



Join the Hillsborough County Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee

Why the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee (ABAC) Was Formed:

In May 2009, four teenage boys from a Hillsborough County middle school were arrested after allegedly assaulting a fellow student. The student told authorities he endured months of bullying that escalated into the incident. This resulted in an outpouring from across the community and led Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to create *Bully Busters*, a comprehensive, community-wide anti-bullying program. The County's Criminal Justice Office, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and Crime Stoppers of Tampa Bay partnered to organize *Bully Busters*.

What Bully Busters Is:

The *Bully Busters* campaign is a three-pronged approach consisting of public awareness, community education and community support. The BOCC voted to establish the 13-member ABAC in August 2009. The ABAC provides advice and recommendations to curb and eliminate all forms of bullying throughout Hillsborough County.

ABAC Duties:

- Collect and analyze data about bullying to guide future policy and practice.
- Advise educational institutions and community settings and businesses where children are present about good practices related to bullying prevention, including reporting and recording systems and surveys to curb bullying.
- Research, promote and disseminate solutions with regard to bullying prevention and intervention.
- Work with children, young people and parents/caretakers to ensure effective systems exist throughout the County (parks, recreation centers, etc.) to address bullying.
- Recommend and possibly purchase anti-bullying training curriculum and other materials.

ABAC Meetings:

The ABAC meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. The meetings are usually held at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 26th Floor, in Tampa, unless otherwise noticed. The Committee falls under the Florida Sunshine Law and all meetings are open to the public.

Bully Busters Youth Council (BBYC):

The BBYC is an arm of the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee. The Youth Council consists of approximately 80 kids from ages 7-17 from all over Hillsborough County. The BBYC has elected its own Council President, Vice President and Secretary. The group meets once a month and works on various projects to raise awareness about bullying and develop ways to stop the bullying cycle. Some of the activities include a bowling night, a youth rally, and the *Too Good For Drugs and Violence Walk & Kidfest* on October 2 at MOSI.



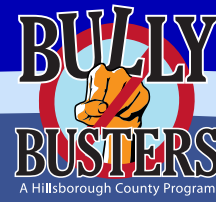
BBYC members busy at work.



Miss Florida Jaelyn Raulerson attends a BBYC meeting.



BBYC officers



Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

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Bully Busters Accomplishments:

- *Superior Award* from National Association of County Information Officers
- *Silver Circle Award* from 3CMA (City-County Communications & Marketing Association)
- *Award of Merit* from the IABC (International Association of Business Communicators) Bronze Quill Competition
- Spotlited on Nickelodeon
- Featured in national magazines including American City & County and National Association of Counties (NACo)
- Featured extensively in local media including ABC Action News, Bay News 9, FOX 13, WFLA, WTSP, WTOG, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine*.

Reward For You:

- ✓ You will have a positive impact on the community and contribute to improving the quality of life.
- ✓ Sponsorship opportunities that could lead to use of logo or recognition on printed materials.
- ✓ Participation opportunities in events.
- ✓ Networking opportunities with children, parents and youth-serving organizations.
- ✓ Opportunity to shape policy and participate in decision-making.

How To Join:

- Log onto www.hillsboroughcounty.org; click on the "County Commission" link on the left side of the page.
- Then click on "Advisory Boards and Councils."
- Fill out the word application for County appointments and print it.
- Directions for submission are on the form.
- You can also call Carol Michel, Hillsborough County Criminal Justice, at 813-276-2033.



Program Managers Carol Michel and Eddie Santiago with members of the Youth Council