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A Message From Our Executive Director

We want to thank the Florida Department of Health, our community partners, contracted providers, legislative delegation, volunteers, and Board of Directors of the Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc., for enabling us to provide Healthy Start Services to 1,677 moms and babies in our community during the past year.

Healthy Start Manatee is looking forward to another successful year working together to assist families in making good decisions so babies can be born healthy and grow into contributing members of the community. If we can do our small part to accomplish that, then it can improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works here.

New local initiatives in Healthy Start Services are being implemented this year in Manatee County: (1) Clinic-Based, (2) Community-Based, and (3) Hospital-Based Healthy Start Care Coordination and Wrap-Around Support Services.

We have expanded the Clinic-Based Healthy Start Services started for pregnant women at East Manatee Family Health Care Center last year. This year those clinic-based services will include prenatal and infant Healthy Start services at up to seven Rural Health Services locations, for obstetric and pediatric patients. This coincides with the tremendous expansion that Manatee County Rural Health Services, Inc., has been undergoing to help meet the growing health care needs here. The contact for services there is Elisabeth Fisher at 941-708-8706 ext. 145 or efisher@mcrhs.org

Hospital-Based Healthy Start Care Coordination Services were just launched at Manatee Memorial Hospital this month to go along with the long-standing Perinatal Education services provided for Healthy Start participants at MOMM's Place. This is being accomplished with the addition of ten Healthy Start Care Coordinators working as independent contractors. Lakewood Ranch Medical Center will begin Hospital-Based Healthy Start Care Coordination services in September.

Community-Based Healthy Start Services have begun with five of the independent contractors and will focus on Tobacco Education & Cessation,

Nutrition and Eating Disorders, as well as Healthy Start Care Coordination. Obstetric and pediatric private practices serving patients not seen by Manatee County Rural Health Services will be served by referral through Community-Based services. They may be contacted as follows:

Yvonne Bundrage, BA 941-708-6111 ext. 104
 Ingrid Dorion, BS 941-708-6111 ext. 109
 Judith Driscoll, MA, LMHC 941-708-6111 ext. 123
 Michele Smolder, MSW 941-708-6111 ext. 125
 Cynthia Spence, MA 941-708-6111 ext. 107

Additionally, the Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. has relocated our administrative offices to:

2424 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 210
 Bradenton, Florida 34205
 (941) 714-7541 (phone)
 (941) 714-7544 (fax)

Our website remains as:

www.healthystartmanatee.org

To reach any of our Coalition staff members you may want to keep this list handy:

Fred Leonard, Executive Director 941-807-2810
FLeonard@hsmantee.org

Luz Corcuera, Program Director 941-714-7542 ext. 302
LCorcuera@hsmantee.org

Nancy Pettit, Financial Manager 941-714-7541 ext. 301
NPettit@hsmantee.org

Alicia Ordonez, MomCare Supervisor 941-714-7541 ext. 303
AOrdonez@hsmantee.org

Our monthly general membership meetings will resume on September 5, 2006 and will continue to take place the first Tuesday of each month at the Manatee Central Library at 11:00 a.m. Gulfcoast South Area Health Education will continue to offer 1 CEU for Nurses, Social Workers and Licensed Mental Health Counselors and provide certificate of attendance to those who would like to obtain one. This is also an excellent opportunity to network with other agencies and members of our Coalition.



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Our Annual Meeting 2006

On May 12th, representatives of the voting-member agencies of Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County attended our 2006 Annual Meeting at the Bradenton Country Club.

The President of the Board of Directors Lorraine Van-Lede Brown welcomed all members and Fred Leonard, the Executive Director, presented the annual administrative and financial reports of the Coalition. Dr. Florentina Taylor, Lorraine Van-Lede Brown and Valerie Taylor were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Providers were approved to provide care coordination, clinical obstetrical care and wrap around services to high risk women and infants to age three.



Bird Flu... The New Pandemic?

John Burns from the Manatee County Health Department gave a very informative presentation at our May General Membership Meeting on The Avian Flu.

This highly contagious deadly virus, known as H5N1, is carried by birds and other animals. When contracted, it causes rapid and sudden death in over half the cases. It is spreading rapidly throughout Africa, Asia and Europe. On March 9, 2006, the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary estimated migratory birds could carry the avian flu virus through Canada and to U.S. shores within several months.

Due to the newness of the virus, there is virtually no immunity to it and no vaccine. The alarming part is that it kills the majority of people that get it, including young healthy people with strong immune systems, whereas normal seasonal influenza causes only mild respiratory symptoms in most people.

According to The World Health Organization, the current outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza are the largest and most severe on record. The virus has already mutated with limited person-to-person spread occurring in Indonesia. Health experts fear that as in past pandemics, it will mutate further, into a virus that is easily spread from



person-to-person, becoming a deadly human pandemic with millions dying. Many scientists think it is just a question of when.

John mentioned that Florida is closely monitoring activities with Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. The Florida Department of Health Partners with physicians, hospitals, county health departments, and private labs are monitoring spikes in the number of patients seen with flu-like symptoms.

