

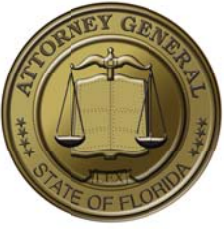


ANNUAL REPORT 2017



FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS





A MESSAGE FROM OUR ATTORNEY GENERAL

In 2006, the Florida Legislature established the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, housed in the Attorney General's Office, Department of Legal Affairs. The Council consists of 19 appointed members to study conditions affecting black men and boys in the state of Florida.

It is my privilege to present the Council's 2017 Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to bring awareness to communities throughout the state of Florida. Under the leadership of Dr.

Eddy Regnier, APS Healthcare, Sarasota, Florida, the Council concentrates its efforts in exploring the conditions affecting black men and boys. This report, highlights the importance of the Council's work and its impact in Florida.

I commend the Council for its hard work and commitment to improving the social conditions impacting the lives of black men and boys in Florida. I pledge to do what I can as Attorney General, to help implement the Council's recommendations, and I urge policy makers, community-based organizations, and local government officials to support the important work of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

Sincerely,

Pam Bondi
Attorney General



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

On behalf of The Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, I am delighted to present this year's annual report to Governor Rick Scott, Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran, Senate President Joe Negron, Attorney General Pam Bondi, state agency heads, community advocates and the citizens of the State of Florida. The Council offers this year's annual report with a vision for the future and hope for a better tomorrow.

This year, the Council began exploring the terrible impact of violent crimes in black communities across the state with the hope of finding suitable solutions. With the help of the Department of Education and Employment Opportunities, the Council has also examined how technological growth will affect future employment for African Americans. Finally, the Council has collaborated with the Office of Surgeon General to find ways to improve access to health care services and address the traditional barriers that keep African Americans away from Health Care systems across the state. It is the Council's hope that the lives of black men and boys will improve through the collective efforts of good men and women across our richly diverse state. The Council is committed to lead us into a healthy and prosperous future that benefits all.

Sincerely,

Eddy M. Regnier, Ph.D.
Chairman

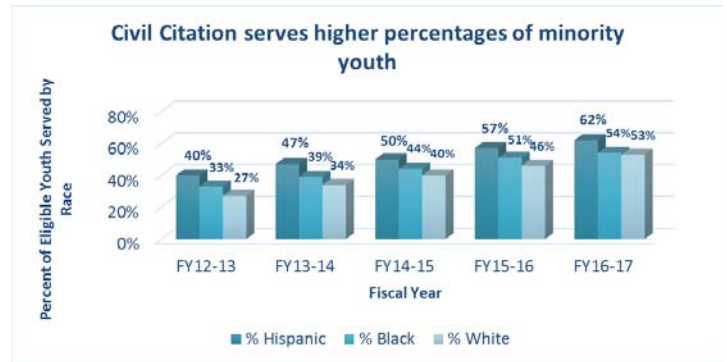
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Civil Citation Program is an alternative to arrest that addresses a youth's behavior at his or her first encounter with the juvenile justice system. Benefits of civil citation include the avoidance of a criminal history record for the cited offense while holding youth accountable. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, 17,725 youth were eligible to receive a civil citation and 9,727 (55%) were cited, representing a 5-percentage point increase from the prior fiscal year.

Civil Citation

Civil Citation has historically served higher percentages of eligible minority youth. In Fiscal Year 2016-17, 62% of eligible Hispanic youth were cited, compared to 54% of eligible Black youth and 53% of eligible White youth.



Counties that didn't have Civil Citation coverage as of June 2017: Washington, Calhoun, Gulf, Bradford, Hardee and Taylor

Recommendation(s)

The Council should continue its focus on the use of civil citation in all 67 counties, as a means to build success in the lives of Black Youth across the State.

- ❖ The Council should advocate for a mandate that all 67 counties implement and utilize civil citations for youth.
- ❖ The Council should plan Days of Dialogue with Law Enforcement and the State Attorney's Office over the next two (2) years, in each county that does not current use civil citations to research why these jurisdictions are not using the program.

