

# Starting Off Right

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

SUMMER 2013



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## Wishing Fondest Farewells to a Healthy Start Champion

Tim Sanders, well known for his contributions as Clerk of the Court of Madison County, also serves the community as board member for several service agencies, including the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties. Joining the Board in 1997, Tim has represented Madison County's interest in developing systems of care for pregnant women and infants; he has also been instrumental in the growth of the organization since its inception two decades ago.

Tim was the first to recognize the need for a comprehensive parenting program in the tri-county area, as he commissioned Coalition staff to conduct an assessment of the parenting and support needs in 2006. As a result, the Coalition is among the leading agencies in the state of Florida to implement a comprehensive Parents as Teachers™ program in all three counties. This project is highly significant in terms of its impact on the system of care to infants up to age three, support of local early learning systems, and focus on child development.

Announcing his retirement from the Board on June 3, Tim noted, "It was truly a blessing to be part of such an amazing organization."

Defining dedication, Tim's contribution is unending, as he works to find the replacement for his vacant Madison County seat. Coalition leadership gratefully requests the community join the Coalition in thanking Tim for his valuable service as the Coalition continues to pursue a seamless system of early childhood care in Madison County.

"We are changing the landscape of early childhood health indicators with this program," says Executive Director Donna Hagan, "and I thank Tim for pointing us in that direction. He has contributed so much over the years. This will be a lasting legacy."

*Madison County  
Clerk of the Court  
Tim Sanders is  
recognized for two  
decades of leader-  
ship in the Healthy  
Start Coalition of  
Jefferson, Madison  
& Taylor Counties.*



During their 2013 Annual Meeting, Donna Hagan was recognized for her outstanding performance as President of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions.

# CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS

## Show Your Love Campaign Comes to Madison

*Show Your Love* is a national campaign designed to improve the health of women and babies by promoting preconception health and healthcare. The campaign's main goal is to increase the number of women who plan their pregnancies and engage in healthy behaviors before becoming pregnant. Championing this cause locally, the Florida Department of Health in Madison County; Big Bend AHEC; and Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties joined community partners to host a Women's Health Event at the Florida Department of Health in Madison that placed emphasis on eating healthy, being active, pre-conceptual care, lactation, and health screenings, such as bone density, cholesterol, breast, and cervical cancer, as well as family planning and well women care. They also offered body massages, HIV/AIDS prevention

education and supplies, and tobacco education. Additionally, nutritionists demonstrated healthy snacks, which were a big hit with everyone, with each woman receiving a bag of fresh vegetables and fruit, along with a small mother's gift bag.

Kim Allbritton, acting administrator of the DOH of Jefferson and Madison counties, noted, "Although initially we were a little skeptical about having a good turnout due to the weather, it was a huge success! We had between 60 and 80 participants and 17 vendors. A big thank you to our planning committee, the Healthy Start Coalition, DOH HEAL and AHEC for helping make this a great event. I especially want to give thanks to our Healthy Start team and Coalition for promoting this event within our community. This, I believe, was the key to our success!"



Champions of women's health, Tonya Bell, Craig Wilson, Donna Hagan, and Timako Glanton (l-r) shared their time and knowledge with visitors at the Show Your Love women's health event in Madison.



"Good nutrition can be very tasty and is key to good health!"

Show Your Love  Preconception Health



Karen Pennington warmly greeted guests, providing information and resources to ensure they got the most out of the timely event.



Specialists provided nutritional education to visitors, which is the central program the Department of Health is championing throughout Florida.



The Big Bend AHEC staff continues to be a cornerstone of health education throughout the region.



Deveda Bellamy is well recognized as the champion of sexual health education and STD prevention.

# CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS



## Affordable Care Act Dates Announced

The Federally Facilitated Marketplace will begin accepting applications for private healthcare coverage and subsidy assistance beginning Oct. 1, 2013. Information regarding the Affordable Care Act and Federally Facilitated Marketplace is available at [www.healthcare.gov/marketplace](http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace), or residents can call the FFM Call Center at 800-318-2596 to speak directly to a representative regarding their questions.

