

Healthy Start Manatee Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

New Staff



Amie Arrington is our new financial director and comes to us with 20 years of experience working in the financial and healthcare industry. Prior to joining Healthy Start Manatee, she worked as controller for a multi-state assisted living corporation, Traditions Senior Management. Amie earned her BA in accounting from Tarleton State University, a branch of the Texas A&M University system. Four years ago, she returned to her native Florida after her husband retired from the U.S. Army.



Lauren Blenker is Healthy Start Manatee's Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator. A Manatee County native, Lauren holds a BS in political science and religion from Florida State University. She brings more than seven years of experience in marketing, special events, and community outreach to her role, most recently having held a marketing position with Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee.

New Board Members

Dr. Ashley Masuga is a board certified optometric physician specializing in the treatment of eye disease and pediatric eye care. She and her husband, Dr. Brad Masuga own and operate InFocus Family Eye Care in Lakewood Ranch. Originally from Chesterfield, Michigan, Dr. Masuga completed her undergraduate studies at Western Michigan University in 2003 and obtained her Doctorate of Optometry from Ferris State University in 2007.

Tiara Moten received her BA in English from the University of Florida in 2009 and additionally, her BS in Finance from the University of South Florida in 2011. She is also a Six Sigma Certified Greenbelt and a Certified Freight Broker. Tiara has been with The Mosaic Company since 2011, and currently works as a Senior Sourcing Specialist. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Leadership Manatee.

Tracy Pratt is an attorney licensed in Florida and Louisiana. She has worked in the non-profit and public interest sector for 15 years, primarily in the area of criminal justice reform. Tracy received her BA in Human Development from Eckerd College in 2000, and completed her JD at Loyola New Orleans School of Law in 2007. Additionally, Tracy is a Founding Board Member and Co-Director of a secular, non-profit homeschool cooperative in Sarasota.

Healthy Start Manatee is fortunate to have these individuals on our team, bringing their wealth of experience, as well as passion for our mission, and commitment to the women and infants we serve! Welcome all!

Board of Directors 2014-2015

Carla McGill, *President*
Healthy Science Communications

Patty Benson
American Association of University Women

Christine Harrison
Braden River Rehabilitation

Dr. Ashley Masuga
InFocus Family Eye Care

Tiara Moten
Mosaic

Tracy Pratt
Criminal Attorney

Beth Trent
BB&T Bank

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Federal ID #: 65-0380065

Established in 1992

Executive Director,
Fred Leonard

Healthy Start Manatee Holds 2015 Annual Meeting

At its annual meeting on May 1st, Healthy Start Manatee took the opportunity to recognize special individuals and organizations that provide continual support of our mission and work. As the proverb goes, "it takes a village," and Healthy Start Manatee is fortunate to count on a strong "village" of partners in the effort to improve maternal child health outcomes. Awards were presented to the following community partners at the meeting:

- Medical Provider of the Year: Premier OB/GYN
- Volunteer of the Year: Heidi Williams
- Community Impact Award: Sarah Checcone, J.D., Postpartum Society of Florida
- Community Partner Award: Manatee Community Action Agency
- Healthy Start Care Coordinator of the Year: Leslie Polite



Fred Leonard presents Leslie Polite with the "Care Coordinator of the Year" Award.

In addition, Healthy Start recognized its outgoing board members for their commitment to Manatee County moms and babies. We are grateful to Robin Bryant, Maria Jackman, and Adam Tebrugge for their contributions during their 2013-15 terms. We are also deeply appreciative for the many years that Jackie Kelsey and Mary Willis dedicated to Healthy Start, having served on the board since 2008. Healthy Start Manatee's new slate of board members was approved, with the addition of Dr. Ashley Masuga, Tiara Moten, and Tracy Pratt.

In recognition of National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month in May, the meeting's keynote speaker, Mary Ann Legler, MSN, MA, ARNP, Chair of the Healthy Teens Coalition

of Manatee, presented "The Status of Teen Pregnancies in Manatee." Ms. Legler noted that babies born to teen mothers are at a higher risk for a variety of poor outcomes, such as pre-term births, low birth weight, long term health problems and learning disabilities. Pregnant teens are nearly twice as likely to forgo first trimester care, which may be a contributing factor to some of these poor birth outcomes. In Manatee County, since collaborative community efforts between the school district, Healthy Teens Coalition, and other partners-- like Healthy Start Manatee-- have been implemented over the last four years, the teen birth rate has dropped significantly. Out of 67 counties in



the state, Manatee dropped in ranking from 11th highest to 32nd between 2010 and 2014. However, there is still work to be done; Manatee's repeat teen birth rate is consistently higher than the state's rate. Ms. Legler pointed out that research shows the two key ingredients to meaningfully impacting teen birth rates are:

• Education to positively impact knowledge, attitudes, and behavior
• Access to contraception and reproductive health care

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Thank you to all of our Coalition Members, Board Members and guests that attended the meeting, and special thanks to our speaker, Mary Ann Legler!



Mary Ann Legler presents on "The Status of Teen Pregnancies in Manatee."

Healthy Start Manatee Supports Local Maternal Child Health Awareness Campaigns



Healthy Start Manatee staffer Heather Whelan "plants" pinwheels at Bradenton City Hall.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

This year Healthy Start was, again, part of the community partnership that took part in activities to raise awareness of the issue of child abuse and neglect locally. We attended the local government proclamations that the Manatee County Commissioners and Bradenton City Council presented, officially recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In addition, the Healthy Start team joined the community partnership in planting pinwheels outside of City Hall, as part of the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. Healthy Start's April general membership meeting also focused on this issue; Lucia Branton with the YMCA Sarasota/Safe Children Coalition gave an insightful presentation, "Identifying Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect."

