

# **Community and Law Enforcement Workshops & Services (CLEWS)**

## **Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Summary Report**

**Esther D. Burney Elementary School**

901 S. Evers St., Plant City, 33563

**March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

### **Workshop Host Sponsors**

*Connie Chisholm, Principal – Burney Elementary*

*Sheriff Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County*

*Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Executive Director/CEO*

### **CLEWS Service Providers in Attendance**

*Darrell Daniels, Workshop Training Director*

*Viola Luke, Program Manager*

*Margaret Butler, Assistant Program Manager*

*Tina Wright, Senior Facilitator*

*Dr. Roy Kaplan, Facilitator*

### **School Faculty in Attendance**

*Yesica Boxtha – Teacher; Samantha Gregory – ESE Resource;*

*Lisa Henricks – Asst. Principal; Tracy Johnson – Teacher;*

*Keyonna Richardson – Teacher; Patty Vickery – Media Specialist*

Sixty-one (61) people – 51 students and 10 HCSO deputies – participated in the third CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #3) of Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The workshop was held at Esther D. Burney Elementary School in Plant City, Hillsborough County.

Fifty-eight (58) of the 60 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (**or 97% of the participants**), rated the Overall Workshop as either “Excellent” or “Very Good”. The highest combined ratings of the eleven (11) categories were: 1. the People Are People activity; 2. the Overall Workshop; 3. the Training Director; 4. the CLEWS Pledge; and 5. Table Discussions between students and deputies.

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (61 Individuals)**

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Students (51): Grade 5**

1. Andrews, Everett
2. Anzaldua, Michelle
3. Correa Herrera, Andres
4. Davis, Sami'yyah
5. Dixon, Jaylen
6. Dunlap, Colie
7. Encinas, Nevaeh
8. Felkner, Angelina
9. Fernandez-Mejia, Guadalupe
10. Gonzalez, Elionne
11. Gonzalez, Shyanne
12. Goodwin, Landon
13. Granado, Daniel
14. Griffin, Kyler
15. Guillen, Ivan
16. Hargrove, Markee
17. Hernandez, Angel
18. Hernandez, Isaac
19. Hernandez-Reyes, Yamilet
20. Hicks, Jackson
21. Jimenze, Liliana
22. Johnson, Jamarion
23. Johnson, Karlissa
24. Jones, Maki
25. Lee, Daniel
26. Lopez, Alexis
27. Majia, Xavi
28. Maxwell, Jadonie
29. McCluskey, Kylee
30. McGee, Jasean
31. Mendoza, Yaneli
32. Morales, Yenilka

33. Nobles, Angelina
34. Oquendo, Dulce,
35. Palomares, Gariela
36. Poll, Reginann
37. Quinones, Zanel
38. Redmon, Fiona
39. Roberlo-Salas, Mariana
40. Rosales, Yaritza
41. Salas, Jacqueline
42. Santiago, Daniel
43. Sapp, Kelson
44. Shaw, Donta'e
45. Smith, Matthew
46. Stewart, Shaniah
47. Trujillo, Hexon
48. Turner, Taylor
49. Villanueva, Zarian
50. Woodley, Zarian
51. Zheng, Shu Han

**Hillsborough County Sheriff's  
Office: Representatives (10)**

1. Deputy Nick Elliott, Community Outreach
2. Dep. Ashley Alvarez
3. Dep. Chris Former
4. Dep. K. Garrison
5. Dep. Craig Hoffman
6. Dep. Matt McCutcheon
7. Dep. Billy Nixon
8. Dep. Travis Robbins
9. Dep. Breanna Rodriguez
10. Dep. Efrain Taveras

## Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **STUDENT RESPONSES: Participants (51)**

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

#### **1. WHAT OFFICERS ARE SWORN TO DO**

- a. Do you think most youth understand what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniform?

**Pre-Workshop** (51 responses):

Absolutely – 6      Yes – 12      **Somewhat – 17**      Not Sure – 15      Definitely Not - 1

- b. Do you think most youth in this workshop understand what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniform?

**Post-Workshop** (51 responses): **INCREASE of 18 “ABSOLUTELY” & 9 “YES” RESPONSES**

**Absolutely – 24**      Yes – 21      Somewhat – 5      Not Sure – 1      Definitely Not – 0

#### **2. REASONS WE DO NOT AGREE**

- a. Do you think you know a lot of the reasons why most youth and law enforcement officers may not always agree with each other?

**Pre-Workshop** (51 responses):

Absolutely – 1      Yes – 9      Somewhat – 17      **Not Sure – 22**      Definitely Not - 2

- b. Do you think you have learned more of the reasons why most youth and law enforcement officers may not always agree with each other?

