

**Taylor County Shared Services Meeting
District School Board Meeting Room
April 29, 2024, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

Present:

Donna Hagan, Tonya Bell, Brandi Turner, Cindy Hutto, Laura Blue, Victoria Taylor, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Rhonda Brooks, Melissa Cephus, Gaynell Clark, Jacob Clore, Camye Edwards, Kristin Eppers, Lorien Hershberger, Amy Liem, Sassafrass Mittleman, Sandra Moore, Jabrika Morris, Lynne Smith, and Cheryl Twombly.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Taylor County School District, Apalachee Center, Battlefront, TEAM Dad, Partnership for Strong Families (PFSF), Big Bend Cares, Disc Village, Big Bend AHEC, Self/Pregnancy Care Center, GROW Doula, Family Network on Disabilities, Early Head Start, FDLRS, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Florida Legal Services-Connecting Kids to Coverage.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Donna Hagan, Executive Director of the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties, Inc., introduced Victoria Taylor and advised all that she was hired as a Provider Liasian to reach out to providers to let them know which resources are available to their clients.

Melissa Cephus with the Taylor County School District advised that she is a homeless liaison for the school system. They currently have 147 homeless students within Taylor County.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront advised that they have many items such as diapers and wipes available. She also said that if any client has mental concerns, that they can assist as well.

Jacob Clore of PFSF provided updates on the local children data. So far this year (January through April 19th there has been one child removed from their household. This removal was because of substance abuse in the household. Jacob spoke on behalf of Sebastian Plank, also with PFSF, that there are 41 children in out of home care. Taylor County has 7 families with 18 children. They always need foster parents. May is National Foster Care month and PFSF is hosting a Foster Parent event on May 18th. He told us that Taylor County had \$258.96 remaining in their budget. Brandi made the motion to reallocate the remaining funds for car seats. Cindy Hutto seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Camye Edwards of Big Bend Cares said that they can individuals that are HIV positive or other infectious diseases. If someone needs to get to their pharmacy, they can assist with transportation. They like to help everyone in the community.

Kristin Eckers spoke on behalf of Yolanda Gillette-Carlson with Big Bend AHEC. They offer smoke cessation classes as well as provide outreach and enrollment services to individuals seeking to enroll in health care coverage in the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. They also offer diabetes education.

Our guest speaker was Amy Liam who is with Florida Legal Services as well as Connecting Kids to Coverage. They have been assisting people with after hurricane issues. Some people they have assisted lost their home or apartment in the hurricane, but the landlord was still asking for rent. The Connecting Kids to Coverage project helps eligible families, children, and pregnant women enroll in Florida's KidCare and family related Medicaid programs.

Our next meeting will be on August 26, 2024.

Notes taken by Laura Blue