



PBCBHC
Palm Beach County
Behavioral Health Coalition
Building A Healthier Community

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 National Recovery Month	2 Teen Coalition Zoom Meeting	3 Sexual Health Awareness Month	4 World Sexual Health Day	5	6
7 National Suicide Prevention Week	8 School Bus Media Contest BEGINS	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11 General Coalition Meeting	12	13
14	15 Teen Coalition Zoom Meeting	16 PBCBHC Interview on CBS 12 News	17	18 National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day	19	20
21	22 Family Day	23	24	25 World Lung Day	26	27
28	29 World Heart Day	30				

♥️🧡 September is Recovery and Suicide Prevention Month 🧡♥️

This month we recognize Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Month, honoring lives, raising awareness, and spreading hope in our community. Alongside these important observances, we're excited to unveil our logo glow-up and share details for this year's Drug Prevention Media Contest.

🧡 National Recovery Month

Every September, SAMHSA leads National Recovery Month to highlight new evidence-based treatments, the strength of the recovery community, and the dedication of providers who make recovery possible. The year's theme is "Recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life)." Check out some of their resources and initiatives [here](#).

- **Local spotlight:** Our partners at Community Recovery HUB of Palm Beach County are hosting Recovery Month events throughout Palm Beach County PLUS offering a Mini Grant Opportunity in September to support community-led recovery initiatives. Learn more [here](#).

♥️ Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to honor lives, raise awareness, and connect individuals to life-saving support.

 Plus, mark your calendars: **National Suicide Prevention Week runs September 7–13.**

 If you or someone you know is in crisis, call/text 988 or dial 211 for local help in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River Counties. National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI, also offers mental health toolkits, crisis resources, and ways to get involved [here](#).

***Drumroll* New Look, Same Mission**

We're excited to unveil our new Coalition logo!  Our refreshed brand reflects our continued commitment to prevention and partnership.



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Our colors carry meaning too:

- Deep Ocean (Navy): Represents our stability
- Atlantic Sky (Blue): Conveys clarity, responsibility, and opportunity
- Dayspring (Green): Represents growth, renewal, hope, and mental health awareness
- New Horizon (Yellow): Reflects optimism, warmth and community
- Torchlight (Orange): Embodies courage and determination

And don't worry—we're still the same Coalition you know, carrying out impactful campaigns like:

 1877-Means-21  Vaping Prevention  Not My House Pledge  Pill Drop  Drug Prevention Media Contest & more!

16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest

Calling all K–12 students in Palm Beach County! Our annual Drug Prevention Media Contest is officially OPEN September 8th.

 Scholarships will be awarded and winning artworks will be displayed on hundreds of Palm Beach County school buses. Past contest years have seen 700+ entries from 30+ schools!

 New this year: Poster winners will receive the prestigious *Seal of Fine Arts* on their diploma, a big boost for college and career pathways.

Learn more at PBCBusPoster.org and don't forget to enter with a design that matches this year's brand-new theme: "The Art of Self-Care." Students can create their own visual art, digital art, and/or short video with a positive prevention message that shares a positive prevention message and promotes practicing the Art of Self-Care Vape-Free and Alcohol-Free

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day September 18

Thanks to medical advances, people with HIV are living longer, healthier lives. This day raises awareness about the needs of older adults and long-term survivors with HIV.

 **Catch us on CBS 12 News September 16th at 9AM!** We'll be LIVE sharing about our Coalition, the Media Contest, and more.

August Recap

Echoes of Loss: Voices of Change
Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Event



Julie Camacho(left) and Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Event audience.

Thanks to our partnership with the Village of Wellington, we were able to host this important event on August 21 at 6:00 PM at the Wellington Community Center. We displayed our tribute to the Faces of Fentanyl memorial—created by the Drug Enforcement Administration—honoring the lives tragically lost to fentanyl poisonings and overdoses. This moving exhibit put faces to the statistics, offering a powerful reminder of the human toll behind the crisis.

The evening featured speakers Julie Camacho, Legislative Aid Reid Ragsdale, and Deputy Sheriff Bradley Shouse, and Dr. Steven Keehn, Chief of Emergency Medicine at HCA Florida JFK North Hospital, who provided valuable insights into the impact of fentanyl in our communities and strategies for prevention.

This gathering served as an opportunity for remembrance, reflection, and action—uniting the community in hope and healing while amplifying education and awareness.



Schneidrell Despeines (left), PBCBHC and Dr. Steven Keehn (right), Chief of Emergency Medicine at HCA Florida JFK North Hospital



Deputy Sheriff Bradley Shouse

Fentanyl Awareness Day with Anne Gerwig



Fentanyl Awareness & Education Day Event hosted at Palm Beach State College



*Alexa Lee, M.S.
Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition*

On August 21, we joined partners across Palm Beach County to recognize *Fentanyl Awareness & Education Day*, a statewide observance highlighting the dangers of fentanyl and the importance of prevention. At Palm Beach State College, featured speakers included Representative Anne Gerwig, Kimberley Lancaster (Executive Dean, PBSC), Professor Allison Jimenez (PBSC Department of Human Services), Elizabeth Dorow and Sam Bovard (Hanley Foundation), Lt. Todd Lessard (PBC Fire Rescue), and PBSC student Stephanie Huff, each offering powerful insights into the crisis and pathways to recovery. We were excited to be included in this prominent

event and shared vital prevention information, distributed Narcan and Detera drug deactivation pouches to help keep our community safe.

