

## Jefferson County Whole Child Coalition

February 27, 2024

9:30 – 11:00 AM at the

RJ Bailar Public Library – 375 S Water Street, Monticello

### **Present:**

Donna Hagan, Cindy Hutto, Tonya Bell, Lizz Schimdt, Brandi Turner, Laura Blue, Tori Taylor, Cumi Allen, Gail Anderson, Camye Edwards, Eric Evans, Melanie Sutherland, Christina Ash, Janay Perry, Samuel Zambrano, Sharika Craddock, Gaynell Clark and Jill Hodges.

**Agencies Represented:** Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Jefferson County Health Department, Big Bend Cares, FL Cares, Extension Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Sickle Cell Foundation, Big Bend AHEC, Disc Village, Apalachee Center, and Capital Area Community Action Agency.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Donna Hagan, Executive Director of Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc., told everyone about our new Doula program and recruitment efforts. She also mentioned that we are coming up on the first-year anniversary of the Fatherhood program. Eight fathers are currently enrolled.

Brandi Turner with Healthy Families 7 Rivers reported that they have hired a bi-lingual employee and that they are accepting referrals.

Sharika Craddock, Peer Specialist with Disc Village, advised all that they assist people with substance abuse and counseling.

Melanie Sutherland, Extension Office, stated that they are hosting a Community Agro Fair Day on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 12 PM. This is being held at the Jefferson County Library and free lunch is provided. They are also hosting a program called “Toward Permanent Weight Management”. There will be weekly meetings on Mondays from 12 to 12:45 PM at the local extension office.

Eric Evans with FL Cares reported that they build wheelchair ramps, platform steps, repairs, landings, and grab bars. Last year they assisted with 300 projects.

Cumi Allen, Program Manager for Healthy Start in Jefferson, advised that Jessica Long will be holding pre-natal classes on various Mondays, February through May, from 11 AM – 1 PM at the Jefferson County Health Department. Please contact the Health Department for specific dates.

Jill Hodges with the Apalachee Center told us that they serve 8 counties and offer outpatient therapy services, substance abuse, peer management as well as a host of other programs.

Janay Perry from the Sickle Cell Foundation was our guest speaker today.

*Minutes taken by Laura Blue*