

## PACES Hillsborough Workgroup Notes

4/12/2023 from 10:00am – 11:00am

### Attendance:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greg VanPelt, Early Childhood Council</li><li>• Reggie Linton – Anchor Mentor Grow Into You</li><li>• Sara Bower – BOCC Head Start</li><li>• Amy Witherow – GAL</li><li>• Makenzie Wright – MPH Student USF</li><li>• Angela Weck – HCPS</li><li>• Joshua Kwasnicki – CCTB</li><li>• Abraham – USF Harrel Center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nikki Daniels – Champions for Children</li><li>• Erin NeSmith – Grow Into You Foundation</li><li>• Tanner Wright – USF Pediatrics</li><li>• Nanci Nolan – S4KF</li><li>• Angela Mecoli – USF Psychology</li><li>• Pam Jeffre – S4KF</li><li>• Rachel Chase – FDOH</li><li>• Elizabeth Reedy - Frameworks</li></ul>
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### Agenda and Notes

#### Program / Community Partner Updates

#### Brief Recap from Last Month

#### Presentation / Discussion:

Grow Into You Foundation - Reggie Linton and Erin Nesmith

Started Grow Into You and met Reggie at Age 16 in a group home. Grew up most of his life in foster care. Grow Into You works with foster youth who are ageing out. Met Reggie at a group home and wanted him to age out into a home. They have a boy's home that can house 3 boys. He is the **Anchor Mentor** on site 24/7 for the boys how live there. Erin's family is a full time anchor family for the girls who live there. The boys are 19 and 20 and the girls are 18 and 22. Grow Into You helps to bridge gaps acting as a "parent" to provide the hand holding, example and support that dependency is not equipped to do.

What are our little wins and what are the experiences they are having that are redeeming / re-claiming their childhood.

Reggie – being able to connect to Grow Into You, talk about feelings with Bio family and the traumas I have experienced in life. They have been a support when it comes to school, when I am hungry. I feel like I belong with this group. Got connected when I was 16. Had been homeless, adopted, not adopted. Experienced 10 different foster homes. There have been many nights where I have not been able to eat. Ever since I met Erin and Grow Into You I have been able to ask questions rather than having to figure everything out on my own. I feel like they genuinely care about everything going on in my life.

I provide guidance and mentorship to the other teens in the home. I needed help figuring out how to get around without a car and other life skills.

Trying to empower to solve own problems and be independent. Balance having expectations without having to be perfect.

This relates wonderfully back to the importance of PCEs and connectedness.

#### STABLE BASE / CONNECEDNES

When I was in school and playing sports, the coaching staff was a big support in my life. They talked to me about grades, nutrition, helped with getting me food, helped with me getting to and from practice. He was also supportive of my own mental health.

Erin – we have good relationships with school guidance counselors.

GrowIntoYouFoundation.org  
Erin is the main contact

What was different compared to previous placements? A very safe environment. I have all the resources I need. It is more than pay your rent or you are gone. You have the options to be involved, go on trips. Mainly the resources and supports from financial support to MH supports. The home Reggie was in prior was run down, in the middle of a bad spot of Tampa, there were guns in the home from a shooting that had happened. We are in a safer area, we keep the home up through maintenance. I want them to live in a place I would be willing to live in.

Erin – connect with Tanner and Abraham

Funding: small grants. Need to figure out a sustainable budget to support 2 homes and provide the level of needs we do provide. Primary income is private / re-occurring donors. Will get small grants (\$10,000 range) from private family foundations. Challenge is that we are too small to go for bigger grant funding and I am not able to focus my time on grant writing. If a kid is in college successfully then the SOC will pay their rent but this means rent is dependent on kids with trauma histories performing. No one on our board is a strong fundraiser. We do have a fundraising Gala.

Joshua – I love partnering with non-profits in the community on fundraising.

#### Priority Workgroup Items for Continued Discussion and Planning

- **Implementing an Organizational Assessment of Trauma Informed Practice.** Abraham identified how organizations can do it on their own terms. Additionally, a county, we can ask agencies to complete an anonymous survey. There could be 2 processes. One that is internal and can potentially lead to organization change. Another that is anonymous that gives a general picture. There are several tools / assessment / surveys in existence. Would we want to use the conference as a place to start an initial pilot? Links were shared for some:  
<https://www.tfec.org/wp-content/uploads/Trauma-Informed-Organizational-Assessments.pdf>  
<https://traumaticstressinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Trauma-Informed-Care-Org-Self-Assessment-Final.pdf>  
[https://www.nctsn.org/trauma-informed-care/nctsn-trauma-informed-organizational-assessment#:~:text=The%20NCTSN%20Trauma%2DInformed%20Organizational%20Assessment%20\(TIOA\)%20is%20a,families%20who%20have%20experienced%20trauma.](https://www.nctsn.org/trauma-informed-care/nctsn-trauma-informed-organizational-assessment#:~:text=The%20NCTSN%20Trauma%2DInformed%20Organizational%20Assessment%20(TIOA)%20is%20a,families%20who%20have%20experienced%20trauma.)
- **Continued training / professional development activities.**  
Hosting 2 hour trainings multiple times per year. Incorporating opportunities for discussion / consultation post training to help translate knowledge into action. For example, how can we take the information from the training on the cultural implications of trauma informed care and internally apply to our IFSP process and how they are developed? It is important to involve program administrators and others who can help with the decision making process.  
Starting up community Reflective Practice / Community of Practice groups  
Link was shared for self-paced Science of Hope / PCE modules  
<https://spreadinghope.mylearnworlds.com/courses>

April 2023 PACES Conference Planning Update:

Need 3 – 4 volunteers for registration / CEUs / Breakfast Table  
Working to Finalize CEUs

Sara  
Nanci  
Amy

**NEXT MEETING:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10am – 11am via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88918067716?pwd=TEEzNEN0ajNmN2lMd0NHbDN6c2tmdz09>