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Coalition Annual Meeting

The Coalition held their Annual Meeting on May 18, 2007 at the Bradenton Country Club. Board Members Lorraine Van Lede Brown, Donna Vellenga, C. J. Czaia, Valerie Taylor, Dr. Florentina Taylor, and Dr. Clyde Skene presented at the meeting where 24 Coalition Member Agencies were represented.

The following guests were recognized for their contributions to the Coalition and an engraved paperweight was presented: Connie Shingledecker, Manatee County Sheriff's Office and Project Moses partner; Barbara Andrews, one of the main supporters of our Project Moses, Ed and Ann Griffin, founders of Project Light of Manatee Literacy Center and partners of the Coalition; Pat Royer and Jackie Kelsey, our volunteers who help run our Moms' Sewing Group (Jackie Kelsey was unable to attend); Glen and Carol Swope, founders of the "Raices" or Roots Program in partnership with the Arts Council of Manatee; GulfCoast South Area Health Education for their ongoing partnership, (Ansley Mora accepted the award); Daniella Corcuera and Hunter Taylor, high school seniors who have volunteered for the past 5 years

The following Board Members were re-elected for a two-year term, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009: Cristobal Eduardo Cortés M.D.; Clyde Skene, Jr. M.D., Donna Vellenga, Manasota SOLVE, Inc.; Shauna Wells, Infant Advocate; and Karen Williamson, Consumer.

The following community members were elected for a two-year term, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009: Osie Mae Sailes, Sailes Bail Bonds; Marion Stuart, American Cancer Society; and Judge Charles E. Williams.

The following Board Members will continue for a second year of their term, ending June 30, 2008: C. J. Czaia, Czaia & Gallagher, P.A.; Florentina Taylor, M.D., Giangreco, Scarano & Taylor Pediatrics; Valerie Taylor, Just For Girls; Lorraine Van Lede Brown, Florida Department of Revenue.

The annual business of the Coalition included the approval of the Action Plan Update and Funding Allocation Plan.

Dr. Florentina Taylor presented an update on the Pilot Face-To-Face Family Nutritional Counseling & Follow-Up Project in partnership with Giangreco, Scarano, & Taylor Pediatrics. Dr. Taylor plans to expand this program and offer a model for other pediatric practices.

Dr. Clyde Skene presented an update on the Smoking Cessation Project and the success of the seminar at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. Dr. Skene is willing to work with community agencies to provide trainings and programs.



Connie Shingledecker



Donna Vellenga



Clyde Skene, Jr. M.D.



Dr. Florentina Taylor



Lorraine Van Lede Brown



Valerie Taylor



C.J. Czaia



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MomCare Program

MomCare Program has been created to assist women to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. This program is sponsored by the Florida Department of Health and Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration.

MomCare allows for a simplified Medicaid application process, in which applicants complete a 1-page Medicaid application. Proof of a positive pregnancy test on a health care provider's letterhead must be attached and it is then mailed to the address indicated on the application. The application will be processed within 5 business days. If information is missing, vague or misrepresented on the form, benefits can be delayed or denied.



There is a Maternity Care Advisor that assists clients in selecting a prenatal provider and resolving conflicts. If the client does not select a provider within 30 days, one will be selected for them. Physicians who are currently Medicaid providers are registered on the MomCare provider list. The list of current providers is supplied upon client request.

The Maternity Care Advisor facilitates the client's prenatal care by assisting with appointment scheduling, appointment monitoring, and assistance accessing Healthy Start and other community resources.

During July 2006 through June 2007, 2,511 pregnant women entered into the MomCare program. Out of this number, 2,317 women (92.3%) were successfully served.

From January 2007 through June 2007 there were 1,329 pregnant women that entered the MomCare program. 1,230 women (92.6%) were successfully served.