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Similarly, Healthy Start also supported community efforts during Teen Pregnancy Prevention month in May. As a member of the Healthy Teens Coalition (HTC), we joined the team that received proclamations from the Palmetto and Bradenton city councils, as well as the Manatee County Commission and the School Board of Manatee County. In addition, Healthy Start helped HTC organize and present the Third Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awards reception, which recognized local leaders, individuals and organizations who are working to empower young people and reduce teen births in the county.

Finally, our May general membership meeting was presented in the context of this annual recognition. Dr. Edwin Hernandez, Clinical Director at the Florida Department of Health in Manatee, gave an informative presentation on the health department's family planning clinic and its special Teen Express program.

Maternal Mental Health Month

May is also Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month and the Healthy Start team attended the Postpartum Society of Florida's open house event for maternal wellness providers and presentation: "1-2-3 Understand PPD" (Postpartum Distress). In addition, Healthy Start's June general membership meeting offered area social service providers the opportunity to learn more about this important issue so they, in turn, can help support their clients. Jayne Tingley, LMHC, with Manatee Glens, presented "Maternal Mental Health: An Overview."

Many Thanks to Our Volunteers and Donors!

Healthy Start Manatee is deeply grateful to its many supporters who believe in our mission to improve birth outcomes in Manatee County. Most recently, Pastor Nelson Ferrer and the congregation at Alive Church reached out to Healthy Start and donated much-needed baby items.

Another new friend to Healthy Start is Generous Property, who recently made a \$1,000 donation in support of our mission.

Always appreciated, our long-time volunteer, Karen Wernimont, donated 12 hand-made sheet liners for our Project Moses Baskets. As part of our Infant Safe Sleep Campaign, these baskets, along with educational materials, are made available to Healthy Start families who need a safe place for their baby to sleep.

Finally, we would like to thank Sandy Hoy and StayWell and Board Member Patty Benson for their \$500 Patron Level sponsorships in support of our fundraising events.



Healthy Start Manatee staff members accept a \$1,000 donation from Kyle Tenbusch and Generous Property.

Upcoming Events



Paint Night at Painting with a Twist Bradenton

Sunday, August 16, 2015

7-9pm
\$35 per person

Join us for a fun-filled night of painting! All supplies included in registration fee. Each attendee will leave with their very own handmade painting (design shown at left). Anyone that brings a pack of diapers (Size Newborn, 3 or 4) will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win two tickets to the Florida Aquarium! There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds benefit Healthy Start Manatee.

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided, but guests are welcome to BYOB if desired.

To register, visit www.paintingwithatwist.com/bradenton and go to the calendar. Next, click on the event for Healthy Start on Sunday, August 16, 2015, which will take you to the registration page.

Healthy Start Luncheon at Renaissance on 9th in Bradenton

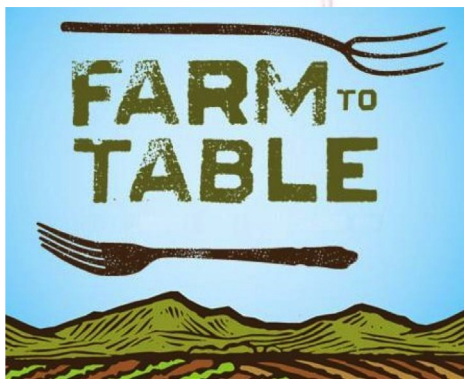
Thursday, September 24, 2015

11:30am to 1pm
\$25 per person

Healthy Start Manatee will host a fall luncheon featuring a lively panel discussion with the hosts of WSLR 96.5 LPFM's "Maternally Yours" Radio

Show. Guests will have their choice of two delicious salads, accompanied by freshly baked rolls, and dessert. All guests in attendance will be entered into a raffle to win four one-day passes to Disney World in Orlando, FL.

To purchase tickets, contact Lauren Blenker at 941-714-7541 x302 or lauren@hsmanatee.com.



Seed to Harvest Dinner at Geraldson Community Farms in Bradenton

Saturday, November 7, 2015

6-9pm
\$100 per person

Healthy Start Manatee and Geraldson Community Farms are excited to present a dazzling evening of fresh, farm to table cuisine prepared by Chef Dave Shiplett of Soma Creekside. Guests will enjoy a delicious meal followed by music and libations around the fire pit, and will also have the opportunity to participate in the silent auction and raffles. **To purchase tickets, contact Lauren Blenker at 941-714-7541 x302 or lauren@hsmanatee.com.**

Healthy Start Manatee Risk Screening Data

The Healthy Start system of care utilizes a one-page risk screening tool for OB/GYN 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 access them in a timely fashion.



The Florida Department of Health collects prenatal and infant screening data on a regular basis for all counties. Thus far during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, July 1st to May 31st, 2,675 pregnant women were screened, making Manatee County's prenatal screening rate 81.6%, as compared to the Florida rate of 77.9%. In addition, 2,915 mothers of infants were screened, making the infant screening rate 88.9%, as compared to the state rate of 94.3%.

We are grateful to all of our provider partners who voluntarily conduct the Healthy Start patient screening, including the below OB/GYN practitioners!

Prenatal Risk Screening Rates for Manatee Residents by OB/GYN Providers for July 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015	
Provider	Number of Screens
East Manatee Women's Health Center*	1,357
Edgar H. Price, Jr. OB/GYN*	98
Lakewood Ranch OB/GYN	158
OB/GYN Women's Center	238
River Landings OB/GYN*	148
Premier OB/GYN	157
University Park OB/GYN	153
West Manatee OB/GYN*	177
Providers in Other Counties	894
Total	3,380

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

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

