

**Taylor County Shared Services Meeting
District School Board Meeting Room
May 22, 2023**

Present:

Donna Hagan, Tonya Bell, Brandi Turner, Elizabeth Schmidt, Laura Blue, Gabrielle Aboki, Camye Edwards, Amber Freeman, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Jabrika Morris, Kohatha Vaughn, Latrice Johnson, Julia Flowers, and Lynne Smith.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Big Bend AHEC, ELC of Big Bend, Big Bend Cares, 211 Big Bend/Help Me Grow, Battlefront, Early Head Start Family Advocate, Taylor Co. Health Dept., Disc Village, and FDLRS – Miccosukee, Battlefront Education & Wellness.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Donna Hagan, Healthy Start Coalition, advised that the Fatherhood initiative is up and running.

Jabrika Morris with EHS Family Advocate told everyone about their Summer Family Blast on June 16th at 12:30 PM. They hope to focus on Dad's since it is the Saturday before Father's Day.

Kohatha Vaughn of the Taylor County Health Department spoke of their Tobacco Prevention/Nicotine Replacement classes. These occur on the last Monday of each month at 5:30 PM and they also have a virtual option available.

Amber Freeman, with 211 Big Bend told us about their crisis hotline. She also works with Help Me Grow and said that they do behavior developmental screening via the phone as well as online, and at screening events. If we know of anyone that needs assistance, please let her know and she would be glad to assist.

Sharita Flowers, Disc Village, advised that they help people with addictions. They are trying to reach educate children about the dangers of addiction.

Lynne Smith, FDLRS Miccosukee, said that they would like to be at events, activities that may be going on and they would be glad to assist.

Latrice Johnson, Big Bend Cares, spoke about the HIV testing kits that are available. People can use these in the privacy of their own homes. The kits are a \$49 value and they are free to anyone who would like one.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront Education & Wellness introduced her new employee, David Boatwright, and said that he will be taking over the Fatherhood program. She also said that there was a great turnout for the flag football Fatherhood events in Madison and Taylor Counties. They are going to try to keep the flag football games going in the communities. They will be hosting a Men's Health Event on June 24th at Rosehead Park in Perry from 10 AM to 2 PM. There will be prizes, raffles, drawings, guest speakers and live band.

Elizabeth Schmidt, Program Manager at HSC JMT, informed that the June 2nd Child Safety Resource Fair event in Steinhatchee is at 1013 Riverside Drive, from 10 AM to 2 PM. She also told us about the Empower Hour with Tonya on June 20th at 11 AM at the Perry Woman's Club. This event is open to women ages 18-44 who may become pregnant, now or in the future. There are 20 seats available for this event. Lunch is provided.

Brandi Turner with Healthy Families Seven Rivers stated that they are finally fully staffed with a bi-lingual employee now in place.

Tonya Bell, HSC JMT reiterated about the event on June 20th at the Perry Women's Club. She asked people to come out to support. Tonya also said that she will be on hand if anyone needs a car seat installed as she is a certified car seat installer.

Camye Edwards with Big Bend Cares said that they can provide free HIV kits (mouth swab) so that someone can test in the privacy of their home to see if they have HIV. The shelf life of the kits is 2024-2025 but when they are gone, they will not be able to get anymore. She advised that people could request 6 to 160 kits and to get them while they are available. Camya also advised all that they now have a mobile unit stocked with supplies. They can do needle exchanges, blood pressure checks, etc., with the mobile unit.

Gabrielle Aboki with ELC Big Bend informed all that that do school readiness and can provide financial assistance with childcare. They also have a voluntary Pre-K program. VPK is free to children that are 4 years of age, or 4 years old by September 1st. They had a very successful Virtual Resource Community Fair in April and they plan to have an in person event this Fall.

Tonya Bell spoke on behalf of Jacob Clore, who is on vacation this week. They have \$250 remaining funds to be allocated for Taylor County. They still have \$850 available to individual assistance and there must be a child in the household to receive these funds (\$200 per family). Brandi Turner motioned to use the \$250 for obtaining mirrors/recorders as a possible way to “keep an eye on baby in the back seat”. Camye Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The next Taylor County Shared Services meeting will be held Aug 29th.

Notes taken by Laura Blue