

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.
Meeting Minutes August 10, 2011 9:00 AM - Spalding County Health Department

Present: Cynthia Tidwell, Charlotte Eady, Jerome Garland, Theo Harris, Sharon Harvey, Angie Jones, Ruth Daniel, Joe Ward, Stephanie Windham, Molli Pruitt, Cade Willis, Julie Chambliss, Sam Parks, Ed Youmans, Valerie Freeman, Anese DuPree, Eula Redding, Dewey Haley, Shelley Ball, Pat Bell, Patrick Springer, Mike Statham, Melinda Mack, Kelly Leger, Jo Ellis, Cherry Hovatter, Wilma Ham, Michele Mason, Denise Eady, Rhonda Tucker, Helen Branch, Carmen Caldwell, Kathleen Caldwell, Stephanie Summers, Michael Powell, Carleena Brown, Jewell Walker-Harps, Clyde Forbes, Tanya Hullington, Nicole Turner, Gary Stern, Will Doss, Joseph Walker, Vanora O'Dell **New Members:** Heather Kinglsey, Nicole Adams, Betty Arthur, Linda Wellmaker, Thomas Hullington, Len Moore **Guests:** Jenny Flowers, Taj Jones, Jessica Alvin, Gary Kemp (54)

Call to Order: Will Doss, Chairperson

Prayer/Pledge

Minutes: June 8, 2011 - Motion to approve by Kelly Leger, second by Jo Ellis, all approved.

Financial Report (Informational): June Report

Executive Director Report by Joseph Walker: Theo Harris and Regina Abbott met together and discussed recidivism in the county. Regina submitted a Second Chance Grant to the US Dept of Justice, which is a \$50,000 planning grant; and Theo brought together a committee to put a plan and grant, if awarded, into work in the community. The resulting committee will be an umbrella committee of the Spalding Collaborative and is called Spalding County Re-entry Task Force Committee.

After the April tornado, Spalding Collaborative assisted (but was a community-wide effort) with the Emergency Distribution Center, helping to provide volunteers for the center to assist tornado victims. The center, now closed, has a final report that shows 377 individuals, gave a total of 3,812 hours of service, serving 229 families (683 individuals) initially, 341 families (989 individuals) as repeats, distributing 113,471 pounds of donated goods from the center. The Spalding Collaborative, at the request of FEMA/GEMA, set up a city/county/community meeting that resulted in the creation of the Spalding County Long Term Recovery Committee, whose goal is to address the needs of homeowners in the affected areas who were either not insured or underinsured, to bring them back to the level of lifestyle that was normal for them prior to the disaster. This committee also will be an umbrella committee of the Spalding Collaborative, and will be in effect for several years/undetermined amount of time. First United Methodist Church is the fiscal agent for the donated funds (donations should be made payable to Spalding County Long Term Recovery Committee –SCLTRC, and sent to the Spalding Collaborative, P O Box 701, Griffin, GA 30224, to be registered and sent to the fiscal agent. The Committee needs at least \$250,000 and also many volunteers.

Coordinator Report by Regina Abbott: (No report today)

Presentation by Pastor Jerome Garland, Executive Director, Equal Chance Community School, Inc.: In the past five years, Equal Chance, in collaboration with Spalding Co Board of Health, has provided a six-week summer camp program for students age 6 to 16, and more than 100 students are enrolled each year. In 2005, Equal Chance Youth Advocacy Program was begun to assist families with school-aged children who experienced difficulties in and out of the classroom. In 2010, the program was expanded to include adults who needed community resources; and the program was changed to Equal Chance Community Advocacy. We desire to build a strong community, which will increase the economy in the community. This will be done by creating partnerships with parents, churches, schools, business community, etc. The scope of our program is being altered to include academic readiness, culture and art, technical and media health and recreation, job readiness, life skills, etc. The high school dropout rate in Spalding County is above state and national average. We desire to help all youth to graduate due to life-long lasting ramifications. High school grads are four times likely that of college grads to be unemployed; more likely to end up in prison, on welfare, and they die, on average, at a young age. Adults, high school and middle school students can take advantage of our education and mentorship programs. This year in our summer camp program, Equal Chance enrolled 106 students, averaging 65 to 70 kids a day. Through the Strengthening Communities Fund Grant, we were able to train ten students in the leadership training program. Equal Chance students participate in the Youth Advisory Council activities. The SCF grant assisted Equal Chance to solidify our sustainability. A video of the programs was shown.

Committee Reports:

- **Senior Issues:** Joseph Walker reported the committee met yesterday and has begun planning for the March Community Resource Conference.
- **Prevent Child Abuse Spalding:** Wilma Ham reported committee will meet August 11, at noon at Health Dept Administration small conference room. PCA Spalding will help with BTSB on August 13. There is a national movement for healthy growth and development for children at home, in schools, in neighborhoods and in the community; and, volunteers are needed. She asked that everyone please watch out for latchkey children in their areas, to keep children safe. Also, Wilma is willing to go to speak to day care centers, pre-schools, PTA and churches.
- **Healthy Youth:** Kelly Leger reported committee is ready for BTSB on August 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with backpacks and supplies for 1,100 children. We need to get the word out to every 5th grader and up and have flyers and packets of information for all schools and ask volunteers to take them by schools today to the school nurse. We have permission to get them into the children's hands to take home.
- **Drug Awareness Prevention Coalition:** Molli Pruitt indicated the committee is working with underage drinking prevention, and also adult drinking policies in the community. She noted a collaboration with Pike County on how to accomplish goals.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Eula Redding reported the committee met August 2, had a great speaker, and are dealing with budget cuts.
- **Spalding Co Long Term Recovery:** Joseph reported that Tracy Stone from Centerpoint Church is the Chair, Will Doss is the Vice-Chair and Regina Abbott is the Secretary of this committee. Anyone interested should give contact information to Joseph or Vanora.
- **Spalding Co Re-entry Task Force:** Theo Harris is moderator until Chairperson is voted on. Next meeting is August 16, 2 pm at Griffin PD.

Partner Introductions

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting September 14, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding Co. Health Department

Approved,
Will Doss, Vice-Chair

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanora O'Dell, Administrative Assistant