

Community and Law Enforcement Workshops & Services (CLEWS)

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Summary Report

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 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

Margaret Butler, Workshop Training Facilitator

Others in Attendance from Hillsborough County Public Schools

Alva Simmons

Forty-seven (47) people – 38 students and 9 HCSO deputies – attended the fifth CLEWS Youth Workshop (Youth Workshop #5) of Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The workshop was held at Young Middle Magnet School in Hillsborough County.

Forty-three (43) of the 45 Evaluations completed by participating students and deputies (**or 96% 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. What Am I Wearing (HCSO uniform explanation); 4. Training Director; and 5. “Let’s Have a Talk” (discussion, questions, concerns, and responses between students and law enforcement officers).

Student Participants (38 Individuals)

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

(NOTE: One student of the 39 listed below was dismissed before the workshop started, but the name is unknown)

Grade 6

1. Floyd, Janylah
2. Marc, Destiny
3. Newson, Micquiaz
4. Saunders, Jacob

Grade 7

5. Bennefield, Ja'Shaun
6. Booker, Michael
7. Colbert, Grover
8. Figueroa, Jolie
9. Gainey, Ronyla
10. Harrison, Jon Renay
11. Jones, Kevonte
12. Nicklas, Kelvin
13. Nolen, Maurice
14. Young, Inaj

Grade 8

15. Aravena, Damien
16. Booth, Kenyon
17. Clayton, Jada
18. Crumpton, Felicia

19. Davis, Yazmin
20. Esteves, Gabriella
21. Farrell, Irvin
22. Frazier, Maloni
23. Godwin, Kimora
24. Gordon, Tyreana
25. Hernandez, Maria
26. Hernandez, Pedro
27. Higgins, Antonio
28. Holloway, Zariyah
29. Isidore, Isaiah
30. Jones, Ja'Kiylah
31. Moody, Promyce
32. Paradizo, Gabriela
33. Reyes, Anjulie
34. Ryan, Karisma
35. Sampson, Jayson
36. Steiner, Victoria
37. Waples, Alexandria
38. Ward, Delono
39. Williams, Nia

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

- *Deputy John Footman (Community Outreach Division)*

(8 Participants)

1. Dep. Ashley Alvarez
2. Dep. C. Cullinan
3. Dep. Chris DePolis
4. Dep. Robert Franklin
5. Dep. Craig Hoffman
6. Master Dep. Melvin Jones
7. Dep. M McCutcheon
8. Dep. Tyler Wilson

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Pre-Workshop & Post-Workshop Questionnaires

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

STUDENT RESPONSES: Participants (38)

*(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 (38 responses):

Absolutely - 2 Yes - 6 **Somewhat - 18** Maybe - 5 Not Sure - 3 No - 4

Post-Workshop (38 responses): **INCREASE OF 6 “ABSOLUTELY” & 19 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 8 **Yes - 25** Somewhat - 4 Maybe - 1 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 (38 responses):

Absolutely - 5 Yes - 7 **Somewhat - 12** Maybe - 9 Not Sure - 2 No - 2

Post-Workshop (38 responses): **INCREASE OF 5 “ABSOLUTELY” & 12 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 10 **Yes - 19** Somewhat - 8 Maybe - 0 Not Sure - 0 No - 1

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 (38 responses):

Absolutely - 3 Yes - 9 Somewhat - 8 **Maybe - 11** Not Sure - 5 No - 2

Post-Workshop (38 responses): **INCREASE OF 19 “ABSOLUTELY” & 4 “YES” RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 22 Yes - 13 Somewhat - 3 Maybe - 0 Not Sure - 0 No - 0

HCSO DEPUTY RESPONSES: Participants (8)

*(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 (8 responses):

Absolutely - 0 Yes - 1 **Somewhat - 5** Maybe - 2 Not Sure - 0 No - 0

Post-Workshop (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 3 "YES" RESPONSE**

Absolutely - 0 **Yes - 4** **Somewhat - 4** 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 (8 responses):

Absolutely - 0 Yes - 0 **Somewhat - 7** Maybe - 1 Not Sure - 0 No - 0

Post-Workshop (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 2 "ABSOLUTELY & 2 "YES" RESPONSES**

Absolutely - 2 Yes - 2 **Somewhat - 3** Maybe - 0 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 (8 responses):

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

Post-Workshop (8 responses): **INCREASE OF 1 "ABSOLUTELY" & 2 "YES" RESPONSES**

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

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Pre-Workshop Comments

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

I hope this workshop will:

Students:

