



August 2025

# Roundtable Review

## Message from our CEO

Greetings,

### Let's Welcome Our Students with Hope and Support!

Just like that! Summer is over, and it's time to receive our students for an exciting new school year in St. Lucie County! I remember carefully picking out my outfit and getting my hair done to make a grand entrance on the first day. So many great memories. As we gear up for the first day of school, let's come together as a *Kids at Hope* community to create lasting memories and show our children and teachers they are supported, celebrated, and *capable of success, no exceptions!*



One special way we can do this is by joining the **Tunnels of Hope**—a powerful tradition here in St. Lucie County where caring adults, from our schools, law enforcement, fire department, youth serving agencies, volunteer organizations, local government, community and faith based organizations and many more line up to cheer on students and staff as they arrive on campus. It's a simple but impactful way to show we believe in them and are rooting for them every step of the way. Keep an eye out for these events across the county and **we invite you to participate if you can**—your presence matters! Please see the Tunnels of Hope Schedule on page 5. We hope to see you there!

Remember, back-to-school events are happening all over St. Lucie County to ensure students in need have the supplies necessary for a strong start. With school supplies becoming more expensive, these events make a big difference. And don't forget—Florida's **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** runs all month long in August, so take advantage of the savings on clothes, supplies, and other school essentials!

As children return to school, remember to keep them safe. Watch for bike riders and pedestrians, especially near school zones and bus stops. Let's all do our part to ensure a safe and welcoming start to the school year.

Join us in wishing our students, teachers and administrators another great year for St. Lucie Public Schools. Together, we're building a community where *all kids are capable of success, no exceptions.* Happy Back to School!

*Teresa Bishop*

Chief Executive Officer



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### Special Dates:

- Back to School SLC 8/11
- Middle Child Day 8/12
- Relaxation Day 8/15
- Senior Citizens Day 8/21
- National Dog Day 8/26
- Overdose Awareness Day 8/31



# Peace For St. Lucie Hosts First-Ever Trauma-Informed Care Summit

On July 17, 2025, Peace For St. Lucie, our collaborative initiative focused on creating a trauma-informed community, proudly hosted the county's inaugural Trauma-Informed Care Summit in collaboration with Indian River State College. The energy in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies was electric as professionals, educators, caregivers, and community leaders came together for a powerful day of learning, connection, and collective action.

The summit opened with a dynamic keynote address by Dr. Julie Radlauer, an internationally recognized speaker and expert in the social influences of mental health. Her message emphasized the urgent need for social connection, community support, and trauma-informed leadership. With storytelling, science, and tangible tools, Dr. Radlauer set the tone for the day's focus on healing and resilience.

Participants then engaged in interactive breakout sessions led by local experts on topics such as trauma-informed education, youth and family mental health, workplace wellness, and supporting survivors. The array of speakers, from behavioral health professionals to faith-based leaders and survivor advocates, reflected the cross-sector commitment to addressing trauma at every level of our community.



The event concluded with a powerful panel discussion, uniting voices from law enforcement, mental health, and victim services. Panelists shared firsthand insights, best practices, and together issued a call to action: to keep pushing forward in building a trauma-informed community where healing is possible for all.

The summit was more than an educational opportunity; it was the beginning of a movement. A moment to recognize the shared responsibility we all carry in transforming our systems, schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces into spaces of safety and care.

We thank every sponsor, presenter, panelist, exhibitor, volunteer, and attendee who made this event possible. The work continues, but together, we RISE!

For more information on the St. Lucie RISE Mental Health Collaborative, visit the initiative page at [www.roundtableslc.org/stlucie\\_rise](http://www.roundtableslc.org/stlucie_rise) and follow us on **Facebook @StLucieRISE**.



# Thank you TO OUR SPONSORS



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## Virtual Hidden in Plain Sight

Our powerful awareness initiative, *Hidden In Plain Sight*, is now available in a convenient virtual format! This engaging program offers parents and caregivers a behind-the-scenes look into a mock teenager's bedroom to uncover signs of potential drug and alcohol use, as well as other risky behaviors.

Participants will explore over 20 items that may indicate concern - items often overlooked but hidden in plain sight. This interactive experience, now offered online, helps adults build awareness, strengthen parenting and professional skills, and learn how to spot warning signs early.

Whether you're a parent, educator, or youth-serving professional, this virtual program is a must-see. Don't miss the opportunity to learn how to better protect and support the youth in your life.

Access the virtual program at:

[www.roundtableslc.org/drug-free-st-lucie/](http://www.roundtableslc.org/drug-free-st-lucie/) or  
scan the QR code below.



