

Jefferson County Whole Child Coalition
RJ Bailar Public Library – 375 S Water Street, Monticello
May 23, 2023
9:30 – 11:00 AM

Present:

Tonya Bell, Cindy Hutto, Laura Blue, Lizz Schimdt, Brandi Turner, Cumi Allen, Gail Anderson, Camye Edwards, Gabrielle Aboki, Eric Evans, Storm Goodlin, Debbie Graham, Shalona Hearn, Janie Register, Robert Walker, and Police Chief Fred Mosely.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, ELC Taylor County, Jefferson County Health Department, Big Bend Cares, DCF, Monticello Police Chief, FDLRS – Miccosukee, ELC of the Big Bend, Big Bend Hospice, Capital Area Community Action Agency, American Cancer Society, Jefferson Healthy Start, and the Monticello Police Department.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Elizabeth Schmidt, Program Manager for the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, advised of the Childbirth Education classes that will be held on June 9th, 12th, and 19th at the JCHD Conference Room from 10 AM to 12 PM. She also spoke about the Empower Hour with Tonya that will be held on June 20th from 11 AM to 12 PM at the Perry Woman's Club at 11 AM.

Gail Anderson with Capital Area Head Start discussed open enrollment on June 3rd from 11 AM to 3 PM. They also assist with this Monday through Friday at 19 Oak Drive, near the old elementary school.

Kelly Williams with Big Bend Hospice said that they are providing Volunteer Orientation on July 15th from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Big Bend Hospice Campus. She also said that they are hosting an "Adopt A Road" event here in Jefferson County on June 3rd beginning at 8:30 AM.

Storm Goodlin, American Cancer Society, stated that they are an American Cancer Society that is not partisan, public policy, fighting against cancer. They bring resources and information to communities and can also transport people to treatment. They also assist people that have just been diagnosed with cancer.

Eric Evans with FL Cares reported that they build better home accessibility projects. Everyone is open to receive his services. So far this year they have done 99 projects, 12 here in Jefferson County. Last year they did 172 projects. He needs volunteers and projects. He can be reached at 850-347-1445 and is looking for referrals.

Shalona Hearn with DCF informed everyone about a program called Hope Florida. She advised that they could assist people with their Medicaid re-determination paperwork. She reminded people to make sure everyone's address is correct as they will get something from Medicaid in the mail. If they don't re-determine their Medicaid, they could lose their benefits.

Robert Walker with Big Bend ELC spoke about Voluntary Pre-K. Children must be 4 years of age by September 1st to be eligible for the program. They also work with DCF, Homeless Coalition and they also assist the Refuge House for domestic issues. He advised that they have extra funding for children's services and to have people to apply. There is a new childcare resource called "Milestone". If anyone needs childcare, apply.

Janie Register, FDLRS Miccosukee, reported that on June 20th and July 26th they are having an Early Childhood and PreK Round Up with free developmental screenings from 12 PM to 5 PM at the former Jefferson High School. reported that they offer assistance to children under the age of 5. They also offer parent resources for children with disabilities.

Camye Edwards, Big Bend Cares, spoke of their at home HIV test kits. It is a \$49 cost but they are handing these out at no cost. It gives people the ability to test in the privacy of their own home. They have two in house brochures if someone tests positive. Anyone can be seen but they must first call Care Point to make an appointment. Care Point is a one stop shop and they are located at 2200 S. Monroe Street in Tallahassee. They offer basic HIV facts, STD info as well a host of other resources. Camye said that they have a mobile unit and it should be out in the community in about a month. They will offer Narcan, syringe exchange, HIV testing and other free screens from this mobile unit.

Monticello Chief of Police, Mr. Fred Mosely, advised that he is trying to have a positive impact in the community in light of the negativity from the news. They are telling parents how to look at a problem as a whole. Be the parent and teach the children. Be an example for them.

Wrapping up, we were reminded of the following events: Family Night on Thursday, June 8th beginning at 5:30 PM. They will provide dinner and education for children. Also, there will be a breast cancer screening on June 7th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Leon County Health Department and free lunch provided. Men's Health Fair on June 24th at Rosehead Park in Perry from 10 AM to 2 PM. Free resources and free food.

The next meeting will be held on August 29th.

Minutes taken by Laura Blue