



Brevard

YOUTH RIVE™

PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

History of Brevard Youth Thrive

- Began in Oct. 2012 with the establishment of a cross sector steering committee inclusive of young adults to explore and begin dialogue around the concept that, *“positive youth development is the outcome of a trauma informed system.”*

History of Brevard Youth Thrive

- It was determined that the system needed to shift its emphasis from focus on the negative statistics about youth who age out of care to explore the ingredients of resilient, successful young adults.
- BFP convened a Trauma Informed-Positive Youth Development Summit with 3 successful former foster youth as keynote speakers to launch the initiative.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qn6vUbcSag>

History Brevard Youth Thrive

- The summit was preceded by a youth café where youth shared what they wanted adults to know.
- The responses of the youth were shared with the Summit attendees to begin the dialogue of system transformation.
- Following the Summit, BFP Partnered with the Center for the Study of Social Policy to become a Youth Thrive Framework pilot site.

Youth and Young Adult Café

Lessons Learned

- The priorities leaders and stakeholders had for youth were not their priorities. Community leaders focused on:
 - ✓ Better access to mental health treatment and substance abuse services;
 - ✓ Education and employment opportunities;
 - ✓ Transportation;
 - ✓ Finding alternatives to criminal convictions impacting the future opportunities of youth in care

Youth and Young Adult Café

Lessons Learned

- The priorities of youth included:
 - ✓ Normalcy;
 - ✓ Confidentiality when receiving treatment while in foster care;
 - ✓ A voice and alternative options to psychotropic medications;
 - ✓ A choice in their placement and minimally be informed of the decision in advance

Brevard Youth Thrive Development

- BFP partnered with Lead Brevard to assist with the growth and development of the Youth Advisory Council;
- Developed local stakeholder TIC orientation and training across the community of practice;
- Identified the results our system desires for the young adults;
- Presented proposed results to the Youth Advisory Council for approval.

Brevard Youth Thrive Accomplishments

- October 2012 BFP developed a system transformation project which entailed establishing a framework for the incorporation of trauma informed care (TIC) across the community of practice.
- May 2013 established a cross-system committee of champions to lead, guide and direct the initiative
- June 19, 2013 convened Youth and Young Adult Café with two former foster youth and over 25 young people in and out of foster care
- June 20, 2013 convened community wide TIC Summit with over 120 community members in attendance
- September 12, 2013 BFP was selected as a community action project by Leadership of Brevard
- Brevard was selected by the Center for the Study of Social Policy to become a Youth Thrive site.

Brevard Youth Thrive Accomplishments

- Created the “What Youth Want Adults to Know” Card
- Created TIC-PYD Brochure
- 2 Youth Advisory Council Informational Meetings convened with over 20 youth in attendance
- 7 Youth Advisory Council meetings have occurred
- 24 TIC/Brevard Youth Thrive Steering Committee meetings have been held
- 3 IL youth have formally joined the Youth Advisory Council
- Brevard Youth Thrive Youth Advisory Council has partnered with Florida Eastern State College has been approved as a Service Learning partner which will allow for students to receive credit towards with the YAC

Brevard Youth Thrive Accomplishments

- 5 Trauma Informed Care Trainings have been conducted with Brevard County Early Learning Coalition Staff, Local Daycare Providers and Brevard County Schools Head Start Staff
- 2 IL Youth attended the Center For Study of Social Policy Youth Thrive Convening and represented Brevard Family Partnership
- A former IL Youth is now a member of the BFP Board of Directors
- Brevard Youth Thrive YAC is currently working with Career Source Brevard to explore opportunities with Nex Gen
- Brevard Youth Thrive Steering Committee has identified and developed 2 results that will be the goals of the committee's efforts and activities including the development of subcommittees
- IL youth is now the co-convener of BYT Steering Committee

Youth Voice Matters

The Brevard County child welfare system of care embraces youth voice from policy to practice.

- Former IL Youth Serve on the Board of Directors
- Youth Involved in Policy Making
- Youth as Leaders & Speakers
- Youth Voice in Legislative Activities
- Youth as Staff and Volunteers



Youth Advisory Council Purpose

- Give youth voice in the decisions made on their behalf
- Teach them the value of collaboration and teamwork
- Showcase opportunities of hard work and perseverance



Results Brevard Youth Thrive Seeks to Achieve

- Brevard's youth will feel supported, valued, nurtured and protected.
- Brevard's youth who age out of care will be prepared for independence.



Next Steps

- Convene Trauma Informed Care/Positive Youth Development Summit II
- Train the Trainer curriculum provided by CSSP
- Launch introductory training sessions across identified sectors
- Establish annual training itinerary to provide continuous professional development opportunities
- Increase public engagement through multiple media platforms

Brevard Youth Thrive



**Brevard Family
Partnership**
Partnership of Local Businesses, Schools, Churches, and Families