

## Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Healthy Start! Luncheon and Panel Discussion

Over the last 25 years moms, babies, and families throughout Florida have received education and support to ensure that infants have the best possible start to life. In 1991, faced with an alarmingly high infant mortality rate, then Governor Lawton Chiles and First Lady Rhea Chiles convened community leaders and challenged them to build local coalitions to improve birth outcomes. The result was the landmark Healthy Start program, signed into law on June 4th, 1991.

Subsequently, regional Healthy Start Coalitions were developed to place control in the hands of the community, build systems of care, and coordinate a diverse array of services on behalf of the highest risk moms and babies. The coalition model is a recognized catalyst for community involvement, collaboration and innovative services. Florida's program implements the nation's only universal risk screening process, which identifies women and infants who may need services. Health care providers are required to screen all pregnant women and newborns, so that, within minutes, women know if they or their baby have any individual health risks.



The Tyler Family

We, at Healthy Start Manatee, are proud to be part of this statewide initiative, working in close collaboration with many local community partners, to ensure Manatee County families have access to prenatal and pediatric care, along with our comprehensive care coordination and wrap around services, so their babies have a healthy, happy start in life!

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## Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.

410 43rd Street West  
Suite N  
Bradenton, FL 34209

P: 941-714-7541  
F: 941-714-7544

www.hsmanatee.com 

Federal ID #: 65-0380065

Established in 1992

Executive Director,  
Fred Leonard



### ADULT SUPERVISION

Designate a water watcher to keep an eye on children at all times.

### BARRIERS TO WATER

Keep pool gates and house doors locked at all times.

### CLASSES FOR SWIMMING AND CPR

Enroll the entire family in swimming classes and learn CPR.

## Healthy Start Supports Maternal Child Health Campaigns

### **Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Healthy Start was proud to collaborate with community partners to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month this past April. In 2015, there were an estimated 652 children removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect and five deaths in Manatee County. We joined Manatee Children's Services, the Department of Children and Families, Manatee Sheriff's Office, and Safe Children's Coalition to engage the Palmetto and Bradenton city councils, along with the Manatee County Commission, in raising awareness of this important issue. Each of these government agencies presented our community collaborative with proclamations recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. The goal of the partners' coordinated efforts is to promote awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and building healthy family relationships.



Major Connie Shingledecker

### **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month**



Recognizing that early childbearing presents a host of risks for poor maternal infant health outcomes, Healthy Start Manatee has continued to be a strong partner in community efforts to reduce the local rates of teen births, which have consistently been higher than the state's rates over the last decade. Manatee County's repeat birth rate among 15 to 17 year olds is 27.4% higher than the state average in Florida. As a founding member of the Healthy Teens Coalition (HTC) of Manatee County, we joined HTC in receiving proclamations officially recognizing May as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month from the Manatee County

Commission, School Board of Manatee County, and Bradenton and Palmetto city councils. Healthy Start also played a key role in the 4th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awards & Reception, which honors local individuals and organizations that have made meaningful contributions to reducing the teen birth rate and improving the health and wellness of young people in our community.

Healthy Start Manatee also continues its longstanding partnership with the school district's teen pregnancy prevention collaborative, through which we are able to provide monthly classes to pregnant and parenting students in the TAP program (Teen Aged Parenting Program), as part of collective efforts to reduce the risk of repeat births among this vulnerable population.



**Adults of the Year: Mary Carol Costigan (TAPP Social Worker) and Joan Tomeo (Early Learning Coalition); Youth of the Year: Cara Peters (HTC Teen Health Educator); Nonprofit of the Year: Family Resources (Lisa Davis, President/CEO pictured).**

## Hurricane Preparedness for your Child



The Department of Health recommends assembling a kit for your child to help them cope with disaster. The kit should include:

- Any medications they be taking
- A few favorite books, crayons and paper
- Puzzles, a board game, deck of cards
- Two favorite small toys, such as a doll or action figure, a stuffed animal
- Favorite blanket, pillow
- Pictures of family and pets
- Other special items that will comfort children

## Healthy Start Connecting with the Community

The Healthy Start team was invited by various community partners to share information, outreach and engaging activities at their events this past spring. In April close to 5,000 people – including children, parents, and grandparents – attended the YMCA's annual Healthy Kids Day at the Riverwalk. Sacred Heart Church's community festival engaged not only parishioners, but also members of the surrounding community in May. Community Health Worker, Martha Ramirez, provided culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and education on Healthy Start services to the predominantly Spanish speaking attendees at the festival. East Coast Migrant Head Start also invited Martha to do a presentation for expectant mothers of children participating in their program at their local site in Palmetto.



## Healthy Start Manatee Awarded Grant for Coordinated Intake and Referral Project

Healthy Start Manatee was one of only eight coalitions selected, from across the state, to pilot a coordinated intake and referral system for prenatal and infant-focused services in the county. The Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative (MIECHV) awarded grants to the pilot sites for planning and implementation of a coordinated intake system with the goal of enhancing collaboration among local early childhood program providers.