**Post-Workshop** (51 responses): **INCREASE of 14 “ABSOLUTELY” & 12 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely – 15      **Yes – 21**      Somewhat – 10      Not Sure – 4      Definitely Not - 1

#### **3. BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP**

- a. Do you think community youth and law enforcement officers would be willing to be “partners” if they attended workshops like this together?

**Pre-Workshop** (51 responses):

Absolutely – 10      **Yes – 26**      Somewhat – 2      Not Sure – 12      Definitely Not - 1

- b. Do you think community youth and law enforcement officers would be willing to be “partners” if they attended workshops like this together?

**Post-Workshop** (51 responses): **INCREASE of 10 “ABSOLUTELY” & DECREASE of 2 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely – 20      **Yes – 24**      Somewhat – 6      Not Sure – 1      Definitely Not - 0

## **HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (10)**

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

### **1. WHAT OFFICERS ARE SWORN TO DO**

- a. Do you think most youth understand what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniform?

**Pre-Workshop** (10 responses):

Absolutely – 0      Yes – 1      **Somewhat – 8**      Not Sure – 1      Definitely Not - 0

- b. Do you think most youth in this workshop understand what law enforcement officers are sworn to do when they put on their uniform?

**Post-Workshop** (10 responses): **INCREASE of 4 “ABSOLUTELY” & 5 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely – 4      **Yes – 6**      Somewhat – 0      Not Sure – 0      Definitely Not - 0

### **2. REASONS WE DO NOT AGREE**

- a. Do you think you know a lot of the reasons why most youth and law enforcement officers may not always agree with each other?

**Pre-Workshop** (10 responses):

Absolutely – 0      Yes – 4      **Somewhat – 5**      Not Sure – 1      Definitely Not - 0

- b. Do you think you have learned more of the reasons why most youth and law enforcement officers may not always agree with each other?

**Post-Workshop** (10 responses): **INCREASE of 3 “ABSOLUTELY” & 2 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely – 3      **Yes – 6**      Somewhat – 1      Not Sure – 0      Definitely Not - 0

### **3. BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP**

- a. Do you think community youth and law enforcement officers would be willing to be “partners” if they attended workshops like this together?

**Pre-Workshop** (10 responses):

Absolutely – 4      **Yes – 5**      Somewhat – 1      Not Sure – 0      Definitely Not - 0

- b. Do you think community youth and law enforcement officers would be willing to be “partners” if they attended workshops like this together?

**Post-Workshop** (10 responses): **INCREASE of 1 “ABSOLUTELY” & SAME # OF “YES” RESPONSES**

**Absolutely – 5**      **Yes – 5**      Somewhat – 0      Not Sure – 0      Definitely Not - 0

## Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Pre-Workshop Comments

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **I hope this workshop will:**

#### **STUDENTS:**

- Be fun -14
  - Not be boring because I would want to have a fun day.
- Teach me/learn more about officers/law enforcement – 7
- Tell us what they do at their jobs – 6
- Bring youth and LEOs together - 4
- Teach me new things - 2
- Not have lots of paperwork - 2
- Be cool - 2
- Get to know the deputies more.
- Work together and communicate.
- Give me a good example and show me how a cop is because I'm going to be objective.
- Might help me want to be a law enforcement officer.
- Not be boring because we are here for a long time.
- Teach me about police cars.
- Show me gear and how to get into the K-9 unit or SWAT.
- Let me see how hard officers work to keep us safe.
- Give me a new experience and learn new things.
- To work as a team and listen to everyone's ideas.
- Make kids listen and do what they're supposed to do.
- Make me be better.
- Help me in life.
- Help us out.
- Be helpful.
- Help me feel good.

**I hope this workshop will:**

**HCSO:**

- Offer a better understanding of what LEOs do - 2
- Build more understanding with the youth and law enforcement.
- Give students a better understanding of the law enforcement profession.
- Teach the participants about law enforcement and create partnerships.
- Bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement.
- Encourage the children in this workshop to look forward to meeting LEOs in the future.
- Provide a positive experience for all involved.
- Educate all involved.

**Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Post-Workshop Comments**

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

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

**STUDENTS:**

- Nothing – 15
  - Absolutely nothing.
  - I would not change a thing -3
  - It is perfect.
- I would change it to have more activities - 5
  - Make people play games.
- Have more time – 3
  - Make the workshop last longer.
  - Give the youth more time to comment.
- Be more fun - 3
- Change the food - 3
  - I would make the cheeseburger bigger.
  - More food.
  - Have some plain burgers.
- To get all students/all ages to participate/come to a workshop - 3

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

**STUDENTS: (Continued)**

- Have more deputies – 2
- I do not know - 2
- I would change from inside to outside.
- I would change the time.
- Show what cops train in.
- I would try for everyone to communicate more.
- Change it to be a partner working to make things better.
- Let officers tell more about the kinds of crime they stop.
- To make the comments (reports) better.
- Everyone to be quiet.
- There were people not listening.
- Drive in the (patrol) car.
- By treating the people how you want to be treated. To not judge a book by its cover.
- It was cool and awesome.
- Not have name tags.

