



The BROWARD COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION

Juvenile and Adolescent Violence: Why the Unthinkable Happens?

“Every 8 and a Half Minutes a Child is Arrested for a Violent Crime”

(Source: Children’s Defense Fund; “The State of America’s Children Handbook 2014”; Available at:
<http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/moments/moments-in-america-for-children.html>)

**As Part of the Crime Commission’s *Building Bridges* Mental
Health Conference Series**

CONFERENCE OUTLINE & BROCHURE

DATE:

Friday, September 30th, 2016

ADDRESS:

Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel

400 Corporate Drive

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33334

SIGN-IN/AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Lunch 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.)

www.BrowardCrime.org

“Evil Triumphs When Good People Stand Idly By”

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Juvenile and Adolescent Violence: Why the Unthinkable Happens?

Conference Program and Agenda:

The event will consist of five panels and a luncheon Keynote Speaker:

Panel I. Why, How, and Where Juvenile Violence Happens

Panel II. Lionel Tate: A Case Study of a Previous Juvenile Homicide Case

Panel III. A Juvenile Judiciary Panel - 17th Circuit Court Juvenile Judges Participating; Chief Judge Peter Weinstein Moderating

LUNCH: Keynote Speaker- Henry Coxe III - Re: The Cristian Fernandez Case

Panel IV. The State of Gangland Violence in the United State

Panel V. Solutions to Prevent and Preempt Juvenile Violence

- Pre-event Networking **during Sign-in – 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.**
- Conference and Networking **from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- One on One Meetings

Distinguished Attendees:

Building Bridges is expected to have significant attendance providing magnified exposure. The one day event anticipates an approximate and projected attendance of 200 to 300 attendees from various key diversified sectors:

Mental Health Sector: Counselors, Case Managers, Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrist's, Certified Addiction Professionals, Guardians, Mental Health Nurses, Nutritionists, Occupational Therapists.

Healthcare Sector: Administrators and Counselors from Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Pharmacists, Hospital Behavioral Health Wards, Nurses; Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses; Dentists, Hygienists, Oral Surgeons, Cosmetic Dentists.

Educational Sector: Administrators and Counselors from Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety Sector/Corrections/Probation: Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders and Defense Attorneys, Police Chiefs, Law Enforcement Administrators, Crisis Intervention Team representatives from various police departments, Corrections personnel, and representatives from the Office of Probation.

Clergymen/Clergywomen: All denominations

The Need:

Youth violence garners considerable attention in the media as well as in public policy debates. In its role of assessing crime (and social issues that can transpire into crime), the Broward County Crime Commission felt compelled to conduct a forum on the underlying reasons why Juvenile and Adolescent Violence may occur.

As part of the Crime Commission's Building Bridges Mental Health Conference series, the Crime Commission is hosting a one day conference, with a variety of panels, speakers, and experts to address this "Social Concern". Some of the foremost professionals, educators, and brightest minds in the fields of law enforcement, criminal justice, sociology, psychiatry, psychology, behavioral health sciences, medicine, education, and academia will be participating.

During this symposium, the Crime Commission will attempt to seek answers of the sociologic, human behavior and/or psychosis of why such crimes occur. Why do Juvenile, Adolescent and Youth Violence continue to envelop one tragedy after another? What are the reasons? What are the solutions?

Sociological and Psychological Issues:

Is the recurring problem of Juvenile Violence more sociological or psychological? How important is the family unit, including the necessary responsibilities allotted parents? What good, bad, or indifferent influence does the surrounding community have on Juvenile Violence? Is it responsible social behavior to have children witness real life violence or engage in media or technological recreation where murder and crime are the main precedents of entertainment?

These are some of the conundrums, including much more, that have been discussed, documented, dissected, written and discussed again, time and time again, on a professional basis, for over 100 years in the United States. Ironically, although the studies have been comprehensive, and further catalogued in specialized sub-topics of Juvenile Violence, the credible reports have rarely been rebuked. Why? Everyone seems to have had their own saga to which they can relate. Albeit a friend, a family member, etc., etc.

