

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

Present: Regina Abbott, Gene Brown, Grady Caldwell, Janie Clark, Ruth Daniel, Will Doss, Robert Dull, Jo Ellis, Dewey Haley, Theodore Harris, Sharon Harvey, Tricia Hill, Anna Leigh Horton, Cherry Hovatter, Harry Kierbow, Pamela Little, Pam McCollum, Donna Parks, Robyn Redding, Tracie Sanchez, Robin Shepherd, Machandra Story, Cynthia Tidwell, Rhonda Tucker-Williams, Joseph Walker, Georgette Wimbush **Guests:** Shenna Barkley, Deborah Fheary (28)

Call to Order: Will Doss, Chair

Grace: Will Doss

-Breakfast -

Minutes: November 14, 2012 - Motion to approve by Theo Harris, second by Robert Dull, all approved.

Director's Report- Joseph Walker: This year, the Collaborative has had a very busy year. We became involved with the Educational Prosperity Zone working in the Fairmont area. Jewel Walker-Harps has been very instrumental in its success. We are currently waiting to hear about the grant the committee applied for. They received a grant from the Atlanta Community Foundation. The grant will provide two advisors to build the group into a stable organization. The mentoring program will serve 40 kids from the census area. We are also working with LBW initiative as well as First Steps. Mollie Pruitt is providing service for this program. The Backpack Program is also serving schools in the census track for the Educational Prosperity zone. Mr. Walker asked Collaborative members to spread info about the program. Mr. Walker also asked that members take ownership of the Collaborative because it truly belongs to the membership. The Collaborative works to improve the quality of life. This is Will Doss's last meeting as Chair.

Coordinator's Report- Regina Abbott: Her new email address is rabbott6360@gmail.com. There's a nice article in The Grip about the Educational Prosperity Initiative. We're grateful for the Housing Authority and Bob Dull for their help. Training opportunities: mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect on January 15 webinar. The website is listed on the Coordinator's Report. Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse training February 13 at the health department. There will be a meeting after this meeting about organizing a Partners in Prevention.

Presentation by Brian Miller, Owner of Sole Plus: Brian is from Griffin and graduated in 2000. His dream was to be an architect. He helped design some of the middle and high schools in Spalding County in high school. He moved to NYC after graduation from college. In 2008, he got laid off from his dream job. He began speaking to kids about the power of making positive choices. He wrote a book called Turning Red Lights Green about making negative situations positive. Brian realized that he loved four things: shoes, youth, art, and philanthropy. Sole Plus was born. Youth design shoes based on social messages and send them to kids in orphanages. The group landed Converse as a sponsor and holds Open Gym, an open block party for kids to come out and enjoy themselves. Brian wanted to do something like that in Griffin when he began to wonder why Griffin had so many back to school bashes. He wanted to develop partnerships between the organizations. Sole Plus Back to School Block Party will give out 1,000 shoes. Mission: a celebration of all things Griffin...to go beyond providing the necessary shoes and back to school supplies and begin the task of empowering a generation of small-town youth. The location is the park at 6th to put it in the heart of the city. They've held three official planning meetings to develop event programming, solidify date, time, and location, develop strategic partnerships, identify and contact potential corporate sponsors, begin developing our budget and sponsorship packets, and identify leaders for most event committees. Anyone interested in volunteering should stay after the meeting to talk to Brian. The next meeting is January 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center Conference Room. February 2013 is the kickoff meeting. August 3, 2013 is the back to school block party from 11-2.

Strategy Team Updates:

- **Senior Issues:** next meeting on 2nd Tuesday of January at 1:30 p.m. at new Senior Center
- **Healthy Children:** next meeting 12/20/12 at 12:00 p.m. at Spalding Regional Hospital
- **Healthy Youth:** next meeting January 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center
- **Re-Entry Task Force:** next meeting 1/15/13 at 2:00 pm. at the Police Department
- **Educational Prosperity:** tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at Fairmont Community Center
- **Partners for a Prosperous Griffin-Spalding:** next meeting 1/16/13 at 12:00 p.m. at Fairmont Community Center

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is set for January 9, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Approved, Will Doss – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Robyn Redding – Admin Asst