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

**HCSO:**

- I have been to a few of these, this by far, has been the best one.
- No sirens, no PA use.
- I would not change anything with this workshop.
- I think the workshops are structured well. I have no recommendations for changes.

Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Small Group Discussion Comments

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Fifty-one students and ten sheriff's deputies attended the workshop held at Burney Elementary School on Monday, March 9, 2020. Below are the responses to the request to: List your three major concerns about law enforcement, followed by deputies' responses. In some cases, more than three responses were listed by students. There were seven (7) groups of students.

STUDENTS Comments & HCSO Responses

TABLE #1:

- **What do deputies do when there is no crime?**  
We deter crime (e.g. drive around/walk around).
- **How heavy is your duty belt?**  
About 25 pounds.
- **Do you like donuts?**  
Of course, and free coffee.
- **Do deputies try being tasered?**  
In training we are tasered and pepper sprayed. It hurts.
- **Has anyone pointed a gun at you?**  
Yes. While serving a warrant a gun was pointed at me.

TABLE #2:

- **Why did you become a police officer?**  
I grew up watching "COPS", and always thought police work was interesting.
- **What do police officers do?**  
Police officers enforce laws, serve the public and patrol assigned zones to keep citizens safe.
- **What is it like being a police officer?**  
Being an officer is gratifying and a lot of fun at times. We get to investigate crimes, keep the public safe, drive cars fast and eat donuts.



### **TABLE #3:**

- **How long does it take to become a deputy?**

It takes 1.5 years, start to finish. Six months in the Academy, approximately 1 year [after].

- **How do you decide what weapon you use in a situation?**

It depends on the actions of the subject. If the person poses a non-lethal threat [explained], then it requires a non-lethal response. [The same was explained for a lethal response.]

- **Why are there corrupt cops?**

There are corrupt police because people are people and everyone is subject to their choices and actions.

- **How far back do the background checks go?**

They go back to when you are in school. For my Top Secret Clearance, they went back to my third grade teacher.

### **TABLE #4:**

- **Was your first day scary?**

The first day of work was more exciting than scary.

- **Was arresting someone on your first day of work exciting?**

Sometimes it is exciting, but sometimes we have to do it to keep everyone safe.

- **What did you need to do to become an officer?**

Every officer has to graduate from the Police Academy and pass the State exam.

### **TABLE #5:**

- **What is the worst crime you have ever worked?**

I have worked murders.

- **What is the purpose of uniforms?**

To help people identify us as police officers.

- **Is there paperwork when you arrest someone?**

Yes, we write a report and a criminal report affidavit.

- **Have you ever been shot or shot at?**

Thankfully, I have not!

- **Have you ever pepper sprayed, tased, or shot anyone?**

Thankfully, nope!

#### **TABLE #6:**

- **Why do law enforcement shoot people?**

We only shoot if the person is armed and is in the action of causing harm to myself or other people.

- **Do you have fun at your job?**

Yes! We look forward to meeting people every day we are at work. We enjoy helping people in need. Plus, we train each year with all of our assigned equipment. That means we get to drive fast with our lights and sirens on in a controlled environment and we get to fire our guns on a controlled and supervised gun range.

- **Why do you risk your lives?**

It is the love for this job. We take an oath to serve and protect all people, animals and property. We understand completely that this job comes with very high risks each day we are at work.

#### **TABLE #7:**

- **What is the most important thing about being a police officer?**

- Treating people with respect, or, how you would want to be treated if you were in trouble.

- **How scared can a police officer get?**

- I can get just as scared as you can.

- **How long do you keep criminals in custody?**

- Until my investigation is complete.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Student questions reflect a general desire to learn more about the interaction law enforcement has with the public. A number of their questions indicate naivety about the day-to-day interactions and work officers engage in, possibly reflecting biases and stereotypes they developed by watching television programs pertaining to law enforcement with their exaggerated emphasis on violence and confrontations with the public. (Notice the sarcastic/humorous exchanges about eating donuts.)

