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April 2011



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Leadership Update *by Dixie Morgese*

Dear Community Partners,

Our Coalition has been very busy during the last few months. We have celebrated many births – both to our beautiful families as well as to our community in the form of new projects and initiatives.



This edition of our newsletter highlights our wonderful partnership with the Junior League who hosted another wonderful baby shower to over 50 of our families. We also have “labored” over the birth of our first Community Café, which officially opened October 1, 2011 in partnership with The Chiles Academy, Early Learning Coalition, Advanced Micro Systems and too many others to mention.

The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review released two new publications to include the Grief Toolkit and Project Inform. Both represent hundreds of volunteer hours aimed at supporting prenatal care providers, pediatricians and our families who experience fetal or infant loss.

Also in October, we launched the Well Family Data System and the Health Management Information System throughout our direct care continuum. It has been a labor of love to help us show our outcomes and improve the quality of our services.

Finally, our Healthy Families staff received valuable training in culturally competent services through Jennie Joseph’s Community Outreach Perinatal Educator (COPE) training. The feedback from staff and from our families has been awesome!

This is also an opportunity to thank Sun Trust for their generous contribution to help us with expenses related to our move into our new location.

We could not do it without ALL our supportive partners and our Coalition leaders. We thank you all!

Sincerely,

Dixie L. Morgese
Executive Director

Healthy Start Funders



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Healthy Start Providers FY 2011-2012

Agape Midwifery Services

Debra Suto-Henry, Ph.D
FIMR Maternal Interviewer

Early Learning Coalition of
Flagler and Volusia

Flagler County

Health Department

Healthy Communities

Joan Hulett, RN
FIMR Abstractor

Sandra Lennon, RN
FIMR Abstractor

Stewart-Marchman-Act
Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Teresa Wise
Grant Consultant

Volusia County
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Partnership with the Junior League of Daytona Beach

by Susan LeBlanc

The Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties has enjoyed a strong partnership with The Junior League of Daytona Beach over the past six years.

The Junior League accepts referrals so that program participants and their families can obtain items they may need from the Junior League's Thrift Shop at no charge. The Junior League also has an annual community grant application process and over the years, The Healthy Start Coalition has been awarded up to \$5,000 each year to purchase pack-n-plays for the Coalition's safe sleep campaign, Beds for Babies.

Most recently, The Junior League of Daytona Beach hosted their 6th semi-annual baby shower to benefit program participants on April 2nd 2011. More than 50 new or expectant families were showered with baby gifts to help them prepare for their new bundle of joy. While parents enjoyed the shower activities, Junior League volunteers provided childcare and activities for the families' other children.

In addition to continental breakfast and raffle prizes, a representative from the Birth Care Center at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center provided a Safe Sleep presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Larger raffle items included strollers, infant car seat carriers, activity gyms, bath tubs, baby monitors, pack-n-plays and breast pumps. Each family won at least one raffle item and received a gift basket filled with diapers, wipes, baby clothes and other baby necessities.



Program participants have benefitted greatly from this ongoing partnership with The Junior League of Daytona Beach. The Healthy Start Coalition commends The Junior League and its members for their dedication to supporting the needs of children and families within our community!



Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler Team Receives COPE Certification

by Susan LeBlanc

The Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler team members were trained as COPE Certified Perinatal Educators by Kathy Bradley, CCA, ICCE, IBCLC and Jennie Joseph, LM, CPM over the course of four weeks which included 48 hours of course instruction.



The purpose of the Community Outreach Perinatal Educator (COPE) program is to improve and promote healthier outcomes for women as well as their babies and to reduce disparities in perinatal health. At the end of the education program, participants demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to provide comprehensive community-based perinatal education; support for pregnant women and families during early and late pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period; and breastfeeding education and support, as well as early recognition and intervention of breastfeeding problems or barriers.

According to their particular area of interest, advanced students may choose to complete Level 2 COPE training where they can become individually certified in doula (CD), childbirth education (CBE) and lactation (CLC) through Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery.

COPE education provides ACCESS to perinatal education for paraprofessionals and professionals alike; creates CONNECTIONS between clients, staff, agencies and community; increases KNOWLEDGE about the impact of improved health on disparities; and EMPOWERS providers to excel in their service delivery by increasing job satisfaction and encouraging leadership.

