

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

## **Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Summary Report**

**Sergeant Paul R. Smith Middle School**

**April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 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*

*Dr. Roy Kaplan, Workshop Training Facilitator*

### **Others in Attendance from Hillsborough County Public Schools**

*Crystal Russell*

*Alva Simmons*

Fifty (50) people – 42 students and 8 HCSO deputies – attended the fourth CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #4) of Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The workshop was held at Sergeant Paul Smith Middle School in Hillsborough County.

Forty-three (43) of the 47 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (**or 91% of the participants**), rated the Overall Workshop as either “Excellent” or “Very Good”. The highest combined ratings of the eleven (11) categories were: 1. Lunch; 2. Exploring the Patrol Cars; 3. the Overall Workshop; 4. What Am I Wearing (HCSO uniform explanation); and 5. “Let’s Have a Talk” (discussion, questions, concerns, and responses between students and law enforcement officers).

**Student Participants (42 Individuals)**

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Grade 6**

1. Alvarez Ramierez, Jeovany
2. Aref, Jasmin
3. Boone, Jeremy
4. Brito, Demetrius
5. Cruz, Fabian
6. Finkelstein, Aaron
7. Fabian, Julian
8. Hernandez, Angel
9. Miller, Jermiah
10. Morales-Serrano, Sebastian
11. Odom, Kristian
12. Olivero, Jonathan
13. Roberts, Alexander
14. Williams, Bradley

**Grade 7**

15. Acevedo, Sebastian
16. Cocho, Angelina
17. Copson, Gabriel
18. Cruz, Gabriel
19. Hogan, Carter
20. Lliveras, Jasmine
21. Machado, Christian
22. Mims, Dyani

23. Navea, Ivan
24. Rodriguez, Alejandro
25. Rodriguez, Anthony
26. Safron-Powrezek, William
27. Thompson, Alejandro
28. Torres, Xavier

**Grade 8**

29. Acosta, Luis
30. Bobonis, Jandel
31. Clawson, Nicholas
32. Collazo, Yerek
33. Dorsey, Desmond
34. Lavigne, Adrianna
35. Moye, Cameron
36. Oquendo, Anthony
37. Serrano, Leslie
38. Smith, Clayton
39. Sobrino, Junier
40. Taylor, Elijah
41. Thompson, Leonard
42. Ulloa, Jean

**Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Representatives (1 + 7)**

- *Deputy John Footman (Community Outreach Division)*
- *Deputy C. Arthur (School Resource Officer)*

**(7 Participants)**

1. Dep. John Footman  
(also participated)
2. Dep. A. Hockersmith
3. Dep. M McCutcheon
4. Dep. C. Cullinan
5. Dep. D. Owen
6. Dep. D. Rizer
7. Master Dep. Melvin Jones

Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 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 - 3      Yes - 4      **Somewhat - 14**      Maybe - 7      Not Sure - 9      No - 5

**Post-Workshop** (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 7 “ABSOLUTELY” & 10 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 10      **Yes - 14**      Somewhat - 12      Maybe - 3      Not Sure - 1      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 - 2      **Yes - 13**      Somewhat - 11      Maybe - 6      Not Sure - 9      No - 1

**Post-Workshop** (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 3 “ABSOLUTELY” & 5 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 5      **Yes - 18**      Somewhat - 12      Maybe - 6      Not Sure - 1      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 - 3      Yes - 11      **Somewhat - 12**      Maybe - 9      Not Sure - 3      No - 4

**Post-Workshop** (42 responses): **INCREASE OF 9 “ABSOLUTELY” & 6 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 12      **Yes - 17**      Somewhat - 7      Maybe - 3      Not Sure - 3      No - 0

## **HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (7)**

*(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** (7 responses):

Absolutely - 0      Yes - 0      Somewhat - 2      Maybe - 2      Not Sure - 0      **No - 3**

**Post-Workshop** (7 responses): **INCREASE OF 4 "YES" RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 0      **Yes - 4**      Somewhat - 3      Maybe - 0      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** (7 responses):

Absolutely - 0      Yes - 0      **Somewhat - 6**      Maybe - 1      Not Sure - 0      No - 0

**Post-Workshop** (7 responses): **INCREASE OF 4 "YES" RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 0      **Yes - 4**      Somewhat - 2      Maybe - 1      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** (7 responses):

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

**Post-Workshop** (7 responses): **SAME NUMBER OF "ABSOLUTELY" & DECREASE OF 1 "YES" RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 1      **Yes - 4**      Somewhat - 0      Maybe - 2      Not Sure - 0      No - 0

## Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Pre-Workshop Comments

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

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

#### **Students:**

- Be fun – 7
- Help me bring up my grades - 4
- (Help me) learn something – 4
- I don't know - 3
- Help us do better in school - 2
- Teach us things about the law – 2
- I think that I'm going (to) learn what it feels like to be a police officer - 2
- Go by quickly - 2
- Help me get rid of my fear of the police because I always have a fear that I did something wrong
- Help officers to understand more youths
- Help me better understand law enforcement
- Teach us more about law enforcement
- Teach us a little bit of what they do
- Teach me about their vehicles
- I hope to learn why they wanted to become a cop
- Be educational and informative
- Help me to not disrespect my teacher and allow me to learn to be nice
- Help me with my attitude
- Change or give me a new perspective on things
- Change the way I think about school
- Make me a more focused person
- Help me
- Not be boring

#### **HCSO:**

- Provide/build a better relationship between the youth and law enforcement - 2
- Open the minds of the students I am working with. Help me understand their views.

- I hope this workshop will open lines of conversation to discuss and address questions about law enforcement
- Establish a conversation that will start understanding between law enforcement and students
- Allow students to be open and honest about questions and concerns about their community
- Give the students a clear understanding of what LEO's do in the community

Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Post-Workshop Comments

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

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

**Students:**

- I would not change anything about the workshop/Good the way it is – 13
- Less paperwork – 5
- Add more fun stuff – 3
- It was fun and I liked it - 2
- More activities
- Play sports
- Add crime games
- More time conversing with the officer to get a better understanding
- By making it a little less talkative
- Have more officers
- Bring more people into this workshop
- Have a more diverse group of law enforcement (detectives, SWAT, ICE, etc.)
- Bring CIA or FBI and cops next time
- Let the students sit where they want
- I would want to have activities set up of opinions on things
- I would make it more interactive and less time
- Make it shorter
- More food

**HCSO:**

- More conversation time with the group - 2
- Have this class at a sheriff's office to better understand all aspects of law enforcement
- Maybe have the parents get involved
- The three written questions (on the questionnaire forms) is good, but I think a period of free Q&A would also be beneficial. Both youths and LEOs can be candid.
- No change

## Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Small Group Discussion Comments

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

### **Table #1**

#### **Student Comments:**

- Why did you wanna be a cop?
- What happens when you lie to the police?

#### **HCSO Comments:**

- I became a deputy to help those who can't help themselves.
- When you lie to a law enforcement officer you only make things harder for yourself, especially if you're innocent.

### **Table #2**

#### **Student Comments:**

- Have you ever shot someone?
- How do the prisoners act when they are behind bars?
- How fast do your cars go?
- What is the oath you make as a cop?
- Have you ever been in a high speed chase?

#### **HCSO Comments:**

- Unfortunately, yes, I did have to shoot someone who had shot his ex-wife.
- Prisoners act in different ways: some are respectful and some are hostile towards the corrections officers.
- Personally I have not tested the speed limits of my patrol car: we have safety parameters in place to protect the public.
- The oath I take as a law enforcement officer is to protect and serve the citizens of Hillsborough County, without prejudice.
- Yes, I have been in many high speed chases.

### **Table #3**

#### **Student Comments:**

- What kind of gun do you have on you?
- How fast do you drive?
- Can your vest stop a 50-cal (caliber)?
- What happens to all the drugs after a drug bust?
- What's your least favorite thing about being a cop?
- How heavy is your vest?
- Can someone get out the back of a patrol car?
- How has all the recent "cops only shoot blacks" stuff affected you?
- Do you think racism affects your job? If so, how?
- Why does law enforcement look at black people differently?

