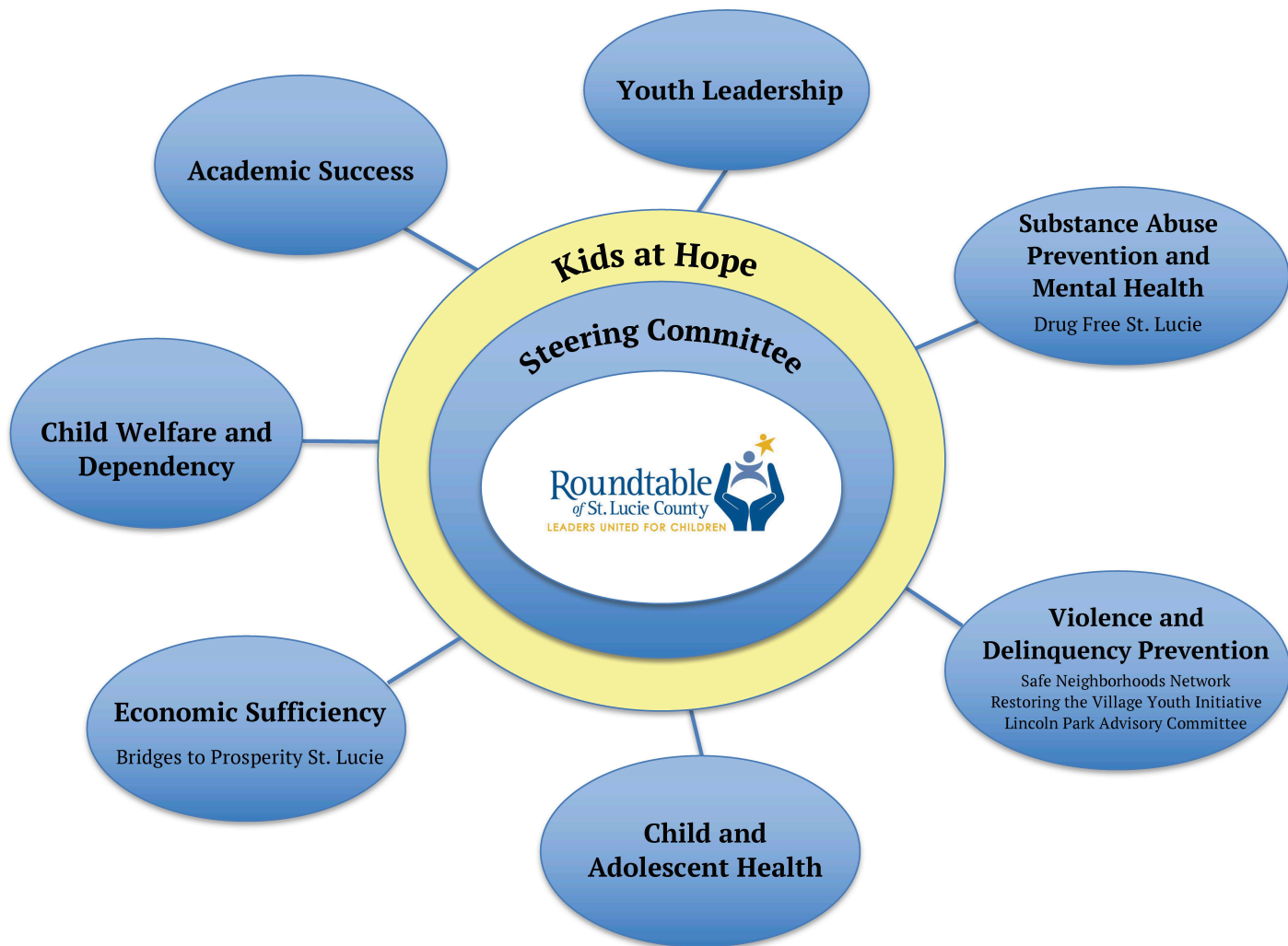


Our Vision	<i>We envision a community of opportunity where every child succeeds.</i>
Our Mission	<i>To build a community that supports the success of children.</i>
Our History	The Roundtable of St. Lucie County, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a group of St. Lucie County leaders working together to accomplish system change that results in improved outcomes for youth. The Roundtable does not focus on “quick fixes.” Instead, it identifies and implements research-based, comprehensive solutions to achieve and sustain long-term success for youth and families in St. Lucie County. In 1994, chief executives from five St. Lucie County agencies came together to create an infrastructure where collective problem solving could effectively occur around children’s issues. In 1999, the Roundtable was one of six sites in Florida to secure a grant from OJJDP to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce risk factors and problem behaviors. The plan, called <i>St. Lucie Hand in Hand</i>, is centered on a “risk-focused” prevention model, supported by thirty years of adolescent problem behavior research by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano. For the past fifteen years, <i>St. Lucie Hand in Hand</i> has served as the foundation for all of the Roundtable’s efforts. Working together, Roundtable partners have achieved significant success, including: • Teen pregnancies decreased 11.6%; • Delinquency decreased 41%; • Underage drinking in middle and high school decreased 24%; • School expulsions decreased 88%; • Out of school suspensions decreased 53%; • Unexcused absences decreased 11% in elementary, 22% in middle school and 4% in high school; and • Misdemeanor assault and battery decreased 18%. Today, the Roundtable has grown from five member agencies to thirty-one chief executives working together to improve outcomes for youth and families.
What We Do	• Provide a mechanism for community dialogue and problem-solving among key leaders for children and teen issues; • Share decision making and accountability at the policy level; • Maximize resources and minimize unnecessary duplication; • Promote data-sharing and collective development of data-driven strategies across sectors; • Coordinate interagency initiatives and promote staff cooperation; • Make joint policy and funding decisions and monitor implementation; and • Eliminate barriers and promote needed changes in policies and practices.

