

Community & Law Enforcement Workshops and Services (CLEWS)

Youth Workshop #6: Summary Report

Brandon EPIC-3 Center (Alternative School)

1019 N. Parsons Avenue, Seffner, FL 33584

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

CLEWS Service Providers in Attendance

Darrell Daniels, Workshop Training Director

Fred Hearn, Program Manager

Dr. Roy Kaplan, Workshop Training Facilitator

Gilbertina Wright, Workshop Training Facilitator

Viola Luke, Assistant Program Manager

Sixty (60) people – 51 students and 9 HCSO deputies – attended the sixth CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #6) of Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The workshop was held at Brandon EPIC-3 Center, an alternative school in which to educate students when disciplinary measures have been assigned. EPIC, which stands for Education, Prevention, Intervention Center, is the district's suspension amnesty program for students who have been suspended from school as a consequence for inappropriate behavior.

Thirty-two (32) of the 43 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (or 74% of the participants), rated the Overall Workshop as either "Excellent" or "Very Good". The highest ratings of all thirteen (13) categories were: 1. Lunch; 2. Exploring Patrol Cars; 3. the Training Director; 4. Workshop Questionnaires; 5. My New Partner Exercise activity; 6 Let's Have a Talk Exercise (school safety discussion); and 7. Table Reports.

It should be noted that some of the students had to leave early before the Post-Workshop Questionnaires and Evaluation Forms were to be completed. In addition, one deputy left early for a duty call, and some of the participants were unwilling to complete one or both of these forms.

Student Participants (51 Individuals)

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Grade 6

1. Berry, Corey
2. Clark, Marquise
3. Farias, Gustavo
4. Mills, Lanice
5. Montague, Anthony
6. Moore, Jamontay
7. Sampson, Joshua
8. Wilford, Cincere
9. Zavala, Lorenzo

Grade 7

10. Allen, Amariyana
11. Cheeseboro, Marianna
12. Dixon, Lauren
13. Garcia, Anthony
14. Gonzalez, Alan
15. Gonzalez, Octavio
16. Nichols, Ronald
17. Trotman, Raymond
18. Vargas, Eric
19. Waters, Johntia

Grade 8

20. Amezquita, Rigoberto
21. Brown, Jordan
22. Carter, Romar
23. Dimas-Baltazaar, Jesus
24. Espino, Lily
25. Lazaro, Emilo
26. Molina-Torres, Denyel
27. Peeler, Angel
28. Powell, Monte

29. Ragins, Kevhawn

30. Reyes, Enrique

31. Rivera Gonzalez, Christopher

32. Turner, Ze'Riah

Grade 9

33. Garrett, Phillip

34. Hernandez, Moises

35. Lefranc, Marvin

36. Martinez, Jose

37. McElroy, Kamren

38. Quinones, Joseph

39. Stalford, Joseph

40. Thorn, Damien

Grade 10

41. Everett, Jaelin

42. Harris, Cordell

43. Knighton, Cen'Nyia

44. Knighton, Taliyah

45. Thornton, Tyriq

46. Villarreal, Daniel

Grade 11

47. Gay, Elijah

48. Gruber, Nathan

49. Hightower, Nevaeh

50. Montalvo, Amanda

Grade Unknown

51. Perez, Christian

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

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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ayalia, Jacob | 5. Smith, Donald |
| 2. Brady, Clarissa | 6. Smith, Tobias |
| 3. Mellana, William | 7. Vasconi, Pia |
| 4. Scott, Jerome | 8. Ward, Fred |

Youth Workshop #6: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

STUDENT RESPONSES: Participants (51)

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

(NOTE: Differences in the number of responses are due to late arrivals, early departures, and some students who were unwilling to complete the questionnaires.)

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

Pre-Workshop Responses (50 responses):

Yes - 21 Somewhat - 19 No – 3 Not Sure - 7

Post-Workshop Responses (43 responses): **INCREASE OF 9 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 30 Somewhat – 11 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 (50 responses):

Yes - 20 **Somewhat - 20** No – 6 Not Sure - 4

Post-Workshop Responses (43 responses): **DECREASE OF 3 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 17 **Somewhat – 21** No – 5 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 (50 responses):

Yes - 12 Somewhat - 8 **No – 16** Not Sure - 14

Post-Workshop Responses (43 responses): **INCREASE OF 2 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 14 Somewhat – 10 No – 6 Not Sure - 13

Youth Workshop #6: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (8)

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

(NOTE: 1 deputy had to leave early for duty call and was unable to complete Post-Workshop Questionnaire)

