



🌸 A Season of Gratitude: November 🌸

As we welcome the holiday season, we want to take a moment to show our gratitude for the great work accomplished in October with the help of our dedicated community partners. From Red Ribbon Week to Take Back Day and impactful community trainings, here's a quick look at what we've been working on together 📖

🎗️ Red Ribbon Week Rewind

PBCBHC is proud to introduce "*The Look I Made...*", a new youth-led PSA campaign that raises awareness about THC vape use and celebrates the fact that most Palm Beach County teens are vape-free. The campaign officially launched during this year's Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week, held every year from October 23 to 31, is a national drug prevention campaign that unites schools, families, and communities in promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles among youth.

Through Red Ribbon Week promotion, PBCBHC distributed nearly 5,000 awareness and engagement items to elementary, middle, and high school students in Palm Beach County. Some of the goodies included RRW-themed pledge banners, necklaces and bracelets, bouncy balls, pens, backpacks, and coloring sheets. Johnkeria also hosted training sessions at Inlet Grove High School to middle and high school students. In which she covered the history and importance of Red Ribbon Week; myths and facts surrounding alcohol, marijuana, and vaping; how social media influences decision-

making; how to resist peer pressure; and encouraged students to participate in our 16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest.

Also, during the week, PBCBHC delivered campaign materials to all 81 public schools serving middle and high school students across Palm Beach County, including 33 middle schools, 23 high schools, 12 combination schools, and 13 alternative schools. Scroll down to read more about this powerful prevention effort and its countywide impact.

Take Back Day Success

The DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day provides a safe and easy way for community members to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications while raising awareness about the dangers of misuse.

This year, we partnered with the Health Council of Southeast Florida, the Boynton Beach Police Department, Village of Wellington, Palm Beach County, PBSO, Safe Kids, PBC Fire Rescue and Community Services of Palm Beach County to host local events at Walgreens locations in Boynton Beach and Wellington. Together, we collected 258 pounds of unused or expired medications, keeping nearly 300 pounds of waste out of our environment and waterways. 

When medications are thrown in the trash, they can leak into the soil and water, where fish and wildlife absorb the contaminants. A study by FIU and Bonefish & Tarpon Trust found pharmaceutical traces in the blood and tissues of Florida redfish ([FIU News](#)). That is why safe disposal matters. If you have unused medications at home, visit PBCDrop.org to find a qualified collection site near you.

This Month's Highlights

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is still the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, but early detection changes outcomes. The American Lung Association's Saved by the Scan campaign helps people find out if they qualify for a low-dose CT screening, a test that can detect lung cancer early when it is most treatable.

When caught before it spreads, the survival rate rises to 65 percent, showing just how powerful early screening can be.

 Take the quiz or learn more at their [screening test and eligibility quiz page](#).

National Homelessness Awareness Month

November also shines a light on those facing homelessness and housing insecurity. Across Florida, the Department of Children and Families works with Continuum of Care (CoC) agencies to provide support, shelter, and long-term solutions for individuals and families. To learn more or find your local CoC agency, visit myflfamilies.com/homelessness.

School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest

 **Attention high school students!** 

We're proud to announce that the 16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest is now a qualifying Fine Arts event for the **Florida Seal of Fine Arts**.



PBCBHC
Palm Beach County
Behavioral Health Coalition
Building A Healthier Community



SCHOOL BUS
DRUG PREVENTION
MEDIA CONTEST

THE ART OF SELF-CARE



**CALL OR TEXT
A FRIEND**



**DO SOME
JOURNALING**



**STAY ALCOHOL &
VAPE-FREE**



**ENTER OUR CONTEST TO
WIN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM
\$100 TO \$1,000**

**PLUS EARN
COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOURS**



**ENTER TO EARN YOUR
FINE ARTS SEAL**



**SHORT VIDEO
REEL CATEGORY**

**VISUAL & DIGITAL ART
CATEGORIES**

Deadline to receive entries
February 8, 2026

Questions?
Prevention@pbcbhc.org
561-374-7627

**FOR MORE INFO ON
HOW TO ENTER, VISIT:**
PBCBUSPOSTER.ORG
OR SCAN HERE



SPONSORED BY







IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:











October Recap

We, Palm Beach Behavioral Health Coalition, or PBCBHC for short, are excited to announce our new youth-led PSA campaign, “The Look I Made...”, launched in October with the support of our incredible partners: the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County School Police, Palm Beach County Chiefs of Police, Palm Beach County, the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, and the Law Enforcement Planning Council. The campaign celebrates that most Palm Beach County teens do not vape THC while also educating students that possession of a THC vape at school is a third-degree felony. By combining positive social norms with honest information, this initiative empowers the youth to make healthy choices.

With the help of professional marketing companies, the campaign features high-quality production, youth-driven storytelling, and wide community outreach. PBCBHC delivered campaign materials to all 81 public schools serving middle and high school students across Palm Beach County, including 33 middle schools, 23 high schools, 12 combination schools, and 13 alternative schools.