Family-based Medicaid will continue to serve children under 21, parents and caretakers, and pregnant women. Coverage under ACA begins Jan. 1, 2014. ACCESS will begin determining eligibility using ACA rules in December 2013. Apply online at [www.myflorida.com/accessflorida](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida).



### Phone Numbers/Address Information for ACCESS customers

DCF Customer Call Center	866-762-2237
EBT Customer Call Center	888-356-3281
Interview Unit Number	866-762-2237
Mailing Address for all Mail	Access Central Mail Center P.O. Box 5200 Tallahassee, FL 32314-5200
Fax Number for NE Region	904-723-2079/1-866-619-5720

## MomCare Advisor Recognized for Exceptional Service

Audra Gorby has provided services to nearly 300 pregnant women each and every year in her role as the MomCare Advisor at the Florida Department of Health in Taylor County. A champion in and out of the office, she has been solely responsible for improvements in several key indicators, including making sure all pregnant women who have Medicaid in Taylor County get into prenatal care as early as possible with their obstetrician, in addition to receiving referrals to WIC and choosing a family planning method.

It's a shame that, because of legislative changes, Audra's position must be

eliminated.

"Audra has been a hub for our system of care—getting women into care early and referring them to services. She has done an excellent job in providing this triage for pregnant women in Taylor County," noted Healthy Start Executive Director Donna Hagan.

As a prelude to Medicaid Reform at the state level, and Medicaid Expansion as part of the federal health care initiative, the Coalition will begin providing these services at the Coalition office with Coalition staff.

"There is nothing I would have changed in Taylor County had this legislation not changed our landscape of doing business," Hagan added. "Audra has left enormous shoes to fill. Her service was impeccable."

*Audra Gorby, former MomCare Advisor (center), is presented with a token of appreciation from the Coalition—a plaque thanking her for her service—by Coalition Executive Director Donna Hagan (left) and Audra's supervisor, Kristie Lutz.*



**Whole Child kiosks** are now available in the Madison and Perry libraries, as well as the Tri-County Medical Center in Greenville. Visitors can access the Whole Child Connection online or request assistance from Whole Child Advisor Tonya Bell.



# CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS

**Board Members**

Gladys Roann  
*President*

Deidra Newman  
*Vice-President*

Ernest Bruton  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Lucile Day  
*Madison County Member*

Tim Sanders  
*Madison County Member*

Tomica King  
*Jefferson County Member*

Bobbi Markiewicz  
*Jefferson County Member*

Eric Scott  
*Taylor County Member*

Vacant  
*Taylor County Member*

**Coalition Staff**

Donna Hagan  
*Executive Director*

Cindy Hutto  
*Business Manager*

Lynn Elliott  
*QI Director*

Tonya Bell  
*Whole Child Advisor  
and Community Health  
Educator*



## **Healthy Start Coalition Working to Raise the Bar on Women's Health**

The Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties provided a youth obesity project in both Madison and Taylor counties that concluded on June 30. The program included recruiting girls ages 10–13 for a weekly nutrition and exercise class. In Madison, Kenneatha and Catherine Newsome (pictured right) were rewarded for their perfect attendance with Wild Adventures tickets. The Coalition is planning to share a full evaluation of the project in the upcoming weeks.



The "Raising the Bar" group (pictured above and right) received nutritional and exercise education, as well as counselling and resources from Healthy Start Coalition staff, launching a program of fitness and healthy lifestyle habits.



### **Welcome!**

Healthy Start Community Educator Tonya Bell (back right) welcomed Marci Scanlan (back left) to the team, promoting Florida KidCare at the Taylor County Public Library Summer Youth Program.



**September is Child Safety Month**

**IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?**

[www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/cps](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/cps)



# **CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS**