



Steering Committee

- . Lorraine Ausley (Chair)
- . Ken Armstrong
- . Nina Ashenafi
- . Courtney Brogan
- . Kristin Dozier
- . Laurie Dozier
- . Chris Duggan
- . Lauren Faison
- . Ed Feaver
- . Bob Gabordi
- . Robin Johnston
- . Serena Moyle
- . Bev Owens
- . Lori Danello Roberts
- . Angel Trejo



KidCare Corner

Help at your Doorstep! The process of applying for health insurance for your child can be intimidating - help is on the way! We

Whole Child Leon News September 2010

PARENTS: Get connected to community resources that can assist you and your family at the Whole Child Connection available at

www.WholeChildLeon.com

Contact a Whole Child Leon Advisor today, at 850-414-8344

Message from the Executive Director

With the Report to the Community complete, available at www.wholechildleon.com and the new fiscal year on the horizon for Whole Child Leon-- it has been a time to reflect on our past year's work. We are proud of the on-going commitments and many accomplishments made by our 90-plus Whole Child partners and I would like to share a few highlights.



Website & Connection - The newly designed website includes a comprehensive resource guide for parents, and an enhanced version of our Connection is up! The WC Connection's interview-style format has been well-received by parents and will be easily adaptable as web-based technology changes.

The Healthy Infant Partnership - comprised of more than 200 individuals representing more than 50 service agencies and organizations has developed and implemented many strategies to address the problems of low birth weight and infant mortality.

The Social and Emotional Development Action Team - executed Leon County's first two Community-wide Screening Days, allowing 79 children to be screened. More than 200 families who were identified as needing further services were connected to appropriate resources. Over 25 local organizations participated and have agreed to continue semi-annual screenings next year.

know that school is your child's second home and now there is assistance with the Florida KidCare application at their school!

The Outreach Specialist can meet you at your child's school to clarify questions, provide you more information and help you apply! It is our goal to make the process easier to understand and remove any doubts. There is no reason your child should go without health insurance. Florida KidCare is child health insurance you can afford! To find out more please call Gladys Medrano, Leon County Schools-Whole Child Leon Outreach Specialist at 414-5110 or email at medranog@leonschools.net

Explore Adoption

Many loving, caring families exist throughout our great state willing to open their homes and their hearts to Florida's children - enough for each and every child in state care to find a forever family. Florida's public adoption system offers unique benefits, including a legally secure process, financial assistance and children waiting right now for homes.

If you have ever thought about positively impacting a child's life in this way we encourage you to visit, www.AdoptFlorida.org. Come and meet the children and sibling groups available for adoption and learn more about this life-

Unfortunately, with the downturn of the economy, the nonprofit sector faces deep problems with no quick fixes or magic bullets available, philanthropic or otherwise. Unlike in past difficult periods, however, nonprofit belts are already tightened and budgets cut to the bone. At the same time, demand for many programs and services have increased. As daunting as the future will be, I have tremendous confidence in the creativity and resiliency of our agency partners and our community as a whole and I am ready to face the challenges ahead. I look forward to working with our fantastic Steering Committee, and our dedicated community leaders and partners who continue to serve and advance the children and families in Leon County.

Best Regards,

Courtney Atkins

Courtney Atkins is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP). Before assuming the directorship of WCL September 2009, she served as Whole Child Outreach Specialist for Leon County Schools. She received her B.A. degree in Communications from the University of Kentucky, and her Master's degree from Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia. She worked with Arlington County Employment Assistance Program for five years, counseling county government, school employees and first responders from the 9/11 Pentagon attack, and was Senior Program Director for New Millennium EAP Services and consulted with government employees in areas such as leadership, stress management, conflict resolution, team building and healthy relationships. She returned to her native Tallahassee in 2008, is married and the mother of two young children.

About Whole Child Leon

Steering Committee Action Teams develop programs and projects to address the six dimensions of the Whole Child Philosophy.

- Physical and Mental Health
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Economic Stability
- Quality Education
- Social and Emotional Development
- Spiritual Foundation and Strength

Whole Child Leon Re-Connected!

The WCL Connection/Profile has been re-organized and re-launched.