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 – 5 Somewhat - 3 No – 0 Not Sure - 0

Post-Workshop Responses (6 responses): **DECREASE OF 1 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes - 4 Somewhat - 2 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 - 2 **Somewhat - 3** No – 2 Not Sure - 1

Post-Workshop Responses (6 responses): **DECREASE OF 1 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes – 1 **Somewhat - 3** No – 2 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 (6 responses): **DECREASE OF 4 “YES” RESPONSES**

Yes – 2 **Somewhat - 2** No – 2 Not Sure - 0

Youth Workshop #6: STUDENT Pre-Workshop Comments

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

I hope this workshop will:

- Show me something new about the police (2)
- Teach me something today that I will forever remember
- Teach me something (4)
- Help me understand how cops work
- Show a better side of law enforcement
- Help officers understand us better and give (us) good food
- Help me understand why you wanted to be a law enforcement officer
- Turn out to be good and I hope that we learn something new to help us become better students (2)
- Benefit us in doing better things in life and making right decisions
- Help me benefit from why I'm here and to make me mature and be more respectful to others
- Help us learn to do things better (4)
- Help me to be successful in life
- Help me in any way possible
- Help the students with bettering themselves and being better citizens
- Help me stay out of trouble, teach me more, and keep me in school and get better grades (2)
- Help other people to stay out of trouble
- Teach us from right or wrong and help others out, give us information we didn't know
- Be fun
- Feed me (2)

Youth Workshop #6: HCSO Pre-Workshop Comments

I hope this workshop will:

- (Help me) learn something about the students
- Provide reasons for these kids not to hate me
- Change negative opinions of the youth, and teach them new things about law enforcement
- Help the youth see that law enforcement is here to help and are not just the bad guys

- Improve relations between law enforcement officers and students
- Help the students learn more from law enforcement
- Give students a better understanding of law enforcement
- Educate the students about law enforcement

Youth Workshop #6: STUDENT Post-Workshop Comments

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

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

- Make more time for discussion between students and law enforcement officers (3)
- I would have a debate throughout the whole day
- Very good time to learn and express your feelings
- I would have people go through some physical activity (2)
- By having the students show more respect
- Only bring people who want to learn, not people who talk when adults (are) trying to teach something
- Help students understand that not all cops are racist (2)
- It would benefit from more African-American officers to show that not all officers are racist towards blacks
- It was very interesting because I got to see the side of a cop without being arrested
- If you come in here with an open mind your opinion will probably change. All cops are not the same
- I feel we didn't fulfill our purpose of being here
- I think the deputies should come again and the food was great. Thank you guys for doing all of this for us and thanks for letting us explore your cars.
- You did a wonderful job, but next time bring hot dogs
- Keep it the same (5)

Youth Workshop #6: HCSO Post-Workshop Comments

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

- Do more with "concern" portion than with the school safety. I believe kids benefit more from it.
- I would make discussion much longer to address concerns from the students (2)
- More interaction time with the small groups without distractions
- I would only take volunteers
- Regardless of the difficult conversations, they (the workshops) need to continue

Youth Workshop #6: Small Group Discussion Comments

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

STUDENT and HCSO Comments

CLEWS Youth #6 Small Group Comments

Table #1

Student Comments:

- They (adults) let kids get away with stuff!
- They (law enforcement) do the most – they are too aggressive
- Many kids have a failure to understand the rules
- We have the freedom of speech (when addressing adults)

HCSO Comments:

- Many young people have a lack of respect for adults
- A lot of youth have a failure to understand the consequences for their actions
- One big problem in society is the media saturation of information many young people are exposed to

Table #2

Student Comments:

- Fire the racist cops!!!
- More youth should wave at cop cars and ask them how was their day
- More youth should know that you can talk to them (law enforcement officers) about your problems
- There should be more events where law enforcement officers and youth can get a closer bond

HCSO Comments:

- We need more workshops like this
- Law enforcement officers understand that students have issues and will listen
- We need to open a dialogue with each side

Table #3

Student Comments:

- Some law enforcement officers are mean

- Some law enforcement officers are unfair and racists
- Some law enforcement officers kill people (unlawfully)

HCSO Comments:

- Some youth have a lack of respect for authority
- Some youth do not follow instructions

Table #4

Student Comments:

- Racism is still going around
- Law enforcement officers arrest people for smoking weed (marijuana)
- What happens when deputies or police officers do something wrong?

