Explain a police officers’ daily life and why they do what they do
- Teach me how the officers work and see how hard their job is
- Help me learn about what the law enforcement does for the community
- Be helpful in society and help change the lives of the students in here today
- Benefit me with life as an adult in the future
- Help kids do better as a person
- Teach us what law enforcement does in order to protect youth
- Tell me things that I didn’t know about law enforcement
- Prove to me and my peers that it’s possible that you can get along with officers
- Help youth and officers be positive
- Make the kids in this room see the police in this room in a more positive perspective
- Gain a friendship and teach me about what the officers do
- Help me understand something from my past that I did not understand
- Be fundamental to me and influence the public eye of my peers and the law enforcement/administration
- Teach me new things and help with getting along
- Be a lot of activities involved because I love working together with group mates
- Be entertaining and we can learn something
- Be educational and fun (6)
- Be fun and get to know each other
- Bring the students and the HCSO together to have fun
- Be fun and will keep me entertained
- Be happy/fun/exciting. I hope this workshop will last till the end of the day.
- Be fun with a lot of things to do
- I hope this workshop will be fun
- Be fun and not boring (2)
- Amaze me

Youth Workshop #5: HCSO Pre-Workshop Comments

I hope this workshop will:

- Better inform the students about the requirements and duties of law enforcement
- Teach the participants more about law enforcement officers and their community. To help better bridge the gap of communication and relationships between law enforcement officers and our youth.
- Give the students in this room a better understanding of what law enforcement (officers) go through
- Encourage youth to feel more comfortable around law enforcement
- Provide a better understanding of the relationships between law enforcement and students
- Help students understand the role of police officers
- Help youth understand law enforcement better
- Improve relations

Youth Workshop #5: STUDENT Post-Workshop Comments

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

If I could, I would change the workshop in this way:

- I don't think I would change it; I'll keep it the same (2)
- Nothing because I enjoyed everything about it (3)
- I would change nothing (5)
- I would not change the workshop because it really helped me see what law enforcement (officers) do in the community
- Don't make it on a Monday
- I would make the workshop longer and not be so early in the day
- I would make it longer
- I would add more time because I really liked the program
- I would change the amount of time we get in here
- I would change the amount of time we had 'cause everyone wasn't able to share all their good questions
- Maybe a little more time so we can really spend time together
- More participation, more time to learn more (2)
- I would make it all day so we don't have class, not that I'm not grateful for this time
- I'd make it until dismissal, making the time we have together longer so we'd be able to learn more and have longer discussions
- They should let us act out crime scenes for fun
- Maybe a little more time and more activities
- More activities and videos
- I would make more activities (4)
- I would add more activities instead of paper work
- I would change the time on having interaction with the cop cars; I would add more time to it
- Invite more people to do the workshop
- I would have them switch tables to be able to get to know the other deputies
- I would allow the students to use their phones to get the evidence of the guns and experience of that topic (?)
- I had fun!
- I would make it more engaging/appealing to the youth in the room
- The food... I would want chicken wings, but activities... change nothing

Youth Workshop #5: HCSO Post-Workshop Comments

If I could I would change the workshop in this way:

- The workshop appears to address important issues between the youth and law enforcement
- More time discussing school safety and the students role in reporting suspicious activity
- More time
- I like how it's been changed
- I really enjoyed this workshop. The time spent was appropriate and the students were engaging
- I would have an open floor questions & answer session for the students to ask the group of deputies
- On the My New Partner exercise, take out street name and replace with city location
- Pre-print the sheets for PDQ (A Conversation with Adults) and fill out certificates during presentation

Youth Workshop #5: Small Group Discussion Comments

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

STUDENT and HCSO Comments

Table #1

Student Comments:

- What happens when cops aren't always right?
- Discriminatory actions by the police cause problems
- We need gun control in this country

HCSO Comments:

- Hopefully, rights of people that they believe they lose when they are arrested, are restored in the courts (?)
- We all have to get rid of the labels we place on others; We all have to come together and communicate.
- We do have to limit guns in our society; We have to make gun ownership harder to accomplish.
- We should do more mental evaluations of people who get weapons.