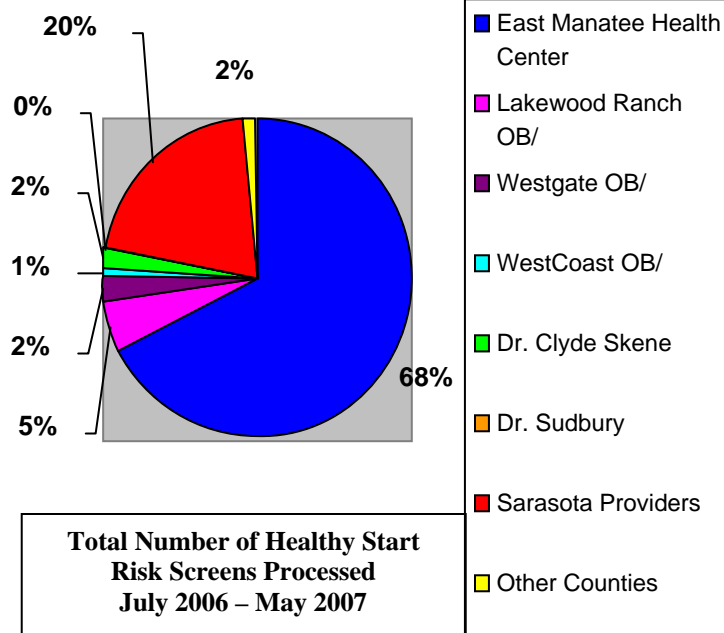
For additional information on our MomCare Program, you may contact Alicia Ordonez, MomCare Advisor/Supervisor at: 714-7541 Ext. 304 or aordonez@hsmanatee.org or check our website www.healthystartmanatee.org

Screening Rates

The Healthy Start Coalition would like to thank the following doctor's offices who so diligently provide their patients with the Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screen at their OB appointments. The following numbers reflect the number of screens processed for Manatee County residents from July 2006 to May 2007. A special thank you is in order for Dr. Sudbury's office which started screening their new OB patients!

East Manatee Health Center:	1,881
Lakewood Ranch OB/Gyn:	153
Westgate OB/Gyn:	65
West Coast OB/Gyn:	28
Dr. Clyde Skene:	44
Dr. Aaron Sudbury	8
Sarasota Providers:	567
Other Counties:	45

Your cooperation in screening your patients is making a significant impact on the health and well-being of pregnant mothers and infants in our community.



Depression During and After Pregnancy

One of the most common complications during and after pregnancy is depression. It is now believed that pregnancy can actually trigger depression, sometimes known as baby blues. This may be due to the wide variety of physical and emotional changes that occur during and immediately after pregnancy, for example: fatigue, weight gain, insomnia, lack of support, problems with a previous pregnancy, marital and/or financial problems, and younger age. Symptoms of prenatal depression can include feelings of sadness, lack of motivation and enjoyment, anxiety and feeling overwhelmed, irritability, feelings of hopelessness, excessive crying, difficulty making decisions, and withdrawal from family and friends.

Depression during pregnancy can lower birth weight and contribute to premature delivery. It is extremely important for both the mother's health and the baby's health to have proper diagnosis and treatment options. Assessment and therapy by a licensed and experienced therapist is important. Support groups are also highly effective. If depression is severe, a doctor may recommend medication.

Postpartum depression may become evident anytime within the first year after childbirth. It is believed that the rapid change in hormones at delivery may trigger depression. Symptoms of postpartum depression are sadness, lack of energy, difficulty concentrating, anxiety, and feelings of guilt and worthlessness. In addition, contributing factors such as fatigue, feeling overwhelmed, financial stressors, changes in work and home life schedules, and loss of identity may also increase a new mother's chance of becoming depressed.

It is important to seek professional help if any of the symptoms discussed are evident. It is also helpful to ask for help at home in order to allow for more rest and sleep. Talking to family and friends about your feelings and arranging to spend more time with your partner is highly recommended as well as finding a support group for new mothers.

Healthy Start provides counseling services free of charge and also uses community resources when appropriate.

