

Lead The Fight Luncheon



World-renowned parenting expert and clinician **Dr. Tina Payne Bryson** emphasized the “no-drama” way of disciplining children at **Center for Child Counseling (CFCC) 2026**

Kick-Off Lead the Fight Luncheon at The Breakers Palm Beach. 140 statewide leaders and community members left with practical, tangible knowledge of how to rethink discipline and support children’s emotional and relational development.

Dr. Bryson, a *New York Times* bestselling author, shared her expertise on responding to others with curiosity and looking at behavior as communication.

Dr. Bryson’s transformative work aligns with Center for Child Counseling’s HOPE framework — healthy outcomes from positive experiences — which marks the foundation of everything CFCC does. The Center is not just responding to crisis, it is walking alongside children, families, schools, organizations, and congregations building hope throughout Palm Beach County: it serves as a nationally-recognized model for fighting ACEs (adverse childhood experiences).

At the luncheon, the Center formally announced the availability of its updated *A Way of Being with Children* manual — an early childhood curriculum grounded in trauma-informed and HOPE-informed care. The manual is a practical, research-based resource for every adult who works or cares for children.

CFCC’s Chief Executive Officer **Renée Layman** thanked Dr. Bryson for bringing her brilliance to Palm Beach County, “What you have given us is a lens we now carry into every interaction we have with a child from this moment forward. We do not have to wait for a child to fall apart to start helping them. Prevention is cheaper than correction. HOPE is more powerful than despair. Thank you for being here. Thank you for leading the fight.”

Attendees left better equipped to foster connection, understanding, well-being, and HOPE in children, families, and communities.

The event was Chaired by **Kathy Leone** and emceed by **WPTV 5’s Ashley Glass**. Donors and Corporate Sponsors that made this important conversation possible include: **The Breakers Palm Beach, Searcy Law, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, Keating Moore Construction, Sage View, WPTV 5, Stephens & Stevens Marital & Family Law, Valley Bank, Kathy Leone, Jodie and Jeff Petrone**, and a visionary family foundation.

CFCC’s Fighting ACEs initiative to build trauma-informed communities is made possible with the generous support of **Quantum Foundation, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties**, and private donors.

For more information on CFCC and how it is bringing science, compassion, and community together to prevent adversity, strengthen resilience, and build a safer, healthier future for children and families visit centerforchildcounseling.org/leadthefight.

FIRST ROW: Dominika Nolan, Renée Layman and Dr. Tina Payne Bryson; Keller Lanahan, Courtney Kennedy and Kathy Leone; **SECOND ROW:** Ashley Glass and Justice Barbara Pariente; Abby Krieger and Sam Meshberg; **THIRD ROW:** Melissa Haley and Caley Kukla; Katrina Grander, Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic and Keith Oswald; **FOURTH ROW:** Lisa Williams Taylor and Laura Haas; Mary Quinlan, Anna Branney and Lauren Clifton. PHOTOS: TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