Strengthening the Village *by Corey Best*

All children are extraordinary little human beings. For this reason, my parental obligation is to provide my son with his every need. Being a dedicated father has required my leadership and an open mind to seek assistance with navigating various community programs and initiatives. As I began that journey, it seemed quite daunting. Fortunately, I encountered the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia (ELCFV) as I sought child care for my son.

Through my relationship with the ELCFV I was invited to participate in a Steering Committee meeting hosted by the One Voice for Volusia Thrive by Five Collaborative in February 2011. The focus of the two day seminar was to discuss effective ways to implement family involvement into the social service system in Volusia and Flagler counties. This was very “cutting edge” and I felt as if I had a voice and an audience that cared for the families and our children.

Immediately following that first seminar, I became a member of the planning subcommittee. Our team consisted of a parent leader and community agencies working diligently to plan the counties inaugural PYRAMID Partnership Summit. PYRAMID stands for Parents and Youth Reaching Amazing Milestones with Initiative and Dedication.

In March, the planning subcommittee merged, outlined our goal and created a path to reach the desired outcome. This journey was remarkable to witness. By mid- April the team anticipated success if we hosted the event for 50 attendees. The guest list included both provider agency representatives and families of children prenatal through age five.

As the result, Thrive by Five hosted the fist PYRAMID Partnership Summit in May. This history-making event welcomed a total of 83 participants. Each person there provided unique leadership and insight toward promoting needed change. The purpose of the Summit was to introduce an unexplored full partnership between families and community agencies, discover collective intelligence, build and maintain family involvement in the early childhood system of care, and foster an equal partnership. We have agreed to work as one united front at all levels of Volusia and Flagler Counties in order to provide a brighter future for our children and their families.

(continued on back – see PYRAMID)

Project INFORM *by Dixie Morgese*

Project Inform is a compilation of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Case Review Team findings as well as birth and infant death data. It is designed to share our findings with the medical community to make systemic improvements associated with prenatal and infant health.

Grief Toolkit *by Dixie Morgese*

The Grief Toolkit was developed for us by healthcare providers for families who have experienced an infant or fetal loss. This creative tool can be customized for each family’s unique situation and can support health providers as they process the loss with their families. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Coalition office or Cher Philio, Marketing & Education Director at 323-0000.

For your convenience, both publications are available on our website at
www.healthystartfv.org!

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For your convenience, both publications are available on our website at
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THANK YOU!!!



Healthy Start sends a BIG thank you to SunTrust for their generous donation!

Lifesong Logo

Lifesong is our new "baby." The beautiful art work below was created by James Edwards of Tubman King Community Church.



PYRAMID *(continued from page 3)*

What is the PYRAMID Community Café?

With parent empowerment, our community has its first Community Café. The PYRAMID Community Café is a welcoming environment that utilizes a national model called the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. This framework is designed to enhance families in a multitude of ways, including, but not limited to: 1) achieving parent resilience, 2) attaining social connections, 3) increasing knowledge of parenting and child development, 4) providing concrete support in times of need, and 5) elevating social and emotional competence of children.

Every family and provider representative established a vision for our children and our community: **"Together Flagler and Volusia Counties create a unified community that empowers families through a meaningful collaboration support, enriches resources to promote a safe and bright future for all children prenatal through five to be happy and successful."**

It's been said "that it takes a village to raise a child". In our community that village is gaining strength, wisdom, leadership and loyalty for our children. As the father of my amazing two year old Corvin, that concept has become a fundamental way of life for me. I share it with many others now through my involvement with the PYRAMID Community Cafe. I hope we can continue to grow and include many more parents to strengthen our village. We can create a better future - it's up to us!



Welcome Amy Hereford!

We welcome Amy Hereford, MSW, MPH, Project Coordinator for the new Community Café and other Volusia County Children and Families Advisory Board grant funded services.



Implementation of Well Family *by Dixie Morgese*

Effective October 1st, 2011, Healthy Start and its partners are implementing an innovative, new data system through our public/private partnership with GoBeyond, LLC of Tallahassee, Florida.

This system will offer endless possibilities to:

- Review data virtually in a timely manner;
- Utilize multiple provider partners to update Family Support Plans;
- Track family information more effectively;
- Ultimately allow families to be interactive partners in their Family Support Planning activities.

We thank Joanne Main, Leslie Pearce, Dawn Murray, Judy Seltz, and Allan Stamm for their tireless efforts in implementing the system and Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center and Early Learning Coalition of Flagler Volusia for their assistance with training space.