

## Jefferson County Whole Child Coalition

May 28, 2024

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

RJ Bailar Public Library – 375 S. Water Street, Monticello

### **Present:**

Tonya Bell, Cindy Hutto, Brandi Turner, Laura Blue, Tori Taylor, Gabrielle Aboki, Christina Ash, David Boatwright, Lisa Hill Boatwright, Jason Choate, Storm Goodlin, Megan Goodlin, Debbie Graham, Asya Griffin, Michael Feehan, Janie Register, Lynne Smith, and Samuel Zambrano.

**Agencies Represented:** Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Department of Juvenile Justice, Battlefront, TEAM Dad, Help Me Grow, American Cancer Society, Department of Veterans Affairs, Big Bend Cares, FDLRS Miccosukee, Big Bend Hospice, Wacissa Pentecostal Holiness Church, and Big Bend AHEC.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also reminded everyone that Betsy Rykard is presenting a Stroke Awareness event on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Monticello at Jefferson Arms Apartments from 2 PM to 4 PM.

Megan Goodlin with Department of Veterans Affairs advised that her position is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator, and they cover North Florida and South Georgia.

Storm Goodlin, of the American Cancer Society, is working with the DOH Jefferson County, Hispanic/Latino population to let them know there are resources available. They also work/support the schools in the area. He also said that they are elevating info on electronic vaping devices.

Samuel Zambrano of Big Bend AHEC told everyone that they can assist with helping people find/enroll in affordable health insurance. They also can help people with financial literacy and that they help people manage diabetes either online or in person.

David Boatwright, TEAM Dad Coach, stated that he talks with dads about various issues to help them be a better man and a better Dad. He focuses on men and their mental health.

Brandi Turner with Healthy Families 7 Rivers reported that there are current job openings for a bi-lingual employee as well as a supervisor position. She spoke about the Child Safety Fair that Healthy Families is hosting on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Monticello. She hopes they will have life vests for infants and toddlers to hand out at the event as well as many other free items.

Gabrielle Aboki with the Early Learning Center Big Bend informed all that they do school readiness, developmental screenings, and can provide financial assistance with childcare.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront Education and Wellness was our VIP speaker for this meeting. She advised that most new moms die by overdose and suicide. Sixty percent of those deaths are post-partum. Black, obese, older women that are on Medicare are at a higher risk. One third up to 75% of these deaths are preventable. Moms also struggle because they have no transportation. Battlefront hosts many events but unfortunately a lot of people don't take advantage of these. She offers training to bridge the gaps. Twenty percent of moms and 10% of dads suffer post-partum mental health crises. In Taylor County only 46% of the babies born have a father that is involved in their lives. Eighty percent of their dads were incarcerated. If you know a pregnant woman, see if you can help them with any problems they may have. Lisa also told everyone that she is a licensed counselor and standing by ready to assist.

Our last meeting of this year will be on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Minutes taken by Laura Blue*