

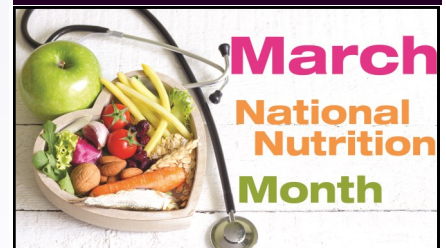
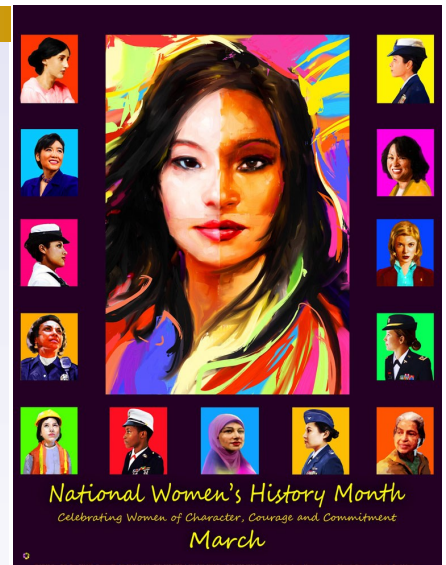
Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

Got Nutrition? March is National Nutrition Month. As we focus on prevention, healthy nutrition is a basic human need and key to positive physical and neurological health outcomes for children and their families. Our family lived off of cereal, milk, processed meats and snacks, and high sugary drinks like “Tang” and red Kool-Aid because that was what we could afford or had access to in the community I lived. Like so many children and families in St. Lucie County, I had access to food but not good nutritious options. It is well documented that children with poor nutrition suffer from low levels of Omega 3, iron, zinc, and magnesium which may lead to unhealthy weight, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), a range of behavioral issues, and long-term negative outcomes too numerous to unpack here. When children attending school or community-based programs experience challenges with academic performance and behavior, one of the culprits may be poor nutrition. With the surge of food insecurity during the pandemic, access to good nutrition for everyone is essential to our community’s recovery and cannot be overstated. We would like to spotlight the Roundtable’s Healthiest Weight Network, led by the St. Lucie County Department of Health, and the efforts to address this critical issue impacting so many families. Through the Network, let us lift up the “5210 Let’s Go” Initiative to the families we serve collectively, by promoting 5 fruits and vegetables, 2 hours or less of recreational screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity, 0 sugary drinks, and more water. Let us also support the efforts of the Department to launch the National “Healthy Corner Store Initiative” right here in our community, which is designed to build relationships with and encourage corner store owners in underserved communities to gradually transition to healthier food inventory and education for customers about good nutrition. Access to affordable and healthy food options is one more important piece of the puzzle to keep on our radar to ensure all children and their families are capable of success—no exceptions. Happy Spring!

Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates in March

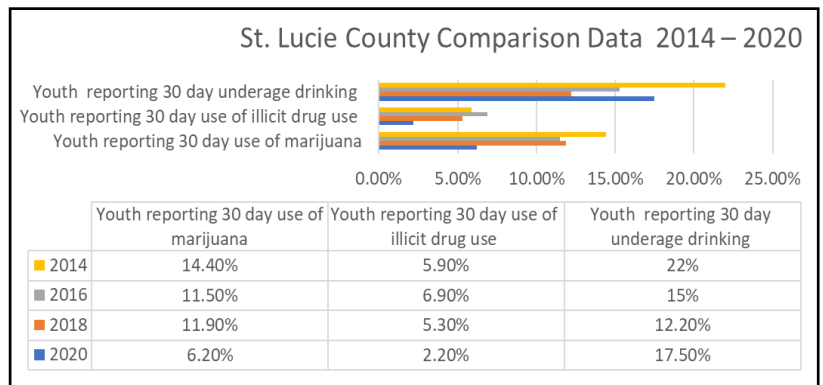
- Self Injury Awareness Day 3/1
- Read Across America Day 3/2
- National School Breakfast Week 3/7-11
- International Women’s Day 3/8
- National Sleep Awareness Week 3/13-19
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 3/21
- World Down Syndrome Day 3/21
- World Water Day 3/22
- Transgender Day of Visibility 3/31

DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

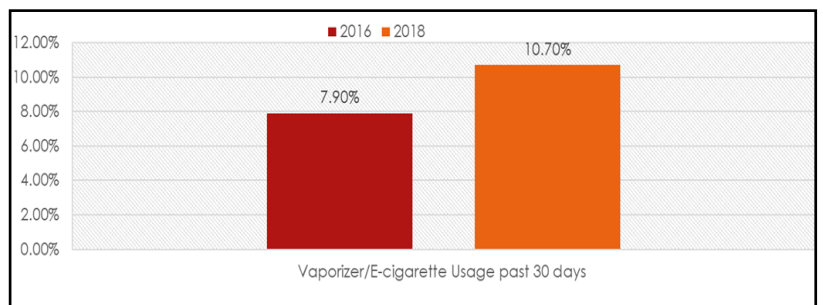
A Network of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County

Drug Free St. Lucie has convened three workgroups — Education, Training, and Awareness; Community-Wide Initiatives/Compliance; and Changing Social Norms. Each of these workgroups is working towards the implementation of evidence-based strategies to prevent youth substance misuse.

The 2020 Florida Youth Substance Abuse survey has revealed that youth substance abuse in St. Lucie County has been on the decline for the past six years. Over the period of 2014-2020, underage drinking declined by 4.5%, marijuana use declined by 8.2%, and illicit drugs use by 3.7%.



While these are very significant declines, new data is now showing that vaping by St. Lucie County youth has increased by 2.8% from 2016-2018.



Data from the 2020 Florida Youth Substance Abuse survey and Drug

Free St. Lucie focus groups and surveys, point to favorable youth and parental attitudes, access/availability, and marketing and promotion as the main contributing causes of youth substance misuse.

Consequently, the Drug Free St. Lucie workgroups will be working on the following:

Education, Training, and Awareness Workgroup proposed activities includes:

- ◆ Hidden In Plain Sight
- ◆ SAMSHA, “Talk. They Hear You”, Parent Campaign
- ◆ Coalition Membership Training
- ◆ Youth Summit
- ◆ Marijuana Symposium to include ENDS/vaping and THC Marijuana Concentrates
- ◆ Drug Symposium on Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Community-wide Initiatives Compliance Workgroup proposed activities include:

- ◆ Strengthening compliance checks by developing comprehensive strategies that will support enforcement efforts
- ◆ Addressing retail stores – marketing and advertising, storefront appeal
- ◆ Modify or apply policy strategies that target alcohol outlets to reduce commercial availability of alcohol to under age youth and minimize high risk drinking behavior

Changing Social Norms Workgroup proposed activities include:

- ◆ Partnering with community agencies and businesses by supporting and promoting: **Friday Night, Done Right** and **Farfromdruggen** social norm campaigns
- ◆ Developing a Social Norm Campaign QR Code



If you would like to participate or become a member of Drug Free St. Lucie Coalition, please contact our Project Coordinator: C. Jovil Wharton at: JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

The meeting schedule via Zoom is as follows:

- ◆ Drug Free St. Lucie Monthly Meeting: Monthly on the 2nd Thursday , 11 am -12noon
- ◆ Education, Training, and Awareness Workgroup: Weekly on Wednesday, 11 am – 12noon; *(currently planning the One St. Lucie Youth Symposium)*
- ◆ Community-Wide- Initiative/Compliance Workgroup: Bi-monthly on 3rd Thursday, 11 am – 12 pm
- ◆ Changing Social Norms Workgroup – bi-monthly on 3rd Thursday, 1 pm – 2 pm



DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE
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“HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT”
An Awareness Program For Parents

Explore a teenager’s bedroom and learn the hidden signs of drugs and alcohol misuse.

COMING SOON

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“As an adult and a Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills, and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe that ALL children and youth are capable of success, No Exceptions!”

Roundtable Networks

NETWORK MEETING DATES:

Child & Adolescent Health: Chair: Tricia Goulet, Email: tricia.goulet@flhealth.gov

Healthiest Weight: TBD. Chair: Stefanie Myers, Email: stefanie.myers@flhealth.gov

Infant Mortality: Bi-monthly on fourth Friday at 1pm. Chair: Sonya Gabriel, Email: sonya.gabriel@flhealth.gov

Teen Pregnancy Prevention: TBD Chair: Sonya Gabriel, Email: sonya.gabriel@flhealth.gov

SafeKids/Unintentional Injury: Monthly on first Thursday at 10am. Chair: Ronda Cerulli, Email: ronda.cerulli@flhealth.gov

Drug Free St. Lucie: Monthly on second Thursday at 11am. Chair: Casey Wood, Email: cwood@nhtcinc.onmicrosoft.com

Academic Success: Monthly on first Wednesday at 1pm. Chair: Debbie Hawley, Email: debbie.hawley@bbbsbig.org



Bridges to Prosperity: Monthly on third Wednesday at 10am. Chair: Canieria Gardner, Email: cgardner@incbiz.org

Child Welfare: Monthly on third Tuesday at 2:30pm, Co-chairs: Carol Deloach, Nathan Peterson, Bob McPartlan, Heather Parker Email: Elisabeth.eugene@cck.net

Safe Neighborhood: Monthly on third Wednesday at 2pm. Co-Chairs: Dr. Sunny Booker/ Commander Carmine Izzo, Email: despinosa@roundtableslc.org

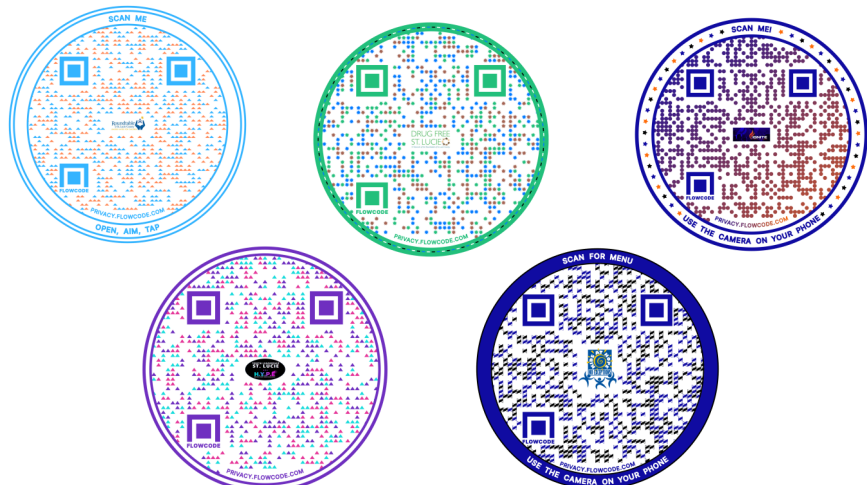
Lincoln Park Advisory Committee: Bi-monthly on fourth Thursday at 12pm. Email: ksingletary@roundtableslc.org

Youth Leadership St. Lucie: Bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Email: kreid@roundtableslc.org



We'll see you at the St. Lucie County Fair!

The Roundtable will host a booth at this year's St. Lucie County Fair. The dates for the SLC Fair are February 25, 2022 – March 6, 2022. Our booth will promote all of the initiatives of the Roundtable: Kids at Hope and Youth Leadership St. Lucie; IGNITE Youth Alliance; and Drug Free St Lucie. Each initiative will display a banner with a QR Code that will take visitors to a specific video about each of our three initiatives. The Roundtable banner will also have a QR Code to access more information about the mission and vision of our organization. Following each video, visitors will answer a quick and fun quiz in order to be entered into a drawing to win a gift card. Our Coordinators will be there on specific nights to share information and pass out great goodies.



Board Member Spotlight:

Tony Loupe is originally from North East, PA, close to the city of Erie, and attended college at Penn State where he earned his degree in Business Administration. Although he originally began a career in banking his true passion involved community causes. Tony's great-grandparents lived in White City, FL in the 1960s; and in 1992 he moved to Fort Pierce to "try out" life in Florida and has been here ever since. He joined the Board of the School Readiness Coalition (now known as the Early Learning Coalition) in 2001. In 2005, Governor Bush appointed Tony as the Board Chair of the Early Learning Coalition (ELC). In July of this year, Tony will be celebrating ten years as CEO of the Early Learning Coalition.

Tony has always enjoyed being active in various causes and community organizations. He has been involved in the Exchange Club Castle, Child Abuse Prevention, United Way Day of Caring, Toys for Tots, and served on the board of Healthy Start. He and his wife enjoy spending time with their four children, two grandchildren, and three dogs. They spend time on the water and at the beach, as well as play golf, tennis, and pickleball. A little-known fact about Tony is he has done some modeling and acting and was an extra in a made for tv movie about Hurricane Andrew and an episode of Unsolved Mysteries.

Tony's hope for the future of our community is that we continue growing an already great collaborative effort and that adults get a better sense of how important early education is for children birth-5 years of age. Always known for a good joke, Tony left us with this: "I'm so proud of myself. I just completed a puzzle in 2 hours, and the box said 2-4 years".



*Tony Loupe, CEO
Early Learning Coalition of St.
Lucie County*



"If you're going to change things, you have to be with the people who control the levers." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Our Board Members

- ◆ Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Tom Bakkedahl, 19th Judicial Circuit—State Attorney
- ◆ Rosetta Bartell, Housing Authority of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Linda Bartz, Board of County Commissioners
- ◆ Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
- ◆ Ann Berner, SE FL Behavioral Health Network
- ◆ John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ◆ Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
- ◆ Michael Davis, Department of Corrections
- ◆ Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids
- ◆ Wayne Gent, St. Lucie Public Schools
- ◆ Debbie Hawley, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ Brian Hester, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Diane Hobley-Burney, Fort Pierce Police Department
- ◆ Curtis Johnson, City of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Diamond R. Litty, 19th Judicial Circuit—Public Defender
- ◆ Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
- ◆ Robert McPartlan, Department of Children and Families
- ◆ Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem
- ◆ Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice
- ◆ David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie
- ◆ Nate Spera, St. Lucie County Fire District
- ◆ Clint Sperber, FL Health Department - St. Lucie County
- ◆ Peter Tesch, Economic Development Council
- ◆ Dana Trabulsy, State Representative
- ◆ Andrew Treadwell, Indian River State College
- ◆ Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

Our Board of Directors

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Our Mission:

To sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition and care of all children in St. Lucie County.

Our Vision:

We envision a community where county leaders, businesses and residents are united to provide all children of St. Lucie County the resources they need to thrive, be successful and achieve their full potential.

CHAIR

Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

VICE-CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

SECRETARY

Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council

TREASURER

Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee

PAST CHAIR

Vacant

STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie Public Schools

AT LARGE

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

www.RoundtableSLC.com

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Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager

DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org

David Minner, Finance Manager

Dminner@RoundtableSLC.org

OUR INITIATIVES:

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- ◆ **Marcus Mills, Senior Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **LaKenya Ruffin, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Markesha Brockington, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Lee Davis, Outreach Worker**

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- ◆ **Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator**
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- ◆ **Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison**
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Drug Free St. Lucie

- ◆ **C. Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator**
JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

