

Starting Off Right

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

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Coalition Honors Lynn Elliott, MSN: Healthy Start Pioneer

On Dec. 2, 2013, the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties honored Lynn Elliott on her official retirement from Healthy Start.

Lynn is revered across Florida as one of the original authors of the Healthy Start program, answering the call when Governor Chiles first introduced the concept in 1991. Lynn picked up everything and made the trek from Ft. Myers to join the Department of Health staff in Tallahassee to get the Healthy Start program going for then Secretary of Health Charles Mahan.

Lynn spent several years at the Department, perfecting the role of Maternal and Child Health and Healthy Start, and followed with a lengthy career at FSU as a

Public Health Nursing Instructor. Lynn also assisted several Healthy Start coalitions in the panhandle with Quality Assurance Activities.

Executive Director of the Healthy Start Coalition, Donna Hagan, recalls, "I have not made a decision without the impeccable wisdom [Lynn] imparts over the last six years. She truly is a remarkable champion for moms and babies in our counties and statewide. And her expertise leaves a special legacy that we can only hope to imitate, especially in the dynamic world of health care today."

Lynn was given a vase at the retirement celebration with the inscription, "I didn't come to stay—I came to make a difference," one of Lynn's favorite quotes by the late Governor Chiles.



Healthy Start Coalition Executive Director Donna Hagan (right) presents Lynn Elliott, one of the original authors of the Healthy Start program, with a vase at Lynn's retirement celebration.

Whole Child Recognizes Parent Champion

Upon her retirement from the Jefferson County School District, where she diligently served as parent outreach coordinator, Edna Henry was recognized for her Safe and Nurturing Environment Team leadership in Whole Child. Edna was not a person

who simply rested on her laurels; instead, she always worked to accomplish the next mission. Her colleagues presented her with a framed certificate, accompanied by a room full of applause, hugs and tears.



Whole Child Advisor Committed to a Healthier Community



As the Whole Child Advisor serving Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties, Tonya Bell continues to deliver education and access to resources to families throughout the tri-county area. Providing free, one-on-one counseling—which utilizes electronic “profiles” that families may use to identify and obtain services ranging from pre-natal healthcare to jobs training—Tonya ensures that her clients receive every resource available. Tonya may be contacted at (850) 253-5355 or by email at tbell@healthystartjmt.org.



The Whole Child Connection that Tonya uses is available to the public at www.wholechildtricity.com

The Whole Child philosophy is grounded in the notion that communities must address all six dimensions of children’s well being to raise healthy children:

- Physical and Mental Health
- Quality Early Education and Development
- Social-Emotional Development
- Spiritual Foundation and Strength
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Economic Stability

A “Whole Child” is one who

- attains physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being,
- experiences strong, positive family attachment,
- interacts constructively in a social context,
- has a sense of hope, and
- lives in an environment that encourages him/her to succeed.



Breastfeeding

... Why?

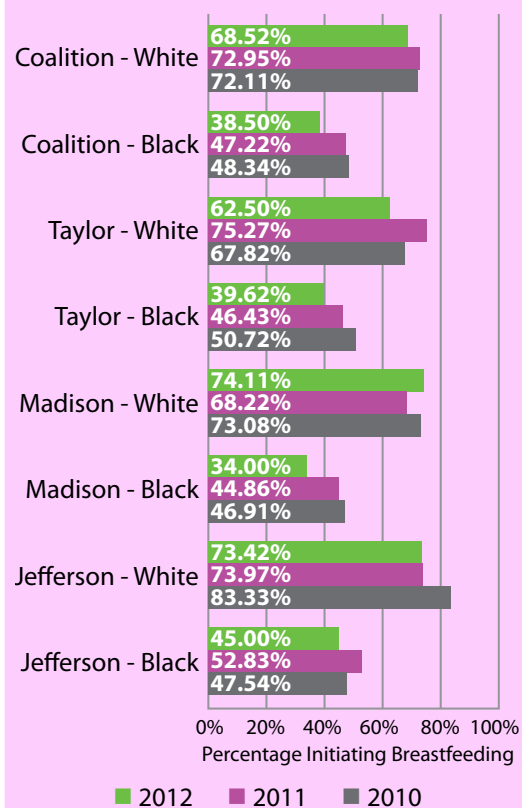
Based on clear research spanning decades, the Healthy Start Coalition strongly endorses and urges breastfeeding:

“Breastfeeding improves health outcomes, protects against obesity, and reduces health care costs throughout life. It’s easier to digest, for instance, and scientific data shows breastfeeding provides optimal nutritional, immunological and emotional nurturing for growth and development of infants and children. Breast milk protects against infections and conditions that contribute to infant mortality and morbidity, including childhood obesity. For moms, it can help them return to their pre-pregnancy weight faster. The economic benefits of breastfeeding are equally notable, translating into billions per year (www.babyfriendlyusa.org).”

The chart illustrates breastfeeding rates in the tri-county area, which are far from optimal. Particularly alarming are the disparities that exist among local populations, a priority issue that will be addressed by the recent formation several Health Equity Commissions being facilitated by the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties.



Breastfeeding Rate Changes by Race 2010–2012





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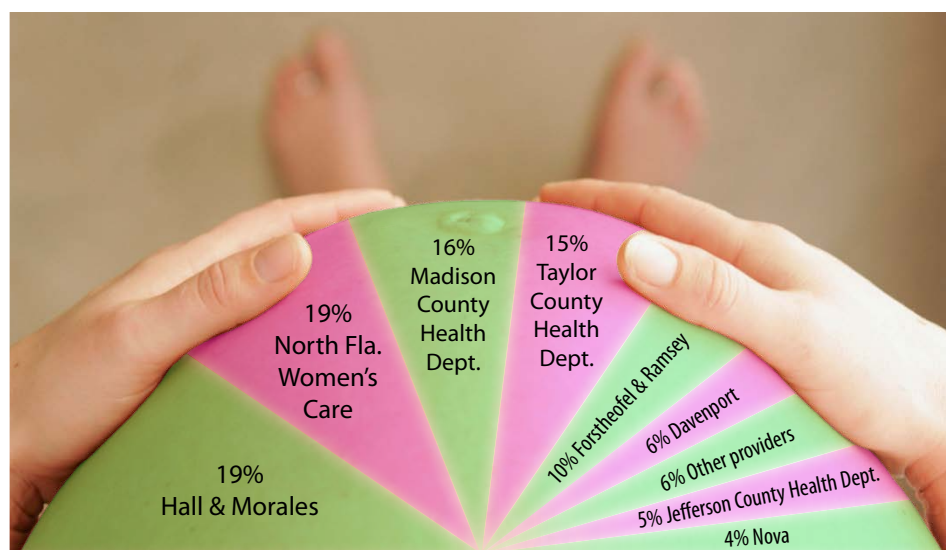
Prenatal Provider Chart

Finding a medical home is an essential cornerstone of good healthcare for you and your family. Simply put, you only want to take your family to someone you know and trust. A Medical Home will

- make sure you and your child get the checkups, screenings, and shots needed

to stay well;

- work with you in planning your family's care;
- tell you about community programs and resources that may be helpful; and
- help you locate the right specialists and equipment for you and your family.



Where do Pregnant Women in our Counties get Prenatal Care?

Prenatal Screens by Provider

Dates (Fiscal Year)=Fiscal Year 2013–2014 and Residence Coalition County=HSC of Jefferson/Madison/Taylor Counties

	Forms Processed	Declined Screening	Consenting to Screen	Consent Rate	Positive Score	Referred Based on Other Factors	Participating in Healthy Start	Percent Positive Screens
Dr. Bert Morales	56	12	44	78.60%	13	2	15	29.50%
North Florida Womens Care	49	6	43	87.80%	11	5	16	25.60%
Madison County Health Department	47	2	45	95.70%	30	4	34	66.70%
Taylor County Health Department	41	4	37	90.20%	16	11	27	43.20%
Jefferson County Health Department	20	1	19	95.00%	16		16	84.20%
Forstheofel, Jana	19	4	15	78.90%	2	1	3	13.30%
Dr. Alex Davenport	15	4	11	73.30%	5	6	11	45.50%
Dr. Alfredo Nova	13		13	100.00%	11	2	13	84.60%
Dr. Shawn Ramsey	9	1	8	88.90%	5		5	62.50%
5 or less screens each (12 providers)	29	9	20	69%	9	5	14	31%
Total	298	43	255	85.60%	118	36	154	46.30%