#### **HCSO Comments:**

- I carry a 9 mm weapon.
- I drive as fast as the situation requires me to drive.
- My vest cannot stop a 50 cal (caliber).
- Drugs that are confiscated from arrests are kept as evidence until after the trial is complete – they then are burned.
- My least favorite thing is the disrespect I am subjected to and the verbal assaults.
- My vest weighs approximately 8 pounds.
- No one can get out of the back of a patrol car – we have improved CWS and detention devices.
- I have never experienced "cops only shoot blacks" as being a fact – I think that most people know that this is not the case and I do not let it affect the way I do my job.
- Accusations of racism don't affect the way I work personally: I have been in law enforcement 18 years and never witnessed it; I think racism exists in every line of work – law enforcement is just more televised.
- I don't believe anyone I know looks at any race differently: the public perception, due to media, would lead you to think this. However it is not the case; In my experience if a white deputy works in a predominantly black neighborhood he will naturally arrest more of the same race whether white or black.

#### **Table #4**

##### **Student Comments:**

- How do you feel about marijuana?
- What do you do if you see an under-age vaping with friends?

##### **HCSO Comments:**

- I hate the smell of marijuana: It is illegal to smoke-- I don't understand why people smoke it recreationally.
- If I see someone under age vaping with their friends I inquire about their ages, call their parents and attempt to get them to respond.

#### **Table #5**

##### **Student Comments:**

- Have you ever been shot?
- Have you ever searched someone's house?
- Were you a deputy during 9/11 and, if so, how did it affect you?
- What does the American flag represent to you?
- If a deputy accuses you of a crime you did not commit and gives you a lawful order what do you do?

##### **HCSO Comments:**

- No, I never have been shot.
- Yes, I have searched someone's house before – you have to be careful.
- No, I was not a deputy when 9/11 occurred – I was teaching then. It affected me in good ways and in bad ways. I was comforted by how the country was united – flags were flown at every house.
- The American flag represents the 13 colonies (stripes) and the 50 states (stars). The flag also represents religious freedom.
- If a deputy accuses you of a crime you did not commit and gives you a lawful order just listen and wait to see what else happens.

## **Table #6**

### **Student Comments:**

- Have you ever shot someone?
- Have you ever chased down anybody?
- What do you have to do to be in the K-9 unit and train dogs?

### **HCSO Comments:**

- No, I never have shot anyone. However, I have been in circumstances where the weapon has been displayed.
- Yes, I have had to chase someone down on foot and during a pursuit.
- To serve in the K-9 Unit you have to pass through the academy and serve time on the street. Then you have to apply, pass a tryout, and interview for the position in the K-9 Unit.

## **Table #7**

### **Student Comments:**

- Why can't kids have guns?
- In what circumstances can I use a knife to defend myself against someone, and what happens if I kill them?
- Why do you like to be a cop?
- Has someone ever pulled a gun on you?

### **HCSO Comments:**

- There are age limits on who can possess a gun because kids (not all) are typically impulsive and not able to fully understand the consequences of using a gun.
- You can use a knife for self-defense, but the circumstances will dictate whether or not you are arrested for using that knife.
- I like being in law enforcement because I like helping make people feel safe: I find people who have done wrong (per society) and place them under arrest or arrange a court date for them.
- Yes, I have had an episode with a firearm.

Youth Workshop 2019 #4: Evaluation Responses

Sergeant Smith Middle School

April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Rankings of Workshop Activities

**STUDENTS:**

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

**HCSO:**

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

## **EVALUATION COMMENTS:**

### **Students:**

- Lunch was good/my favorite part – 21
- Enjoyed seeing/exploring the (patrol) cars - 19
- Did not like doing the paperwork - 12
- Enjoyed talking to the deputy at my table – 4
- Did not enjoy the People Are People activity – 3
- (There was) not enough food - 2
- Did not like doing the pledge because I feel it is forced
- Do not want to have a conversation with my parents at home – 2
- Beginning of the workshop was a bit boring – 2
- I liked speaking and asking questions of the officers at our table while eating I felt more connected and comfortable with the officer. I felt like he was just a normal person.

### **HCSO:**

- I enjoyed talking with the kids - 3
- I enjoyed the entire workshop
- People Are People exercise gave LEOs a chance to meet more students
- Showing the patrol cars was a little chaotic and kids kept talking over me
- Students at my table did not want to talk

### **End Of Summary Report - Youth Workshop 2019 #4**

*Sergeant Smith Middle School*

*April 15, 2019: 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.*

*Submitted May 2, 2019 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Program Manager*

*And Viola Luke, CLEWS Assistant Program Manager*