## Strengthening Communities: Welcoming Jongelene Adams to the Team



Jongelene Adams is the new Drug Free St. Lucie Project Coordinator for the Roundtable of St. Lucie County. She brings over 25 years of experience in public service, having served in key leadership roles including Deputy City Manager, Director of Economic Development & Project Management, Grant Manager/Writer, and Program Coordinator across government, public, and nonprofit sectors.

Jongelene has a strong background in project management, government and legislative affairs, program development, crisis management, grant writing and administration, budgeting, procurement, and event planning. Her work has consistently focused on developing sustainable, thriving communities by collaborating with diverse cultures and populations.

Throughout her career, Jongelene has organized town halls, community symposiums, and special events aimed at improving the lives of youth, families, and underrepresented communities.

She is a member of Leadership Central Palm Beach County, holds a Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt, and is currently completing her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

A proud native Floridian, Jongelene enjoys reading legal and crime novels, roller skating, and horseback riding in her free time.



# Kids at Hope Know the Law



The Kids at Hope Training Coordinator recently had the opportunity to present the "Know the Law" curriculum to members of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Youth Leadership Academy.

"Know the Law" is an evidence-based curriculum designed to educate middle and high school students about laws and regulations. According to the Community Coalition Alliance (CCA), research indicates that understanding the consequences of actions helps reduce youth involvement in illegal activities. As students navigate their teenage years, having accurate information empowers them to make informed decisions.

The Kids at Hope Training Coordinator administered a pre-test to assess the students' existing knowledge of the law and juvenile crime. Students learned when and how a juvenile can be charged as



an adult and were made aware of the consequences of poor decision-making. At the end of the training sessions, students took a post-test to evaluate how much they had learned and retained.

Several students mentioned the Kids at Hope Pledge, stating, "I am talented, smart, and capable of success." The youth in this class are eager to achieve their goals and dreams while avoiding negative encounters with the legal system. They expressed their commitment to focusing on their goals and becoming successful adults in their communities.

## KIDS AT HOPE

### TUNNELS OF HOPE!

**2025 SCHEDULE**

**"ALL CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE OF SUCCESS, NO EXCEPTIONS!"**

For More Info: Kevin Singletary:  
[KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org)  
 or 772-871-5880

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>AUG 11 TH</b> 6:45 am: Ft Pierce Central HS 4101 S 25 <sup>th</sup> Street PSL 34981  8:45 am: Northport K-8 School 250 NW Floresta Dr PSL 34983	<b>AUG 12 TH</b> 7:40 am: Lakewood Park Elementary 7800 Indrio Rd, FP 34951  8:15 am: Rivers Edge Elementary 5600 NE St James Dr PSL 34983	<b>AUG 13 TH</b> 8:45 am: Southport Middle School 2420 SE Morningside PSL, FL 34952  8:45am Forest Grove Middle School 3201 S 25 <sup>th</sup> Street FP 34951	<b>AUG 14 TH</b> 7:15 am Performance Based Prep Academy 2909 Delaware Ave FP 34947  7:45 am: St Lucie Elementary 2020 S 13 <sup>th</sup> Street FP, FL 34950  8:35 am: Village Green Elementary 1700 Lennard Rd PSL 34952	<b>AUG. 15TH</b> 8:00 am: Bayshore Elementary 1661 Bayshore Blvd, PSL 34984  8:00 am: Weatherbee Elementary School 800 E Weatherbee Rd FP 34982  9:00 am: Lakewood Elementary 1900 S 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street FP 34950
<b>AUG 18TH</b> 7:00 am: Renaissance Charter School of SL K-8 300 NW Cashmere Blvd, PSL, FL 34986  8:40 am Fairlawn Elementary 3203 Rhodes Island Ave FP 34947	<b>AUG 19TH</b> 7:45 am: Sunlight Christian Academy 477 Cashmere Blvd PSL 34986  9:05 am Southern Oaks Middle School 3500 NE St James Dr PSL 34983	<b>AUG 20TH</b> 7:45 am: Windmill Point Elementary 7000 Darwin Rd., PSL 34953	<b>AUG 21ST</b> 8:10 am: Oak Hammock K-8 School 1251 SW California Blvd., PSL 34953  8:45am Samuel L. Gaines 2250 S Jenkins Rd, FP 34947	<b>AUG 22ND</b> 8:15 am: Morningside Elementary 2300 SE Gowin Dr., PSL 34952  8:45 am Dan McCarty Middle School 1201 Mississippi Ave FP 34950
<b>AUG 25TH</b> 6:30 am Allapattah Flats 12051 SW Copper Creek Ln PSL 34987  8:00 am C.A. Moore K-8 827 N 29 <sup>th</sup> St FP 34947	<b>AUG 26TH</b> 8:40 am West Gate K-8 School 1050 NW Cashmere Blvd PSL 34986	<b>AUG 27TH</b> 8:15am Parkway Elementary 7000 Selvitz Rd PSL, FL 34986	<b>AUG 28TH</b>	<b>AUG 29TH</b>



## H.Y.P.E Summer BBQ Brings Families Together for Fun, Learning, and Community Impact

The H.Y.P.E Youth Coalition recently hosted a vibrant and impactful Summer BBQ and Park Cleanup, welcoming over 30 parents and children for an afternoon filled with food, fun, and meaningful community engagement.

