

Community and Law Enforcement Workshops & Services (CLEWS)

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Summary Report

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

CLEWS Service Providers in Attendance

Darrell Daniels, Workshop Training Director

Fred Hearn, Program Manager

Viola Luke, Assistant Program Manager

Gilbertina Wright, Senior Workshop Training Facilitator

Margaret Butler, Workshop Training Facilitator

Others in Attendance from Hillsborough County Public Schools

Dr. Larry Sykes

Alva Simmons

Crystal Russell

Fifty-two (52) people – 42 students and 10 HCSO deputies – attended the third CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #3) of Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The workshop was held at Progress Village Middle Magnet School in Hillsborough County.

Thirty-nine (39) of the 47 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (**or 83% of the participants**), rated the Overall Workshop as either “Excellent” or “Very Good”. The highest combined ratings of the eleven (11) categories were: 1. Exploring the Patrol Cars; 2. Lunch; 3. the Training Director; 4. “Let’s Have a Talk” (discussion, questions, concerns, and responses between students and law enforcement officers).the Overall Workshop; and 5. the CLEWS Pledge.

Student Participants (42 Individuals)

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Grade 6

1. Creed, Taylor
2. Faust, Anujarayte
3. Lemons, Zarius
4. Shepperd, Antanyah

Grade 7

5. Bireda, Kirubel
6. Giaquinto, Anthony
7. Hopson, Jaylen
8. Ketchup, Isaiah
9. Jacquet, Sasha
10. Lyons, Kelvin
11. Williams, Aubreanna

Grade 8

12. Astacio, Christian
13. Bogan, Sean
14. Brown, Ahmad
15. Bryant, Triniti
16. Christopher, Amari
17. Cineas, Imani
18. Claiborne, Zoe
19. Coats, Erica

20. Creed, Rachel
21. Filer, Mahogany
22. Flemister, Triniti
23. Gentle, Jerimyah
24. Hammond, Kamora
25. Hernandez, Antajah
26. Jones, Mytris
27. Kinsey, Ryan
28. Kirkland, Aynri
29. Masquida, Yarel
30. Mathews, Alexa
31. Mills, Dayla
32. Moore, Aniyah
33. Parks-Royal, RaeMarie
34. Rogers, Aniya
35. Shelton, Jordan
36. Smith, Shakoi
37. Soto, Lorena
38. Suffrena, Uckton
39. Swagger, Trenton
40. Thompson, Triston
41. Torres, Jaylen
42. Wishart, Richard

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Representatives (2 + 8)

- *Deputy John Footman (Community Outreach Division)*
- *Deputy Daniel Cruz (School Resource Officer)*

(8 Participants)

1. Dep. Cliff Fletcher
2. Dep. M. Littschwager
3. Dep.H. Hoskins
4. Dep. B. Kruthers
5. Dep. M. Burcher
6. Dep. Breanna Rodriguez
7. Dep. Christopher Former
8. Dep. Ernie Foster

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

STUDENT RESPONSES: Participants (42)

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

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

Pre-Workshop (42 responses):

Absolutely-0 Yes-8 **Somewhat-17** Maybe-6 Not Sure-2 No-9

Post-Workshop (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 5 “ABSOLUTELY” & 2 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely-5 Yes-10 **Somewhat-18** Maybe-3 Not Sure-0 No-0

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

Pre-Workshop (42 responses):

Absolutely-0 Yes-13 **Somewhat-14** Maybe-8 Not Sure-3 No-4

Post-Workshop (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 7 “ABSOLUTELY” & 14 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely-7 **Yes-27** Somewhat-11 Maybe-4 Not Sure-0 No-0

3. Do you think the youth in our community would be willing to partner with law enforcement officers if they attended workshops like this together?

Pre-Workshop (42 responses):

Absolutely-0 Yes-14 **Somewhat-15** Maybe-9 Not Sure-4 No-0

Post-Workshop (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 13 “ABSOLUTELY” & 6 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely-13 **Yes-20** Somewhat-7 Maybe-2 Not Sure-0 No-0

HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (8)

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

(NOTE: There are 5 responses to the Post-Workshop Questionnaire as 3 deputies had to leave unexpectedly)

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

Pre-Workshop (8 responses):

Absolutely - 0 Yes-1 Somewhat-3 Maybe-0 Not Sure-1 **No-4**

Post-Workshop (5 responses): **INCREASE OF 1 “YES” RESPONSE**

Absolutely - 0 **Yes-2** Somewhat-1 Maybe-1 Not Sure-0 No-1

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

Pre-Workshop (8 responses):

Absolutely - 0 Yes-1 **Somewhat-5** Maybe-1 Not Sure-0 No-1

Post-Workshop (5 responses): **INCREASE OF 3 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 0 **Yes-4** Somewhat-1 **Maybe-0** Not Sure-0 No-0

3. Do you think the youth in our community would be willing to partner with law enforcement officers if they attended workshops like this together?