Who We Are	Roundtable	• Champions efforts to improve conditions, standards, institutions, structures, systems and policies affecting youth in St. Lucie County. • Membership consists of chief executives from education, law enforcement, government, juvenile justice, child protection, public health, funding agencies, economic partners, and the faith community.
	Steering Committee	• Appointed by Roundtable to recommend direction of organization; • Assists with development and implementation of strategic and action plans; • Recruits partners for networks and subcommittees; and • Establishes and oversees activities necessary to carry out the mission.
	Networks	• Serve as subject matter experts; • Utilize expertise to gather and analyze data; • Identify and recommend programs, policies and practices for Roundtable consideration and approval; • Identify barriers that prohibit implementation or positive outcomes; and • Drive implementation activities to achieve strategic goals.
Our Goals	1. Reduce youth violence, delinquency, school dropout, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy in St. Lucie County. 2. Reduce youth gang activity through a comprehensive, evidence-based, anti-gang strategy that involves prevention, intervention and suppression. 3. Reduce poor physical and mental health outcomes for children and youth, including infant mortality, childhood obesity, falls, drownings, motor vehicle injuries, depression, anxiety, and suicide. 4. Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors to prevent youth from engaging in problem behaviors. 5. Support community efforts to reduce the number of children living in poverty and increase the opportunities for youth to escape poverty through access to quality education and vocational opportunities. 6. Increase community supports for children and youth in juvenile dependency and/or delinquency systems. 7. Coordinate technical assistance and professional development efforts to leverage resources, support quality services and improve outcomes for youth and families. 8. Support coordinated development of cross-sector policies, practices, and legislative recommendations affecting youth. 9. Increase availability of and access to quality services and opportunities for children and families. 10. Increase positive youth outcomes through active support of and involvement in community revitalization efforts in the Lincoln Park area of Fort Pierce.	

Our Structure



Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Reduce youth gang violence and shootings by 30% as measured by the aggravated assault rate in Fort Pierce from 710.5 in 2014 to 355 in 2020.	Utilize OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model to establish and implement a coordinated, integrated and sustainable approach to reducing youth gang violence in the Lincoln Park area of Fort Pierce. The plan should include prevention activities for youth in high crime areas; intervention activities for gang-involved youth; and suppression of the most serious and chronic offenders. Provide gang-involved youth access to high quality resources, prosocial role modeling, encouragement, education and employment opportunities, and substance abuse and mental health services in order to decrease violence, delinquency, recidivism, and victimization in this population. Coordinate and support primary prevention services for youth living in Lincoln Park and secondary prevention services for youth identified as being at high risk of joining a gang (i.e., younger siblings of gang members). Increase residents' trust of law enforcement and willingness to provide information to law enforcement to increase successful arrests and prosecutions of violent crime offenders. Engage residents and youth living in "hot spot" crime areas through activities designed to increase their involvement in civic life and responsibilities, educate them about resources, mobilize for collective action, and conduct ongoing program assessment and evaluation. Work with Roundtable member organizations and partners, including law enforcement, probation, the judicial system, public health, child welfare agencies, mental health and substance abuse prevention providers, funders, workforce development, youth service providers, churches, community residents and partners, to identify and remove systemic barriers or gaps in service for gang-involved youth and their families.
Decrease fighting behavior as measured by the percentage of youth reporting on the FYSAS that they have attacked someone with intent to harm from 8.6% in 2014 to below the state rate of 6.9% by 2020.	Utilize evidence-based curriculum in school and out of school programs where data shows high levels of fighting to develop competencies in youth around conflict resolution and anger management and enable youth to override automatic responses and choose more appropriate behaviors. Engage parents as collaborative partners in changing norms in families and neighborhoods that view physical violence as an appropriate means of resolving disputes. Support school resource officers in elementary schools to help develop competencies around conflict resolution and behavior management (by teaching programs like Know the Law) and help youth build positive relationships with law enforcement at an early age. Explore and support evidence based programs such as Too Good for Violence, Stop Now and Think, SANKOFA, Achievement Mentoring, PATH, Guiding Good Choices (Family Competency), and Strengthening African American Families.

Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease bullying behavior as measured by the percentage of middle school students reporting on the FYSAS that they were taunted or teased from 36.4% in 2014 to 31% by 2020.	Collect local data on bullying to understand who is getting bullied, where, why and how it is occurring through focus groups and surveys. Utilize anti-bullying strategies and curriculum in school and out of school programs that increase student empathy, teach bystander intervention protocol, decrease personal victimization and empower teachers, school administration, youth serving staff and community partners to identify and intervene in individual bullying cases. Develop protocol around electronic aggression (cyber-bullying). Explore and support implementation of evidence based comprehensive anti-bullying programs such as KiVa and Positive Action.
Decrease school suspensions as measured by St. Lucie Public School records from 9.1% in 2014/15 to 5% by 2020.	Increase diverse, culturally competent mentoring programs for all youth, particularly minority males (ex., My Brother's Keeper Initiative). Establish a research based non-residential program model focusing on academic and social services for middle and high school boys who have challenges in regular school model (i.e., PACE alternative for boys). Implement restorative justice principles and practices in school discipline and juvenile justice system. Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations in order to heal and put things as right as possible.
Decrease disproportionate minority contact between law enforcement and youth in St. Lucie from a Relative Rate Index (RRI) of 4.1 in 2014-15 to 2.5 by 2020 as measured by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Benchmark Report.	Increase the use of civil citation in St. Lucie County from 44% to 75% by 2020 as measured by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Civil Citation Dashboard. Improve relationships between law enforcement and youth through forums, circle discussions (Bridging the G.A.A.P.), Know the Law trainings, social activities between youth and law enforcement, and implementation of Kids at Hope in local police departments. Increase dialogue, trainings and awareness within law enforcement and the judicial system about implicit bias and other root causes of racial and ethnic disparities in arrest, detention and incarceration of youth and promote strategies for change. Develop a law enforcement workgroup committed to analyzing decision points along the juvenile arrest, detention and sentencing continuum to identify areas where implicit bias may occur and mitigate its effects through implementation of effective objective screening and assessment policies, practices and protocols.

Increase Academic Success



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Increase third grade reading levels in St. Lucie County as measured by the percentage of third graders scoring on grade level on state reading assessments from 46% in 2014 to exceeding state average by 2020.	Recruit volunteers from Roundtable member and partner organizations to become reading mentors for students reading below grade level to strengthen sight word recognition, reading comprehension and vocabulary skills. Support efforts from partner organizations to establish reading programs at pre-kindergarten sites serving children who reside in neighborhoods that feed into lower performing schools. Partner with community organizations to increase the number of books available to students through “little libraries”, book drives, and “reading days” where books are distributed, and county library programs. Partner with Early Learning and Head Start providers to engage pre-K parents in reading with their children through in-house parent engagement activities, such as reading “dates” with Dad and Mom, fatherhood development initiatives, and a campaign focused on the importance of school attendance. Explore evidence based reading recovery curriculum that can be incorporated into out of school programs to supplement classroom based reading interventions. Reduce summer learning loss by supporting access to high-quality summer learning experiences and partnering with St. Lucie schools to publicize literacy and education technology that equips parents and youth service providers with easily accessible tools to keep kids learning during summer. Help increase parent and community engagement with student learning by (i) educating parents on use of school-based technology to support school-home communication and success (i.e., Skyward and i-Ready); (ii) assisting parents to build their own literacy skills; and (iii) encouraging parents and community representatives to participate on school advisory committees for lower performing schools.
Decrease absenteeism in St. Lucie County as measured by the Florida Department of Education’s report of students absent 21 days or more from 14.2% in 2014 to 11% by 2020.	Develop and implement a county-wide, multi-cultural strategic campaign emphasizing the importance of regular school attendance with the following key messages: (1) every child needs to be in school, on time, every day; (2) absences add up fast and equal academic problems; (3) tackling chronic absences can close achievement gaps; (4) relationships are fundamental to strategies for improving student attendance; and (5) chronic absenteeism is a problem we can solve together, supporting parents and schools. Use Kids at Hope to increase students’ connection and attachment to schools based on the growing body of research that students do better in schools when they feel connected, feel they belong, and believe staff are supportive and treat them fairly.

Increase Academic Success



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Increase graduation rates in St. Lucie County as measured by Florida Department of Education's report of cohort graduation rate from 73.2% in 2014 to 90% by 2020.	Increase diverse, culturally competent mentoring programs for students of color, possibly through the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Efforts should focus on youth at risk of or on the trajectory of dropping out, such as students who have failed core classes in middle school, been suspended, demonstrate poor attendance, or are over age. Increase graduation rates for youth either at risk of not earning a high school diploma or wishing to return to school after a gap in their education by increased utilization of services provided by Acceleration Academy, Indian River State College, Parent Academy and Career Source Youth Connections Program. Encourage and assist middle and high school students to plan ahead for college and prepare to be college-ready by 11th grade by incorporating into all Roundtable activities a focus on academics (GPA), extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership development. Educate youth who participate with the Roundtable on the process of applying to college, obtaining scholarships and financial aid, and understanding the educational, vocational and career opportunities provided locally at Indian River State College, and beyond. Encourage and support efforts to bring community resources to public schools through partnerships between schools and local professionals, businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers (ex. Education Foundation, Speakers Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Breakfast in High Schools).