HCSO Comments:

- Deputies arrest people for smoking weed (marijuana) because it still is against the law
- If a deputy does something wrong they can be arrested and/or fired
- Many young people are disrespectful to law enforcement officers
- Many young people are taking what they see on social media seriously, and believing what they hear without being educated on the topic
- Many youth are automatically assuming that a cop is racist because they are White and arrest/shoot a Black person

Table #5

Student Comments:

- Some cops are racists
- Some cops are too violent
- Some cops are very biased
- Why do cops shoot little kids?

HCSO Comments:

- Why do some youth judge law enforcement officers at first glance?

Table #6

Student Comments:

- Cops should stop assuming that a group of Black men outside late at night are up to no good

- There are too many Black men being shot by law enforcement officers
- Law enforcement officers should try harder to understand the issues before making arrests

HCSO Comments:

- Youth should not always assume that law enforcement officers are bad
- There are more shootings involving White males than there are involving Black males
- Law enforcement officers always strive to get the facts before they make arrests

Table #7

Student Comments:

- Law enforcement officers shoot Black people
- Racism is a problem among law enforcement officers
- Too many law enforcement officers believe stereotypes
- Youth have to deal with too much bullying
- Cops should stop shooting Black people
- People in charge should fire racist cops

HCSO Comments:

- Not all cops are bad
- People should stop teaching us to hate each other
- When you make the law enforcement diverse you eliminate some perceptions of stereotyping among us.

Table #8

Student Comments:

- Police officers are racists
- Police officers don't know how to communicate with young people
- Police officers don't care if Black people make it home!

HCSO Comments:

- Young people should try understanding where law enforcement officers are coming from (their state of mind) when they answer a call for service
- Officer safety (procedures) are perceived by some citizens as the officers being cruel
- I (law enforcement officers) want to go home at the end of the day

Youth Workshop #6: STUDENT COMMENTS ON:
“Students, People with Guns and School Safety”

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)
May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Students at Brandon EPIC made the following observations and recommendations on this subject:

1. Students should get searched when they come on campus every day
2. We need more deputies on our campuses
3. Lock all doors when school is in session
4. Put up cameras around our schools
5. Report bullying as soon as possible
6. Talk about gun safety at school
7. Have more mentors at school
8. Report people who you know have weapons
9. If you see something say something
10. We must change the way we think
11. Teach students how to solve problems/peer mediation
12. Enhance security measures at schools
13. Place more alarms in the schools
14. Build walls around our schools
15. Use metal detectors at our schools
16. Get better food at school – it will keep kids healthy
17. Help youth know the consequences of their actions and to ask themselves if it is really worth it (to harm other students)
18. Kids shoot up schools to be cool/bad
19. Make students walk in lines when they are passing each other between classes so no fights will happen
20. Bring youth closer to law enforcement by helping them out with knowledge on society and the consequences of bad decisions
21. Teach us to respect each other
22. Teach us to trust each other
23. Parents need to teach their children to value human life
24. Schools should have more practice at lockdown drills

25. Security officers should circulate on the campuses more often
26. Check classroom doors frequently to make sure they are locked
27. Schools should open mentor sessions for kids to express their feelings and thoughts, with deputies and security officers present
28. Each grade should be dismissed at separate times from campus
29. There should be more harsh consequences than we now have for fighting at school
30. We should be able to use the restroom when we want to
31. We need to have better teachers
32. We should be able to get our telephones at lunch time to keep us occupied
33. We need bullet proof windows in our schools
34. Students should have see-through back packs only
35. All students should be searched before entering the campus
36. We need dogs on campus for protection
37. We need undercover cops on campus to protect kids
38. Give students their cell phones
39. Law enforcement officers need better equipment to protect us with
40. Stop making me take my shoes and socks off (this is irritating)
41. Have one entry point onto each campus
42. Provide our schools (adult staff) with guns
43. Check students for firearms
44. Provide mental health care for the students

Youth Workshop #6: Evaluation Highlights

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 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. Training Director
4. Workshop Questionnaires
5. Let’s Have a Talk Exercise (school safety concerns and ideas)
6. Table Discussions (student/law enforcement concerns & responses)
7. My New Partner Exercise (one-on-one table activity)
8. A Conversation with Adults (requesting students to talk with parents)
9. Overall Workshop Rating
10. Table Reports
11. CLEWS Pledge
12. People are People Exercise (overall interactive activity)
13. Workshop Evaluation Form

HCSO:

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

End Of Youth Workshop #6 - Summary Report

Brandon EPIC (Alternative School)

May 2, 2018: 9:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

*Submitted May 21, 2018 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Program Manager
And Viola Luke, CLEWS Assistant Program Manager*