





Learning objectives

- 1. Learn how one parks and recreation agency created and nurtured a program to share wellness messages with their community.
- 2. Learn how to recognize signs within your communities of mental health first aid needed and how to offer support to those in need of services.
- 3. Name techniques which you can use to develop a healing atmosphere from which we can all benefit.

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HealthyU

 A program offered by PSLPRD which connects our park and recreation programming, services, facilities and parks with those in our community who may be experiencing mental health issues.







The mental health impacts of COVID-19

- 70% of Americans report the economy is a source of stress (APA).
- One in three Americans have displayed signs of anxiety, depression or both since the pandemic began.
- One in five American report a physical reaction when thinking about the pandemic.
- 18% of Americans reported experiencing anxiety all or most of that time during the past week (Pew).
- Text messages to the federal disaster distress hotline increased **1,000**% in 2020.
- Psychological casualties outnumber physical casualties by four to one.



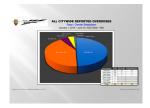
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How HealthyU began...

- Personal loss of son Danny to 2018 opioid overdose
- Increase in drug incidents in our parks (58 between 2015 and 2019)
- Early 2019, through support of our Department Director, the Department launched an Opioid Epidemic Awareness training to all Department staff.











How HealthyU grew...

- Department trainings proved highly successful and impactful
- City management and HR
 Department requested expanding
 the trainings to include all City staff
- These trainings brought awareness of the epidemic to our more than 1,000 City staff members in October and November 2019.

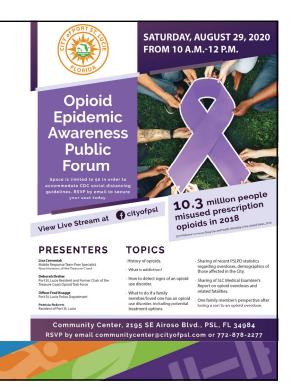




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How HealthyU grew...

- With City management support, the training was then expanded again to include members of the public
- The Opioid Epidemic Public Forum was introduced and first held in January 2020, pre-COVID.
- The second Public Forum was held August 2020, via live streaming, due to COVID-19 precautions.



PARKS & RECREATION



How HealthyU grew...

- With the continued success of these trainings and public forums, the Department expanded its mental health programming efforts
- HealthyU: A Series of Conversations was born.
- Program features a monthly forum, in-person and virtual, focusing on a mental health topic featuring subject matter experts



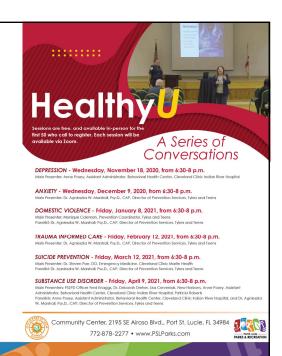


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How HealthyU grew...

- Topics include:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Domestic Violence
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Opioid Epidemic Awareness
 - Bullying

- Gender Violence
- Dementia
- Eating Disorders
- Stress Management
- Bipolar Affective Disorder

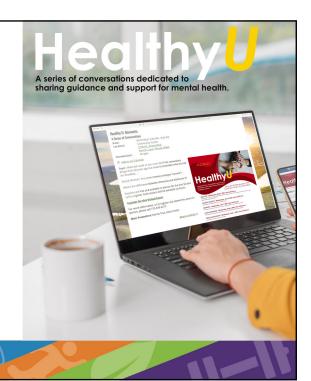






HealthyU's future...

- The HealthyU brand of programming will also house additional related programs in the future:
 - Mental Health Awareness Month celebrations
 - International Overdose Awareness Day
 - The "Life Raft"





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HealthyU's future...

- May Mental Health Awareness Month
- Included nine FREE outdoor programs in City parks
- Two guided fitness walks on City trails and seven Yoga classes in parks
- Met the needs of our community as hundreds sought mental health needs through outdoor recreation







HealthyU's future...

- International Overdose Awareness Day event
 - Seeks to create a better understanding of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and create change that reduce harms associated with drug use
 - Held Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the Boardwalk at The Port
 - Featured a candlelight processional along the boardwalk, live classical music, light refreshments and a reading of the names of loved ones who have died from a drug overdose.





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HealthyU's future...

- International Overdose Awareness Day event
 - By holding this event, Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation is adding a global movement for understanding, compassion and change. In 2019, there were a record 97 similar IOAD events, held in 39 countries.
 - Last year, amid COVID-19, the world still held 602 events.







HealthyU's future...

- The "Life Raft"
 - A designate fitness program for those in Substance Use Disorder recovery
 - Led by fitness staff, a weightlifting/strength-conditioning coach who has experience in recovery
 - Years of data show that simple exercise provides people with health benefits, often leading to stronger feelings of selfconfidence and self-worth

"Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community"

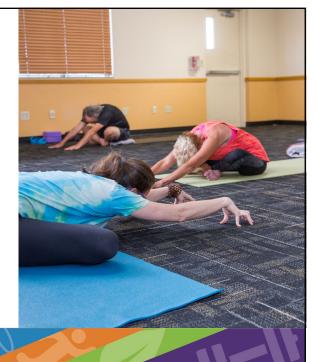




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HealthyU's future...