Reduce Substance Abuse and Support Mental Health



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease youth marijuana use as measured by the percentage of youth reporting past 30-day marijuana use on the FYSAS from 14.4% in 2014 to 10% by 2020. Increase youth perceptions that marijuana is harmful as measured by the percentage of youth reporting a great risk of harm from marijuana on the FYSAS from 29.5% in 2014 to 31.5% by 2020. Decrease early initiation of marijuana usage as measured by the percentage of youth reporting that they smoked marijuana before the age of 13 on the FYSAS from 15.6% in 2014 to 12.6% by 2020. Decrease underage drinking as measured by the percentage of youth reporting past 30-day alcohol use on the FYSAS from 22% in 2014 to 20% by 2020. Increase youth perceptions that drinking is harmful as measured by the percentage of youth reporting a great risk of harm from alcohol use on the FYSAS from 39.7% in 2014 to 42.7% by 2020.	Develop and build capacity of a broad based coalition of community partners and key stakeholders to coordinate efforts within the county to prevent youth abuse or misuse of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription pills and other drugs. Educate youth, and equip them to educate their peers about healthy behavior, refusal skills, life skills, dealing with direct and indirect social pressures and media literacy (teaching youth to analyze, understand and evaluate media messages they encounter). Promote a public education campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of marijuana use and underage drinking through media advocacy, social marketing/norming, and encouraging parents to communicate a zero tolerance policy about alcohol and drug use to their children. Mobilize community partners to oppose laws favorable to recreational marijuana use and promote legislation-limiting access to marijuana. Support law enforcement efforts against those who provide alcohol and drugs to minors, and assist by increasing visibility of these efforts to deliver the message that substance use prevention is a community priority and violations will result in consequences. Provide incentives to reward youth for healthy behavior and prosocial involvement (ex. Friday Night Done Right Events). Educate parents, teachers and out of school program providers about how to identify substance abuse issues in youth and develop protocol for early identification and referral to treatment. Encourage health providers and substance abuse prevention partners to utilize regular Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), and develop a toolkit to assist youth serving health providers in doing so. SBIRT is an evidence based quick and easy way for practitioners to identify and intervene with patients whose patterns put them at risk for or who already have substance related health issues. Co-locate substance abuse prevention and mental health services on school campuses and in after-school programs.
Decrease youth drug use as measured by the percentage of youth reporting past 30 day use of illicit drugs other than marijuana on the FYSAS from 5.9% to 3.5% by 2020.	Increase proper medication disposal by partnering with law enforcement and health partners to facilitate safe and responsible ways for people to dispose of prescription drugs. Reduce harm, death, disability and other negative consequences associated with drug use and overdose by educating the community on how to respond to an overdose situation and supporting availability of Narcan (Naloxone) for law enforcement and first responders. Monitor data on overdose and prescribing behaviors.

Reduce Substance Abuse and Support Mental Health



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Establish a workgroup to collect data and identify a baseline for youth anxiety, depression and suicide rates in St. Lucie County by 2018.	Collaborate with Southeast Behavioral Health Network to gather and assess county-wide data on youth mental health issues including but not limited to rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide in St. Lucie County. Relevant data points may include the number of St. Lucie County youth admissions to the Children’s Crisis Stabilization Unit at New Horizons due to a diagnosis related to depression or anxiety; the number of Baker Acts for youth, the number of referrals for youth in crisis to the St. Lucie County Mobile Crisis Unit, and the number of St. Lucie youth admitted to inpatient facilities. Collaborate with Southeast Behavioral Network to identify root causes, augment community needs assessments and identify issues and gaps in services and systems for addressing youth mental health needs. Utilize these findings to develop changes within the continuum of care as needed. Collaborate with School District and community partners to teach school staff and other youth service providers how to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse (Mental Health First Aid). Facilitate dialogue and awareness among youth service providers, schools, out of school programs, and community partners about the impact of trauma on children and the potential of trauma-informed communities and organizations to heal traumatized youth. Assist in facilitating Wraparound trainings and support for community partners. Wraparound emphasizes that the “voice and choice” of families – including children and youth- must be given primary importance in providing service. The planning process, as well as services and supports provided, should be individualized, family driven, culturally competent and community based. Co-locate substance abuse prevention and mental health services on school campuses and in after-school programs.