Moreover, although society has become more socially liberal over the past 100 years, most people still have a sensitive and empathetic heart toward children and cannot come to terms of why a child would ever commit a violent act. Finally, rather than rebuke or complain, and be part of the problem, many seem to want to be part of the solution. This is half the battle; the glass is certainly half full in resolving this escalating problem!

What then, does the United States have to do, to finally eliminate this problem from the American culture? There are tremendous 'play books' of solutions on the topic, but are there so many, that perhaps it may be too overwhelming to sift through to clearly define what works best?

Realities to Consider:

Each year, youth homicides and assault-related injuries result in an estimated \$16 billion in combined medical and work loss costs. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) indicate that homicide is the second leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds overall, after car accidents. In this age group, homicide is the number one cause of death among African Americans, the second leading cause of death among Hispanics, and the third leading cause of death among American Indians. (1)

The teen murder rate in the United States is ten times that of Western Europe and seventy times that of Japan. The majority (75%) of teen murderers know their victims:

1. 27% are family members;
2. 48% are friends or acquaintances.

Eighty percent of the time, the teen killer uses a gun, and 75% of the time, the murder is about gang violence. Girls account for 10% of teen murders, and their victim is usually a parent, boyfriend or their own child. <http://www.crchealth.com/troubled-teenagers/teen-murder>. In 2002, 5,219 youth ages 15 to 24 were murdered—an average of 14 per day.

Violence does not have to be fatal to greatly affect individuals and communities. Estimates from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System suggest that more than 589,000 youth ages 15 to 24 were treated for nonfatal, assault-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency departments in 2002. That is 111 nonfatal injuries for every violence-related death.

The Following Circumstances Double the Chances of a Juvenile Committing Murder:

1. A history of being abused or neglected;
2. Gang membership;
3. A family history of criminal violence

The Following Circumstances Triple the Risk:

1. Having a gun in the house;
2. School difficulties and poor attendance
3. A history of arrests
4. Having a neurological or mental disorder.

Several Kinds of Killers:

1. The angry, impulsive juvenile who acts in anger or passion;
2. The juvenile with an ongoing problem with a family member or friend;
3. The juvenile who kills while committing a crime;
4. The juvenile school shooter.
5. Sixteen percent of juvenile murders have no apparent motive.

Researched Validations for Juvenile Shootings:

1. Severe depression and a history of suicide attempts
2. Feeling bullied, persecuted, threatened and personally attacked at school
3. Lack of social bonds with family members
4. Sullen loners with an extreme interest/obsession with weapons and violence

Other Signs of Potential Trouble:

1. Poor anger and impulse control;
2. Bullying others;
3. Social isolation
4. Lack of conscience and empathy;
5. Cruelty to animals or children;
6. Drug and alcohol abuse;
7. Nihilism;
8. Contempt for others;
9. Black and White thinking due to lack of logic and reasoning skills.

Awareness:

Parents, guardians, siblings, relatives, mentors, role models, friends, and teachers have an inherent responsibility to themselves and society to preempt these potential acts of violence brought on by the tendencies described herein and throughout this paper; and to seek immediate treatment for a juvenile suffering such emotional challenges. Having a gun in the house not only triples the child's risk for homicide, but it increases the risk of committing suicide ten times over.

The Building Bridges symposium intends to address all stated concerns and leave attendees and participants with clearly defined predictive analytics, as well as solutions.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Webbased Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2010). [cited 2012 Oct 19]; Available from www.cdc.gov/injury.



38 DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS & PANELISTS PARTICIPATING!

(Plus More Will be on Hand for September 30th!)

