

**Taylor County Shared Services Meeting
District School Board Meeting Room
January 27, 2025, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

Present:

Donna Hagan, Tonya Bell, Brandi Turner, Cindy Hutto, Elizabeth Schmidt, Laura Blue, Victoria Taylor, Sarah Bayes, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Rhonda Brooks, Melissa Cephus, Laquita Dunnell, Katrina Fillyaw, Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, Kelsey Johnson, Kody Latham, Jabrika Morris, Sarah Parker-Price, Sarah Phillips, Janie Register, Betsy Stephens, and Ben Swilley.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties (HSCJMT), Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Taylor County Health Department, Battlefront, TEAM Dad, Taylor County School District, Big Bend AHEC, Early Head Start, Head Start, FDLRS, Veterans Affairs, and the Hanley Foundation.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She reminded everyone about Pinwheels for Prevention, a Children's Fun Festival that is being held on April 12th at the City Park from 10 AM – 12 PM.

Elizabeth Schmidt with HSCJMT told everyone about the Women's Mental Health Event that is hosted by HSCJMT and Battlefront. This will take place on Thursday, February 13th at the Holiday Inn in Perry.

Brandi Turner of Healthy Families Seven Rivers advised that they are down one home visitor. She also said that they are recruiting Guest Speakers for their staff meetings.

Rhonda Brooks, Taylor County Schools, said that they are starting backpacks with food, and they are working in coordination with the 4H Foundation. They currently have 58 backpacks, and they plan to deliver these to Perry school sites.

Betsy Stephens of the Taylor County School District advised that she is a Child Find Specialist. They offer free developmental screenings for children aged 3 to 5 years old. Parents can call to set up the screenings as well. If a client qualifies for developmental delays they can bring a child into their Pre-K program.

Melissa Cephus, also with the Taylor County School District, said that they currently have 106 homeless students, or that they are double upped with another family in a dwelling. The students vary from Pre-K through the 12th grade.

Donna Hagan, Executive Director of the HSCJMT, told us that since the hurricane, they have been receiving a lot of items to give away to families. She also spoke about the two vacant Taylor County positions with the Board of Directors. Donna is looking at Healthy Start initiatives for statewide funding so that we can increase mental health services to our clients. She reminded everyone that Community Surveys will be sent out and asked people to please participate.

Laquita Dunnell works as a Family Service Manager with Head Start. They assist with mental health and pregnancy services. She also told us that they are hosting their 1st Valentine's Day Party on Feb 14th.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront advised that she is a Mental Health Counselor, and she said that they are hosting a women's event titled Moving Beyond Depression, on Feb 13th.

Katrina Fillyaw, Taylor County Health Department, stated that they offer Health Education courses as well as Heart Health Initiatives like the blood pressure self-monitoring course. She also advised that they are hosting a Community Resource Day on February 6th at the Taylor County Public library from 10 AM to Noon. This is a quarterly event to showcase Taylor County's health, wellness and social service resources.

Yolanda Gillette-Carlson is an Outreach Manager with Big Bend AHEC, reminded everyone that they offer assistance through these programs: Diabetes Empowerment Education, Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation, Health Insurance Navigator, free financial literacy, and free health education. Yolanda also said that they hired another bi-lingual employee to assist with their 14 counties. They also offer gift cards for people that complete the Tobacco Free FL program.

Kody Latham with the Hanley Foundation told everyone that they offer substance abuse programs for kids as well as parent sessions in Taylor and Madison counties. He said that they can do these courses either virtually or in person. Kody introduced his co-worker, Ben Swilley, who was with him today.

Our guest speaker was Sarah Parker-Pike with Veterans Affairs. Her official title is Suicide Prevention Coordinator, and she manages high risk patients. They also offer Smoking Cessation as well as veteran's mental health care.

Our next meeting will be on April 28, 2025.

Notes taken by Laura Blue