Reduce Infant Mortality

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease the number of preterm births (before 37 weeks' gestation) as measured by Florida Charts from 9.8% in 2015 to 8% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 5% by 2026. Decrease the number of preterm births (before 37 weeks' gestation) to African American mothers as measured by Florida Charts from 12.8% in 2015 to 10.8% by 2020, with a long-term goal of 8% by 2026. Decrease African American infant mortality as measure by Florida Charts from 12 per 1,000 births in 2014 to 10 per 1,000 births in 2020, with a long-term goal of 6 per 1,000 births by 2026. Decrease obesity rate of pregnant African American females as measured by Florida Charts from 33% in 2014 to 31% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 28% by 2026. Decrease rate of African American infants with low birth weight as measured by Florida Charts from 13 per 1,000 in 2014 to 11 per 1,000 in 2020, with a long goal of 8 per 1,000 by 2026. Increase initiation of breastfeeding in the African American community as measured by Florida Charts from 71.9% in 2014 to 74% in 2020, with a long-term goal of above 80% by 2026. Increase the percentage of pregnant African American females who access prenatal care in their 1st trimester as measured by Florida Charts from 65.5% in 2014 to 67% in 2020, with a long tem goal of to 70% by 2026.	Lead Agencies:  Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County Every baby deserves a healthy start  Florida HEALTH St. Lucie County Develop and sustain a Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) specialist to help analyze root causes of infant health disparities in St. Lucie County, augment community needs assessments, and identify issues and gaps in services and systems that may contribute to fetal and infant death. Utilize findings from the FIMR specialist and above-mentioned research to institute change within the continuum of care of pregnant women within St. Lucie County, depending upon findings. Collaborate with Healthy Start to educate OB providers on best practices relating to reducing pre-term births. Continue and increase delivery of intensive, face-to-face management and related risk reduction services through Healthy Start by focusing on high-risk women, to include women with a history of premature births and poor birth outcomes. Develop a marketing campaign to educate the African American community about the disparity, and generate dialogue around causes and cures. Identify leaders in African American churches, community organizations, businesses and neighborhoods who will champion the goal of reducing infant mortality rates in the black community. Conduct focus groups regarding the high prevalence of infant mortality within St. Lucie County to gather data and understand root causes regarding the most predominant contributing factors for African Americans (and subsequently tailor strategies, such as safe sleep campaigns, accordingly). Promote and support education on the effectiveness of waiting at least 18 months before a repeat pregnancy in improving birth outcomes. Promote and support breastfeeding education, particularly in the African American community. Increase prenatal and pediatric services and accessibility to services (i.e., transportation and insurance) in Fort Pierce. Increase high school graduation rates based on research specific to St. Lucie County showing a high correlation between graduation and improved birth outcomes.

Support Healthiest Weight

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease the percentage of Pre-Kindergarten children who are overweight/obese as measured by School Health from 21% in 2014 to 19% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 16% by 2026. Decrease the percentage of first graders who are overweight/obese as measured by School Health from 33% in 2014 to 31% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 28% by 2026. Decrease the percentage of third graders who are overweight/obese as measured by School Health from 39% in 2014 to 37% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 34% by 2026. Decrease the percentage of sixth graders who are overweight/obese as measured by School Health from 44% in 2014 to 42% in 2020, with a long-term goal of 39% by 2026.	Lead Agencies:   Utilize a social norming campaign such as 5210 Let's Go to raise public awareness about the importance of healthy eating and exercise for children through schools, child care centers, out of school programs, healthcare providers and community organizations. Develop funding to sustain and support coordination of services to achieve healthy weight for children and teens in St. Lucie County. Develop a youth council at each 5210 school, with school Health Nurses co-facilitating and holding monthly meetings with children in grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th, to engage students in the 5210 program and elicit feedback on health initiatives. Identify childcare providers and out of school programs in the Lincoln Park area that will champion healthiest weight strategies. Conduct focus groups with parents at identified child care centers with highest BMI rates to obtain community perception of why BMIs are higher in certain areas and ways this can be addressed with specific populations. Partner with Food Policy Council and other appropriate partners to explore feasibility of community wide strategies around (1) promoting healthy corner store initiatives through incentives for neighborhood convenience stores to stock healthy food items; (2) increasing the purchasing power of SNAP customers at farmer's markets; (3) exploring partnerships with clinics and hospitals to provide coupons for parents of children with high BMIs to buy fruits and vegetables (ex. Philly "Food Bucks" Initiative); and (4) working with government and for-profit partners to address food deserts. Explore evidence based programs, such as Bright Bodies (developed by Yale University) which combines nutrition education, exercise opportunities and family interventions to promote healthy weight for youth in the 95th BMI percentile, and Planet Health (developed by the Harvard School of Public Health), a school-based health behavior intervention designed to reduce obesity among middle school students by promoting increased physical activity and positive changes in dietary behaviors. Establish partnerships with churches, neighborhood organizations, housing communities, and after school providers to engage youth in participating in planting and maintaining community gardens. Use Healthy St. Lucie strategies to further address healthiest weight in the community (HEPA standards/healthy eating and physical activity).

Reduce Teen Pregnancy

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease birth rates among females age 18-19 as measured by the Florida Charts from 41 per 1,000 births in 2014 to 39 per 1,000 births by 2020, with a long-term goal of 35 per 1,000 births by 2026. Decrease birth rates among females aged 15-19 as measured by Florida Charts from 20.4 per 1,000 births to 18 per 1,000 births by 2020, with a long-term goal of 15 by 2026. Decrease repeat birth rates among females age 15-19 as measured by Florida Charts from 15.4 per 1,000 in 2014 to 14 per 1,000 by 2020, with a long-term goal of 12 by 2026. Decrease birth rates among African American females age 15-19 as measured by Florida Charts from 30 per 1,000 in 2014 to 28 per 1,000 by 2020, with a long-term goal of 25 per 1,000 per 2026.	Lead Agencies:   Increase age appropriate reproductive health education for children, teens, and parents. Work with St. Lucie Public Schools to assess current prevention curriculum offered in both middle and high school settings. Continue monitoring Teen Zone clinic findings at Florida Department of Health in St Lucie and engage with Florida Community Health Center's Teen Clinic to compare findings. Develop workgroup to improve access to and knowledge of clinic services (ex. increase bus routes to clinic). Partner with the St. Lucie County Public Schools to open a family planning/STD clinic in one alternative school setting (ex. Dale Cassens, Performance Based or PACE). Continue to explore evidence based community wide initiatives to decrease Teen Pregnancy.

