

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Fair connects the behavioral health pieces

Port St. Lucie – In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Devereux Community Based Care and the area's managing entity for mental health and substance abuse services teamed up this month to host the area's first behavioral health fair.

About 60 people attended the event, which was coordinated by Devereux CBC and Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to educate local providers of one another's resources and to create awareness of those resources among child-welfare professionals.

"We thought this event would help educate and connect community providers - those who work with families daily but who may not be aware of certain available resources," said Melanie Baculima, event coordinator and Devereux CBC behavioral health supervisor. "It also allows those same providers to connect faces to names as we all are working together to ensure the safety and well-being of our families."



The event definitely met its goals, Baculima said, adding that plans for next year's fair are already underway. Many providers who attended the fair started forging new relationships and even planning upcoming trainings together.

Some of the 16 vendors who attended the fair include Sequel Care of Florida, New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Suncoast Mental Health and Sunshine Health.

"We're going to work on better attendance next year," Baculima said. "And we want to include more professionals working in the schools, child protective investigators from the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice."

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