

**Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Spalding County Health Department**

**January 9, 2013 9:00 AM**

**Present:** Regina Abbott, Carmen Caldwell, Janie Clark, Betsy Cox, Phyllis Easton-Barkley, Jo Ellis, Deborah Fleary, Jerome Garland, Krista Gonce, Dewey Haley, Theodore Harris, Sharon Harvey, Tricia Hill, Anna Leigh Horton, Cherry Hovatter, James Johnston, Pamela Little, Vanora O'Dell, Donna Parks, Sam Parks, Jillian Rafter, Robin Shepherd, Kim Stephens, Cynthia Tidwell, Rhonda Tucker-Williams, James L. Walker, Joseph Walker, Cade Willis.  
**Guests:** Angela Daniel (29)

**Call to Order:** Joseph Walker, Executive Director, called the meeting to order in the absence of Stephanie Windham, Chair. The meeting opened with prayer and pledge. The minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

In the essence of time, the **Director's Report** and **Coordinator's Report** were deferred to accommodate a brief presentation about the school-based mentoring program.

Mentor Coordinator, Jillian Rafter, presented an overview of the **Griffin-Spalding County Mentor Program** based in the Griffin-Spalding County School System designed to bring together responsible caring adults with children that will benefit academically and socially from a positive, stable role model in their lives. The program is based on Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for adolescents ages 12-18 and is funded by the School System, Housing Authority, and the Governor's Certified Work Ready Community through the Chamber of Commerce. The Collaborative serves as fiscal agent.

Pamela Little, **Paxen Learning Corporation**, presented information about opportunities for youth development. The Summer Work and After School Program provide paid summer jobs for high school students who eligibility criteria. The youth participate in Earn While You Learn new job skills, get 6-7 weeks paid work experience for up to 30 hours per week, and have the opportunity to attend fall and spring after school workshops providing life and career skills. Services are funded by the West Central Georgia Workforce Investment Corporation.

**Strategy Team Updates:**

The **Senior Issues Committee** is met January at 8 at the new Senior Center.

Kim Stephens, chair of **Healthy Children**, reported a volunteer has been recruited to visit new moms in the hospital for First Steps. The strategy team is actively addressing low birthweight and child abuse. More information is forthcoming about events. The next meeting of is January at 12:00 p.m. at Spalding Regional Hospital.

The next **Healthy Youth** meeting is scheduled for January 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center to finalize plans for to kickoff the 2013 Back to School Block Party scheduled in August.

Reporting for Chair Michelle Mason, Theodore Harris stated the **Re-Entry Task Force** is preparing to wrap up the DOJ Ex-Offender Re-entry Planning Grant by the end of March. The next meeting is January 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Jewel Walker-Harps, chair, reported the **Educational Prosperity Initiative (EPI)** has two program associates/horticulturalists hired by the County Extension Service to assist the community with the planning, implementation and sustainability of a community garden on the Fairmont Vocational High School campus. Spalding County approved asbestos removal on the Fairmont campus and is scheduled to begin soon. Demolition of the building is expected to be completed in the spring. The EPI meets January 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at A.Z. Kelsey Academy. Immediately following, the Steering Committee meets with the Community Foundation coaches.

The **Partners for a Prosperous Griffin-Spalding** meet January 16, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the University of GA Griffin Campus in Room 202 Stuckey.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is set for February 13, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding County Health Department Training Room.

Approved, Stephanie Windham – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Regina Abbott – Coordinator