



Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc.

**Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024, Noon**

Board Members Present: Linda Jones, Willie Ann Dickey, Eddie Cullaro, Brenda Newman, Brenda Carlton, Melissa Morgan and Tracy Gallon.

Staff Present: Donna Hagan-Executive Director, Tonya Bell, Cindy Hutto, Brandi Turner, Elizabeth Schmidt, Tori Taylor and Laura Blue.

- I.** **Call to Order:** Board President, Linda Jones, called the meeting to order and introduced Tracy Gallon and Melissa Morgan as out new Jefferson County Board Members.
- II.** **Consideration of June 3, 2024, minutes:** Eddie Cullaro made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Brenda Carlton. Motion was approved.
- III.** **Healthy Families Program Update:** Brandi Turner introduced the two new employees for Healthy Families Seven Rivers. The new supervisor is Kelsey Johnson, and she was hired on July 22nd. We also hired a bilingual employee, Eunice Green, on August 1st.
 - a. Review of eligibility criteria: Brandi reviewed the Eligibility Criteria and had a discussion regarding the changes in our communities over time. We discussed groups that may have a higher need in our communities and how we can be more successful in reaching these groups. HFSR capacity was discussed regarding changes over time with a discussion regarding HFSR ability to meet this capacity. Taylor County has gone through a huge workforce loss over the past year and has a larger Hispanic population than in the past. The board asked how we educate the community about the services we provide. Brandi mentioned that HFSR participates in local community events as much as possible and that Victoria Taylor, HSC's Provider Liaison, and Tonya Bell, HSC community health worker, advertises our services with all providers for three of our counties served as well as during community events that HFSR staff can't attend. She also advised that she works closely with HSC in Hamilton and Lafayette counties to get our information into those communities and discussed the lack of referrals from these two counties. She mentioned that she attends all DCF substance exposed newborn staffings to educate DCF on the services we provide as well as to advocate for more referrals.
 - b. Review referral data discuss opportunities for improvement: Brandi reviewed all referral data, discussed changes in the statewide prenatal risk screens as well as changes put in place at the hospitals who serve our communities that may be affecting the number of referrals received by HFSR. Board members discussed the impact of serving Hamilton and Lafayette Counties as opposed to the system of care established for Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties only.

- IV. Healthy Start Program Update:** Elizabeth Schmidt presented a rack card to the Board and explained.
- a. She advised that there is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) needed to fill an open position in the Jefferson County Health Department.
 - b. Jefferson & Madison Counties continue to meet their performance measure goals. As of the first quarter, Taylor County continues to underperform in 3 of the 6 contracted performance measures. They have a Quality Improvement Plan in place to monitor their underperformance in the areas of administering ASQs and EPDs.
 - c. T.E.A.M. Dad currently has 6 actively enrolled dads. Enrollment/Retention and Continued Quality Improvement are top priorities. They will be attending the T.E.A.M. Dad track at the upcoming Healthy Start Conference in Orlando in October.
 - d. Our bilingual employee, Susie Hernandez, continues to perform CIR services, but has reached an agreed upon caseload cap of 16 for the provision of Healthy Start Services.
- V. Review of Draft Financial Statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.** – Donna reviewed the financial statements as they have been issues for the auditor with a focus on the slight decline in net assets, citing the expensive FIMR Safe Sleep campaign as the culprit. There were no questions or concerns, no vote required.
- VI. Directors Update/Board Training** – Donna gave a brief update on disaster recovery post-Debbie and reminded members of the audit scheduled for 9/23 – 9/25. She then facilitated a recognition for outgoing Board member, Eddie Cullaro with pictures, a plaque and gifts.
- VII. The last Board Meeting for 2024 is scheduled for December 2nd.**

Minutes recorded by Laura Blue