Prevent Unintentional Injury

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease deaths of 15-19 year olds due to motor vehicle accidents as measured by Florida Charts from 6 in 2014 to 4 by 2020, with a long-term goal of 2 by 2026. Decrease the number of nonfatal drownings as measured by Florida Charts from 8 in 2014 to 6 by 2020, with a long-term goal of 2026. Decrease fall injuries reported to the Emergency Room in 0-14 year olds as measured by hospital records county-wide from 2,326 in 2014 to 2,200 by 2020, with a long-term goal of 2,094 by 2026.	Lead Agencies:   Work with St. Lucie County School District to educate physical education teachers and coaches regarding concussion awareness, over exertion, dehydration, and swim safety. Partner with K-8 schools promoting bike safety and educating on concussions. Conduct focus groups to survey and elicit feedback from high school students on the most effective messaging regarding unintentional injury prevention. Partner with law enforcement, neighborhood homeowners' associations and low-income apartment complexes to offer free swim lessons. Partner with St. Lucie County School District and law enforcement to promote the 8th Grade Count Down to Drive Curriculum with students and parents. Continue to monitor fall data in ages 0-14 and implement fall prevention strategies. Ensure children have access to safe playgrounds and recreational spaces. Teach CPR to children and young adults. Provide boating safety, life jacket regulations and other water safety educational programs to the community.

Reduce Poverty



Recognizing that poverty and economic deprivation are significant risk factors with great influence on youth development, the Roundtable believes that comprehensive community-wide efforts must be made to reduce the number of children living in poverty in St. Lucie County. The Roundtable also understands that addressing poverty is a complex issue that involves national, state and local partners and requires a coordinated approach from a myriad of public and private stakeholders. While not the lead on these efforts, the Roundtable supports those whose primary mission is to address and reduce poverty and mitigate its negative effects. To this end, the Roundtable commits to partner with others to achieve and implement the objectives and strategies stated below.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Reduce the percentage of children living in poverty in St. Lucie County as measured by U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) from 26.1% in 2014 to 21% by 2026.	Collaborate with community partners to work with people and communities experiencing poverty to empower them to recognize and address poverty's impact in their lives (Ex. Getting Ahead and R Rules Classes). Collaborate with community partners working to build a strong anti-poverty network in St. Lucie County. Participate in the anti-poverty network to support the development of policies that promote social justice and combat poverty, such as fair chance employment legislation, reduction of predatory lending, and promotion of credit repair. Assist in raising awareness about poverty, particularly its effects on children and teens, and encourage debate about solutions. Encourage the participation of people experiencing poverty as central to the development of better policy solutions. Collaborate with community partners to improve supports and access to resources for families and children living in poverty or who are employed yet asset limited or income constrained (ALICE) by strengthening safety nets around childcare, food and nutrition, housing, transportation, and supportive work/family policies. Decrease barriers to employment for individuals with prior arrests and/or convictions by supporting fair chance employment legislation, including but not limited to the following: prohibiting the disclosure of criminal history on employment applications; delaying criminal background checks until a provisional offer of employment has been made; instituting time limitations in which employers can consider past criminal history; clarifying offenses having nothing to do with the job being sought that should not be considered a barrier to employment; and referring individuals with prior arrests/convictions to the Federal Bonding program provided through CareerSource Research Coast and others. Promote opportunities to advance adult literacy and vocational attainment through joint marketing and calendaring of pre-GED, GED and English as Second Language (ESL) classes, particularly to high need areas, and enlisting churches and community programs to become "classrooms" for these programs as needed. Collaborate with community partners to increase credit rights and rebuilding learning services through multi agency collaborative planning to include calendaring and joint marketing.

Reduce Poverty



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Increase quality post-secondary educational and vocational opportunities to enable youth and young adults to escape poverty by 2020.	Increase sponsorship of and participation in student jobs programs (such as CareerSource Research Coast's Youth Connections Program and Summer of Success) to increase youth development of job skills and employment potential. Increase sponsorship of and participation in student jobs programs (such as Summer of Success) to increase youth development of job skills and employment potential. Support the efforts of CareerSource Research Coast, Indian River State College and St. Lucie Schools to expand job training and workforce development through increased creation and sustainability of vocational and pre-apprenticeship programs. Support the efforts of CareerSource Research Coast to expand employer hiring of teens and young adults, and employer participation in Youth Connections job fairs, job mentoring and shadowing opportunities. Support the efforts of Allegany Franciscan Ministries and others to create livable jobs and wages for the Lincoln Park area of Fort Pierce, particularly as it relates to providing opportunities that enhance job skills and employment potential of opportunity youth (defined as young people between the ages of 16 to 24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market).