News You Can Use



Florida Bans Potent Kratom Compound, Calling It as Addictive as Opioids

According to [CBSNews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-bans-kratom-compound-calling-it-addictive-as-opioids/), Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier issued an emergency rule on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, to ban the potent kratom compound known as 7-OH, or 7-hydroxymitragynine. This action was taken in response to rising addiction concerns and an increase in emergency room visits linked to the substance.

The ban occurred amid pressure from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address the dangers of 7-OH, which some officials have



U.S. Drinking Rate at New Low as Alcohol Concerns Surge

According to [Gallup's latest Consumption Habits survey](https://www.gallup.com/547816/u-s-adults-report-drinking-alcohol-at-lowest-rate-in-nearly-90-years.aspx) (July 7–21), only 54% of U.S. adults report drinking alcohol—the lowest figure in nearly 90 years of tracking. This decline parallels a shift in attitudes, with most Americans now viewing moderate drinking as harmful to health. Together, these findings point to a constructive shift in awareness and behavior.

For more good news, [read Gaynelle Gosselin's beautiful story](#) on recovery from BeWell's recent issue of *The Well* (page 14). The article details how dancing can help

called a potential "fourth wave of the opioid epidemic".

with the expression of emotions and more, "In the effort to suppress pain, we limit our capacity for joy."

Community Service



 **Calling All Volunteers for Spookeyville** 
Join us for some Halloween fun while making a difference

 When:

- Sat, October 11 at 12:30 to 4:30 PM or 4:00 to 8:00PM
- Sat, October 25 at 12:30 to 4:30 PM or 4:00 to 8:00PM

 Where: Yesteryear Village

 What you'll do:

Help us hand out swag and share important info on substance use prevention and mental health support at this kid & teen–friendly Halloween event.

 Bonus: High school students can earn community service hours!

 Ready to join? Email Prevention@pbcbhc.org to sign up.

VOLUNTEER

Community Happenings



Healthier Glades
Unlocking Our Community Strengths

MINI GRANT WORKSHOP SERIES

Healthier Glades is offering a 5-week workshop session for residents, nonprofits and grassroots groups applying for the mini grant for the first time.



Workshop Topics

- ✓ Proposal Ideation and Program Development – 8/20/2025
- ✓ Budgeting – 8/27/2025
- ✓ Data Collection – 9/3/2025
- ✓ Asset Framing + Storytelling – 9/10/2025
- ✓ Grantwriting – 9/17/2025

Mandatory Attendance!!!

The workshop series will be held every Wednesday at 5:30pm from August 20, 2025- September 17, 2025 at PBC Glades Recovery Hub located at 25 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd E (33430)

To apply for this year's grant, you must attend at least one workshop session. If you attend all 5 sessions, you will have a better chance of getting the full grant amount if you are chosen.

Contact Us:

Antoinita (Annie) Ifill
Project Director, Healthier Glades
healthierglades@htpbc.org
561-685-4829

Those interested in applying for this grant must meet the following criteria:

- Residents who have never applied or received a mini grant from Healthier Glades
- Grassroot groups that are formed but doesn't have a 501c3 status
- Non-profit organizations who have been in existence less than 2 years

Letters Of Hope Worskhop

Join us this Recovery Month for our Letters of Hope initiative! Across all of our HUB locations, we will be hosting workshops dedicated to writing encouraging and heartfelt letters to individuals and families touched by recovery. Whether it's a message of strength for someone currently on their journey, words of comfort for a loved one, or simple reminders that no one is alone, your letter can make a meaningful impact.



'Come any time Monday through Friday to leave a letter!'

Workshop Days:

- The Lake Worth HUB:
Every Wednesday in September from 2pm-3pm at 1120 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth FL 33460
- The Delray Beach HUB:
Every Wednesday at 3pm-4pm & Fridays at 9:30pm-10:30pm in September at 5 NE 2nd St, Delray Beach FL 33444
- The Belle Glade HUB:
September 12th on a Friday from 4pm-5pm at 25 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd E, Belle Glade, FL 33430

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CAREGIVING YOUTH INSTITUTE CONFERENCE



RESEARCH



POLICY



PRACTICE



Putting Caregiving Youth on the Map:

November 13, 2025 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

American Association of Caregiving Youth, Inc.*



Join Us For AACY's Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI) Conference

Putting Caregiving Youth on the Map: Research, Policy, and Practice

WHAT: Join us in person for this pivotal event as we bring together educators, healthcare professionals, social workers, policymakers, researchers, advocates, and community leaders to showcase research, shape policy, and share practical strategies to better support Caregiving Youth in Florida and across the U.S.



WHERE: Safe Schools Institute | 1790 Spanish River Blvd,
Boca Raton, FL 33431

WHEN: Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50 | (includes coffee, breakfast & lunch)
School District Employees: \$35 | (with valid district ID at registration)

Sponsorships Available

VENDORS: A limited number of vendor tables are available. Each table includes two chairs and registration for two conference attendees.
For details, please contact Milka Santos at Milka@aacy.org.

American Association of Caregiving Youth | 6401 Congress Ave. Suite #200, Boca Raton, FL 33487 | Call us at (561) 391-7401 | www.aacy.org | A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (#CHI2431) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR AT WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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.