The new Connection was created by Whole Child Leon in cooperation with Go Beyond and Think Creative, Inc. It utilizes a more extensive "decision tree" that better directs users to



changing experience. Your heart will truly be touched by their wish to experience love and permanency within a family.



UWBB 2009 Campaign

The 2009 Community Campaign total of \$6,529,707 was announced in March 2010, which matched last year's campaign efforts. "People across the Big Bend are unquestionably devoted to taking care of each other, and it's encouraging to see that local, community spirit when people are most in need," said Ken Armstrong, UWBB Resource President.

"Reaching the \$6.5 million mark is a great tribute to the thousands of Big Bend contributors who pitched in together."

With the rising demand for services, volunteering is another way UWBB has engaged local people in helping meet the increasing needs.

·Florida State University's (FSU) football team volunteered at four of UWBB's certified agencies before their 2009 season began for their first-ever Day of Action.

· FSU SUW members also joined in with Access Tallahassee and UWBB For Young Leaders Only members for the 3rd Annual

agencies through Connection referrals. This improved system will provide more relevant referrals to users and more pertinent prompts to agencies, making the exchange more useful to everyone.

The new WCL Connection will distinguish between a "service referral" and a "resource referral".

The new Connection offers a wealth of resources to users in response to certain profile questions as well as through the online, searchable, Resource Guide.

According to Lori Danello Roberts, WCL Steering Committee Member, who headed up the revision process, the new web-based system has huge growth potential that includes: capabilities for case management, a searchable database of continually updated resources and parent information, uniform demographic data collection for social service agencies, and more substantial reports to present to the public and government via a system that allows for tracking of referrals and services provided.

Whole Child Leon looks forward to your feedback on the new Connection.

www.WholeChildLeon.com

or 414-8344

Partner Spotlight: Children's Medical Services

Children's Medical Services offers an array of services including: Early Steps; Newborn Screening; Child Protection and Safety; Health Services; and Child and Family Information.

Early Steps serves children from birth to 36 months with significant delays or an established condition that is likely to result in developmental delay. Early Steps provides evaluation and assessment of conditions that may cause developmental delays. There is no income criteria associated with these services.

Newborn Screenings are provided in hospitals throughout Florida. Blood from newborn babies' heels is sent to the Florida Newborn Screening Lab in Jacksonville. The screenings test for rare health conditions that may not appear at birth. The screening results are sent to the hospital where the baby was born and then the hospital passes the results to the baby's doctor. Newborns in Florida also receive hearing tests while in the hospital. These safe and painless tests take less than 10 minutes to perform and the results are available before the mother and baby leave the hospital.

The **Child Protection and Safety** program comes to the aid of children who have been abused or neglected.

CMS's **Health Services** program offers physician care for children

Extreme Agency Makeover, which gave these volunteers a chance to beautify several UWBB agencies and spend quality time with local kids.

These "opportunities to give back" were provided to people from more than 50 organizations around the Big Bend.



Professional Network Meetings

The fourth Monday of each month, local human service professionals meet over lunch and listen to speakers on an array of topics, including childhood nutrition, Florida AIDS Drugs Program and information on the Healthy Infant Partnership's work.

Professional Network meetings are hosted by Whole Child Leon. At the end of each meeting attendees are offered the opportunity to give updates from their organizations including upcoming events.

If you would like to attend, email Heather, at htelfer@uwbb.org.

Connection & Outreach Coordinator

Hi, I'm Heather Telfer, the new Whole Child Leon Connection and Outreach Coordinator. I grew up in Tallahassee and graduated from Florida High School

with ongoing physical or behavioral conditions, and provides prevention and early intervention services, medical and therapeutic specialty care and long term care. CMS is a Florida Kidcare program partner.

The Child and Family Information home page provide tools and tips for parents and families on child development, family relationships, keeping your child safe and caring for your child's health. Information available at www.cms-kids.com under the families tab.

Under the kids and teens tab, you can find child and teen friendly information. Kids can find games, puzzles and coloring pages. Teens can find tips on transitioning into adulthood as well as fun trivia.

Children's Medical Services can be reached at 800-654-4440, 922-2123 or www.cms-kids.com

The Sooner We Start, The Farther They'll Go: Developmental Screenings

April saw the second successful developmental screening of 39 infants, toddlers and preschool children. The first screening was held on October 30, 2009. The WCL Social and Emotional Action Team chaired by Angel Trejo organized the semi-annual screenings.



