

Madison Shared Services Meeting
May 24, 2023, 9:30 AM
Madison County Extension Office

Present: Tonya Bell, Lizz Schmidt, Brandi Turner, Laura Blue, Gabrielle Aboki, Cumi Allen, Jessica Brantley, Lisa Hill Boatwright, David Boatwright, Camye Edwards, Debbie Graham, Tamara Johnson, Merv Mattair, Catherine Moore, Heather Stephens, and Robert Walker.

Agencies Represented: Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, Madison County Health Department, Early Learning Coalition Big Bend, Florida Department of Health, Big Bend Cares, Disc Village, Battlefront Education & Wellness, Boyz to Kings, Madison Medical Center and Veterans Affairs.

Tonya Bell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Jessica Brantley, Disc Village, stated that they have a good inflow of clients. They have a good re-entry program that help people that are getting out of jail. Disc Village works to keep people sober and they are placing NARCAN stands throughout our communities. They are also working with the Youth Ranch and have regular outpatient interventions.

Brandi Turner, Healthy Families Seven Rivers, shared that they have a full staff, and everyone is trained. They have filled the bi-lingual position. There are three full time home visitors and beginning on July 1st they will have a part-time specialist as well.

Elizabeth Schmidt, Program Manager for the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, advised of the Empower Hour with Tonya event that will be held on June 20th from 11 AM to 12 PM at the Perry Woman's Club at 11 AM. She also reminded everyone of the Child Safety Resource Fair on June 2nd, 10 AM to 2 PM, at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

Debbie Graham of Big Bend Cares reported that they have outreach programs that address safe sex, HIV, STDs, Tobacco Cessation, and high blood pressure.

Tamara Johnson with FDOH Healthy Start told us that she is the care coordinator for pregnant moms and women with infants. They offer educational classes for safe sleep, car seat checks, as well as childbirth education. FDOH Healthy start is also holding Childbirth Education classes on June 9th, 12th, and 19th at the JCHD Conference Room from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Camye Edwards, Big Bend Cares, announced that they now have a mobile unit and it will be operational in about a month. She also told us of their at home HIV test kits. It is a \$49 cost but they are handing these out at no cost. This test can be done in the privacy of your own home. Two tests should be given to individuals. The first test is the baseline and the next test should be done at 3 months. There is an agency brochure that goes with the test that advises them of support if the tests are reactive. Trying to save people's lives with variations of protection.

Heather Stephens with Veterans Affairs said that they have education and outreach events to prevent veteran suicides. They want to educate everyone and be a presence in our communities.

Robert Walker, ELC Big Bend, reported 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". He also told us that in order for a pregnant woman to claim disability for her maternity leave, the form must be signed by a physician.

Merv Mattair, Director of Boyz to Kings, advised that he currently has 66 young men in the program right now. The capacity is 85. He teaches them to follow instructions and to better themselves. He has been doing this for 14 years. He has worked with Frank Argenbright of Atlanta, GA, and was able to get 3 young men to intern at Frank's business for 3 months this summer.

David Boatwright, Battlefront Education & Wellness, introduced himself as a new employee with Battlefront. He had his first session with a Dad and learned a lot from that meeting. He will be doing the Fatherhood program with Lisa. Looking forward to working with all Dads.

Lisa Hill Boatwright with Battlefront Education & Wellness talked about the Fatherhood Flag Football events that were held in Madison and Taylor Counties. She stated that she is hosting a Men's Health Fair on June 24th at Rosehead park in Perry. Free resources, prizes, and food. Families are encouraged to attend. Spread the word of 24:7 Dad.

Tonya advised that Jacob Clore is on vacation, but he wanted to report that Madison has \$2,500 allocated to them and they still have \$1,000 available. These funds need to be spent by June 3rd. Funds can be given to families with children (\$200 per family) to assist with rent, electrical bills, etc.

The next meeting is August 30, 2023.

Notes taken by Laura Blue