This article was written by Judy Driscoll, LMHC, one of our psychosocial services provider.



Judy Driscoll, LMHC

Unity Back to School Fair

For the second year, Healthy Start was present at the Unity Back to School Fair held at the Just For Girls location with the sponsor of local faith based and community organizations. Our team enjoyed providing information to families on our numerous services and having activities for the children during the event. There was a long line of families wanting to receive school back packs and just enjoy a fun day.



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From the desk of Fred Leonard, Executive Director

The Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County has become a pioneer in case management by using an innovative approach to services. We are very proud of the prompt response and effectiveness of our wrap around services for women and infants and are encouraged by the feedback and support we are receiving from the community.

We have new additions to our existing care coordination teams. This is an updated list:



*In the picture:
Seated: Judy Driscoll, Ingrid Dorion, Cindy Spence, Yvonne Bundrage Standing: Michelle Smolder, Judith Joseph, Paula Styles, Beatriz Cervantes, Wally Acevedo and Maria Rios. Janet Caro is not pictured.*

Community and Hospital Based Care Coordination Providers:

Yvonne Bundrage	708-6111 ext. 104	cell: 713-1574	ybundrage@hsmanatee.org
Ingrid Dorion	708-6111 ext. 109	cell: 284-4675	idorion@hsmanatee.org
Judith Driscoll	708-6111 ext. 123	cell: 720-1792	jdriscoll@hsmanatee.org
Michele Smolder	708-6111 ext. 125	cell: 356-6163	msmolder@hsmanatee.org
Cynthia Spence	708-6111 ext. 107	cell: 812-1821	cspence@hsmanatee.org

Clinic Based Care Coordination Providers:

Paula Styles, Supervisor	708-8721 ext. 2287	pvanhorn@mcrhs.org
Waleska "Wally" Acevedo	708-8647	wacevedo@mcrhs.org
Janet Caro	708-8600 ext. 234	jcaro@mcrhs.org
Evelyn Jenkins	714-7150 ext. 231	ejenkins@mcrhs.org
Judith Joseph	708-8734	jjoseph@mcrhs.org
Maria Rios	708-8739	mrrios@mcrhs.org
Virginia Hayes	708-8736	vhayes@mcrhs.org
Beatriz Cervantes	708-8600 ext. 336	bcervantes@mcrhs.org

Paula Styles is the new supervisor for the clinic based care coordination team. She has an MS in Mental Health Counseling and has extensive experience working with families particularly with depression in women.

Ingrid Dorion, Wally Acevedo, Maria Rios, Janet Caro and Beatriz Cervantes are fully bilingual and provide services to clients in English and Spanish. Judith Joseph is also bilingual and she provides services in English and Creole.

June General Membership Meeting

At our June General Membership Meeting, Libby Maginess with Manatee Children's Services presented on "Child Abuse Prevention and Mandatory Reporting".

Libby provided an interactive format that encouraged participants to understand and identify the signs of child abuse looking at the physical, sexual and emotional aspects of abuse. She also explained what neglect and abandonment constitute and the signs to look for. Every person is a mandated reporter as provided in the Florida Statute. If there is a suspicion of abuse/neglect/abandonment, reports can be made to the hotline calling 1-800-96-ABUSE, faxing a report to 1-800-914-0004 or via internet at www.state.fl.us/cf_web. The name of the reporter is kept confidential.



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Pink Sunday

Rosalia and Bob Holmulnd owners of "El Mariachi Loco" hosted a wonderful reception for the moms and their families of our educational programs.

While mothers were honored and entertained, our team of community health workers provided important education and information on breast cancer awareness, folic acid education and safe sleeping practices.

Our Board President Lorraine VanLede-Brown and our Vice President Adela LeComte attended the event and enjoyed the delicious food and special cake provided by "El Mariachi Loco" to all attendees and were delighted with the rendition of rancheras by Jose Javier "El Rancherito".

The Democratic Women donated children's books that were distributed for the families to foster the habit of reading as a family.