- Teach me more about law enforcement- 6
- Answer questions I have about law enforcement – 5
- Help me better understand law enforcement - 3
- Teach me what law enforcement officers do and why - 3
- Help me understand the importance of police officers - 2
- Teach me something new - 2
- Be fun - 2
- Give some insight on what officers go through on a daily basis
- Help me understand why law enforcement officers don't agree with youth
- Help us get treated fairly by the police
- Answer my questions about how the law enforcers treat us
- Improve kids minds on why officers do what they do
- Change the lives of law enforcement officers
- Evolve me in a positive way. I hope to learn new things and enjoy my time.
- Be good for me
- Help others stop violence
- Entertain me and help me learn new things about law enforcement
- Better my understanding of how law enforcement is beneficial to this community
- Help more youth want to be involved
- Get people to come to the workshop
- Be able to come together
- I don't know

HCSO:

- Create a positive dialogue
- Start a dialogue that will initiate thoughts about what law enforcement does
- Bring our youth and law enforcement together to help communities come together
- Help build a better relationship between youth and law enforcement

- Bring better communication and understanding between youth and law enforcement - 2
- Provide a chance for kids to ask questions to deputies in a small group setting
- Open eyes of youth as to the role of police in their community

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Post-Workshop Comments

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

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

Students:

- Don't change it; Keep it the same way – 5
- By doing more activities - 2
- More fun, but it was fun - 2
- Less paperwork - 2
- Allow more time to answer the students' questions and more discussion time – 2
- I would make the program last for all of the day; make it longer - 2
- More time with the police cars
- I would make more activities like looking at the cop cars and social activities
- I would have more time for the workshop so deputies and students could be more comfortable together
- Simulations of arrests
- I would like if there could be more hands-on activities
- I would let people touch the equipment
- I would bring more weapons that are safe for us to inspect and touch for more experience
- I would change the workshop into a program to help kids that want to become officers
- I wouldn't change a thing because this workshop teaches kids about officers and in a way they could understand
- I wouldn't change a thing because it was more fun than I thought
- Have kids ask deputies questions
- I would give more talking time

- Have way more programs where every student can partner with and LEO. It would strengthen the community
- I think that the workshop was outstanding. They should have more workshops like this because this knowledge is imperative and valuable to the youth.
- In this workshop I would change the way we do discussions, I felt that I could have been better. Also the way we talked about their tools.
- Coming once a week for 4 weeks to give more and a clear understanding
- By making sure the program is fair and everybody has a chance to speak
- I would tell my friends about this
- I don't know

HCSO:

- More time would be helpful with unstructured dialogue
- Do scenarios for a better understanding of law enforcement. *Call for service scenarios.

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Small Group Discussion Comments

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Table #1

Student Comments:

- Why are black people always getting harmed? Or why are they the main target?
- Why aren't there more minorities in law enforcement?
- Why doesn't the justice system apply to law enforcement (officers) when they commit crimes? Why are the punishments on law enforcers more lenient than on common citizens?

HCSO Comments:

- This (black people always getting harmed or being the main targets) is not the case. People of all backgrounds have contact with law enforcement officers. No particular group is a target – only criminals.
- Negative stigmas are a huge barrier (to more minorities working as law enforcement officers) facing many groups.
- The justice department does apply its same laws to officers – police are held to the same laws as the general public. Law enforcement officers are punished by the same laws as the public. There is some consideration taken toward law enforcement officers based on circumstances involving the situation.

Table #2

Student Comments:

- Why do black people get shot by cops?
- Why don't cops go straight in schools during shootings?
- Why do cops arrest people when they don't know the whole story?

HCSO Comments:

- All people can get shot by cops. No matter what color you are, if you commit a crime that justify(s) a cop shooting. Statistics show that more white people are shot by law enforcement than are black people.
- We do go in(to schools) when there is an active shooter. We do not wait.
- We arrest based on evidence. It could be a witness, video or what we see. We will need something like evidence to affect the arrest.

Table #3

Student Comments:

- Why would children shoot up schools?
- Why are minorities treated as though they are less than?
- How do you guys handle suicidal patients?

HCSO Comments:

- This (speculating on why children shoot up schools) does not have a simple answer. A lot could be mental health issues, i.e. depression, suicidal wishes.
- (Minorities are treated as though they are less than due to) ignorance or lack of interaction between social, ethnic or racial groups.
- (Law enforcement officers handle suicidal patients) by trying to establish a rapport with the individual and getting them the needed services.

Table #4

Student Comments:

- Have you ever had to fire your weapon?
- Why do police officers turn on their lights at a red light, then turn them off when they are past the red light?
- What would you do if you were wrongfully accused and the deputy shows up and tells you to put your hands behind your back?
- What (happens) if the officer doesn't read the suspect their rights?