John emphasized that "Education is the First Line of Defense":

- Establish good habits now, disinfect common touching surfaces
- Keep handy wipes
- If you get a fever, stay home
- Sneeze and cover it using a tissue
- Use a tissue once and throw it away
- Wash your hands..if you can't wash...wipe...if you can't wipe...gel
- Get a flu shot annually
- Use the sani-cycle on the dishwasher
- If you have pets, keep in mind that exposure to wild bird droppings could become a problem
- Stay aware and informed

For consultation and questions you may call John at 748-0747 X 1235

Gettel Toyota, "Project Moses New Partner"

A year ago, Project Moses was born to provide a safe sleeping place to our babies in Manatee County. When Major Connie Shingledecker shared the devastating news that 19 babies died between 2000 and 2004 due to unsafe sleeping practices and that all those deaths could have been prevented with education to parents and a safe place for their babies to sleep, the wheels were put in motion and "Project Moses" was born.

We have been very fortunate to have the partnership of many caring people. We assemble our Moses Bassinets with the loving labor of our moms and volunteers and the female inmates who make the firm mattresses for the bassinets. The bassinets are given to every family that needs one, along with the education and information on safe sleeping practices and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

This year, the Gettel Toyota Foundation generously donated part of the proceeds from their 6th Annual Golf Tournament so that we can continue providing this invaluable service to the moms and babies of Manatee County. Thanks to their contribution we will be able to assemble more bassinets, reach out to pregnant women before their babies are born and give them the education and information that they need to keep their babies safe. A very special thank you to Mr. Jim Gettel, Mr. David Rooks, Ms. Sandra Castro and every single person who helped organized a wonderful golf tournament and to those who came to play for such a great cause.

If you would like to be a part of this project or for more information on Project Moses please contact our Program Director, Luz Corcuera at: (941) 714-7542 Ext. 302 or e-mail: lcorcuera@hsmantee.org



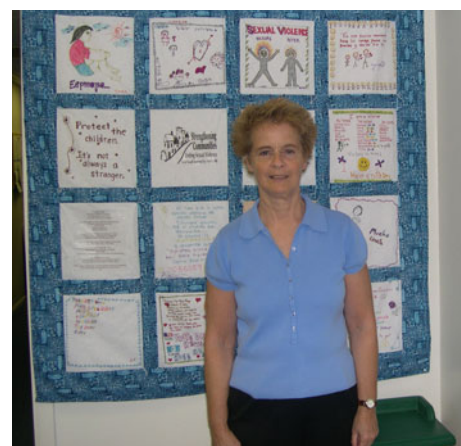
Special Risks for Abuse Victims During Pregnancy

Linda Herbert, LMHC and Supervisor at Manatee Glens presented at our June General Membership Meeting on this very important topic. She talked about the impact that abuse and in particular sexual abuse has on a pregnant woman. Linda pointed out that placing special attention to screening for physical and sexual abuse is extremely important when serving women since the statistics show that one out of three women has been abused at some point in their life.

Pregnant women can be at risk stemming from abuse in many ways: experiencing fear of losing control and being powerless, dealing with substance abuse, dissociating during exams or labor that include failure to progress, negative body image or resurgence of post traumatic stress disorder symptoms and postnatal depression.

Linda emphasized that providers serving pregnant women need to be aware of these risks and provide interventions to reduce them. Working at a trusting relationship early on, creating safety during exams, honoring emotions, providing access to prenatal support groups, assessing safety of the home situation and making appropriate reports and referrals can help this at-risk group of women to achieve positive pregnancy outcomes.

We thank Linda Herbert for such an enlightening presentation and hope that those of us who serve pregnant women can take the time to screen for these risk factors that might otherwise go unknown but could have a significant impact on their pregnancy, labor and delivery.



Cynthia A. Spence, M.S.

She received her B.S. in Psychology from Towson State University in Maryland and her M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Auburn University. She has completed post-graduate coursework leading to her Doctorate in Education with Argosy University.

Cindy has provided treatment and case management services to families experiencing problems with domestic violence and abuse. She has conducted individual, group and family therapy with victims and perpetrators of abuse. She also served as the Executive Director of correctional facilities for delinquent male and female youth for approximately 8 years, developing and implementing programs to meet the needs of this young population, particularly focusing on parenting skills, social skills, substance abuse and human sexuality.

She hopes that as independent contractor providing care coordination services for the Healthy Start families, she is able to help families and community partners to identify and use resources to reduce risks and infant mortality within our community.



Michele Smolder, M.S.W.

She received her Bachelors in Social Work from USF and her Masters in Social Work from FSU. She has spent the last four years working with teenage parents and their babies.

Michele is also one of the five independent contractors who sees Healthy Start as an opportunity for career growth in her field while working with a population that she had previous experience with and most of all, enjoyed working with. Her wish is to help Manatee County moms make the best choices for their babies, both before and after birth.