The campaign highlights that the majority of youth are making healthy decisions, as shown by the 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, which reports that 95.2 percent of Palm Beach County teens, 92.7 percent of high school students, and 98.7 percent of middle school students are THC vape-free.

Alongside these positive findings, the campaign also underscores the serious legal consequences of THC vape possession. In Florida, a THC vape cartridge is considered possession of a controlled substance under §893.13(6)(a) and is classified as a third-degree felony. While minors are typically handled in juvenile court, the offense classification remains the same. The goal of this initiative is to reinforce positive social norms showing that most teens are making smart, healthy choices while also increasing awareness of the legal risks of THC vape possession.

The launch marked the beginning of an impactful new campaign that will continue throughout the school year, aligning with major school events and national awareness days. It represents a countywide prevention effort designed to extend beyond Red Ribbon Week and keep awareness and education active all year long.

Together, our partners are working to amplify prevention, empower youth voices, and build safer schools across Palm Beach County. Stay tuned for updates as the campaign expands. PBCBHC welcomes ideas, partnerships, and funding opportunities to help strengthen these prevention strategies. If interested in collaborating, please email us at prevention@pbcbhc.org.

The look I made when I found out...

*possession of a
THC vape by a minor is a felony*



and 95.2% of Palm Beach County Teens are THC Vape Free!

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Not only can vaping cause mental & physical harm to teens, it can also bring financial & legal trouble!
Most PBC teens are already making the right choice! Keep up the good work!

Stay vape-free! Learn more at thelookimade.org or scan this QR code!



Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission
Law Enforcement Planning Council

Take Back Day Success



News You Can Use



HIDTA Prevention Summit Recap: Connection Is the Key

This year's HIDTA Prevention Summit, hosted by ADAPT (A Division for Advancing Prevention & Treatment) in collaboration with several regional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs), centered on one powerful truth: prevention is all about connection.

The summit reminded us that prevention goes beyond simply educating about substances and their risks. It begins with relationships, especially those built between young people and trusted adults. When youth feel seen, valued, and supported, they are more likely to thrive and make healthy choices.

Here are a few key insights from the training:

- Many of the factors that protect youth from harm and promote positive growth can be cultivated through strong, trusting relationships.
- A trusted adult is someone a young person chooses as a safe figure, someone who listens without judgment, agenda, or expectation, but with genuine care and encouragement.
- Mattering is different from belonging or inclusion. It is the feeling that your presence truly makes a difference and that the group would not be complete without you.
- Research shows that people need to feel valued before they can add value.
- The opposite of loneliness is not having more people around you, but feeling that you matter to the people who are.
- When youth feel they do not matter, they can experience the stress of insignificance, which often leads to withdrawal or acting out.

The summit also emphasized five simple but powerful “noticing skills” to help adults strengthen connections with youth:

1. Observe and share back small details that show you are paying attention.
2. Ask meaningful, open-ended questions.
3. Check in on emotions and energy.
4. Listen for the full meaning behind words.
5. Practice compassion in every interaction.

Ultimately, words have power. When we encourage, empower, and make space for genuine connection, students experience belonging, confidence, and joy. That sense of connection is at the heart of prevention.



The Good News: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Report on Drug-Related Deaths

The [latest statewide report](#) on drug-related deaths marks a major step forward in Florida's efforts to combat the opioid crisis that peaked in 2021 with drug deaths. "We are incredibly encouraged to see these numbers continue to decline year after year," said FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass in a statement.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement recently reported a notable decline in drug-related deaths across the state. Data from 2024 shows a 14 percent overall decrease in drug-related fatalities, with the most significant improvements seen in opioid-related deaths, down 32 percent, and fentanyl-related deaths, down 35 percent.

Community Resources

PBCBHC recognizes that times can be challenging for many families. Below, you will find a list of community resources and programs that may offer support and guidance for you and your loved ones.

- The United Way's [Palm Beach County Food Finder](#) map to connect anyone seeking food resources to sites near them.
- The 211 list of 2025 [Thanksgiving Meal Sites](#) for Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Counties

No insurance? *No problem!*

Our No-Cost Care Program provides short-term therapy for those without insurance.

Availability is limited. Restrictions apply.
Contact us at 561-728-6843 or
ellieFL19202@elliementalhealth.com to learn more.



MEET WITH OUR TEAM TO ENROLL IN HEALTH INSURANCE

COMMUNITY EVENT LOCATIONS

WALK-INS WELCOME!

