

Jefferson County Whole Child Meeting
Virtual
January 25, 2022

Present:

Tonya Bell, Donna Hagan, Cindy Hutto, Elizabeth Schmidt, Laura Blue, Brent Couch, Emily Koehler, Hadassah Israel, Paula Carroll, Jesse Lovett, Tracy Gallon, Pam Beck, Nan Baughman, Catherine Zenko, Cumi Allen, Shanetha Mitchell, and Dr. Jennifer Belotti.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Simply Healthcare, FSU CARD, Jefferson Co. Emergency Management, Big Bend Cares, Dept. of Health-Jefferson, Refuge House-Jefferson, Health Equity Coordinator-Dept of Health, Full Spectrum ABA.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also reminded everyone of the Connect program and all of its advantages.

Pam Beck reminded everyone of the Feb 15th CHIP virtual meeting via Teams. Also redeveloping the Health Assessment for Jefferson and Madison counties.

Emily Koehler spoke about the free Tobacco Cessation virtual meetings on an as needed basis. Her program also offers free counseling, patches, medication, etc. Also talked about the Closing the Gap program and Healthy Food on a Budget. Advised of Affordable Healthcare and Diabetes Education.

Catherine Zenko spoke of Autism Awareness. Advised about the babynavigation.com – families with babies or women that are pregnant. They offer 12 live webinars in a 6 week series. This begins tomorrow and it is to discuss typical development for infants. They also offer a program for Pre-K to 2nd grade teachers. Added that they offer webinars for autism awareness for families every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. She also spoke about the autismnavigator.com webinars.

Donna introduced Laura Blue as a new employee. Also, we have one Jefferson County vacancy on our Board. Please send nominations or Legislative concerns to dhagan@healthystartjmt.org.

Paula Carroll spoke about Shepherd's Hand, a mobile organization coming to the county. It offers medical services at no charge such as labs, medication, etc. It will be in the county once a month and will work under a physician with the Dept of Health. It will start in April.

Hadassah Israel said that this is her second month in this job. They have money to spend on school readiness and childcare assistance. Children's Week is next week and told about the collecting hands and asked for volunteers to hang the hands at the Capitol. Next Tuesday is Children's Day-Read the Rainbow. They have 1500 books and swag to hand out that day. She also talked about Celebrity Reader's program where the Early Learning Center reads to the children. Advised about Ride to Remember, the community partners will go on a bus to speak about and to pass information to people. March 30th is the Resource Fair. They are in the planning phase and this will be a virtual event. She also spoke about the Run Charity ELC where they raise funds for the community.

Nan Baughman reported that it has been slow during the holidays and asked everyone to please refer.

Cumi Allen talked about the Pre Natal Group for Jefferson/Madison counties. The Madison county event is Feb 8th with two sessions and the Jefferson county event is Feb 21st with 2 sessions.

Brent Couch would love to assist with the event on Mar 30th. He also spoke about Simply Healthcare Medicare and Medicare with HIV. Also advised that there is no age restriction to enroll in Medicare. Open enrollment for Medicare ends on Jan 30th. If you make changes to your Medicare it will take effect on Feb 1st. He also spoke of Healthy Kids for the state of Florida. This program is for children that are 5 to 18 years of age. They offer traditional therapies and have expanded to massage therapy, art therapy and pet therapy. Talked about Health Resource Platform. It is a no cost, open source that allows you to better connect when looking for resources and other organizations. Exposure at zero cost and it also tracks data. Also told us about the Simply Healthy Minds. Mental health toolkits at SimplyHealthyMinds.com. You don't have to be a member as it is available for the community. They also offer Nutritional counseling for free.

Dr. Jennifer Belotti advised that Full Spectrum ABA, fullspectrumaba.com, is about addressing issues with disabilities. Once someone graduates out of therapy they offer job placement assistance. They are hiring disabled people to work in the field. They have 11 people that speak different languages within their organization for families that need help. They are available to answer questions for all families. She is currently located in Tampa but they have an office in Monticello as well. They are funded through Florida Medicaid and other insurers. They have 9 PHD Analysts within the agency. Provide free foster care program training with schools and daycare.

Next meeting is March 29th.

Minutes taken by Laura Blue, Office Support Staff at Healthy Start JMT Inc.