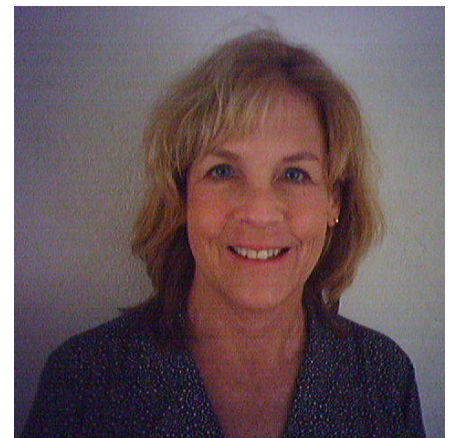
Michele hopes that while serving our moms and babies she will have the opportunity to impact changes that will assure healthier birth outcomes for Manatee County.



Judy Driscoll, L.M.H.C.

She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with 25 years of experience in the field of neurological disorders, including developmental disabilities and rehabilitation. Judy also earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. Her previous experience includes being the director of a respite care program for families with children diagnosed with developmental disabilities, foster care families and adoptions, as well as working with mothers and children of domestic violence.

She is one of the five independent contractors who was initially attracted to the Healthy Start program because of its focus on support, education, and prevention. Judy firmly believes that with these tools, a mother and a baby's life can be re-directed toward a healthy and positive direction. She hopes to create positive outcomes for mothers and babies in Manatee County through the Healthy Start program. She is excited and proud to be a part of the Healthy Start program.



Ingrid Dorion, B.S.

She received her B.S. in Counseling and Learning Disabilities in Guatemala City, where she was born and raised. Ingrid speaks English and Spanish.

She has extensive experience working with children and families. She taught English and mentored children with learning disabilities. She worked as an Early Interventionist and Service Coordinator for the Early Intervention Program (EIP), now Early Steps. She also worked for Manatee County Rural Health Services, Inc. as a member of the Healthy Start Care Coordination team.

Ingrid is glad to be one of the five independent contractors to provide care coordination services to women and infants. She is committed through her work to continue promoting positive prenatal and postnatal behaviors, reducing risk factors, and empowering families to exercise positive parenting skills. She hopes to see this community become stronger, not only moms and babies, but for each and every person involved in their lives.



Yvonne D. Bundrage, B.A.

She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from USF.

Prior to joining as an independent contractor to provide community based care coordination services for Healthy Start, she worked with Head Start and for Manatee Coalition for Affordable Housing for seven years. Yvonne is also a State of Florida Notary Public and Member of the Manatee County Board of Realtors and is very active in the community.

Yvonne hopes to provide quality and effective services in assisting Healthy Start through care coordination in meeting major program goals to reduce infant mortality and morbidity, improve pregnancy outcomes, and enhance the health and development of children from birth to age three. In addition, she feels that this role further affords her the opportunity to continue serving the community in which she is very active and has resided since birth.



Project Moses Volunteers!

A big Thank You! To Mrs. Marlene Grunewald who calls our office every so often to share her talents, her time and love.

She takes the time to make beautiful shawls and blankets for our moms and babies. She became one of our supporters once she learned about the mission and the many programs Healthy Start Manatee has been offering to the moms and babies we serve in the community.

We are very grateful for her loving support and commitment to improve the lives of the families we serve. The receiving blankets and shawls are given to moms and babies along with our bassinets and the education on infant safe sleeping.



Raices—"Roots" 2006 Program

For the third consecutive year, the Arts Council of Manatee, Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee and Project Light have been able to offer the Summer Arts Program for children. This year the program had a wonderful team of instructors that provided many different experiences for the children; Scott Blum provided music and was the director of the program this year; Rick Kerby from Manatee Players provided the children with drama and hosted the children at the Manatee Players to have a real experience of being artists, including the use of costumes, props and living behind the scenes; Leymis Bolanos Wilmott from Fuzion Dance Artists provided the dance and movement piece; and new addition to the team, Priscilla Crumell brought the storytelling experience.

At their final session, the children were awarded certificates of participation and enjoyed being able to show to their parents their new art skills. We thank Carole and Glenn Swope for their commitment, energy and leadership to make this wonderful program a reality. We also thank our generous donors for their financial contribution.

If you would like to contribute to this program, please contact our Program Director, Luz Corcuera at (941) 714-7542 Ext. 302 or e-mail: lcorcuera@hsmantee.org



En Familia

Thanks to the generous support of the Sarasota Sports Foundation we continue to bring education and support to our Hispanic/Latino families through the program "En Familia". Our Community Health Workers have been trained to bring information and education to our families to prevent child abuse. We have had a warm reception from the families who learn together and support each other to raise their children in a safe environment. The amount of self-referrals and community referrals has been overwhelming. Families who receive this service are our best advertisement.

We thank the Sarasota Sports Foundation for making this program a reality.

For more information on this program please contact our Program Director at: (941) 714-7542 Ext. 302 or by e-mail: lcorcuera@hsmantee.org



Breastfeeding Education to the Arcadia Moms

Thanks to a grant from Gulfcoast South Area Health Education, we have been able to bring breastfeeding education to the moms in Arcadia through our Community Health Workers. The support of Catholic Charities, St. Paul's Church in Arcadia, and the Religious Sisters of the Nocatee Mission allowed our Community Health Workers to reach out to the moms residing in that area and to share with them the benefits of breastfeeding and provide the needed support to foster this wonderful practice to raise healthy babies.