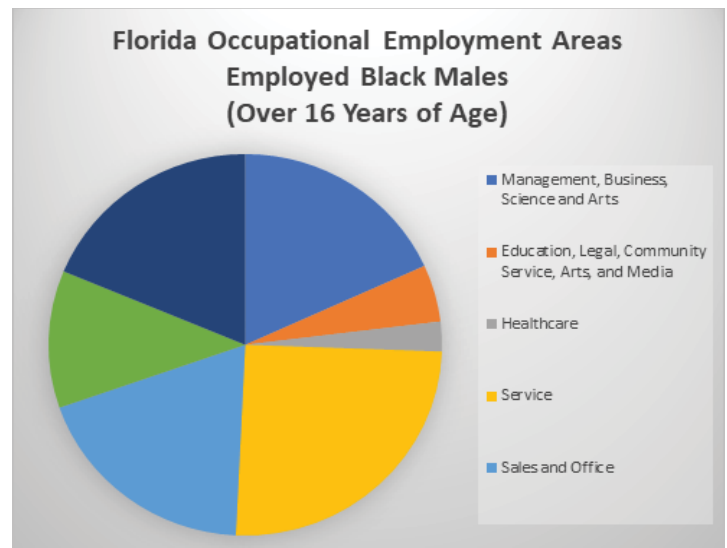
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Each year, the growth of technology moves at accelerated rates. Technological innovations are continuing to evolve and will revolutionize how we live. Information Technology is identified as one of Florida's Targeted Industries by Enterprise Florida. The state's information technology strengths are diverse, and range from photonics, to mobile technologies, to communications equipment, to modeling and simulation, and beyond.

Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematic (STEM) programs in Florida's Public Schools embrace the integration of technology and engineering in science and mathematics. Access to STEM programs is open to all students. The public education system's programs strive to increase the number of students enrolled, with an emphasis on including students from under represented subpopulations as well as students who may need additional assistance to enroll and successfully complete STEM courses.

According to TechAmerica Foundation, Florida ranks #4 in the United States for high-tech employment (Source: Enterprise Florida). The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity uses data collected through the American Community Survey to gather pertinent demographic and economic data at the National, State and Local levels. This survey reflects that in Florida, 18,733 black males were employed in a computer, engineering and science related occupation while 172,104 black males were employed in a Service occupation.



While technology is rapidly advancing, there is little public discussion of what these changes will mean for our black youths. Many black males have inadequate understanding of how rapidly changing technological innovations will have an impact on our daily lives and future educational and employment opportunities.

In an effort to increase the representation of black males in high-tech, high-wage occupational areas, the Council has formed a partnership with the Department of Education and Department of Economic Development to begin a systematic study review of strategies that will improve access for black males in STEM related, specifically computer and technology related courses and technology related employment opportunities.

Recommendation(s)

- ❖ The Council should leverage the partnership with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to:
 - o Conduct a review of existing STEM (specifically technology) education and workforce opportunities
 - o Identify barriers that interfere with black males participating in these courses
 - o Recommend strategies that will lead to an increase in black male representation in the technology occupations

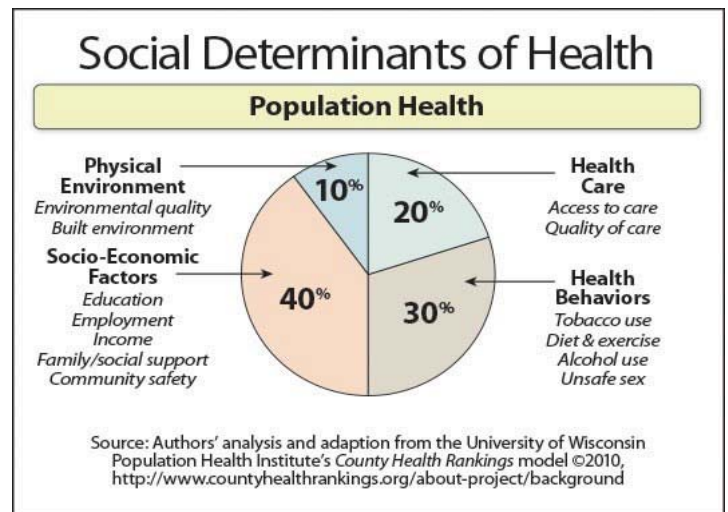
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

PHYSICAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND FAMILY STABILITY

African-American men have the lowest life expectancy and the highest mortality rate among all other racial, ethnic, and gender groups in the United States. The life expectancy for black men is 70 years as compared with 76 years for white men. This disparity is primarily attributed to significant social and environmental factors that comprise the social determinants of health among African-American males.

According to the World Health Organization, The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. Three social determinants are particularly relevant to African-American men: low socioeconomic status, racial discrimination, and incarceration.

The Council for the Social Status of Black Men and Boys is committed to addressing these social determinants that result in these very troubling statistics. Our focus is on identifying programs and interventions that expand individual and community empowerment, and promote protective factors that improve overall well-being. Consistent with our Council’s mission, we will continue to research and propose evidence-based practices that reduce negative outcomes related to physical and behavioral health disparities for African-American males.