HCSO Comments:

- No, I have never fired my weapon (in the line of duty). But there have been many situations where deadly force was an option.
- There are many different calls and situations deputies may respond to (that could cause them to turn their headlights on and off again).
- (If an officer tells me to put my hands behind my back) I would do just what the officer says without question.
- If the deputy does not read the Miranda Rights to a suspect everything they say could be thrown out in court.

Table #5

Student Comments:

- Why do we have to go on lockdown when the threat isn't at our school?
- Why are some police officers racist?
- How many branches does law enforcement have?

HCSO Comments:

- It is for the safety of students and staff when an incident is close (in the vicinity of) to a school (the reason other schools in the area go on lockdown). We do not want a dangerous person inside of a school.
- In my opinion I have not seen racism (racist police officers) during my career. I cannot speak for any officers who are racist. I am not saying racist officers do not exist. But I have not experienced any in my career.
- Law enforcement has many branches: patrol, accident investigation, driving under the influence units, motorcycle, traffic units, mounted patrol, K9, aviation, marine, special incident response, hostage negotiations, honor guard, dive team, SWAT, bomb team, detectives, special investigations, criminal investigations, jail deputies, street crimes, bicycle patrol, community resource, training, firearms instructions, homicide.

Table #6

Student Comments:

- What are the different parts of the gun?
- Do you like your job as a police officer? Why?
- Have you ever been shot at before?

HCSO Comments:

- My handgun has a grip, sights, frame, barrel, magazine, trigger and ammunition.
- I do like my job. I like protecting people from crime. I enjoy working outside, searching for people that (who) have broken the law. I enjoy driving and all the different skills involved in law enforcement.
- Yes, I have been shot at. A person with a mental issue was shooting at images in his mind – he was shooting in our direction.

Table #7

Student Comments:

- Why do officers pull people over on interstates?
- Why don't Hillsborough (County) officers (deputies) have bodycams?
- Why do officers kill innocent people?
- What is a Baker Act?

HCSO Comments:

- We (law enforcement officers) conduct traffic stops all over our respective jurisdictions. As a Hillsborough County deputy I can pull people over on interstates, highways, road ways, anywhere in Hillsborough County. If we observe a violation of Florida traffic laws we can conduct a traffic stop. We have discretion as to whether or not we write a ticket.
- Storage! That is the reason we don't have body cams all the time. Body cams are on for an entire shift. Patrol deputies work 12 hour shifts. There are approximately 3,500 deputies working two shifts (A & B) day and night, 24 hours 7 days a week. $3,500 \times 12 \times 2 \times 365 = 30,660,000$ hours of video footage that the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office would have to store for five years, due to FSS (Florida State Statute 119, Public Records). We don't have enough storage.
- If a law enforcement officer killed an "innocent" person it would be mostly due to an accident. It could happen as the result of a traffic crash while responding to a call. It could happen as a result of the officer drawing his weapon. An officer is sworn to protect people and property, and intentionally killing an "innocent" person would be murder.
- A (The) Baker Act is a Florida law that allows a law enforcement officer to take custody of a person (who wants to hurt themselves or others) for a mental health evaluation.

Youth Workshop 2019 #5: Evaluation Responses

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Rankings of Workshop Activities

STUDENTS:

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

HCSO:

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

EVALUATION COMMENTS:

Students:

- Liked exploring the patrol cars best - 26
- Did not like doing the paperwork - 18
- Did not like having to leave (when the workshop ended) – 2
- I liked the police cars because we got to see inside the car without getting in trouble
- The “People are people” exercise lasted too long and I just thought it sort of was a waste of time
- My favorite part was the discussions because the deputies got to hear the issues and concerns plaguing us
- Liked talking to the deputies and asking them questions
- I liked the part where we had to make up questions because you get to know a lot of stuff
- “Let’s have a talk” – opened up my eyes to other situations
- Liked meeting the officers because I got to see their perspectives
- I did not like the “What am I wearing” presentation because they didn’t explain why the weapons were being used
- My least favorite part was the discussion because we didn’t have enough time

HCSO:

- I really liked talking with and getting to know the kids at my table
- Some of the students prejudged police as evil
- Liked the conversations with the youth to be able to learn what they think and how they feel about law enforcement
- Need more time interacting with the students
- Enjoyed talking with the kids in our small groups
- Talking unrestricted with the kids allowed for the most positive interactions
- Enjoyed hearing the students’ thoughts and what they are concerned about

End Of Summary Report - Youth Workshop 2019 #5

Young Middle Magnet School

April 24, 2019: 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

*Submitted May 6, 2019 by Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, CLEWS Program Manager
And Viola Luke, CLEWS Assistant Program Manager*