The coordinated intake and referral system will connect expectant mothers and infants, up to three years of age, with home visiting and ancillary services that best meet a family's immediate needs and preferences, such as prenatal care, parenting education and support, school readiness, and child development.

With the project comes a new member to the Healthy Start team! Marissa Bressi is our new Coordinated Intake & Referral Project Coordinator. Marissa holds a BS from the University of Florida. Prior to joining Healthy Start, she worked with Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee as Special Events Coordinator, and at Coastal Eye Institute as Director of Communications. Marissa has hit the ground running on the project, holding focus groups with moms, staffing outreach events, and working with the project's key community partners who are contributing to the development of the coordinated system. Welcome, Marissa!



Marissa Bressi  
Coordinated Intake & Referral  
Project Coordinator

Community Partners:

- Early Learning Coalition
- Family Partnership Center
- Gulf Central Early Steps
- Manatee Children's Services
- Manatee Community Action Agency
- Manatee County Government
- Whole Child Manatee

## Professional Development Opportunities for Social Service/Health Providers in Maternal Child Health (MCH) Topics

Healthy Start is proud to be able to offer the community monthly opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in diverse MCH topics, as well as issues that impact maternal child health outcomes. The sessions are free and open to the public; we also offer CEUs to eligible attendees for only \$5, thanks to our partnership with Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center. Over the last few months, presentations have included:

- HIV Among Adolescents, Emanuel Lucas, Florida Department of Health in Manatee County
- Living and Working Smoke Free in Manatee County, Maxine Lang, Program Manager, Florida Department of Health in Manatee County
- Overview of Preventable Child Deaths in Manatee County, Maj. Connie Shingledecker, Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- The Roots and Truths of Domestic Sex Trafficking, Lisa Rowe, LCSW, Selah Freedom



Lisa Rowe from Selah Freedom presents *The Roots and Truths of Domestic Sex Trafficking* at the June 2016 General Membership Meeting

Sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 11 am at Manatee Memorial Hospital (except for January, July and August).

To receive email notifications about upcoming sessions, please email or call Lauren Blenker at [lblenker@hsmanatee.com](mailto:lblenker@hsmanatee.com) or 941-714-7541 ext. 302.

## Our Deepest Gratitude....

Goes to our volunteers and supporters who help us go above and beyond our core work of comprehensive care coordination and wrap around services. For example, Ms. Norma Baker purchases gently used baby clothes, washes, folds and delivers them to us on a monthly basis for some of our most vulnerable families.

We are so fortunate to also count on Trinity Lutheran Church as a dedicated supporter of Healthy Start moms and babies. In addition to including Healthy Start as one of their Lent 2016 "Points of Mercy" donation recipients, they have a team of talented volunteers who regularly hand make baby quilts, burp cloths, and Moses bassinet liners, which are critical to our Infant Safe Sleep campaign and to ensuring babies have a safe place to slumber.

We are also deeply grateful to the Alive Church community; in addition to in-kind donations of baby supplies in the spring, they held a special



Executive Director Fred Leonard and Pastor Nelson Ferrer from Alive Church. The Alive Church congregation filled baby bottles with spare change donations in honor of Mother's Day.

Mother's Day service that highlighted Healthy Start. They distributed baby bottles to the congregation to take home to fill with spare change donations. Throughout May, the church gave out bottles and collected those brought back by parishioners; all of the donations were then given to Healthy Start.

Our long-time supporters, members of the Loving Stitches Ministry at Our Lady of the Angels Church, recently created and donated handmade baby items, such burp cloths; these are simple, but much needed – and appreciated – supplies for our families!

We are truly thankful for the love and support that these special individuals and organizations provide to Healthy Start families!



Financial Director Amie Arrington accepts a donation of baby quilts, burp cloths, and Moses basket liners from Trinity Lutheran Church

## Healthy Start Manatee Risk Screening Data

The Healthy Start system of care utilizes a one-page risk screening tool for obstetric and pediatric providers, as well as other health professionals to identify and refer women and infants who may benefit from our program. This collaborative system helps ensure that women who need our services are able to readily access them.

The Florida Department of Health collects prenatal and infant screening data on a regular basis for all counties. Since the start of our current fiscal year, July 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016, 2,930 pregnant women have been screened, making Manatee County's prenatal screening rate 85.4%. In addition, 2,567 mothers of infants were screened, making the infant screening rate 88.2%.

We are grateful to all of our provider partners who voluntarily conduct the Healthy Start patient screening, including the OB practitioners listed here:



### Prenatal Risk Screening Rates for Manatee Residents by OB/GYN Providers July 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016

Provider	Number of Screens
East Manatee Women's Health Center*	1,095
Edgar H. Price, Jr. OB/GYN*	85
Lakewood Ranch OB/GYN	133
OB/GYN Women's Center	229
River Landings OB/GYN*	101
Premier OB/GYN	118
University Park OB/GYN	123
West Manatee OB/GYN*	201
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,213</b>

*\*Denotes MCR Health Services (formerly known as Manatee County Rural Health Services) Locations*

Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.  
receives funding from:



AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION