

Madison Shared Services Meeting
Madison County Public Library
June 26, 2024, 9:30 AM – 11 AM

Present: Tonya Bell, Brandi Turner, Laura Blue, Victoria Taylor, Cumi Allen, Zandria Appling, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Molly Boykin, Jessica Brantley, Jacob Clore, Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, Elizabeth Fuentes, Sassafrass Mittleman, Ryan Parker, Sebastian Plank, and Lorri Swafford.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Madison County Health Department, Battlefront, T.E.A.M. Dad, Disc Village, Partnership for Strong Families (PFSF), Big Bend AHEC, FDLRS NEFEC, Family Network on Disabilities, Endeavors, and Apalachee Center Inc.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Our guest speaker today was Lorri Swafford with FDLRS NEFEC. The main topic of her presentation was about Behavior and Sensory Responses for children. Sensory responses are not a choice, but a physical reaction to too much or too little sensory input. The brain learns to accept and process tactile input in a certain order. All behaviors are communication. We just need to listen. The presentation was helpful and informative.

Jacob Clore, PFSF, advised that zero children had been removed from their home in Madison County. He also told us that community needs submitted in a survey by Council Members all expressed that transportation is the main need. Other needs are housing, childcare, utility and rent assistance, food and better employment in the county. Jacob also noted that due to observation, far too few seniors adequately understand the range of Medicare options available to them. Mental health and substance abuse counseling are other needs. In reference to the budget for Madison, Jacob stated that there is a small amount of money still left in the budget. Brandi motioned that the remaining funds go to individual needs; seconded by Lisa Hill Boatwright; motion carried.

Sebastian Plank, also with PFSF, said that 22 children are in out of home care. Only 3 children have traditional foster homes. Seventeen of the 22 children live in non-relative foster homes. A 12-year-old boy has had to move 69 times in a 38 month span, non-stable environment.

Brandi Turner, HF Seven Rivers, provided updates on her staff. One of the home visitors has retired. She has two positions available – a bilingual home visitor as well as a supervisor.

David Boatwright, T.E.A.M Dad, advised that he is the T.E.A.M. Dad Head Coach and that they have 4 actives Dad in the program.

Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, with Big Bend AHEC, reminded everyone that they offer assistance through these programs: Diabetes Empowerment Education, Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation, Health Insurance Navigator as well as free cooking demonstrations, free financial literacy, and free health education.

Our next meeting will be held on 30 Oct 2024.

Notes taken by Laura Blue