

# Starting Off Right

A Quarterly Newsletter from  
Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson,  
Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc.

SUMMER 2011



## In this Issue

*Online Now! The Premier  
Online Directory of  
Comprehensive Services for  
the Whole Family*

Page 1

*Tri-County Attends Whole  
Child Florida Annual  
Conference*

Page 2

*Jefferson County Whole  
Child*

Page 3

*Proceeds from MLK Jr.  
License Plate Benefit  
Maternal and Child Health  
Organizations*

Page 3

*Whole Child Tri-County:  
Jefferson, Madison  
and Taylor Counties  
Community Report*

Page 3

*Pinwheels for Prevention*

Page 4

## Contact Us

1336 SW Grand St.  
PO Box 568  
Greenville, FL 32331  
Phone: 850-948-2741  
Fax: 850-948-3072  
[www.healthystartjmt.org](http://www.healthystartjmt.org)



## Online Now! [www.wholechildtricity.com](http://www.wholechildtricity.com) The Premier Online Directory of Comprehensive Services for the Whole Family

Healthcare providers, educators and child advocates throughout the tri-county community have joined the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties to offer a premier online services directory. This new tool has an appealing design that is easy to navigate, providing comprehensive access to the broad range of services needed to address the concerns of all residents, especially children. Designed in such a way that service needs can initially be determined in a friendly and confidential setting, this "No Wrong Door" approach literally works as a virtual coordinator, connecting clients and providers in a never-before-seen framework that's revolutionizing communications as it closes crucial gaps in the system. Building on a framework launched by our friends at Whole Child Leon, we also look forward to being a frontrunner for the Whole Child Big Bend network.

In the upcoming weeks, our communications team, which is headed up by Michael Curtis of Madison Media Group, will be contacting you to further discuss this tool to assure that your organization benefits from this community resource. In the interim, please contact Cindy Hutto at (850) 948-2741 for additional information. Also, please continue to make it a practice to periodically visit your coalition site at [www.healthystartjmt.org](http://www.healthystartjmt.org) for community news and to support this collaborative communications plan.

The engine of the Whole Child program is the **Profile**. A simple but detailed questionnaire that is completed with the assistance of a trained Whole Child Advisor or community

partner, the profile creates an all-inclusive computerized outreach to all relevant local providers based on the needs identified in the profile. In the Tri-County area, Whole Child Advisor Tonya Bell, who also serves as Community Health Educator for the Coalition, continues to receive great praise for her grassroots effort to connect clients to the new resource. Having conducted hundreds of profiles as the system was being developed, Tonya can assist both clients and providers utilizing the system.

Visit [www.wholechildtricity.com](http://www.wholechildtricity.com) today to discover this incredible tool offered at no charge to all coalition members and community partners.

Tonya Bell, Whole Child Advisor and Community Health Educator, can be reached at (850) 253-5355 or [tbell@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:tbell@healthystartjmt.org).



## Tri-County Attends Whole Child Florida Annual Conference

During the Whole Child Florida Annual Conference held on June 9-10, representatives from Whole Child Tri-County, which covers Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties, listened in amazement as Dr. Peter Gorski discussed the newest research regarding child development, particularly findings regarding the early years from conception to pre-school. The

presentation left the group of advocates speechless but motivated, as Dr. Gorski carefully outlined the vital and irreplaceable role that parental choices play during those key years that establish lifelong conditions for the child.

Originally trained in Pediatrics and Child Development at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Gorski is the Director of Research and Innovation at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Professor of Public Health, Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the University of South Florida and President-Elect of the Society for Equity in Child Health and immediate Past President of the Florida Infant Mental



*Representatives and volunteers from throughout Florida meet in Bradenton to attend the 2011 Whole Child conference, which is sponsored by the Lawton Chiles Foundation.*



Health Association. From 2003-2006, Dr. Gorski served as the Director of the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at USF. It is also the Chiles Foundation that founded and now spearheads the expansion of the Whole Child program throughout Florida.



*Donna Hagan, executive director of the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties (right), stands with Rhea Chiles, founder of the Chiles Foundation.*



### STAY INFORMED!

#### Florida House Redistricting

This summer's public meeting schedule for redistricting has been updated and finalized at [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org).

Log on for details about meeting times, dates, locations, special accommodations, the role of social media and more.