Responses of the deputies reflect a mature and reasoned reaction to student questions and issues raised. They appear to be honest, frank and candid snapshots of their work, motivation and satisfaction with their jobs. A principal benefit derived from this activity is the face-to-face interaction between students and officers. Candid exchanges

between these parties helps demystify students' perceptions of law enforcement and tears down stereotypes they have about the police. This is the most important activity during the workshop, and, based upon the nature of student questions, it can be seen that the conversations indicate a frank exchange between the officers and students, helping students to realize the professionalism and unselfish motives of law enforcement. The overriding message obtained from this activity is the desire of law enforcement to serve and protect the public, and students are able to grasp this message from the conversation.

## Youth Workshop #3 - 2020: Evaluation Responses

Burney Elementary School

March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### Rankings of Workshop Activities

#### STUDENTS:

1. Overall Workshop Rating
2. Lunch
3. Exploring Patrol Cars (deputy-student activity)
4. CLEWS Pledge
5. People are People Exercise (overall interactive activity)
6. What Am I Wearing? (presentation by HCSO)
7. Training Director
8. Let's Have a Talk Table Discussions (student/law enforcement concerns & responses)
9. Workshop Evaluation Form
10. Workshop Questionnaires
11. A Conversation with Adults (requesting students to talk with parents)

#### HCSO:

1. Training Director
2. People are People Exercise (overall interactive activity)
3. Let's Have a Talk Table Discussions (student/law enforcement concerns & responses)
4. A Conversation with Adults (requesting students to talk with parents)
5. Overall Workshop Rating
6. What Am I Wearing? (presentation by HCSO)
7. CLEWS Pledge
8. Workshop Evaluation Form
9. Exploring Patrol Cars (deputy-student activity)
10. Lunch
11. Workshop Questionnaires

## Evaluation Comments (Most & Least Favorites):

### STUDENTS:

#### **Most Favorite**

- Exploring the Patrol Cars – 23
  - We got to learn what is in the cars and how they work - 5
  - Because I used the sirens - 3
  - It was cool - 2
  - Sitting the backseat.
  - Because I got to speak in the speakers and experience how it feels to be in the back of the car.
- Lunch/the food – 10
  - Eating McDonald's - 2
  - Because it was good - 2
  - Because I was hungry - 2
  - It was delicious.
  - Because it was a good time for community eating.
- Meeting the officer/s at my table – 8
  - It was nice.
- People Are People – 4
  - It shows that people can be different and the same.
  - Because we learned from people.
  - Because I got to walk around and talk to other people.
- Let's Have a Talk – 2
  - Asking or answering questions because you get to know stuff that you didn't know and get to learn more about the deputy.
  - Asking questions of the deputy.
- What Am I Wearing presentation – 2
  - Because I learned things I didn't know.
- Everything, and it was fun.
- The paperwork and the CLEWS pledge.

## **STUDENTS: (continued)**

### **Least Favorite**

- Paperwork/completing forms – 13
  - Paperwork is boring -2
  - Sitting and writing.
  - I don't like it.
  - Now I understand paperwork is no fun.
- Exploring the Patrol Cars – 7
  - Sirens were too loud – 4
  - Kids were being annoying by pressing the siren button.
  - Sirens were obnoxious and loud.
- Nothing – 7
  - I loved it all.
- Lunch - 5
  - Because there was mayonnaise on the sandwich - 2
  - Because I did not like the burger.
  - Because I choked on my chicken sandwich.
  - Because it was not Chick Fil-a.
- People Are People - 3
- Sitting all day - 2
- The training director – 2
  - Because I hate when people take a long time.
- My least favorite part was Let's Have a Talk.
- When we had to explain what we were going to discuss because I don't like do presentations.
- Standing and talking to people.
- My least favorite is When I Get Home because I don't know what to say.
- When we had to take a picture.
- Being quiet.
- (Another student at my table) would not share his Skittles with the cop.
- The deputy telling me he does not watch anime.

## **HCSO:**

### **Most Favorite**

- Let's Have a Talk (discussion & report) – 4
  - Law enforcement gets the chance to speak one on one with the kids.
  - Learning the concerns of the kids.
  - Discussion and learning the youth perception of LEOs.
- Getting to know all of my new friends!
- Getting to speak with and get to know the students.
- Meeting the kids.
- When I Get Home (a conversation with parents/guardians) – Because parents give the police a bad rap.

## **HCSO:**

### **Least Favorite**

- Exploring the Patrol Cars – 2
  - It would be more beneficial if this time was more structured. With sirens going it was hard to explain the use of certain equipment.
  - The use of the siren on patrol cars is not needed.
- Nothing – 2
  - I enjoy this event.
- Pledge – No reason for the pledge.

### **End Of Summary Report - Youth Workshop #3 - 2020**

*Burney Elementary School*

*March 9, 2020: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.*

*Submitted March 18, 2020 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Executive Director/CEO  
and Viola Luke, CLEWS Program Manager*