

Jefferson County Whole Child Coalition

March 28, 2023

9:30 – 11:00 AM at the

RJ Bailar Public Library – 375 S Water Street, Monticello

Present:

Tonya Bell, Cindy Hutto, Donna Hagan, Laura Blue, Lizz Schimdt, Brandi Turner, Gabrielle Aboki, Lisa Hill Boatwright, Cumi Allen, Jacob Clore, Camye Edwards, Eric Evans, Debbie Graham, Shalona Hearn, Jessica Long, Dawn Merrix, Leila Rykard, Melanie Southerland, and FSU students, Samantha Morgan and Adrianna Abitino.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, ELC Taylor County, Jefferson County Health Department, Big Bend Cares, FL Cares, Battlefront Education & Wellness, FSU CARD, Florida Department of Health, ELC of the Big Bend, Big Bend Hospice, DCF, UF/IFAS Ext., and Jefferson Healthy Start.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also advised that there is a class to become a Certified Community Health Worker in Tallahassee on April 10th from 10 AM to 2 PM. She reported that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. She asked that people wear blue on March 31st to bring awareness to this event.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront Education & Wellness informed that she provides face-to-face counseling. She also provides Fatherhood services to Jefferson, Madison, & Taylor counties. They are taking referrals for this program. She also mentioned that there is a Fatherhood flag football game after Down Home Days on April 22nd at Lanier Field to kick off this new program.

Donna Hagan, Executive Director of the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, & Taylor Counties, Inc., reported that she is closely watching the Florida Senate Bill 300, Pregnancy and Parenting Support. This bill, if passed would require the Department of Health to contract for the management and delivery of parenting support services, in addition to pregnancy support services; prohibiting physicians from knowingly performing or inducing a termination of pregnancy after the gestational age of the fetus is determined to be more than 6 weeks, rather than 15 weeks, with exceptions; providing an exception if the woman obtaining the abortion is doing so because she is a victim of rape or incest, subject to certain conditions; prohibiting any person other than a physician from inducing a termination of pregnancy; requiring that medications intended for use in a medical abortion be dispensed in person by a physician; prohibiting the dispensing of such medication through the United States Postal Service or any other courier or shipping service, etc.

Kelly Williams with Big Bend Hospice expressed that they are looking for community volunteers in Jefferson and Madison Counties. They are providing on site volunteer training on May 20th at the Big Bend Hospice Campus from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Cumi Allen, Florida Department of Health, thanked everyone for their support during the March 4th Community Baby Shower. She specifically thanked the Healthy Start Coalition of JMT, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, and Betsy Rykard. Cumi advised that there is a Minority Health Event on April 1st in Greenville at the Haffye Hays park in Greenville and April 22nd at the Jefferson Recreational Park.

Jessica Long, Jefferson & Madison Health Department said they are doing a Baby Shower on April 17th. She also told us that each month they host a Circle of Parents call via Zoom for Madison/Jefferson moms.

Melanie Sutherland with the UF/IFAS Extension office reported that they are hosting several Jefferson County 4-H Summer Camps. They include the Cloverbud Day Camp, 5-7 year old (10 spots available) from July 18th – 20th, 8 AM - 12 PM; an 8-9 year old Day Camp (15 spots available), July 11-13, 8 AM – 4 PM; Healthy Kids Camp, 10-15 year old (10 spots available), May 30- June 2nd, 8:30 AM - 12 PM; Wildlife Day Camp, 10-15 year old (30 spots available), June

26th- 30th, 8:30 AM - 4 PM; Field to Fork Day Camp, 11-14 year old (15 spots available), June 5th-8th, 8 AM – 4 PM. Sign ups can be done at the Extension office.

Eric Evans with FL Cares reported that they build wheelchair ramps, platform steps, repairs, landings and grab bars. Last year they completed 172 jobs and 22 of those were in Jefferson County. From January to now they have worked on 55 projects. They are code and ADA compliant. FL Cares covers 4 counties and they are on a federal income guide table for payment. The labor is free, and the costs are only for the supplies. Looking for volunteer groups as well as referrals.

Shalona Hearns with DCF informed everyone about a program called Hope Florida. This initiative utilizes 'Care Navigators' to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, nonprofits and government entities to break down traditional community silos, in a effort to maximize resources and uncover opportunities. This is for people that are 18 years of age or 17 years old if they are emancipated. An assessment needs to be done through DCF.

Dawn Merrix with FSU CARD advised that April is Autism Awareness month and they have the following events: Kickin' It For Autism, soccer clinic with FSU soccer team and coaches, April 23 from 2 – 3 PM; Challenging Behaviors, April 11 via Zoom, 11:30 CST; Cracking the Behavior Code, April 3 – May 8, via Zoom, 4:30 – 5:30 PM; as well as a host of other activities to bring awareness to autism. Children aged 18 to 24 months should be screened for autism.

Gabrielle Aboki with the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region said that they serve 7 counties and they are presenting a free virtual community resource fair titled "Sky's the Limit" on April 11 from 6 – 7:30 PM that educates people about housing resources, child care services, medical assistance, and career opportunities.

Leila 'Betsy' Rykard, Florida Department of Health, spoke about a free Heart Health Ambassador Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program that they are hosting on April 6 at 3 PM at the FDOH Jefferson County. She also advised of another class called "Spring into Wellness", April 14, 10 AM – 12 PM, at Taylor Massage. They offer free cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screenings.

Brandi Turner, Healthy Families 7 Rivers, reported that they have hired a bi-lingual employee. This fills a months long void to the Spanish speaking population.

Camye Edwards, Big Bend Cares, reported that they have received a grant that provides free HIV tests. This test can be done in the privacy of your own home. Two tests should be given to individuals. The first test is the baseline and the next test should be done at 3 months. There is an agency brochure that goes with the test that advises them of support if the tests are reactive.

Debbie Graham with Big Bend Cares advised that there is a minority health event on April 14 from 10 AM – 2 PM at the Winn Dixie sidewalk in Madison.

The next meeting will be April 23rd.

Minutes taken by Laura Blue