

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.
Meeting Minutes September 14, 2011 9:00 AM - Spalding County Health Department

Present: Theo Harris, Sharon Harvey, Skipper Burns, Ruth Daniel, Patrick Springer, Phyllis Springer, Len Moore, Heather Kingsley, Charlotte Eady, Dewey Haley, Phyllis Easton-Barkley, Will Doss, Mollie Pruitt, Melissa Clark, Gary Kemp, Katherine Cannon, Eula Redding, Pat Bell, Michele Mason, Jewel Walker-Harps, Kelly Leger, Helen Branch, Melinda Mack, Anese DuPree, Carmen Caldwell, Clyde Forbes, Carleena Brown, Stephanie Summers, Angela Stargell, Pam McCollum, Joseph Walker, Regina Abbott, Vanora O'Dell **New Members:** Teresa Holloway, Anjanette Grigley, **Guests:** Patricia Cameron, Edwin Cameron (37)

Call to Order: Pam McCollum, Chairperson

Prayer/Pledge: Will Doss/Dewey Haley

Minutes: August 10, 2011 - Motion to approve by Theo Harris, second by Phyllis Easton-Barkley, all approved.

Financial Report (Informational): July Report

Executive Director Report by Joseph Walker: Appeal for Collaborative members to compete self-assessment for Family Connection made. School system announced graduation rate increased 17 percentage points in the last five years to 74%, highest ever. Southern Crescent Technical College Adult Education last week graduated over 700 people with GED's, which is an increase of 500 to 600 the last several years. Education is the single most important issue to remove people from the generational cycle of poverty in Spalding County. Re-entry Task Force is awaiting a possible \$50,000 planning grant to help deal with recidivism. Healthy Youth Committee had a successful BSB, distributing approximately 750 school book bags with supplies. Spalding County Long Term Recovery Committee continues to work with families affected by tornado in April. We have 74% of children in Spalding County schools qualify for free and reduced lunches; approximately 8,400 food stamp cases in this county. This could equate to half the population. A report last week puts Georgia at 16th highest rate in the nation in households with food hardship. We should continue what we do, but we must keep on the forefront that we need to make strides to help families with basic needs: food, housing and medical care.

Coordinator Report by Regina Abbott: Request made for volunteer(s) to work with Regina on a plan for "member care." Not sure what this should look like, but we have many new members and need to look at how people learn about the Spalding Collaborative, how to acquire new member involvement on committees and work of the Collaborative, and how to help members connect with similar groups and programs.

Presentation by Dr. Charlotte Eady, Executive Director, (PANEL) Preparing and Nurturing Education and Learning, Inc. - PANEL is an organization of volunteers who go out to provide activities and services to teach skills not traditionally found in schools, such as manners, cell phone and computer etiquette, social skills, etc. to school-aged children. PANEL has no building to work from, so the work area is usually schools, homes, etc. For many years prior to 2003, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (first African-American Sorority established in the US) worked to help in the community, but realized we could do so much more and also apply for grants, etc. if we incorporated. PANEL partners with organizations such as Griffin-Spalding Partners in Education, UGA-Griffin, Chic-Fil-A, etc. so that children may receive life skills, job skills, etc. that they will not get at school and may not get at home. PANEL has also executed SAT/ACT preparatory course in high schools. Some that we teach later become volunteers to teach, and have helped with events such as the Vietnam Wall Event, etc. to prove the point that the more we give, the more thankful we are when we receive.

Committee Reports:

- **Senior Issues:** Skipper Burns indicated the group met yesterday, and are planning for the Annual Resource Conference set for March 27, 2012. SI is working on a mission statement, talking about making a community garden and is looking to partner with other organizations.
- **Prevent Child Abuse Spalding:** No report this month.
- **Healthy Youth:** Kelly Leger reported over 700 back packs distributed during BSB. She noted there will be challenges this year with less funds to get things done. And, that HY has the SWIFT booklets and cards (to advertise www.swifteens.org) to be distributed to 7th and 9th graders.
- **Drug Awareness Prevention Coalition:** Mollie Pruitt noted the committee meets today at 1:30 p.m.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Eula Redding reported the committee meets October 4, is working on a budget, and have lots of needs.
- **Spalding Co Long Term Recovery:** Regina Abbott reported committee has received \$20,000 grant from North GA UMC. She indicated that if anyone knows of families/individuals who have unmet needs from this year's disaster, to have them make contact with this committee.
- **Spalding Co Re-entry Task Force:** Theo Harris indicated through contacts with grant officials, they have alluded that SCRTF will receive the \$50,000 planning grant, but no official word has been received. At the end of the planning grant, we will be able to apply for the \$750,000 implementation grant. Next meeting will be September 20, at 2:00 p.m. at the Griffin PD.

Partner Introductions

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is set for October 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding Co. Health Department, with a presentation from Promise Place.

Approved,
Pam McCollum - Chair

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanora O'Dell, Administrative Assistant