Pre-Workshop (8 responses):

Absolutely - 0 **Yes-4** Somewhat-2 Maybe-0 Not Sure-2 No-0

Post-Workshop (5 responses): **SAME NUMBER OF “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 0 **Yes-4** Somewhat-1 Maybe-0 Not Sure-0 No-0

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Pre-Workshop Comments

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

I hope this workshop will:

Students:

- Help all students and people to understand what deputies do for us – 9
- Help me learn more about law enforcement - 6
- Teach me what cops go through on a day to day basis - 2
- Let me know what officers do and to help people
- Help me become more open-minded on what law enforcement officers really do and how they help us and how we (can) help them
- Make a better connection with the officers and be able to talk to them when needed
- Change the mindsets of the kids and officers (and what we) think about each other
- Opens my eyes to what I and the law enforcement should be doing and how to act in different situations
- Help benefit me and my peers if we ever have to encounter law enforcement
- Teach me what to do in a scenario if police were to pull me over and how to stay safe
- Prepare us for the real world and teach us things so we won't get in trouble
- Help me better myself and stay out of trouble. And mostly build trust with law enforcement
- Inform me about law enforcement and open the eyes of the people and students that aren't comfortable around officers
- Make a difference about what I think and I get to see and learn something new
- Help me see the perspective of the officer instead of just seeing my side and other people's perspective
- Teach me other people's perspective. Not all people like officers for no reason. It's sad to me that people think that
- Help me build my own personal opinion of law enforcement officers other than what I see on the news
- Maybe change the way I see law enforcement
- Give me a better view on police officers and clear up all misconceptions I may have
- Clear up many thoughts and beliefs I have on this topic
- Show me what is the meaning of violence when police is (are) supposed to provide peace

- Understand what police do when they arrest people and when they are around black people
- Get my point of views across on what the police officers do to the people when they arrest them
- Help (me) understand why youth and officers don't get along that well

HCSO:

- Build relationships with youth – 3
- Help both sides better understand each other – 3
- Open up to new perspectives and opportunities
- Increase trust with the youth

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Post-Workshop Comments

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

What did you learn as a result of the workshop:

Students:

- Helped me better understand officers – 12
- This workshop showed me more about law enforcement and how police are just people too - 2
- Showed me that police officers care about us and are regular people just trying to help us
- Learned more insight about what it's like to be a deputy and they are normal people just like us. They are only here to help and enforce the law.
- Opened eyes of me and my peers to help learn to respect and care for law enforcement as they do for us
- Made me have an open-mind on how we are all the same, and what they do is not always right, there are good ones, and bad ones
- This workshop will change people's mindsets like telling us that they're here to protect us, not hurt or harm us
- Opened the eyes of people that didn't feel comfortable around cops and showed they are human

- Changed my perspective on officers and I don't feel as scared as I did before I came in here
- Well this workshop really helped me understand and made me feel better about law enforcement
- Gave me a different perspective than the one I had when walking into the workshop
- Helped me understand the thought process of a policeman while in action
- This workshop helped me realize that (what) the police actually do. How they have to use different weapons and different forces on different people.
- I now understand the main reasons why officers do what they do in the way they do it. They have to follow the law and do things the way they are trained.
- Really helped open my eyes and I now feel better prepared if I ever have an altercation with the law enforcement
- Helped me to better understand the struggle police officers have to go through and how people think about them versus the real truth
- Showed that not all officers are like the people in the media portray them as, and talking to them can really change your perspective
- Taught me that all officers aren't bad and that the media like to sway our opinions
- Helped me better my attitude towards certain people and always help me have a smile on my face
- Helped me understand why the youth and officers don't get along well

HCSO:

- Open discussion was welcomed and utilized. Great workshop. Was able to understand some common issues among youth in today's society.
- Taught me the concerns of the youth
- Helped bridge the gap of understanding

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Small Group Discussion Comments

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Table #1:

Student Comments:

- Do you think the opinion people have of law enforcement officers has changed in the past 20 years?
- How should you approach an officer in order to stay safe?
- What should you do if you are pulled over?

HCSO Comments:

- I do believe some people's opinions about law enforcement officers have changed in the past 20 years. There is a vocal minority that has become louder (in their criticism of us) but the majority of people are pro-law enforcement.
- When you are stopped by a law enforcement officer, stop and listen to what the officer is saying. Follow directions and avoid any (sudden) movements you plan on making. If you don't follow the officer's directions you could be arrested.

Table #2:

Student Comments:

- What is something young people don't understand about being a cop?
- Do officers take (a person's) race under consideration when they are interacting with people?
- What (kind of) situations make an officer more nervous and how do they make their decisions?

