

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.
Meeting Minutes October 10, 2012 9:00 AM - Spalding County Health Department

Present: Regina Abbott, Nichole Adams, Jordan V. Bobo, Skipper Burns, Carmen Caldwell, Grady Caldwell, Kathleen Caldwell, Betsy Cox, Ruth Daniel, Toni Doaty, Theodore Harris, Sharon Harvey, Pamela Little, Michele Mason, Tracy McLean, Robyn Redding, Kim Stephens, Cynthia Tidwell, Rhonda Williams-Tucker, Jewel Walker-Harps, Cade Willis, and Stephanie Windham **New Members:** Darrell McMullen **Guests:** Tracie Sanchez, Rita Perdichizzi, Katie Burt (26)

Call to Order: Stephanie Windham, Vice Chair

Prayer/Pledge: Skipper Burns/ Harry Kierbow

Minutes: September 12, 2012 - Motion to approve by Skipper Burns, second by Harry Kierbow, all approved.

Executive Director Report: None

Coordinator Report by Regina Abbott: Regina asked everyone to complete the self assessment. We received the grant from GOCF for First Steps (12,000). Also, we received a \$10,000 grant for the low birthweight initiative. The Backpack Food program will begin October 16. The bags will go home to 100 students from four elementary schools. The Ferst Foundation (books for children 0-5) met Monday night. Currently looking for additional volunteers for fundraising, public relations, and registration. Most of the participants are retired educators. The next meeting is October 25. Anyone interested in volunteering should let Regina know or come to the meeting at First United Methodist Church. Regina asked if anyone was interested in sensitivity training. The Council on Alcohol and Drugs has a professional that they will bring in for training. The August financial report was emailed to Collaborative members because the website is in the process of being converted to another website system. Once we get converted in November, we will put the financial reports and minutes online to make available for members. Sixteen people attended the Neighborhood Summit that was sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta. Eight of them were from the Educational Prosperity Steering Committee. They applied for the \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation. We are waiting to hear back on that. The County is proceeding with the demolition of the asbestos-ridden building over at Fairmont High. The City of Griffin has One Town One Goal which has an annual build day and selected Fairmont for the location of their build day. The date will be Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. If the garden site is ready, the group will help prepare the site for planting. University of Georgia has interviewed for the position of a part-time horticulturalist to work with the neighborhood to train them on planting and maintaining the garden. The school system, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Housing Authority has hired a mentor coordinator. Jewel Rafter will be coordinating a mentoring program for the school system. The program will start with forty students.

Presentation by Harry Kierbow, Hope Health Clinic: Harry is a Griffin native. He came to the Hope Health Clinic in 2010. He is married with one child and one grandson. The Hope Health Clinic has grown dramatically in the past few years. This year, they see about 16,000 patients a year. Merged with the clinic at the health department in 2011. The Hope Health Clinic is putting on a marketing effort to gain funding. Harry played a video from the Hope Health Clinic. There are 14,000 uninsured citizens in Spalding County. Began in 1990 in the basement of St. George's Episcopal Church with doctors working lunch hours and nurses working off days. They moved into current building in 2011. Currently working on an education area. Staff includes medical director, two nurse practitioners, one LPN, two medical assistants, two pharmacy techs, two receptionists, two nutritionists, an office manager, and an executive director. Hope Health Clinic's medical savings are \$7,373,000. The dental side is open four days per week when school is in session and three days a week when there is no school. They have a collaboration with the school system which buses the children to the clinic. The total dental savings are \$8,234,000. The clinic is privately funded. The Griffin Spalding Hospital Authority funds about 40% of the Clinic needs. Griffin-Spalding United Way and Spalding Regional Hospital are financial partners. Other funding comes from grants, local businesses, and individual sources. Some of the patients have to pay dental costs. For adults, it's a \$25 up front fee and a sliding scale depending on procedures needed. On the medical side, it's \$15 for a new patient and \$10 for a returning patient. They can only treat residents of Spalding County.

Brooke Wright-Paws for Gavin- she is the mother of 6 year old Gavin who has severe non-verbal autism. He's made some progress since he started at Stepping Stones. One out of 54 boys have autism. One out of 252 girls have autism. Every 11 minutes, a child is diagnosed with autism. The name of the organization they are using to get a service dog is called 4 Paws for Ability. It is the only service dog organization that provides search and rescue. The dog will help reduce anxiety as well as with behavioral correction. No other students at Stepping Stones have service dogs. The cost of the dog is \$13,000. They've been fundraising for two years and have raised about \$4,000. Their first fundraising event is a walkathon on October 27.

Committee Reports:

- **Senior Issues:** Skipper Burns- everything will be postponed until November 13 at 1:30
- **Healthy Children: Regina Abbott-** starting First Steps at the hospital. Want to see at least 65 patients and new mothers a month. The goal is to see all mothers regardless of financial needs.
- **Prevent Child Abuse Spalding:** Regina Abbott-
- **Healthy Youth:** Carmen Caldwell- meeting is next Wednesday at 3:00 pm at the Welcome Center
- **Drug Awareness Prevention Coalition:** Regina Abbott- meets today at 1:30 at the Health Department
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** no report
- **Spalding Co Re-entry Task Force:** Michele Mason- strategic planning meeting is next Tuesday at UGA at 10:00 a.m.
- **PPGS:** Regina Abbott- the Educational Prosperity Initiative is the main focus of their attention. A lot of progress has been made. Jewel Walker Harps said that the EPZ will meet tomorrow. Their main focus is community involvement.

Partner Introductions

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is set for November 14, 2012

Approved, Will Doss – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Robyn Redding – Admin Asst