Promising Practices

1. Implementing and expanding programs that improve and increase community capacity and community empowerment. Dr. A. J. Franklin’s African-American Empowerment Network (AMEN) is one example of these types of programs. This network is made up of small support groups of African-American men who are offered opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge to empower them to make better choices about their health and to become engaged in their communities.

2. My Brother’s Keeper is an initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

¹ www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

² Treadwell, H.M., Xanthos, C., and Holden, K.B. (Eds.). (2013). *Social Determinants of Health Among African-American Men*

³ Treadwell, H.M., Xanthos, C., and Holden, K.B. (Eds.). (2013). *Social Determinants of Health Among African-American Men*

⁴ <http://www.recastingrace.com/>

⁵ <http://www.recastingrace.com/>

3. PLAAY (Preventing Long-term Anger and Aggression in Youth) promotes the development of healthy coping skills for African-American male youth using basketball and martial arts. Participants learn to read and resolve racial and gender conflicts and reduce the effects of trauma. A key theme is that racial and gender-related conflicts are resolvable through stress management and can improve youth achievement and persistence in schooling.

4. SHAPE-UP which trains Black barbers as health educators to teach Black males ages 18–24, while they are cutting their hair, to reduce their risk of HIV/STDs and retaliation violence.

Recommendation(s)

- ❖ More funded research and programs in Florida that address the social determinants of health among African-American males.⁶
- ❖ Direct prevention efforts in Florida to reduce behavioral health disparities. For example, increasing awareness of adverse childhood experiences, such as abuse, neglect, and crime in the home are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems.⁷
- ❖ Developing evidence-based programming and policies in Florida targeting empowerment strategies for African-American fathers.

Community....Connection....Commitment

The Council on the Social of Black Men and Boys (CSSBMB) critically explores some of the greatest challenges presently faced by black men and boys. Through community dialogue, discussion panels, field experts, and research, the CSSBMB produces vital recommendations that serve as a blue print for policy driven decisions. This year, the CSSBMB demonstrated its commitment to fulfilling their legislative mandate through the endorsement of 2 special initiatives. The areas of focus included:

- * physical and mental health for black males
- * black males in employment
- * pathways of Black youth to the criminal justice system

Orlando - June 2, 2017

Teen Workshop on Effective Youth Engagement: Making IT

The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (CSSBMB) sponsored a teen workshop in conjunction with the 32nd National Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference. The CSSBMB engaged youth in a discussion about their role in facilitating favorable encounters with law enforcement officers. Council presenters engaged youth and officers to get a deeper understanding of how quickly altercations can escalate between officers and civilians. Youth attendees were also given an opportunity to speak about some of the existing barriers that prevent favorable encounters and ultimately affect their individual lives and communities.

The workshop was held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida on Friday, June 2, 2017.

Orlando - November 17, 2017

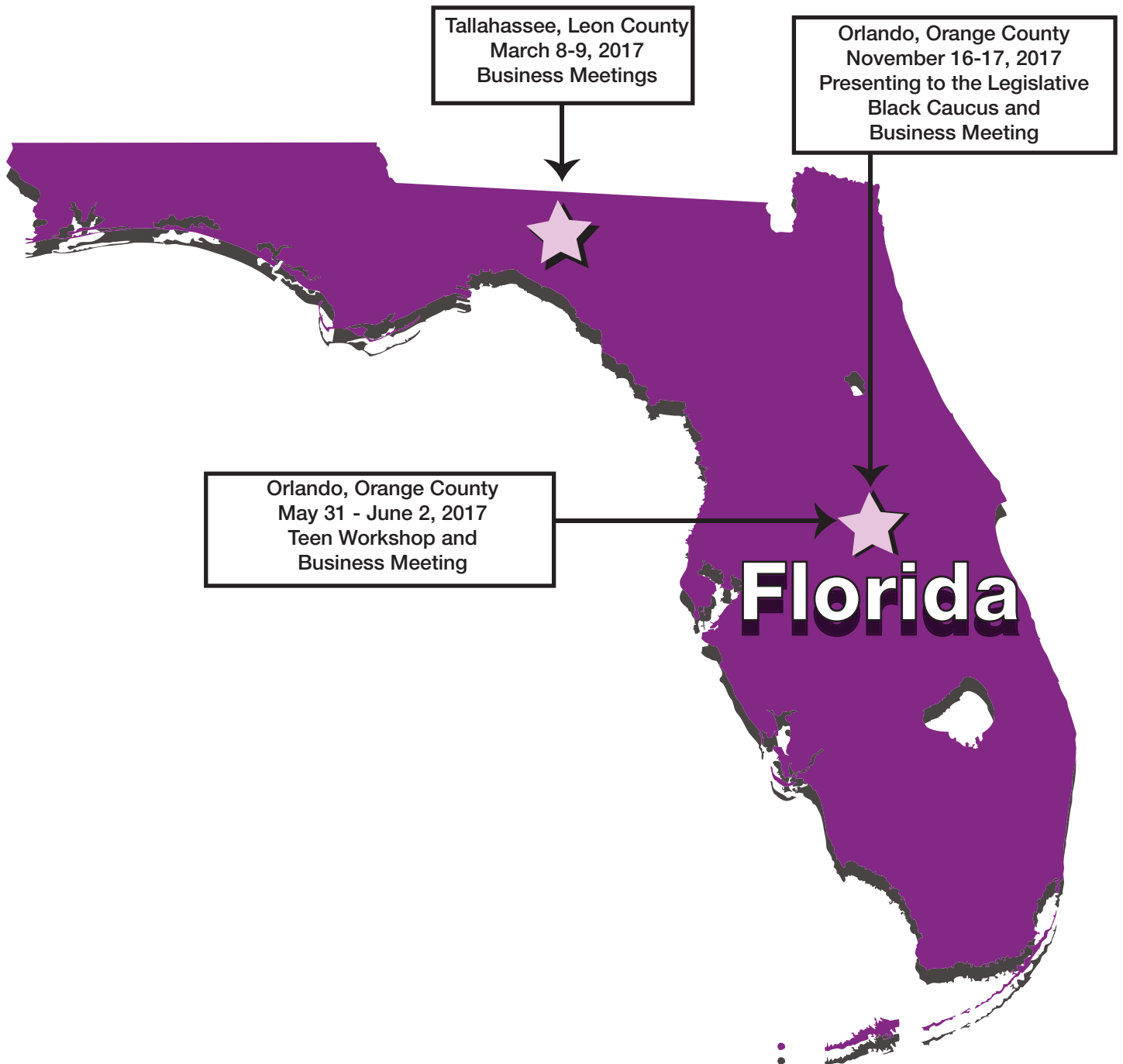
Presentation for the Legislative Black Caucus

The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (CSSBMB) attended a Florida Legislative Black Caucus Meeting held at the Rosen Shingle Creek on Friday, November 17, 2017 in Orlando, Florida. Chairman Eddie Regnier gave a presentation, highlighting the CSSBMB's work to improve the plight of black men and boys statewide.

⁶Treadwell, H.M., Xanthos, C., and Holden, K.B. (Eds.). (2013). Social Determinants of Health Among African-American Men

⁷ Ensuring the Well-being of Boys and Young Men of Color: Factors that Promote Success and Protect Against Substance Use and Misuse. (2016). SAMHSA's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies.

ENGAGING...EDUCATING...EQUIPPING...ENCOURAGING



COUNCIL MEMBERS



Chairman
Eddy M. Regnier, Ph. D.
Clinical and Forensic Psychologist
Assessment and Psychotherapy Services



Vice Chair
Rod Duckworth, Chancellor
Career & Adult Education



1st Vice Chair
Paul Wilson, Senior Associate
PCG Education Consulting



2nd Vice Chair
Argatha Rigby-Gilmore, Police Chief
Lake City Police Department



Albert Simpson, Jr., Ph. D., Reverend
Pastor
Philemon Worship Center



Marcus Smith, Deputy Manager
Office of Prevention and Victim Services
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice



Ben Shirley, Jr., Director
Regional Economic Self Sufficiency
Florida Department of Children and Families



Perry Thurston, Jr., Senator
District 33
Florida Senate



Byron Donalds, Representative
District 80
Florida House



Ramon Alexander, Representative
District 8
Florida House



Gilbert D. Barnes, Assistant Bureau Chief
Contract Management and Monitoring
Florida Department of Corrections



Shawn Thomas, Reverend
Youth Paster
Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church



Greg Steube, Senator
District 23
Florida Senate



Shila Salem, Bureau Chief
Office of One Stop and Program Support
Florida Department Economic Opportunity



Jerome Hill, Program Operations Administrator
Bureau of Medicaid
Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration



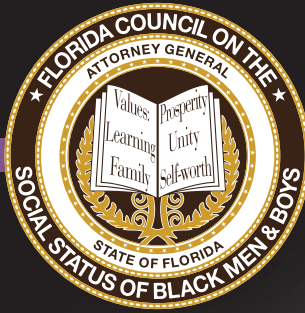
Thad Fortune, Coordinator
Vendor Relations
Florida Department of Management Services



Keli Wells, MD, Deputy Secretary
Florida Department of Health



William Hardin, Manager
Operations Unit - SAMH
Florida Department of Children and Families



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DECEMBER 2017**

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PL-01, THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1050
(850) 414-3300**

WWW.CSSBMB.COM