We are grateful to Rosalia and Bob for their generosity and to the March of Dimes, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Gulfcoast South Area Health Education and the Sarasota Sports Foundation for providing us with the funding to deliver great education and information to the families we serve.



Unity 2007 Conference

Our team of Community Health Workers and our Program Director were invited to present at the "Unity 2007" Conference in Tampa.

This is a conference that highlights the important role that lay educators have in health prevention. The Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County was pleased to share with the different organizations from around the country, the successful efforts to promote the Safe Sleeping Education Campaign and SIDS prevention using our Moses Bassinets.



The Sarasota Sports Foundation made it possible for our Community Health Workers to reach out to families to provide education on safe sleeping practices and family safety. Cheers to Marisol Diaz, Kristal Holmes, Eva Valencia, Martha Ramirez, Ana Robledo and Eliud Valencia for doing a fantastic job helping families to keep our babies safe and healthy.

"Lighting the Way for a Bright, Healthy Future"

"Lighting the Way for a Bright, Healthy Future" was our slogan at the 2007 Children's Summit in Manatee County.

Healthy Start has been a sponsor and an exhibitor at the Children's Summit for the last 12 years. We partnered again for the third year with Major Connie Shingledecker of the Manatee Sheriff's Office to provide infant safe sleeping education and information to families and distributed our "Moses" Bassinets to make sure that the babies in Manatee County have a safe place to sleep. Thanks to the support of the Sarasota Sports Foundation, we have been able to train our team of Community Health Workers who have been educating families in the community to keep our children safe.

This year we were extremely busy at the Summit with an activity that was very popular among the children. Musician, Scott Blum, and his wife, Dorothy Blum, made the kids "find the beat to eat" promoting exercise and healthy nutrition habits. Games and prizes focused on portion size, the new food pyramid and reducing screening time at our booth with the sponsorship of the Hispanic Obesity Prevention Education program. Our partner, GulfCoast South Area Health Education was on-site supporting our team while they provided healthy fruit kebobs to the children who were learning nutritious eating habits.



H.O.P.E.

Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center (GSAHEC), in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County (HSCMC), was awarded a mini-grant from the Hispanic Obesity Prevention Education Program (HOPE), which is funded by the Florida Department of Health.

GSAHEC and HSCMC will bring this unique statewide program to Manatee County to help increase physical activity, healthy nutrition and promote healthy lifestyles among Hispanic/Latino families, particularly children and teens. We will use our successful Community Health Worker Team to provide the education and information needed, along with activities at various community events and a special teen essay contest on healthy lifestyle choices.



Roots Children's Summer Arts Program 2007

Entering our 4th year, we held our Roots Program this summer at the Manatee Players. Our returning professional artists Scott Blum, Leymus Bolanos, Rick Kerby, Priscilla Crumel were joined by Annie Kadze and staff from the Ringling Circus. The children spent 8 weeks experiencing drama, story telling, dance, music, learning about the culture of African masks along with juggling and balancing. Being on stage and having the opportunity to perform was an enjoyable experience.

Some of the participants were returning from previous years. In their own words: "This was the best summer ever". "It was so much fun". "I loved being able to juggle and try balancing". "I want to come back again".

We thank our partner Carole Swope and the Arts Council of Manatee, as well as those who volunteered including Dorothy Blum, Evelyn Robledo, and the benefactors who gave the children the opportunity to enjoy a great summer.



Breast Cancer Education Program

Thanks to the support of the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the fight against breast cancer will continue. Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County and the Newtown Wellness Program, will again train and support the Community Health Workers to provide breast health education to the Hispanic/Latino and African American communities. A comprehensive training session was provided with the help of Cheryl Little of the Manatee County Health Department, and Mary Anne Brown of the Manatee Memorial Hospital. Thanks to Manatee Memorial Hospital for opening the doors of their facilities to give our team a thorough explanation about the diagnostic and preventive services they offer to women in Manatee County.