## You're Invited

*You are cordially invited to reconnect with the Shared Services meetings, announcements and resources.*

*Taylor County Shared Services—last Monday of each month*

*Jefferson County Shared Services—last Tuesday of each month*

*Madison County Shared Services—last Wednesday of each month*

*The resources and events included in this newsletter are only a small part of the benefits associated with active participation*

**COALITION:** An alliance between persons, organizations, etc. ... a union into one body.

*As a professional courtesy, please accept correspondence from the coalition so that our larger mailings don't get redirected to spam or junk designations.*





## Jefferson County Whole Child

*Bettering the lives of Jefferson County children and their families.*



### STAY INFORMED!

#### Florida Rx Card

Every Florida resident is eligible for savings up to 75% on prescription drug purchases. Visit [www.floridarxcard.com](http://www.floridarxcard.com) for more information.

No Restrictions: There are no enrollment forms, no age or income requirements, no waiting periods, no eligibility required, no exclusions, covers pre-existing conditions, no claim forms to file, and no annual or lifetime limits.

*"The Jefferson County Whole Child Safe and Nurturing Environment Team provides a place where a child feels safe and secure, both physically and emotionally, in the presence of peers or adults, whether at home, at school or in the community. All members are youth advocates."*

John G. Lilly, Sr., County Extension Director/4-H

### Proceeds from MLK Jr. License Plate Benefit Maternal and Child Health Organizations

The Florida "Live the Dream" specialty plate became available in 2005 and costs \$25, with proceeds going to the Dream Foundation. The Dream Foundation then distributes the money between the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, the Community Partnership for Homeless, and two maternal and child health organizations: the March of Dimes, Florida Chapter and the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions.



## Whole Child Tri-County: Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties Community Report

The Whole Child project in the three-county area was launched in early 2008. The project has been championed by the Healthy Start Coalition, which serves the three counties, and is staffed by a part-time employee whose role is to coordinate the meetings of the committee and follow-up on initial tasks. Whole Child JMT launched the "Whole Child Connection" in early 2009.

JMT key contacts: Donna Hagan and Tonya Bell.

Strengths	Challenges
<p>Champion is the Healthy Start Coalition, which sees the Whole Child work as a natural fit.</p> <p>Alignment of Healthy Start Coalition work with the Whole Child model of family outreach and holistic service delivery.</p> <p>Start-up energy is still strong and the steering committee is enthusiastic.</p> <p>Business community is engaged.</p>	<p>The three rural counties lack some capacity that is needed to build a stronger Whole Child project; particularly at the community leadership level.</p> <p>Funding only allows a part-time coordinator, and as the project demand increases more staff time may be necessary.</p> <p>Reliance on one champion at the Healthy Start Coalition may cause funder burn-out and put project at risk.</p> <p>Need to increase leadership for project.</p>

**Board Members**

Lucile Day  
*President*

Gladys Roann  
*Vice-President*

Deidra Newman  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Ernest Bruton  
*Madison County Member*

Tim Sanders  
*Madison County Member*

Mary Wallace  
*Taylor County Member*

David Driggers  
*Jefferson County Member*

Eric Scott  
*Taylor County Member*

Tomica King  
*Jefferson County Member*

**Coalition Staff**

Donna Hagan  
*Executive Director*

Cindy Hutto  
*Business Manager*

Tonya Bell  
*Whole Child Advisor/  
IC Counselor*

Lynn Elliott  
*QI Director*

**Pinwheels for Prevention**

Preventing child abuse is a community concern. Family, friends, schools, and churches—entire communities—must come together to combat the crime that destroys the lives of the innocent. On April 16, healthcare providers, educators and concerned citizens of Taylor County came together during the Children's Fun Festival to promote prevention efforts through their support of the Pinwheels for Prevention program. Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) of Florida joined local partners, including Taylor County Pre-K, Head Start, Even Start, Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, Healthy Start Coalition, Taylor County Health Department, and many others to bring greater awareness to this urgent and worthwhile cause.



## LOOKING FOR SAFE, RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION IN FLORIDA?

**YOU CAN ACCESS OVER 700  
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR SENIORS**  
[www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org/FindaRide.htm](http://www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org/FindaRide.htm)



August is  
Children's Eye Health and Safety Month