HCSO Comments:

- The overall job responsibilities we have are: being problem solvers; balancing work and home life; keeping laws, keeping order and maintaining public safety.
- Officers do (should) not take race into consideration when interacting with citizens. Bad attitudes, however, (by citizens) can create unwanted consequences: negative mindsets can result in citations or arrests.
- We make our decisions when dealing with citizens based on our training; we respond (appropriately) if people are acting in an evasive manner.

Table #3:

Student Comments:

- Why does there seem to be a one-sided view of law enforcement?
- Why does law enforcement use so much force when making an arrest?
- Why does race seem to be a factor when law enforcement officers interact with the public?

HCSO Comments:

- A lot of society is misinformed by social media and misled about the duties of law enforcement officers.
- Sometimes law enforcement officers have to use force to make arrests to insure the safety of the suspect, the officer and of the public. Suspects who won't comply with officers need to be apprehended before they become a threat (to themselves and to others).
- The media and subjects who are in the wrong often use their race (ethnic origin) to try and build a case against the law enforcement officer. Don't rush to judgement. Get the facts first.

Table #4:

Student Comments:

- Would the ethnicity of the person determine how you treat and handle the situation?
- What weapon would you pull out first and why?
- How do you feel with the suspect in the back of your car?
- Can a deputy arrest a sheriff?

HCSO Comments:

- Every deputy had values and ideas before they became law enforcement officers. At the end of the day we still are human beings. I would treat citizens for what they are (mothers, daughters, etc.) until they do something to change our relationship (or mutual respect).
- Deputies carry "tools" (not weapons) with them on their uniforms. My confidence is in my talking to citizens when my safety is threatened. We have a scale – when a suspect pulls something out, we pull something out equal to (what they have) or on the next level. In order, we would use (from the least lethal to the greatest) pepper spray, taser, knife or our gun.

- I feel safe with a suspect in the back seat of my vehicle because there is a cage/barrier separating us. There is plastic behind the driver's seat so the suspect can't hear what is being said in the front. Behind the passenger there are holes to hear through.
- Theoretically a deputy can arrest a sheriff if that person breaks the law.

Table #5:

Student Comments:

- Why do police officers (sheriff deputies) handle people with such force and aggressiveness?
- Why do police officers (sheriff deputies) make kids nervous when they are around?
- Is it true that police officers (sheriff deputies) pick and choose their aggressive levels based off of a person's looks?
- What are the procedures of citizens when people are getting pulled over?
- Why do (should) you not run from the police?
- What do police officers look for in a car search?
- Do police officers act off of emotions or facts/law?

HCSO Comments:

- We increase our level of aggressiveness based on the person's (we are dealing with) aggressive action.
- Kids are influenced by social media and tend to believe everything they see and hear. This causes their nervous responses (around us).
- Always follow commands, provide documentation when it is requested.
- You do not run from the police because you can get hurt or cause others to get hurt.
- During a car search officers are looking for weapons, drugs and evidence of a crime.
- Officers should not act off emotions. They should be using the laws they have learned and look at the facts of each case.

Table #6:

Student Comments:

- What is the scariest situation you have ever been in?
- Why do some cops feel threatened when they pull over minorities?
- How can cops further expand youth's knowledge on how youth (should) act around cops?
- Why do cops pull their taser before their gun (on a suspect)?
- Do you feel there are certain cops that target demographics (minorities)?

HCSO Comments:

- I almost had to shoot someone because they pulled out a machete.
- Some cops feel threatened around some minorities because (of) how they are raised as an individual, what area they worked in and what their experiences are in law enforcement.
- Programs like CLEWS, other programs and community events can help bridge the gap to help youth and adults understand law enforcement's role to help protect them – then (youth) can be more comfortable around them (law enforcement officers).
- The distance from a suspect and the level of a threat they present determine when a law enforcement officer pulls out his gun. Tasers can only be used within 20 feet.
- Refer to the second response from HCSO.

Youth Workshop 2019 #3: Evaluation Responses

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Rankings of Workshop Activities

STUDENTS:

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

HCSO:

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

EVALUATION COMMENTS:

Students:

- I liked getting to know more about the true side of the deputies.
- What I really liked is feeling that I was able to discuss my opinion freely and have good educated talks. My opinions weren't bashed, but valued. I wish we could have switched groups to hear more opinions.
- I liked small table discussion the most because I have learned the life of a deputy and the risks they go through every day.
- Give us some discussion starters or questions to help get us talking.
- I feel like this could be a sort of life changer to show not all people are bad.

HCSO:

- Adding in information on police uniforms seemed to intrigue the kids
- Time for good dialogue was a positive. The conversations were very intelligent.
- More time is needed for discussion
- Microphone & speaker would be helpful for everyone to hear better, especially when the students talk because they are shy sometimes

End Of Summary Report - Youth Workshop 2019 #3

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

March 26, 2019: 8:40 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Submitted April 12, 2019 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Program Manager

And Viola Luke, CLEWS Assistant Program Manager