

Starting Off *Right*

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

WINTER 2020



In this Issue

*Community Awareness
is vital for the prevention
of human trafficking*

Page 2

*Connect designed to
ensure mothers, families,
and children thrive!*

Page 3

*Prenatal Group Baby
Shower a Big Success*

Page 4

*Celebration and
Teamwork Throughout
the Coalition*

Page 4

**Visit our Twitter
@HealthyStartJMT
on February 14th for
the start of our new
monthly women's
health page!**

Contact Us

1476 SW Main Street
PO Box 568
Greenville, FL 32331
Phone: 850-948-2741
Fax: 850-948-3072
cjhutto@healthystartjmt.org
www.healthystartjmt.org



Lucile Day has given so much to the Coalition; thanks is expressed by all who realize her tremendous contribution.



Madison County Department of Health leadership was sad to see Bonnie Webb retire, but nobody more than the Coalition appreciates her incredible contribution.



Eric Scott is recognized for all the roles and positions he has held at Healthy Start, not to mention all that he has done.

Healthy Start recognizes board and staff for a great year!

At the year-end celebration held at the Healthy Start office in Greenville, Executive Director Donna Hagan took time to recognize several board members and the great staff that helped Healthy Start and Healthy Families have a great year, as well as develop some new programs and approaches that are designed to help mothers, families, and especially babies thrive. A big "Thank You!" goes out to everyone associated with all groups connected, and please contact the Coalition anytime at (850) 948-2741, or email cjhutto@healthystartjmt.org



Healthy Start and Healthy Families staff join Board members for a tasty year-end meal, accompanied by a timely update from Executive Director Donna Hagan.

Community Awareness is vital for the prevention of human trafficking.

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month and across the nation, law enforcement and other organizations are working to eliminate it. Human Trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Traffickers exploit the vulnerabilities of others (like poverty, trauma, abuse, or homelessness) for financial profit. Children in foster care are disproportionately victimized by human trafficking. It is estimated that 60% of child sex trafficking victims have a history in the child welfare system.

5 Key Reasons Foster Youth are Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Neglect and Abuse

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, most children are in foster care because of neglect. Traffickers invest time, money, and energy into making a potential victim feel attractive, valued, and special. Foster youth are especially vulnerable to attaching themselves to any individual who gives him/her positive attention, whether or not that person is safe.

2. Normalizing Being Used for Financial Gain

Unfortunately, youth in care often internalize a feeling of being used for profit in their day-to-day lives. It is not uncommon for a foster youth to feel that he or she is only in a home so that the foster family can collect a paycheck. Perhaps youth have seen other adults use familial disputes such as custody or child support as means to financial gain as well. Therefore, when a trafficker starts treating this youth the same way, it feels normal.

3. Fractured Safety Nets

Whether in a foster home or a group home, nationwide the average child in foster care moves placements or families 3 to 4 times. Instability and broken attachments with foster families, peers, and case workers create further vulnerabilities to human trafficking. When a child or youth does not have a strong safety net of adults to confide with questions or concerns, the youth may not reach out at all.

4. Longing for Family

Traffickers create a distorted definition of the family that a youth longs for. Traffickers may directly or indirectly offer youth who live in group homes or with foster families a sense of family connection and belonging. Traffickers often groom victims to call them daddy and they often refer to victims as either wifey or baby girl. Traffickers promise to take care of their victims and to provide for them. Using familial terms and recreating a sense of belonging provides foster youth with a sense of security that they may not experience elsewhere.

5. Running Away and Homelessness

Abuse, neglect, and involvement with the child welfare system are each highly correlated with homelessness and running away from home. When a youth is away from stable housing, he is often forced to make highly consequential decisions about where to stay, where to find food, and how to remain safe. Out of desperation, many youth agree to go with a trafficker who offers them somewhere off the streets to sleep.





Connect

designed to ensure mothers, families,
and children thrive!



My goal as a Connect coordinator and Florida Certified Community Health Worker is connecting pregnant women and caregivers of young children to services in the community that benefit them and their families. Whether it's breastfeeding, childbirth education, or parenting groups, which are just a few of the resources Tammy enjoys connecting families to throughout Madison and Jefferson County, she is pleased to be contacted by phone at (850) 601-6180, or emailed at Tammy.Hinson@flhealth.gov

"All of our Connect associates in all Counties are eager to assist you."



Sarah Bayes connects clients and families with the services that best suit their needs. Although she works with a lot of young mothers and pregnancies, she connects people with the appropriate services through the Connect program in Taylor County.

She also supports and enjoys helping those who choose to quit smoking. Their counseling services are fully dedicated to nutritional health and school readiness as well, not to mention all forms of child development, and all can be arranged for home visiting. There are additional community resources, and she would really like to hear from anyone, including referrals. Phone her at (850) 223-5103, or email her at Sarah.Bayes@flhealth.gov

"We refer and teach breastfeeding and childbirth education, pregnancy education, and many useful programs while supporting newborn care and parenting."



Healthy Start Staff

Donna Hagan, MBA
Executive Director
850-948-2741
dhagan@healthystartjmt.org

Cindy Hutto
Business Manager
850-948-2741
cjhutto@healthystartjmt.org

Tonya Bell, CCHW
Community Health Educator
850-253-5355
tbell@healthystartjmt.org

Direct Service Staff

Supervisor - Jefferson & Madison
Shanetha "Nita" Mitchell
850-601-6179

Care Coordination - Madison
Tangela Knight
Tammy Hinson
850-973-5000

Care Coordination - Jefferson
Cumi Allen
850-342-0170

Supervisor - Taylor
Kristie Lutz
850-223-5117

Care Coordination - Taylor
Sarah Bayes & Linda Murphy

Healthy Families

Seven Rivers Staff

Program Supervisor
Paula Roberts

Parent Educators
Elizabeth Gooden, Tonya Cason
& Cynthia Monroe-Harris

Family Assessment
Angelina Curtis &
Soneyda Jarvis

Board Members

Eddie Cullaro *President*

Lynn Elliot *Vice-President*

Ernest Bruton *Secretary/Treasurer*

Jefferson County Members:

Tomica King &
Gladys Roann-Watson

Madison County Members:

Brenda Newman

Taylor County Members:

Mary Wallace &
Nichole Wilder



Prenatal Group Baby Shower a Big Success

In November, Jefferson and Madison Healthy Start recognized the Prenatal Group with a Baby Shower. Prenatal Group is a 10-session group that is held twice a year in Madison and Jefferson Counties. The first class usually starts in January and ends in May, with the second starting in August and ending in December. The classes are taught by the Healthy Start team, and typically held in a classroom setting at the respective Department of Health. The first 60 minutes of each class are dedicated to important topics; participants are educated on Nutrition, Body Changes, Childbirth, Labor & Delivery, Postpartum Care, Infant Care, Breastfeeding, Family Planning, and Infant Car Seats. The second half of class, participants are making scrapbooks. If any reader of this article or anyone they know is interested in participating in these groups, please contact the Madison or Jefferson County Departments of Health and simply contact the Healthy Start Program.



- Pictured are (l-r) Tonya Bell, Kristie Lutz, Cindy Hutto, and Donna Hagan, who have promoted folic acid for years in their service area, providing awareness and education on the importance of folic acid, especially to women of childbearing age (14-44), where each should include at least 400 micrograms in their daily diet. Women of childbearing age also have a better chance of preventing birth defects of their unborn child should they experience an unplanned pregnancy if they take a multivitamin or eat folic acid rich foods consisting of the 400 micrograms of folic acid daily. Their door-to-door campaign is a big hit in all three Counties, typically held at the end of the month after their respective Shared Service meetings.

Certified Community Health Educator Tonya Bell, working alongside several community partners that she invited to contribute their expertise and perspectives on health topics, combined to present critical health and lifestyle care during her Women's Health Workshops. These Workshops, titled, "Tonya's Healthy Happy Hour," were held in each County served by the Coalition. Please be looking for the next set of workshops in each County, which will likely be held during the month of June 2020. Simply phone (850) 253-5355 for details

- Executive Director Donna Hagan is recognized by her team for being the "Best Boss." Staff appreciates her splendid leadership.

- Preparing for the Monticello's Mainstreet Christmas, Tonya Bell is pictured with Sheriff Mac McNeill (l) and Chief Fred Mosley (r), both of Monticello, FL.