Attendees enjoyed games, giveaways, and a cookout while learning more about the mission of H.Y.P.E and our work to create a healthier, safer environment for local youth. The event also served as a hands-on opportunity to assess the presence of substances and materials found at local parks, which helps guide our coalition's prevention strategies and outreach efforts.

Families also got a first look at our brand-new Friday Night Done Right Guide to Drug-Free Fun. This resource is designed to highlight no- and low-cost prosocial activities available to youth, grades 6–12, throughout St. Lucie County on nights and weekends. This guide supports parents and teens in finding safe, engaging alternatives to risky weekend behavior.

If you know of a program, event, or activity you think should be included in the guide, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Amanda DeMan at [ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org) for more information or scan the QR code on the flyer! (See flyer page 7)





**Calling All** *friday night* **DONE RIGHT** No alcohol. No dope.

**Teen-serving Agencies/Venues:**

If you offer **free or low cost** fun, prosocial activities for teens in grades 6-12 to have a good time free from drugs and alcohol during evenings and weekends, we want to spread the word about you to the families of St. Lucie County!

Fill out this survey to be included in a pamphlet distributed to families and teens.

**DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE**

For more info: Amanda DeMan ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org

**Roundtable of St. Lucie County**

**ChHdren's SERVICES COUNCIL**

**KIDS AT HOPE NO EXCEPTIONS**

**MOTHERS AT HOPE**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Support families in St. Lucie County:

**Donations Needed**

Every baby deserves a strong, loving start, and every mother deserves support during one of the most transformative times of her life.

**For Moms**

- Breastfeeding/pumping supplies
- Reusable water bottles
- Baby carriers
- Comfortable maternity/postpartum clothes (all sizes)
- Hair ties/headwraps
- Postpartum recovery supplies
- Self-care items
- Perinatal care items

**For Babies & toddlers**

- Baby and toddler clothes size preemie-4T
- Toys, books
- Bottles/sippy cups
- Feeding items
- Bathing supplies
- Blankets and swaddles
- Pack n' plays, cribs, sheets
- Diapers/wipes

**Collecting between now to August 22nd**

For more information: RoundtableSLC.org/KidsAtHope

For questions and to arrange pickup/drop off of items contact: ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org

**Roundtable of St. Lucie County**

**ChHdren's SERVICES COUNCIL**

## Our Funders:



## Our Board Members

- Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- Tom Bakkedahl, 19th Judicial Circuit—State Attorney
- Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
- Ann Berner, SE FL Behavioral Health Network
- Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
- John Bolduc, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- Joseph Cracchiola, Department of Corrections
- Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids
- Thomas Epsky, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- Diane Hobley-Burney, Fort Pierce Police Department
- Adrienne Huggins, Steering Committee Chair
- Jeff Lee, St. Lucie County Fire District
- Diamond Litty, 19th Judicial Circuit—Public Defender
- Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
- Erin Lowry, Board of County Commissioners
- Robert McPartlan, Department of Children and Families
- Leo Niemczyk, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem
- Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice
- David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie
- Dr. Jonathan Prince, St. Lucie Public Schools
- 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
- Rosetta Washington, Fort Pierce Housing Authority
- Judge Anastasia Norman, 19th Judicial Circuit-Judge
- TBA, City of Fort Pierce

## 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.

# 2024-25 Executive Committee

## CHAIR

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

## VICE-CHAIR

Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids

## SECRETARY

Ann Berner, Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network

## TREASURER

Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice

## PAST CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Adrienne Huggins

## AT LARGE

David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie

[www.RoundtableSLC.org](http://www.RoundtableSLC.org)

## Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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Follow us on Facebook @RoundtableSLC

For questions or to subscribe to our Newsletter:

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### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

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- ♦ **Melanie Manning, Operations Manager**  
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## **OUR INITIATIVES:**

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- ♦ **Amanda DeMan, School & Community Liaison & H.Y.P.E Lead Advisor**  
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### Drug Free St. Lucie

- ♦ **Jongelene Adams, Project Coordinator**  
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