Increase Community Supports for Youth in Child Welfare and Criminal Justice Systems

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Decrease the percentage of dependent children living in group homes as measured by the percentage of children placed in group/shelters versus children placed in foster homes from 48% in 2015 to 25% by 2020. Increase the number of licensed foster homes for sibling groups as measured by the percentage of licensed homes in St. Lucie county with capacity for more than one child from 54% in 2015 to 75% by 2020. Increase the number of licensed black foster homes as measured by Department of Children and Family records from 24% in 2015 to 38% by 2020.	 Establish a workgroup to examine trends, assess needs, research best practices and propose strategies to increase recruitment of foster homes for teens and sibling groups. Collaborate with black churches to increase awareness about the need for foster homes for children of color and recruit black families to become foster parents. Provide outreach to community leaders and organizations to make them aware of the need for homes and involve current foster families that effectively reflect the racial diversity needed in recruitment activities. Educate potential foster parents about the needs of children and youth in foster care and the supports available to assist families, particularly sibling groups. Assess current training, respite care, after school resources for older children and youth, and other supports for those who care for hard to place children. Promote a public campaign to raise awareness about the number of older children and sibling groups living in group care due to the unavailability of foster homes in St. Lucie County through public service announcements and videos highlighting success stories.
Increase the percentage of male certified volunteer Guardians Ad Litem in St. Lucie County as measured by Guardian ad Litem records from 23% in 2015 to 40% by 2020. Increase the percentage of minority certified volunteer Guardians Ad Litem in St. Lucie County as measured by Guardian ad Litem records from 28% in 2015 to 40% by 2020.	Establish a workgroup to examine trends, assess needs, research best practices and propose strategies to enhance pool of male and culturally diverse Guardian ad Litem volunteers. The workgroup should assess current recruitment efforts, identify gaps and needs, and consider applicability of specific strategies that have worked in other communities (ex. All Pro Dads, Richland, South Carolina's CASA Quarterbacks program; Arkansas 100 Men in 100 Days). Collaborate with African American and Hispanic churches, social clubs, businesses and other organizations to increase awareness about the role of Guardians ad Litem and recruit volunteers. Provide outreach to community leaders and organizations to make them aware of the Guardian ad Litem program and involve current GALs that effectively reflect the racial and gender diversity needed in recruitment activities.
Decrease the occurrence of lockouts as measured by the number of children entering foster care due to lockouts from 8 in 2015-16 to 2 by 2020. Increase the readiness of youth leaving the foster care system to live on their own through enhanced development of life skills and increased access to resources for these youth.	Establish a workgroup to identify and implement local solutions to mental health, APD (Agency for Persons with Disabilities) and DJJ (Department of Juvenile Justice) lockouts. Consider strategies such as focusing on early identification and intervention (i.e., mandated trauma screenings); educating agencies and service providers on trauma-informed care; improving care coordination between agencies, for example, through universal releases and Memorandums of Understanding to streamline access and system navigation; creating peer support networks to enhance parental support; and expanding access to home-based services rather than relying on standard outpatient models.