Table #2

Student Comments:

- How does the sheriff's office know if deputies are corrupt?
- There are too many unjustified police shootings
- Law enforcement officers should continue working on cold cases
- Why are law enforcement officers required to read Miranda Rights to suspects?

HCSO Comments:

- Students should report inappropriate actions by law enforcement officers to their parents or to authorities immediately
- What we see in videos may not give us the whole story where police shootings are concerned – we may not know what was said or done prior to the shooting taking place
- Law enforcement agencies do have detectives working on cold cases for years if necessary
- Miranda Rights are read to suspects because the law requires it and because these people's rights must be protected

Table #3:

Student Comments:

- When deputies arrest people are they required to read them their rights?
- Why do news stations always seem to report just the bad news?
- During incidents involving deadly fire, why do deputies shoot suspects so many times?

HCSO Comments:

- When deputies arrest someone, at that point they no longer have their freedom – they must be read their rights: if they confess to committing a crime without first being read their rights the confession will not be valid.
- Bad news gets the attention of the news media and their jobs are to report news that is sensational
- Sometimes suspects are shot multiple times because sometimes several law enforcement officers fire at the suspect at the same time

Table #4

Student Comments:

- Why aren't there a lot of officers in my neighborhood?
- Why are some police officers disobeying their own rules?
- What kind of training do police officers receive?
- Why does it take so long for deputies to respond to different calls?

HCSO Comments:

- The level of crime committed in a neighborhood dictates where deputies patrol
- Every human makes mistakes and we can't judge everyone based on the mistakes made by a few
- For training purposes, law enforcement officers are on probation for two years, they are taught how and when to use pepper spray, they go through a two-week boot camp, they are trained how and when to use tasers, they must pass two polygraph tests, they must pass 21 different tests, they are given shooting drills and fighting drills.
- It sometimes takes deputies a while to respond to calls because, for example, if a shooting goes down and a fight happens at the same time deputies have to decide which situation is more important and quickly prioritize their response.

Table #5

Student Comments:

- Why do police violate your rights without a warrant during conflicts – for example, coming to your house without a warrant?
- Why don't the same rules that apply to law enforcement officers apply to regular citizens?
- Why do deputies use their guns when they could have used another option on their belts?

HCSO Comments:

- All calls for service are different – some calls may require that law enforcement officers enter a home to check on the safety of the occupants.
- I can't speak for all deputies, but law enforcement officers might be involved in something you're not aware of. However, disciplinary actions are taken for obvious rule violations.

Table #6

Student Comments:

- Why are deputies so aggressive?
- Why do deputies sit in their cars along the highway waiting to give citizens tickets?
- Why do cops shoot citizens for no apparent reason?
- Why do cops harass people in the Black community?

HCSO Comments:

- I think there are some cops who can be too aggressive, but you can't look at the whole police world like that – there are bad employees in every profession – for the most part there is a reason for the level of force we have to take it to.
- Not always does a motorist being stopped by a deputy result in a ticket being issued – we give warnings sometimes – running traffic duty is just another part of our job as a law enforcement officer – we have to enforce all laws, including traffic laws.
- Social media should come with a warning that what you see there is often not the whole story – our job as law enforcement officers is dangerous and requires us to make quick decisions – you should obey law enforcement officers and don't give anyone a reason to escalate their response.

- Law enforcement officers patrolling in high crime areas do not always take them to Black communities but I can see why some people feel this way – what appears to be harassment can sometimes just be us trying to gather information on what’s been happening in that neighborhood.

Table #7:

Student Comments:

- I don’t like the police because on the news they only tell half the story
- Why is there a lack of respect between the public and law enforcement?

HCSO Comments:

- Many times it is the media that chooses what story to air – law enforcement gets frustrated with the news also.
- A lack of information causes a lack of respect between the public and law enforcement – media airs the version of the story that makes the most money for them.

Table #8

Student Comments:

- How are students supposed to report suspicious activity?
- Would law enforcement officers risk their lives to protect citizens?
- How did you become a law enforcement officer?
- How do you prevent violence?