- 1. Linda Bacheller, PSY.D., J.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Director, M.S. Clinical Psychology Program**
- 2. Dr. Michael P. Brannon, Founder, the Institute of Behavioral Sciences and the Law**
- 3. Lori J. Butts, J.D., Ph.D., President and Director of the Clinical & Forensic Institute**
- 4. Marilyn Camerota, Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital**
- 5. Attorney Henry Coxe III, Director, The Bedell Law Firm**
- 6. Captain Adriene Daise, Juvenile Assessment Center, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO)**
- 7. Cassandra Evans, M.S., Chief Probation Officer, Circuit 17, Probation & Community Intervention**
- 8. Detective Mike Ferraldo, Gang Related Issues, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO)**
- 9. Dr. Laura Finley, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology/Criminology Barry University**
- 10. Detective Kevin Forsberg, Homicide, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO)**
- 11. Judge Joseph Foster, Juvenile Division, 20th Judicial Circuit**
- 12. Juliana Gerena, Psy.D., Juliana Gerena, Psy.D., P.A., & Associates**
- 13. Dr. Raul Gonzalez, Director of the Substance Use and HIV Neuropsychology (SUHN) Lab, Department of Psychology, Florida International University (FIU)**
- 14. Dr. Lisa Konczal, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology/Criminology Barry University**
- 15. Senior Judge Joel Lazarus**
- 16. Dr. Jill Levenson, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Barry University**
- 17. Attorney Jim Lewis**

18. **Lindsay C. Malloy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Florida International University (FIU)**
19. **Tisa McGhee, PHD, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Barry University**
20. **Ms. Paula McMahon, Writer, Sun-Sentinel Newspaper**
21. **Detective Cesar Morales, Gang Related Issues, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO)**
22. **Tiesha Nelson, Psy. D., The Association of Black Psychologists, South Florida Chapter**
23. **Dr. Eva Nowakowski, PhD., LCSW, MPH, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Barry University**
24. **Attorney Ken Padowitz**
25. **Deputy Chief Clyde Parry, Gang Related Issues, Coral Springs Police Department**
26. **Michaelle Pope, Diversity Prevention and Intervention (DPI), Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)**
27. **Silvia Quintana, CEO of the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, (BBHC)**
28. **Judge Carlos Rebollo, Juvenile Division, 17th Judicial Circuit**
29. **Mitchell Rosenwald, PHD, LCSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Barry University**
30. **David Scharf, Department of Community Programs, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO)**
31. **Dean Phyllis F. Scott, PhD., School of Social Work, Barry University**
32. **Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO, Children Services Council, Broward County**
33. **Dr. Jon A. Shaw, Professor and Director, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Miami**
34. **Dr. Lucina Uddin, Principal Investigator, University of Miami, Department of Psychology, Brain Connectivity and Cognition Laboratory**
35. **Dr. Robin R. Vallacher, Department of Psychology, Florida Atlantic University (FAU)**
36. **Miguel T. Villodas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Center for Children and Families, Department of Psychology, Florida International University (FIU)**
37. **Dr. Barbara Weinstein, CEO/President, Family Central**
38. **Chief Judge Peter Weinstein, 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida**

ABOUT THE CRIME COMMISSION:

Purpose:

The Broward County Crime Commission is a 39 year old independent, state chartered office, acting judiciously on behalf of law – abiding citizens, in overseeing local, state, and federal Criminal Justice System protocols, processes, methodologies, and approaches, to better protect and assist the citizens of Broward County.

Mission:

The Crime Commission assesses and evaluates crime in Broward County (and south Florida), and works in concert with Law Enforcement, the General Public, and the Criminal Justice System, to derive solutions against crime, as well as social issues that can transpire into crime, in order to enhance public safety.

Role:

As an independent, fact – finding agency, the Crime Commission has distinguished itself as a laureate governing body, which works diligently to improve the integrity of the Criminal Justice System, as well as strengthen and preserve the key components of Public Safety in Broward County, on behalf of the Broward County citizenry.

Operations:

The Crime Commission executes its operations through a cadre of meritorious program's involving perspective, education, research, white paper studies, technology, analytics, advocacy, certifications, outreach rehabilitative and counseling programs, and facilitation of findings to both the Criminal Justice System and the residents of Broward County.

Programs:

The Crime Commission embodies innovative, preemptive, and proactive protocols (versus reactive programs), especially with guiding and mentoring children, so that they do not succumb to a life of crime, or suffer the ill fate of a heinous crime. **Programs for 2016 include:**

1. The Building Bridges Mental Health Conference Series, as It Relates to Psychosis, Psychopathology, and Crime Reduction
2. Broward County Crime Commission Center for Research and Technology
3. CSI: STEM Leadership Summer Camp
5. High School Criminal Justice Curriculums
6. Broward County Crime Commission Institute of Criminal Justice Breakfast Series