Children with developmental delays who participate in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten are more likely to graduate from high school, hold jobs, live independently, avoid teen pregnancy, delinquency and violent crime. These positive outcomes save society between \$30,000 and \$100,000 per child.

The next screening will be October 22nd, 2010 at Children's Medical Services

Thank you to everyone who helped! Children's Medical Services: Lesly Morton, Dr. Mary Seay, Susan Ellis & Cynthia Schwartz; Catie McRae of the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System; Capital Area Chapter of the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health; Martha Fletcher with Leon County Schools; Susan Ellis with Children's Home Society; Kelly Fitzgibbons of the Early Learning Coalition; Brehon Institute; Dr. Edward Zapert of the Leon County Health Department; Dr. Deborah Strand; Dr. Jean Pierre Bastien of the local Dental Association; FSU's Autism Institute, First Words/CARD, and Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy; Apalachee Mental Health Center; Florida Department of Children & Families; Capital Area Community Action Agency; Capital Area Healthy Start; United Way of the Big Bend; Kids Inc.; Technical Assistance and Training System Project; Tallahassee Community College; Early Head Start; Boys Town of North Florida; Tallahassee Democrat; WTXL; WCTV; FSU Public Radio; Victoria Grand Apartments; and Red Elephant.

(go Demons!), Sarah Lawrence College and Stetson University College of Law. I have a wonderful husband and two great kids.

I am happy to join Whole Child Leon and look forward to helping families access the resources and services they need through the Whole Child Leon Connection.

Please let me know how I can help you. 414.8344 or htelfer@uwbb.org

We're on the web!

Check out the **Whole Child Leon Resource Guide** for up-to-date information on kid-friendly restaurants, parks, and playgroups.

Looking for a place to **Volunteer**? Contact Whole Child Leon for information on volunteer opportunities in the Whole Child Leon office, special events and even train to be a community advisor.

The **Whole Child Leon Online Event Calendar** gives information on a wide array of local events for kids and for people who work with kids.

If you have news you'd like to share, email it and we'll make sure it gets onto the WCL Website in the Community News section or the Event Calendar.

Follow us on 

Find us on 

Local Schools Always Looking For Fundraisers Are Now Raising Money While "Going Green"

Holy Comforter Episcopal Day School is selling "Crusader" BPA-free water bottles in its online Spirit Store. This is a great way to reduce the number of plastic water bottles on campus.



Through the **Cornerstone Leaning Community's** website, you can order your CLC organic cotton shirt as well as a reusable tote bag from The Clothesline, thus supporting a local business while "Going Green"..

The Magnolia School just wrapped up a sale of "Wrap-N-Mat" mats and snack pouches. These washable and reusable mats and pouches do away with the need for plastic bags in your child's lunch box.

The Magnolia School also raises money while celebrating Earth Day with the Florida Earth Day Jam which features performances, on four stages, by regional and local acts as well as a festival promoting conservation, sustainability and green living complete with crafts, fair trade and eco-friendly distributors.

Kindergarten Parent Input Form

"Kindergarten Parent Input Forms" were sent to all voluntary preschool programs in Tallahassee. Whole Child Leon and the Quality Education Action Team are focused on defining criteria for success in entering kindergarten and developing a transition plan from early childhood to kindergarten.

The Quality Education Action Team developed the Kindergarten Parent Input Form in partnership with Whole Child Leon, Moms Like Me and Leon County Schools. These forms will enable rising kindergarteners to make the transition from preschool more effectively.

Forms will be filled out by parents and then collected and distributed to the school that the rising kindergartener will be attending in the Fall.

The form gives parents the opportunity to describe their child's strengths and weaknesses, how their child reacts to new people and new situations and also leaves a place for the rising kindergartener to draw a picture of themselves.

Special Thanks!

Special thanks to everyone who helps Whole Child Leon with their mission.

- Allan Stamm and Go Beyond
- Red Elephant for their help with the Professional Network lunches
- The Jr. League of Tallahassee for allowing KidCare and Whole Child Leon to participate in the Kids Boutique
- Our dedicated Steering Committee for their leadership, guidance and support
- All of our committed volunteers and interns



Community Champion Cynthia Schwartz, Children's Medical Services



What do you like best about your job? What I like about my job is that I am engaged in meaningful work that I enjoy; that I have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families on a daily basis, in ways both large and small. Through my travels, I frequently hear positive feedback from families who have been or who are currently being served by our program. The program is believed to date back to early efforts by the American Legion to care for polio and burn victims. The Florida Legislature enacted Florida Statutes establishing the Florida Crippled Children's Commission in 1929. Over the years, the program transformed into what is now, Children's Medical Services (CMS), under the Florida Department of Health. Services have grown to include a wide range of chronic and debilitating childhood medical and developmental conditions for children from birth until age 21. Our regional office serves over 2,200 children over an eight-county region. The region includes Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, Franklin, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties. Statewide, the program serves over 120,000 children on an annual basis and enrollments continue to grow. I am also proud of and impressed by the level of dedication and caliber of the providers who serve our patients; for example, two retired orthopedic surgeons serve as volunteers for our orthopedic clinics. Dr. Charles "Jack" Holland, M.D. and Dr. Howard W. Kessler, M.D. were private practitioners until their retirement several years ago. Dr. "Jack" Holland's own father, Dr. Francis Turner Holland, M.D., preceded him as a CMS physician. Such is the quality of CMS providers and the legacy of the program. The office is like a second home. Each day brings special challenges and opportunities.

How did you get to your current position? Following graduation from Florida State University with a degree in psychology, my first job was as a Flight Attendant for Eastern Airlines in New York. While there, I also received a Master's degree in education. Other positions I have held include work as a Field Representative for United Parcel Service; Patient Representative for a long-term care facility, and Assistant Director of Community Relations at a private psychiatric hospital until 1984. Subsequently, I cared for a medically involved son through multiple surgeries, until his death in the mid-eighties. Following an extended leave, I returned to Tallahassee in 1988. I began at Children's Medical Services in 1992 as Coordinator for the Children's Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (CMAT) serving fourteen counties. Since 2002, I have served as the Provider Relations Liaison for Children's Medical Services-Big Bend Region primarily to recruit qualified physicians and ancillary providers to become members of the CMS provider network. I assist them through the credentialing and re-credentialing process and serve as staff consultant to address issues related to policy and protocol, program eligibility, reimbursement, and quality assurance. Having

spent a great deal of time in a hospital with a medically involved child and making difficult health related decisions, I brought to CMS first-hand experience and understanding of the concerns and turmoil experienced by families in similar situations. My family was fortunate to have excellent health coverage. It was most reassuring that my child received superlative care from professional and compassionate staff. The staff and my family helped us through critical phases and unimaginable grief. I now have an amazing daughter who graduates from New College of Florida this year. She is a source of inspiration and empowerment.

What's the most urgent unmet need in our community? I believe the most urgent unmet need in our community is a thriving and diverse economic base to spur employment opportunities. We need a more vibrant, prosperous, and healthy community: competitive salaries; genuine support for quality education; accessible and timely health care; plentiful opportunities for self-actualization; enhancements to libraries; etc. Competing and prevailing interests, too often, preclude constructive deliberation and appropriate action. Although the rate of unemployment in our community is lower than in many other parts of the state, the impact of few or zero economic opportunities for many of our families is significant. Many aspiring individuals are without adequate means of support for themselves or family. Community assistance programs that traditionally serve needy families are now less able to do so. Recent improvements in health options may soon offer some relief. Personally, I see the number of health providers willing to accept public sponsored insurances on the decline. Individuals more often have defaulted to hospital emergency rooms for care. In due course, a quality of life surrounded by majestic oaks, beautiful canopy roads, and a shared sense of community has diminished. Invariably, the self-sufficiency and well-being of individuals are directly proportional to our collective level of genuine commitment and positive regard for other individuals and environments that extend beyond our own immediate surroundings and loved ones.

What are the next steps for you and CMS? Next steps are to continue recruitment of additional qualified physicians and ancillary providers, advocate on behalf of children's issues, and continue to pursue new partnerships and sponsors. Among the areas of focus for CMS are telemedicine, transition planning for adolescents, and medical homes for comprehensive health care coordination. We will continue to have an active role in meeting the needs of our largely rural patient population.



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