

Taylor County Shared Services Meeting  
School Board Administrative Complex  
Monday, November 16, 2015

**Present:** Sarah Bayes, Nancy Bell, Tonya Bell, Rhonda Brooks, Robyn Gast, Donna Hagan, Cindy Hutto, Cynthia Monroe-Harris, Linda Murphy, Jamila Nance, Eric Scott, Rebecca Severin, Tiffany Similien, Betsy Stephens, Vanessa Brown-Stevenson, Brandi Turner, Nichole Wilder, Theresa Williams, Tom Witt and Martine Young.

**Agencies Represented:** Healthy Start Coalition, NFCC, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Taylor County Schools, Big Bend Cares, Refuge House, Florida Department of Health in Taylor County, 211 Big Bend, Taylor County Head Start, Big Bend Community Based Care, Guardian Ad Litem, Apalachee Center and Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Donna Hagan** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, Donna called for approval of the minutes, Rhonda Brooks motioned to approve the minutes of the October meeting, seconded by Brandi Turner, approved.

**Vanessa Brown- Stevenson** is the Recruiter at NFCC and announced the HIT program will start again in January, and they also have an Early Childhood Educator program that is for one semester. For more information contact 850-973-9407 or [brown-stevensonv@nfcc.edu](mailto:brown-stevensonv@nfcc.edu).

**Robyn Gast** is with Big Bend Community Based Care and the agency is the substance abuse and mental health managing entity for children and adults. For more information contact 850-410-1020 or [robyn.gast@bigbendcbc.org](mailto:robyn.gast@bigbendcbc.org).

**Rhonda Brooks** is the District School Social Worker and Homeless Liaison and reported the Back Pack Program serves 90 students, 75 in Taylor and 15 in Lafayette County and are looking to add more. For more information contact 850-838-2520 or [Rhonda.brooks@taylor.k12.fl.us](mailto:Rhonda.brooks@taylor.k12.fl.us).

**Linda Murphy** with Healthy Start announced they will have their Parents as Teachers group on Wednesday and their Prenatal Lunch and Learn on Thursday. For more information contact Linda at 850-584-5087 or [Linda.Murphy@flhealth.gov](mailto:Linda.Murphy@flhealth.gov).

**Tonya Bell** announced the Women's Health Education will be held today at 3:30pm at the Library. Tonya is available to assist with KidCare Insurance applications, Whole Child Profiles and Preconception information. Tonya also reported there are 2 families in Madison County in need of furniture if anyone can help. For more information or to make a referral contact 850-253-5355 or [tbell@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:tbell@healthystartjmt.org).

**Rebecca Severin** is the Program Manager for the Healthy Families Program which is a Child Abuse Prevention Program serving pregnant or newly delivered women and was pleased to announce the program is now serving 16 participants. Rebecca encouraged everyone to send referrals to Erica Brown at [ebrown@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:ebrown@healthystartjmt.org). Healthy Families will be conducting a Winter Clothing Drive on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Park in Greenville from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

**Tom Witt** with the Department of Juvenile Justice reported Taylor County had 6 misdemeanors, 3 felonies, 21 youth on probation and 80 hours of community service performed.

**Nancy Bell** with Taylor County Head Start reported they are involved with Fall activities and will be closed next week for the Holiday.

**Brandi Turner is the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) Coordinator with Refuge House. Refuge House covers eight counties and has two shelters, one in Leon County and one in Taylor County. Brandi stated that fear, shame and embarrassment keep victims from coming forward to report abuse, but they have a team that helps victims through the whole process. Brandi reported in Taylor County that 85% are incest reports.**

**Refuge House offers many services including a 24 hour hotline (850-681-2111 or 800-500-1119) , emergency shelter, Children's program in and out of the shelter, individual and group counseling for victims, their families and**

**friends, Injunction assistance, Community education, professional training and CEU's, Advocacy, Information and referral and a comprehensive volunteer program. All services can be accessed through the hotline.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be January 25, 2016 at 9:30am.

Minutes recorded by Cindy Hutto