HCSO Comments:

- Students should tell adults (teachers, school resource officers, school administrators) about suspicious activity and give specific information about the dangerous activity
- Yes, law enforcement officers will risk their lives to protect citizens – we take an oath to protect citizens no matter what – we care.
- To become law enforcement officers deputies study in school (middle school, high school and college), take law enforcement training classes, prepare mentally and physically to do the job.
- To prevent as much violence as possible our society should stress education and should reevaluate our mental health system – we must identify people with mental health issues and get them help.

Youth Workshop #5: STUDENT COMMENTS ON:
“Students, People with Guns and School Safety”

Jennings Middle School
April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Students at Jennings Middle School made the following observations and recommendations on this subject:

1. There should be more than one deputy at each school
2. Each school should have more cameras
3. If you know something say something
4. Strengthen safety along all school perimeters
5. Take the attitude that this is my school – nothing is going to happen here on my watch!
6. We should get rid of labels we put on people, improve relationships and communication among all of us
7. There should be a limit to the number of guns in our society
8. We should make it harder to acquire and to own a gun
9. More mental evaluations should be made of gun owners
10. Parents should be more involved with their children’s lives by knowing where they are going and whom they are hanging out with
11. Parents should secure their weapons in their home
12. We need metal detectors in our schools
13. Do not give guns to teachers – it is a bad idea
14. We need a system of communicating among teachers on our campuses (teacher cell phones, for example)
15. We need self-defense training in our schools
16. Every classroom should have a “hiding spot” in it
17. We need bullet-proof windows in our schools
18. Arm teachers with guns that shoot rubber bullets
19. If teachers are armed, put locks on their guns
20. We all should help students who need help fitting in
21. Students should be encouraged to report suspicious incidents immediately

22. We need one-way tinted windows in our schools so that you can see out but you can't see into the classroom
23. We need better communication between students, teachers, staff, administration and parents at our schools to spot suspicious activity early
24. We need higher gates and fences at our schools
25. We need to find a way to pay for all the needed security items
26. A "lunch-buddy" program will help reach out to students who may need someone they trust to talk to about their problems
27. We need to strengthen background checks before we allow some people to have weapons
28. We need longer and more thorough training before we give people concealed weapons permits
29. Parents need to be more mindful about negative comments they say about people around their children
30. Students should meet more frequently with their guidance counselors to discuss their concerns
31. Schools should organize support groups to prevent students from endangering themselves or others
32. Students need more one-on-one time with teachers
33. Schools and student groups should be more inclusive of all students
34. There should be a limit to the capacity of gun magazines – that could save lives

Youth Workshop #5: Evaluation Highlights

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Rankings of Workshop Activities

***SPECIAL NOTE: Once again, The “Wonderful Workshop Stars” role-play activity was substituted at this workshop with an open conversation among the youth participants regarding student/school safety and gun issues. Students were encouraged to share their feelings and give their input.**

STUDENTS:

1. Exploring Patrol Cars (deputy-student activity)
2. Lunch
3. Overall Workshop Rating
4. Training Director
5. My New Partner Exercise (one-on-one table activity)
6. Let’s Have a Talk Exercise (school safety concerns and ideas)
7. CLEWS Pledge
8. A Conversation with Adults (requesting students to talk with parents)
9. Table Discussions (student/law enforcement concerns & responses)
10. People are People Exercise (overall interactive activity)
11. Table Reports
12. Workshop Evaluation Form
13. Workshop Questionnaires

HCSO:

1. Training Director
2. Let’s Have a Talk Exercise (school safety concerns and ideas)
3. A Conversation with Adults (requesting students to talk with parents)
4. Table Discussions (student/law enforcement concerns & responses)
5. Table Reports
6. Overall Workshop Rating
7. My New Partner Exercise (one-on-one table activity)
8. People are People Exercise (overall interactive activity)
9. CLEWS Pledge
10. Lunch
11. Exploring Patrol Cars (deputy-student activity)
12. Workshop Questionnaires
13. Workshop Evaluation Form

End Of Youth Workshop #5 - Summary Report

Jennings Middle School

April 2, 2018: 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

*Submitted April 10, 2018 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Program Manager
And Viola Luke, CLEWS Assistant Program Manager*