**SAT
NOV 1**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
**PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY-
LANTANA BRANCH**
4020 LANTANA ROAD, LAKE
WORTH CORRIDOR, FL 33462

**WED
NOV 5
WEEKLY**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
**PALM BEACH GARDENS
MEDICAL CENTER**
3360 BURNS RD, PALM BEACH
GARDENS, FL 33410

**SUN
NOV 2**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
COMPASS COMMUNITY CENTER
201 N DIXIE HIGHWAY, LAKE
WORTH, FL 33460

**TUE
DEC 2**

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
**MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY- BLAKE
TRUSTEES CONFERENCE ROOM**
2351 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART,
FL 34996

**TUE
NOV 4
WEEKLY**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
HEALTHYME
411 WEST INDIANTOWN ROAD,
JUPITER, FL 33458

**SAT
DEC 6**

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
**MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY- BLAKE
TRUSTEES CONFERENCE ROOM**
2351 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART,
FL 34996

**WED
NOV 5
WEEKLY**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
RIVIERA BEACH LIBRARY
2129 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE,
RIVIERA BEACH, FL 33404

**SAT
DEC 6**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
**PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY -
BELLE GLADE CONFERENCE ROOM**
725 NW 4TH STREET, BELLE GLADE,
FL 33430



CALL/TEXT 561-440-0164 OR
CALL (561) 844-4220 EXT: 1800

HCSEF.ORG

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Disclaimer: This program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award tota \$1,379,250, with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government

Community Happenings

Presented by
Palm Beach County Democratic Party

Meet Candidates,
Elected Officials and
neighbors

**Glades
Communities
Celebration**
Join US

Sunday
NOVEMBER 16, 2025
12PM - 3PM

Location
Lomax Harrelle Pavilion
5000 W Canal Street, Belle Glade, FL 33430

**FREE
RSVP**

Sponsorships Available
Gold: \$ 500
Silver: \$ 350
Bronze: \$ 200
All Donations Welcome

ENTRY FREE | MUSIC | FOOD | DRINKS | PRIZES
RSVP REQUIRED : CALL 561-665-1087, USE THE QR CODE OR THE WEBSITE BELOW
PBCDEMOCRATYPARTY.ORG/CELEBRATION-OF-COMMUNITY/



CALLING ALL K-12 STUDENT ARTISTS!
Submit Your Work for the 6th Annual MYAF - Multicultural Youth Arts Festival

Art displayed at the
Cornell Art Museum

DDA Old School Square

ART THEME: SELF IDENTITY
How do you see yourself?
Show us your inner world through
your unique artistic voice!

CATEGORIES:
Drawing/Painting,
Photography or Digital Art

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: JANUARY 8, 2026
Winners will be featured and announced at the MYAF Festival on March 6, 2026!
Submit now at: www.capeuniversal.org/submissions
Questions: Email Lisa@capeuniversal.org
or call Anthony (561) 633-3289

Logos: 25th Anniversary, Children's Services Council, CAPE, PBCBHC, STUART & SHELBY, Everglades University, Cultural Council




HTCPB
HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION
OF THE PALM BEACHES

AN AFTERNOON FOR FREEDOM
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

Prevention. Education. Survivor Support.
Join us for this milestone luncheon celebration
as we honor champions who have led the way.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
REBECCA BENDER

Activist | Author
Survivor Leader

Award Winning
Thought Leader
Trailblazer

Transforming Lives
Worldwide

CEO & Founder of
Rebecca Bender
Initiate &
Elevate Academy



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
The Lake Pavilion - West Palm Beach

For sponsorship and underwriting inquiries:
Katie Bullard, Board Director
htcoalitionpb@gmail.com



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$15,000
One Premier Reserved Table (10 tickets)
VIP Meet & Greet with Keynote Speaker
Acknowledgement on Website, Social Media, Printed Materials
Full Page Ad in Program - Inside or Back Cover
Spotlight Video

FREEDOM ADVOCATE - \$10,000
One Preferred Reserved Table (10 tickets)
VIP Meet & Greet with Keynote Speaker
Acknowledgement on Website, Social Media
Full Page Ad in Program

BRIDGE TO SAFETY - \$5,000
Six (6) Tickets to Milestone Event
Acknowledgement on Website, Social Media
Half Page Ad in Program

HARBOR OF HOPE - \$2,500
Four (4) Tickets to Milestone Event
Acknowledgement on Website, Social Media
Quarter Page Ad in Program

TABLE HOST - \$1,000
One Reserved Table for 10
Includes Name Recognition

FRIEND OF THE COALITION - \$500
One (1) Ticket to Milestone Event
Acknowledgement on Website, Social Media
Name Recognition in Program

INDIVIDUAL TICKET: \$75
Valet Parking, Plated Lunch, Keynote, Awards, Raffle

UNDERWRITING

VALET SPONSOR - \$2,000 (1)	PROGRAM SPONSOR - \$1,500 (1)
PHOTOGRAPHY - \$500 (2)	VIDEOGRAPHY - \$500 (2)
AUDIO/VISUAL/PRODUCTION - \$500 (2)	
DECOR - \$500 (2)	DESSERT SPONSOR - \$500 (1)



Stay Coalition Connected...

Update your contact info today to be in on all things behavioral health in Palm Beach County.

Coalition Connections for updates on General Coalition Meetings, Outreaches, Newsletters...

Text **PBCBHC** to **888-687-0035** for text updates on Coalition happenings.

[Visit our Linktree](#)

