

**Taylor County Shared Services Meeting
District School Board Meeting Room
Oct 23, 2023, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

Present:

Donna Hagan, Tonya Bell, Brandi Turner, Elizabeth Schmidt, Laura Blue, Gabrielle Aboki, Sarah Bayes, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Rhonda Brooks, Melissa Cephus, Jacob Clore, Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, Camye Edwards, Julia Flowers, Jabrika Morris, Sarah Phillips, Kohatha Vaughn, Sebastian Plank, Martine Young.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Big Bend AHEC, ELC of Big Bend, Battlefront, Taylor County Health Department, Taylor County School District, Partnership for Strong Families (PFSF), Big Bend Cares, Disc Village, and Early Head Start.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and advised that October is Safe Sleep Awareness, Domestic Violence, and Breast Cancer month. She also spoke about Mobility Week which is currently planned for Nov 3rd at the Family Dollar. They are trying to plan a car seat check and installation.

Elizabeth Schmidt from Healthy Start Coalition advised that we have two new employees: Victoria Taylor is the new Provider Liaison and Susie Hernandez is our new bi-lingual employee. A Mental Health workshop is being planned for the near future in either November or possibly December. When they do the workshop in Taylor County the guest speaker will be Lisa Hill Boatwright and the Jefferson/Madison guest speaker will be Kyra Adams. Open to all women in the childbearing stage. Capacity for the event is 25 people.

Brandi Turner with Healthy Families Seven Rivers stated that they offer free, community-based, voluntary home-visiting program designed to support and educate parents through the first years of their child's life. She also informed all that they are fully staffed and are maintaining at capacity.

Yolanda Gillette-Carlson with Big Bend AHEC advised that they have hired four additional people. Two of these employees are bilingual. With the bilingual employees they can now assist Spanish speaking people. She also said that they provide assistance with navigating online Federal Health Insurance (formerly known as Obama Care) in the library. They also offer diabetes education and chronic health disease management.

Melissa Cephus said that she is the homeless liaison for Taylor County. They currently have over 100 homeless families.

Rhonda Brooks of Taylor County Schools told us that they are doing a food giveaway at 10 AM at Loughridge Park. They have a backpack food program as well that serves over 45 families.

Camye Edwards with Big Bend Cares advised that they now have a mobile unit. This unit provides services free of charge. Beginning Nov 17th, they will begin the needle exchange with the unit. Currently the unit offers HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C tests. They are also looking at providing wound care. The unit can move anywhere within the county.

David Boatwright, the T.E.A.M. Dad coach, spoke about the 5 Dads that are enrolled in the program. He has gone to two different events to do outreach, trying to enroll more Dads into the program. On November 18th he will be at Tidewater, Cooking Thanksgiving dinner.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront Education & Wellness said that she went to a pre-natal Mental Health Conference. The main objective is to steer people away from stress.

Gabrielle Aboki with ELC Big Bend informed all that that do school readiness, developmental screenings, and can provide financial assistance with childcare.

Donna Hagan, Executive Director of Healthy Start Coalition JMT, advised that we are planning for 2024 meetings/events. Tentatively thinking of doing shared services meetings quarterly. We will let everyone know when our schedule is complete.

Martine Young with Taylor County Health Department said they are still offering NRT's. They also have a lot of sanitizer to hand out. They can do breast and cervical screenings for the uninsured.

Jacob Clore of PFSF provided updates on the partnership program. They have had 29 removals in Taylor and Madison Counties this year. For both counties they normally provide \$2,500 but the county budgets have been scaled back this year to \$1,000 for each county. The form to distribute funds, up to \$200 per family, is on his website. He mentioned that child welfare is experiencing shortfalls.

Sebastian Plank, also with PFSF, 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. Children need stability and normalcy in their lives.

Notes taken by Laura Blue