

**Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.**  
**Meeting Minutes March 14, 2012 9:00 AM - Spalding County Health Department**

**Present:** Shelley Ball, Melanie Banks, Gwendolyn Barnes, Carmen Caldwell, Ruth Daniel, Toni Doaty, Gerod Duff, Lawanda Duff, Jo Ellis, Clyde Forbes, Theo Harris, Dewey Haley, Tricia Hill, Cherry Hovatter, Mike Howard, Harry Kierbow, Heather Kingsley, Denise Johnson, Kelly Leger, Irma Lewis, Sherry Maddock, Pam McCollum, Tracy McLean, Len Moore, Cathy Mutter, Lauren Parker, Donna Parks, Eula Redding, Nancy Reese, Kevin Rice, Rod Rosenthal, Mike Statham, Maria Stewart, Cynthia Tidwell, Cindi Walker, Wanda Washington, Cade Willis, Ed Youmans, Will Doss, Regina Abbott, Vanora O'Dell  
**New Members:** Teresa Brooks   **Guests:** Deborah Turnipseed, April Pruitt, Connie R. Hall, Dwayne Phillips, Floyd Miller (47)

**Call to Order:** Will Doss, Chair

**Prayer/Pledge:** Ed Youmans/Jo Ellis

**Minutes:** February 8, 2012 - Motion to approve by Ruth Daniel, second by Carmen Caldwell, all approved.

**Executive Director Report by Joseph Walker:**

Regina reported for Joseph, who is absent, that during April (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) there will be a funding raising event between Collaborative, Chic-Fil-A and Phone Guard for the Backpack Program (food insecurities project).

**Coordinator Report by Regina Abbott:**

Handout of Zero-Tolerance cards, sponsored by Council on Alcohol and Drugs and GOHS. Also working with Council on Alcohol and Drugs in getting ordinances passed to require Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service workshops and training to help reduce underage drinking, driving under the influence, and protects businesses from liability. Attorney Michele Stumpe has presented to county and city commissions. County has drafted an ordinance. This is one way we can work together as a collaborative to bring about change not cost prohibitive. Also, after this meeting, at 10:30 a.m. brief workshop on FBO partnering with federal government agencies.

**Presentation by Nadine Tyft of Advo-Kids Casa** - CASA is Court appointed special advocates for children. CASA is essential to fulfilling society's fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect children's rights. CASA recruits, screens, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for the best interests for abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings. They are assigned a case of a child in DFCS custody. They become officers of the court after successful training, sworn in by judge. Their role: assessment, interviews, observations and records reviews, contact with child, cooperative solutions, recommendations to the court (work closely with DFCS). Recommendations may be medical, psychological, adoption, reunifications, etc. – will testify to the court. Children in these situations are more likely to experience: school failure, homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, illness, social services dependency, further victimization, and are more likely to become abusers later in life. There are over 200 children in the Griffin Judicial Circuit (100 in Spalding Co), but currently we can only take care of 30%. And, there are over 700,000 in the US. We need volunteers, especially male volunteers. An advocate is assigned when a child enters foster care. Average time of commitment for CASA volunteer is 1 year. CASA provides the training, 35, and on average a volunteer spends an average of 5 hours a month with child, on the phone, in court and on case work. These volunteer advocates work on a very professional basis, under strict guidelines, and act as a representative for the child(ren), not as a friend or mentor. Volunteer advocates can take on more than one case at a time. A short video was shown.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Senior Issues:** Jo Ellis noted that the committee met yesterday to finalize plans for the Community Resource Conference scheduled for March 27 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at First Baptist Church Family Life Building. The conference will be very informative, provide free breakfast and lunch, and provide a lot of information to use as resources. We will have vendor booths.
- **Prevent Child Abuse Spalding:** Vanora O'Dell noted the committee is gearing up for the annual pinwheel event where pinwheels will be placed strategically in the community as a reminder of Prevent Child Abuse month for April. Also, DFCS reports new CPS rules effective April 1. Main event will be held at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Taylor Street at 11 am on March 26, with media coverage. Also, the committee is working on library materials and makes presentations as requested in the community. Next meeting is April 16, 12:00 noon at the Health Department Admin Section small conference room.
- **Healthy Youth:** Kelly Leger indicated the committee meets directly after this meeting, and is working on an annual review of the teen guide for SWIFT. Will be working on the backpack program, kids programs and we are scheduling Train the Trainer program for community.
- **Drug Awareness Prevention Coalition:** Regina reported the committee will be meeting 1:30 pm here at the Health Department.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Eula Redding reported the committee met March 6. Regina with encouragement. Are functioning – working on annual and 5 yr plan. Next meeting April 3.
- **Spalding Co Long Term Recovery:** Regina reported the committee is wrapping up April 30 (but will remain in place). There will be a benefit Saturday, March 17 at 6:00 pm at Centerpoint Church for God's Pit Crew (who was instrumental in our community disaster efforts).
- **Spalding Co Re-entry Task Force:** Theo Harris reported the committee continues planning the re-entry program. For planning grant purposes, we have been assigned technical assistance contact from the Bureau of Justice. Also, the committee has been working on MOU partnerships with agencies within the community.

**Partner Introductions**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is set for April 11, 2012, with presentation by Nichole Adams of American Cancer Society.

Approved, Will Doss – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Vanora O'Dell – Admin Asst