

Jefferson Whole Child Coalition

January 24, 2017

Minutes

Members Present: Cumi Allen, Nan Baughman, Tonya Bell, David Cornuft, Gloria Cox, Juanita Edwards, Martha Gioielli, Barbara Herring, Cindy Hutto, Anthony Jones, Sam Lyons. Jacqueline Miller, Claudia Machado, Sandy Porrás-Gutierrez, Tiffany Similien and James Smith.

Agencies represented: Florida Department of Health in Jefferson County, Refuge House, Healthy Start Coalition, Department of Juvenile Justice, Jefferson District Schools, USF/FLORIDA CHAIN, Florida Therapy Services, Big Bend AHEC, Capital Area Community Action Agency, MADD, Department of Children & Families, 211Big Bend/ Help me Grow.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcome everyone. Tonya called for approval of the minutes of the November meeting, Nan Baughman motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandy Porrás-Gutierrez, motion carried.

Juanita Edwards is a navigator with FLORIDA CHAIN and stated that open enrollment for insurance plans will end on January 31st. If anyone needs help with applications or has questions please contact 813-557-1151.

Martha Gioielli is a community member and volunteers at the school.

Gloria Cox, Parent Involvement Coordinator reported Jefferson Elementary Students are participating in the "Success for All" Reading and Math program and are making excellent progress. Gloria announced this week is Literacy week and tardiness is down. The Adult School and Turning Point have been relocated to the JCMHS, 7 students are enrolled in Adult School and 42 in Turning Point. Turning Point students have new mentors on board to help them. Gloria also announced that the "Day of Dialogue" is coming to Jefferson County in 2018.

Claudia Machado is with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) disseminated booklets on two programs they have, Power of Parents and Power of You(th). For more information contact 850-681-0061 or Claudia.machado@madd.org.

Anthony Jones reported they are in the process of moving to a new location and reminded everyone that tobacco cessation services and quitting aids are free. Cessation classes are held at the Library on Monday's at 5:00pm. For more information contact 850-224-1177 or ajones@bigbendahec.org.

Nan Baughman with Refuge House is also a co-located advocate who assists DCF CPI's and Case Managers with investigations. Nan counsels ages 13 and up and said they are trying to get a new program going at the Middle High School. Nan can be reached at 850-342-3518 or NBaughman@RefugeHouse.com.

Cumi Allen with Healthy Start reported they are just starting up their Prenatal and Parent as Teachers classes for the New Year. For more information contact 850-342-0170 or cumi.allen@flhealth.gov.

Jacqueline Miller with Capital Area Community Action Agency is the co-facilitator of the Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead programs. They are currently in week 14 of the Getting Ahead Program and there are several in the Staying Ahead Program who are now over income with full time positions and benefits. For more information contact 850-997-8231 or Jacqueline.Miller@cacaainc.org.

James Smith with 211 Big Bend is the Director of the Hotline, a 24/7 crisis center.

Sam Lyons with the Department of Juvenile Justice reported the Civil Citation program is underway in Jefferson County and that Jefferson has the fewest numbers on probation. Sam also stated they are fully staffed in the Probation Office.

Tiffany Similien Me Grow announced the “Books, Balls and Blocks” Free Development Screening event to be held on March 2nd at the Taylor County Pre-K from 4:00 to 7:00pm.

Tonya Bell announced that January is Folic Acid Awareness Month, 400mcg is the amount of folic acid everyone woman needs to prevent birth defects. Tonya is also available to help with Florida Kid Care Insurance Applications, for more information or to make a referral contact 850-253-5355 or tbell@healthystartjmt.org.

La’Verne Scott along with **Bertha Hyche** from the **Division of Blind Services** talked about the various programs they offer. The **Blind Babies Program** provides early intervention for children with visual impairments from birth through age five, the **Children’s Program** assists school age children who have visual impairments to meet current and future challenges. The **School to Work Program** also called the **Transition Program** evaluates teens with visual impairments at age 14 for services that are part of the **Vocational Rehabilitation Program**. The **Vocational Rehabilitation Program** provides services when visual impairment is a barrier to employment, a plan is developed for each individual to provide the education, training, equipment and skills needed for success.

The **Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired** is located in Daytona Beach and is a residential facility for individuals seeking an intensive five day a week program to learn independent living, employability and computer skills. The **Business Enterprises Program** provides training for those wanting to apply to independently operate a food service or vending location under contract with the **Division of Blind Services**.

Independent Living Services are offered to seniors, services are available to adults regardless of their circumstances when, due to poor vision affecting both eyes, training is needed for activities that are necessary for independence. The **DBS** also has a **Braille and Talking Book Library** that is free of charge.

For more information on the many services offered contact 850-245-0383 or La’Verne.Scott@dbs.fldoe.org.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on March 28, 2017 at 9:30am.

Minutes recorded by Cindy Hutto