

**Madison Shared Services Meeting**  
**Madison County Chamber of Commerce Office**  
**Oct 25, 2023, 9:30 AM – 11 AM**

**Present:** Tonya Bell, Lizz Schmidt, Laura Blue, Gabrielle Aboki, Sherry Bolden, Brittini Brown, Lorraine Buffington, Michele Choice, Jacob Clore, Suzanne Godfrey, and Sebastian Plank.

**Agencies Represented:** Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Early Learning Coalition Big Bend, Partnership for Strong Families, Ounce of Prevention, North Florida Child Development, and FDLRS NEFEC,

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. They are planning a Day of Dialogue of Minority Health in February 2023. She advised that this month is Safe Sleep Awareness month, Domestic Violence month, as well as Breast Cancer month. She told everyone about the door to door campaign for 'Safe Sleep Awareness' that we have been doing this week to bring awareness to how an infant should sleep safely.

Lorraine Buffington with FDLRS/NEFEC told us that they do Child Find screens for developmental delay for children aged 3 to 5 years old. This is the first step to Individual Evaluation Plan.

Lizz Schmidt, Program Manager for the Healthy Start Coalition JMT, introduced our new employee, Victoria Taylor, as our Provider Liaison. She also advised that we have contracted Susie Hernandez as our new bilingual employee. She also spoke about a Lunch & Learn Mental Health Project that we are planning for December in Madison & Taylor Counties. The guest speaker for Taylor County will be Lisa Hill Boatwright and the guest speaker for Madison/Jefferson County will be Kyra Adams. This is part of watching the long term recovery effort for the people affected by the recent hurricane that went through these counties. The Board Meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM. There will be food and raffles. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Brittini Brown with North Florida Child Development Early Childhood Education explained that they are a grant funded program. They help infants to age 5 to prepare for Pre-Kindergarten. Family advocates link resources to communities to work with families. They also have a Fatherhood Initiative. It is a feeder program from Madison County.

Gabrielle Aboki with ELC Big Bend informed all that they do school readiness, developmental screenings, and can provide financial assistance with childcare for Florida residents. In January they are doing a "Color Me Blue: A Kid's Art Auction Event".

Jacob Clore, PFSF, said that they work with children that have been abused or neglected. In Madison & Taylor Counties they have had to remove 29 children from their homes due to household violence, inadequate supervision, medical neglect, sexual abuse, substance exposed newborn, and substance abuse. The form to request family assistance is on his webpage. Madison has \$1,000 budgeted that they can give to families (\$200 per family) to assist with diapers, wipes, clothing, pack and plays, GED, phone bills, etc.

Sebastian Plank, also with PFSF, is a recruiter for foster care and he stated that they are recruiting foster families and looking for adoptive families. He provides outreach and information sessions to help families become Partners for Families. November is National Adoption Month. He advised that people can also donate funds to assist.

*Notes taken by Laura Blue*