- The "Life Raft"
 - Offered Tuesday/Thursdays, 2-4 p.m. at the HUMANA Fitness & Wellness Center at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center
 - Low cost (\$10/month) program for individuals enrolled in and referred by a recognized recovery program
 - "Judgment-free" environment with the support of others on their same journey toward connectivity
 - Yoga/meditation class specifically designed for "Life Raft" participants







Lessons learned through HealthyU

- Depression is one of the **most common** mental health disorder.
- Depression can be caused by **genetic**, **biological**, **environmental** and **psychological** factors.
- Stigma prevents people from seeking the help they need.
- There are three types of stress: **positive**, **tolerable and toxic** (the last of which can change the brain).
- Anxiety is the most common mental health discorder.
- Food is the most abused anxiety drug.
- Selfcare is not selfish...it is **necessary**.



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Lessons learned through HealthyU

- One in four women and one in nine men experience severe physical violence from an intimate partner.
- One in three women and one in four men have experienced a form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- The first **72 hours** after a domestic violence incident is the most dangerous because the batterer is looking for the victim.
- One in fifteen children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year





Lessons learned through HealthyU

- We must change our language from "why doesn't 'she' just leave" to holding the **perpetrator** accountable.
- We must shift our perspective from "what's with you" to "what happened to you", then "what's right with you".
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are the single greatest public health threat.
- ACEs are categorized by abuse, household disfunction and neglect.
- 68% of Americans heave experience one or more ACE (Kaiser Permanente)
- 26% have experience three or more ACEs



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Lessons learned through HealthyU

- Every **16.6 minutes** someone intentionally ends his/her life.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death in college students, and the third leading causes of death in youth overall.
- 20% will have a suicide within their immediate family.
- 60% will know someone personally who dies by suicide.
- Myth: Suicidal people are fully intent on dying.
- Fact: Most suicidal people are undecided about living or dying (suicidal ambivalence).





Lessons learned through HealthyU

- Myth: Men are more likely to be suicidal.
- Fact: Men **complete** suicide more than women, but women **attempt** suicide more than men (by a factor of three).
- Myth: Suicide occurs in greater numbers around year-end holidays.
- Fact: Highest suicide rates are in April.
- Most suicidal people don't want to die they just want their pain to end
- **80**% of those who die by suicide have given definite signals or talked about suicide before their death.



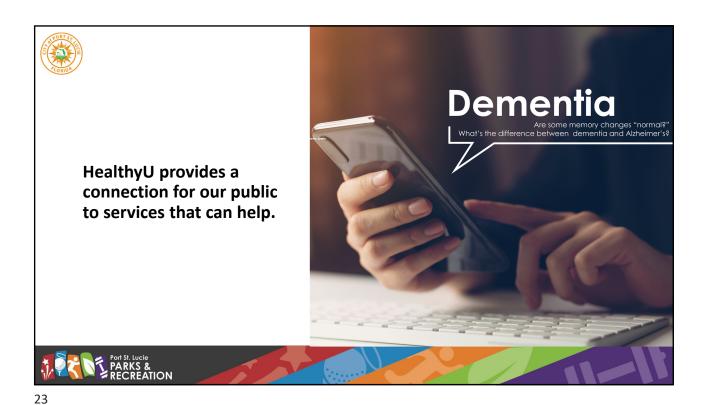
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Lessons learned through HealthyU

- Port St. Lucie reported a **41.9% increase** in opioid-related overdoses between 2019 and 2020.
- Port St. Lucie reported a near **13% increase** in opioid overdose fatalities between 2019 and 2020.
- Port St. Lucie Police Department reported a **218.2% increase** in their use of NarCan, to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, between 2019 and 2020.





HealthyU is the 2021 National Recreation & Park Association's Innovation in Health Award winner, and the 2021 Florida Recreation and Park Association Innovative Programming: Community Building Award winner!



HealthyU 2022 Programming

- Jan. 5: Gender Violence / Human Trafficking
 - Mindy Fetterman, The Inner Truth Project
- Feb. 2: Domestic Violence
 - Monique Coleman, Tykes & Teens
- Mar. 2: Downs Syndrome
 - Athary Koning, ARC of St. Lucie County
- Apr. 6: The Autism Spectrum
 - Kevin Lane, Tykes & Teens
- May 4: Trauma Informed Care
 - Dr. Agnieszka Marshall, Tykes & Teens
- Jun. 1: LGBTQ+
 - Presenter TBD





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HealthyU 2022 Programming

- Jul. 6: Dementia
 - Donna True, Council on Aging Martin County
- Aug. 3: Opioid Epidemic Awareness
 - Dr. Deborah Dreher, PSLPD Officer Fred Knaggs and Patricia Roberts
- Sep. 7: Suicide Prevention
 - Anne Posey, Cleveland Clinic Indian River
- Oct. 5: Bullying
 - Gretchen Raziela, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- · Nov. 16: Depression
 - Anne Posey, Cleveland Clinic Indian River
- Dec. 7: Anxiety
 - Anne Posey, Cleveland Clinic Indian River







