

**Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.**  
**Meeting Minutes September 12, 2012 9:00 AM - Spalding County Health Department**

**Present:** Regina Abbott, Laurie Anderson, Jordan V. Bobo, Amy Braswell, Skipper Burns, Grady Caldwell, Kathleen Caldwell, Betsy Cox, Ruth Daniel, Phyllis Easton-Barkley, Jo Ellis, Clyde Forbes, Theodore Harris, Shannon Harvey, Dewey Haley, Tricia Hill, Cherry Hovatter, James Johnston, Harry Kierbow, Heather Kingsley, Kelly Leger, Pamela Little, Len Moore, Robyn Redding, Deborah Sims, Kim Stephens, Rhonda Tucker-Williams, Joseph Walker **New Members:** Felicia Outlaw, Janie Clark, Willie Jones, Sandra Reid, **Guests:** Michelle Seales, Cindy Strickland, Tracie Sanchez (35)

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

**Prayer/Pledge:** Skipper Burns/ James Johnston

**Minutes:** August 8, 2012 - Motion to approve by Kelly Leger, second by James Johnston, all approved.

**Executive Director Report by Joseph Walker:** The School System, Chamber of Commerce, and Housing Authority funded a position for a mentoring coordinator. The mentoring program will consist of one-on-one mentoring of 40 children. The Healthy Youth committee has decided to partner with Brian Miller of Sole Plus for the 2013 Back to School Bash. Backpack Food for Kids program will begin October 16 at four schools (Moore, Atkinson, Anne Street, and Jackson Road Elementary Schools). First Foundation provides books for local communities to prepare all Georgia preschool children for reading and learning success. A presentation on the First Foundation, which provides books for local communities to prepare preschool children for reading and learning success, is planned for November. The Hospital is hosting a 5K Scrub Run on Saturday to raise funds for Backpack Food for Kids.

**Coordinator Report by Regina Abbott:** The Neighborhood Summit is scheduled for September 22. The group is departing the health department parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Later in September and October, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits is offering a couple of events. The self-assessment for Family and Connections Partnership is due at the end of the month. Partners will get an email about it. If anyone can use Lexmark 34, 35, or 29 ink cartridges let Regina know.

**Presentation by Brian Miller, Executive Director of SolePlus:** Brian was an architect working in New York. He started SolePlus as a result of being laid off. The organization does block party events across the nation. He was born and raised in Griffin and grew up wanting to be a star-architect (star architect). After he got laid off, he returned to his roots of Christianity and moved back to Griffin where he spoke to kids about the power of making good choices. He wrote his first book *Turning Red Lights Green* in three weeks. The book encouraged people to use their passions to push them forward. Brian decided to take his own advice and asked himself what he loved: shoes, youth, art, and philanthropy. SolePlus uses the power of fashion to introduce children to world issues. The organization spread to Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, D.C., Los Angeles, etc. Converse became a sponsor. SolePlus does workshops where kids design shoes for other youth. He also goes into group homes where youth design shoes for themselves. He created a Homeless Shoe documentary that showcases the fact that not every homeless person is on drugs. After hearing about Griffin's Back to School Bash, he wanted to find out who was in charge of it and heard about Spalding Collaborative. His goal is to bring corporate sponsors to Griffin. The mission for the 2013 Back to School Bash next year is to go beyond providing necessary shoes and school supplies and to empower a generation. The event is planned for downtown.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Senior Issues:** Skipper Burns- March 19 is Seniors Resource Conference. It will probably be held at the new senior center. The Benefit Dance will be held by Bobby Bun. There will be food stations. It will be sponsored by Connor Westbury Funeral Home and Allen Vigil Ford. Donations will go toward helping Alzheimer's Association, Five Loaves, and the high school culinary department.
- **Healthy Children:** Regina Abbott- Prevent Child Abuse Spalding is joining First Steps and the Low Birthweight Initiative to form the Healthy Children Strategy Team. In July, we received \$15,000 total grant for low birthweight. We also received \$12,000 for First Steps beginning December 1.
- **Healthy Youth:** Back to School Block Party next year. SWIFT Resource Guide for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The website has all teen resources on it.
- **Drug Awareness Prevention Coalition:** Regina Abbott/Dewey Haley- meeting today at 1:30. The group is trying to build the coalition to address drug abuse in the community.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Regina Abbott- The last few meetings have had low attendance. The group will likely merge with the Healthy Youth Committee.
- **Spalding Co Re-entry Task Force:** Theo Harris- RTF survey didn't get a good response. The revised survey will be coming out tomorrow. Theo asked partners to complete it. If they don't fill it out, they will receive a call from Theo. The next meeting will be at the police department next Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.
- **PPGS: Will Doss-** the group is meeting quarterly. Next meeting is Wednesday. Working on an initiative with the Housing Authority.

**Partner Introductions**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is set for October 10, 2012.

Approved, Will Doss – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Robyn Redding – Admin Asst