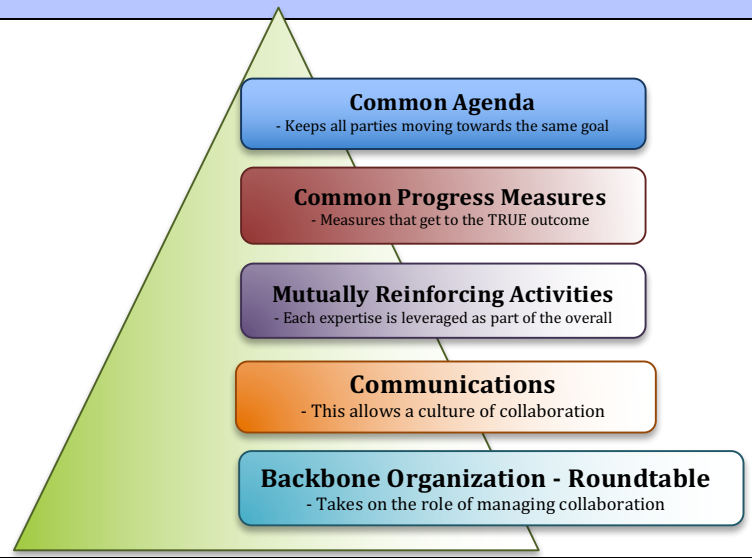
Increase Protection and Reduce Risk



OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Increase middle school youth reports of community rewards for prosocial involvement from 43% in 2014 to above the state rate of 48% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Increase middle school youth reports of family rewards for prosocial involvement from 46% in 2014 to above the normative rate of 50% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Increase middle school youth reports of school opportunities for prosocial involvement from 47% to above the state rate of 51% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Increase middle school youth reports of school rewards for prosocial involvement from 41% in 2014 to above the state rate of 50% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020.	Increase opportunities for positive interaction and relationship-building between youth and caring prosocial adults in families, community and schools. Increase school and community attachment by ensuring that every child can identify at least one caring prosocial adult in their school or community who has high expectations and provides opportunities for success. Increase/expand community opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement through Youth Leadership St. Lucie, Fort Pierce Youth Council, Preventing Crime in the Black Community, Restoring the Village, Drug Free St. Lucie and other youth development, leadership and community engagement activities. Ensure all children in schools and community programs are able to articulate their goals for the future and prepare/plan to meet those goals. Recruit and develop mentors from within Kids at Hope organizations to build skills and celebrate achievements with youth. Increase opportunities for positive engagement between law enforcement and youth in minority and/or low-income communities through Kids at Hope. Use the Kids at Hope training to educate adults working in schools, youth serving organizations, child care, law enforcement, child welfare and juvenile justice about positive youth development and resiliency research to increase their capacities to work effectively with children and teens.
Reduce middle school youth reports of community disorganization and low neighborhood attachment from 51% in 2014 to below the state rate of 44% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Reduce middle school youth reports of laws and norms favorable to drug use from 40% in 2014 to below the state rate of 36% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Reduce middle school youth reports of early initiation of problem behaviors from 30% in 2014 to below the state rate of 25% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Reduce middle school youth reports of poor family management from 43% in 2014 to below the state rate of 40% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020. Reduce middle school youth reports of family conflict from 44% in 2014 to below the state rate of 38% as measured by the FYSAS by 2020.	Increase diverse, culturally competent mentoring programs for African American youth (ex., My Brother's Keeper Initiative). Engage parents as collaborative partners in changing norms in families and neighborhoods. Develop youth leaders who can educate their peers about healthy behaviors and norms. Mobilize community partners to raise public awareness through community campaigns, and pursue legislation to change laws and norms favorable to problem behaviors. Support the efforts of the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC) to increase civic engagement among residents, particularly in "hot spot" areas, through events and projects that build relationships with residents and parents, inform about community resources, and provide opportunities for involvement. Identify champions who live and/or work in Lincoln Park and empower them as community advocates around infant mortality, mentorship, third grade reading, graduation rates, violence reduction, disproportionate minority contact and healthy weight and lifestyles.

Increase Collective Impact of Member Agencies

Collective Impact is a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, non-profit organizations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.



Support Coordinated Professional Development in Key Areas	Promote training for member agencies and community partners: • Cultural competency and humility training • Best practices for engaging parents and guardians • Trauma-informed practices and care • Wraparound informed (family-led) practices and care • Culturally appropriate mentoring strategies
Develop Cross-Sector Policies and Coordinate Legislative Advocacy Around Children's Issues	Convene interagency workgroups to develop: • Protocols for systematic identification and response for pre-K and early elementary students exhibiting early and persistent behavioral challenges. • Targeted interventions for "frequent flyers" (youth with high numbers of disciplinary referrals and in-school suspensions). • Protocols for cross system information sharing, while protecting privacy, between community partners. • Enhancing access to pro-social opportunities for selected (at higher risk) and indicated (already engaging in high risk behavior) youth. • Areas and subject matters to address through legislative advocacy.
Increase Access to Quality Services and Opportunities for Children and Families	Develop strategies and champion efforts to increase availability of and access to family support services: • Transportation improvements. • Co-location of services in areas experiencing disproportionate levels of problem behaviors or poor health outcomes (e.g., community resource centers and community schools). • Build capacity for service delivery through faith-based organizations to increase community access to existing resources (buildings, busses).
Support Community Revitalization in Lincoln Park	Target collective efforts and strategies in Lincoln Park for maximum impact on community outcome: • Comprehensive Community Revitalization Efforts (i.e. "Purpose Built Communities"). • Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (i.e. Expand Community Beautification Projects targeted at crime prevention). • Urban Green Space.

Executive Committee and Staff

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
Vice Chair: Chief John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Dept.
Secretary: Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition St. Lucie County
Treasurer: Clint Sperber, St. Lucie County Department of Health
At-Large Member: Karen Knapp, United Way
At-Large Member: Wydee'a Wilson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Steering Committee Chair: Tonya Andreacchio, Children's Services Council

ROUNDTABLE STAFF

Shaniek Maynard
 Executive Director
Kim Thomas-Pate
 Project Coordinator
Dana Stonelake
 Administrative Assistant

Roundtable Members

- ❖ 19th Judicial Circuit - State Attorney, Bruce Colton
- ❖ 19th Judicial Circuit - Judge, Tony Schwab
- ❖ Board of County Commissioners, Chris Dzadovsky
- ❖ Career Source Research Coast, Richard Stetson
- ❖ Children's Services Council, Sean Boyle
- ❖ City of Fort Pierce, Linda Hudson
- ❖ City of Port St. Lucie, Linda Bartz
- ❖ Department of Children & Families, Robert McPartlan
- ❖ Department of Juvenile Justice, Wydee'a Wilson
- ❖ Devereux CBC, Carol Deloach
- ❖ Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, Tony Loupe
- ❖ Economic Development Council, Peter Tesch
- ❖ Florida Department of Corrections – Circuit 19, John Thompson
- ❖ Fort Pierce Police Department, Diane Hobley-Burney
- ❖ Guardian ad Litem, Vern Melvin
- ❖ Housing Authority of Fort Pierce, Andrea Kochanowski
- ❖ Indian River State College, Andrew Treadwell
- ❖ Kids Connected by Design, Lisa von Seelen
- ❖ Lincoln Park Council of Ministers, Eldrew Baldwin
- ❖ Port St. Lucie Police Department, John Bolduc
- ❖ Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Andrew Hunt
- ❖ St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Terissa Aronson
- ❖ St. Lucie County Department of Health, Clint Sperber
- ❖ St. Lucie County Fire District, George Emerson
- ❖ St. Lucie County School District, E. Wayne Gent
- ❖ St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Ken Mascara
- ❖ Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network, Ann Berner
- ❖ State Representative, Larry Lee, Jr.
- ❖ Steering Committee, Tonya Andreacchio
- ❖ United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp

