

Jefferson County Whole Child Coalition

October 24, 2023

9:30 – 11:00 AM at the

RJ Bailar Public Library – 375 S Water Street, Monticello

Present:

Tonya Bell, Lizz Schimdt, Brandi Turner, Laura Blue, Gabrielle Aboki, Eric Evans, Janie Register, Chelsea Vogtle and Tori Taylor.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, ELC Big Bend, FL Cares, FDLRS Miccosukee, and Big Bend AHEC.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also advised that this month is Safe Sleep Awareness.

Gabrielle Aboki with ELC Big Bend informed all that they do school readiness, developmental screenings, and can provide financial assistance with childcare. In January they are doing a “Color Me Blue: A Kid’s Art Auction Event”.

Eric Evans with FL Cares reported that they build wheelchair ramps, platform steps, repairs, landings, and grab bars. Since January they have worked on 220 projects. They are code, ADA compliant and non-profit. Looking for volunteers to assist with the building projects. He specifically asked for volunteers the Saturday after Thanksgiving. He also told us about a program called “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” that will build a bunk bed for someone in need as well as provide mattresses, sheets, and bedspreads. He said that Carl Craig is the VP of Operations at the Tallahassee chapter, and their website is <https://shpbeds.org>.

Lizz Schmidt, Healthy Start Coalition of JMT, introduced Victoria Taylor as our new Provider Liaison. She also advised that Susie Hernandez has been brought back as a contractor to bilingual services to our counties. We will be providing a Mental Health Lunch and Learn for both Madison & Taylor Counties in the near future. The Taylor County guest speaker will be Lisa Hill Boatwright and for Madison/Jefferson County the guest speaker will be Kyra Adams. This is part of a Long-Term Recovery Process for victims of the latest hurricane that went through our counties. People attending will get a \$25 gift card.

Brandi Turner, Healthy Families 7 Rivers, reported that they have hired a bi-lingual employee and that they are fully staffed. This keeps them at capacity. Can do more if necessary. They see a lot of neglect and child abuse when they do their home visits.

Janie Register with FDLRS Miccosukee stated that they do development screenings for children ages 3 to 5 and they hope to increase the number of people that they screen.

Chelsea Vogtle from Big Bend AHEC advised that they are trying to close the gap through minority health. They can provide assistance with navigating healthcare.gov.

Minutes taken by Laura Blue