

Taylor County Shared Services Meeting  
School Board Administrative Complex  
Monday, February 22, 2016

**Present:** Tonya Bell, Camye Edwards, Lerena Fleck, Barbara Herring, Cindy Hutto, Anthony Jones, Jamila Nance, Kevin Ogden, Ryan Parker, Rebecca Severin, Tiffany Similien, Brandi Turner, Nichole Wilder, Tom Witt and Martine Young.

**Agencies Represented:** Healthy Start Coalition, Big Bend Cares, FSU CARD, Florida Therapy Services, Big Bend AHEC, Apalachee Center, Ability 1<sup>st</sup>, Partnership for Strong Families, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, 211 Big Bend, Refuge House, Department of Juvenile Justice and Florida Department of Health in Taylor County.

**Tonya Bell** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, Tonya called for approval of the January minutes, Nichole Wilder motioned to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Brandi Turner, approved.

**Kevin Ogden** with Ability 1<sup>st</sup> disseminated flyers listing the many programs offered by the agency. Kevin is the Program Manager for the Access to Independence Program which provides loans of donated durable medical equipment, utilizing community volunteers to construct wheelchair access ramps for persons with physical disabilities and also disposable medical supplies. Kevin is always looking for volunteers to help with building ramps and is available to speak to churches, civic groups and agencies. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer you can contact Kevin at 850-575-9621 ext. 106 or [kevinogden@ability1st.info](mailto:kevinogden@ability1st.info).

**Jamila Nance** with Apalachee Center announced they have a new program on board that teaches daily living skills to clients, they have two classes a day from 9:30 to 10:30am and 10:30 to 11:30am Monday through Friday. For more information contact 850-584-5613 or [Jamilan@apalacheecenter.org](mailto:Jamilan@apalacheecenter.org).

**Anthony Jones** with Big Bend AHEC provides health education and tobacco cessation programs, they are also presenting a program on Lupus. For more information contact 850-224-1177 or [ajones@bigbendahec.org](mailto:ajones@bigbendahec.org).

**Tom Witt** with the Department of Juvenile Justice reported six misdemeanors, three felonies, twenty three on probation and two in residential programs in Taylor County. There was also forty five hours of Community Service performed. Tom said there were two residential programs in Greenville, one for younger youth with lower IQ's, and a girls program at JoAnn Bridges Academy, and Hamilton County is looking at reopening their program.

**Tiffany Similien** is the Program Coordinator with the Help Me Grow Program, for more information contact 850-617-6306 or [tsimilien@211bigbend.org](mailto:tsimilien@211bigbend.org)

**Rebecca Severin** is the Program Manager for Healthy Families Seven Rivers, which is a Child Abuse Prevention Program serving pregnant or newly delivered women. Rebecca encouraged everyone to send referrals to Erica Brown at [ebrown@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:ebrown@healthystartjmt.org).

**Brandi Turner** with Refuge House reported they have had a slow couple of months and announced an event to be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, "Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2016 Performance for Prevention". Brandi said they are looking for performers at this time and disseminated sign-up sheets.

**Martine Young** with the Florida Department of Health in Taylor County reported they have started smoking cessation classes, they are held the third Thursday of the month from 10:00am until Noon. For more information contact 850-584-5087 or [Martine.Young@flhealth.gov](mailto:Martine.Young@flhealth.gov).

**Tonya Bell** is available to assist with KidCare Insurance applications, Whole Child Profiles and announced Preconception workshops will begin in April. For more information or to make a referral contact 850-253-5355 or [tbell@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:tbell@healthystartjmt.org).

**Ryan Parker** is with Partnership for Strong Families and serves 5 counties, Ryan helps families get in touch with services in their area. For more information contact 386-364-7774 x2210 or [ryan.parker@pfsf.org](mailto:ryan.parker@pfsf.org).

Lerena Fleck is with the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities better known as CARD. FSU CARD was established in 1994 and is one of seven centers funded by the Florida Legislature and serves 18 counties in the Panhandle of Florida.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder defined by persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction, accompanied by restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities. The signs of ASD are usually evident in early childhood. Though it is still considered a lifelong diagnosis, with appropriate early intervention, individuals with ASD can lead productive, inclusive, and fulfilling lives. Many children with ASD do well in school, participate in activities they enjoy, go on to college, and are employed in adulthood.

ASD affects all races and socioeconomics and most recent data from the CDC indicate that 1 in 68 children in the US has an autism spectrum disorder. The prevalence for boys is about 5 times higher than it is for girls, with 1 in every 42 boys having an ASD and 1 in every 189 girls having an ASD.

There is currently no single cause for ASD's, it is generally accepted that ASD's are biological and there is no known cure. There is substantial evidence that individuals can make remarkable progress with early intervention and appropriately tailored therapies.

For more information contact Lerena at 850-487-9193 or [Lerena.fleck@medfsu.edu](mailto:Lerena.fleck@medfsu.edu).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be March 28, 2016 at 9:30am.

Minutes recorded by Cindy Hutto