

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Spalding County Health Department

April 10, 2013 9:00 AM

Stephanie Windham, Chair, called the meeting to order. Will Doss opened with prayer and pledge.

Theo Harris moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting; seconded by Dewey Polk and unanimously approved.

Joseph Walker recently learned of a potential funding with Caterpillar for the Backpack for Kids Food Program. Darden Foundation awarded a \$3,000 grant for the Backpack Food for Kids Program from Longhorn's in Griffin, and the Olive Garden in McDonough and Morrow. Central Georgia EMC awarded another \$2,500 for the program bringing their contribution to \$5,000 for this school year. Currently 146 bags are prepared each week.

Anyone interested in volunteering or participating in the Back to School Block Party may e-mail BlockParty@SoleUS.org or walkerjw14@gmail.com for more information. Eagles Way Church needs help with the cost of food and volunteers to cook.

The Pike Collaborative and Spalding Collaborative are hosting a two-day Grant Writing Bootcamp at the UGA Griffin Campus Education & Research Garden on May 2 and 3.

The Kiwanis Club is hosting a Darkness 2 Light Stewards of Children training on May 9. The registration will be posted in the e-newsletter.

Griffin Housing Authority CEO Bob Dull gave a presentation at UGA Griffin Campus about the Housing Authority's role and vision for the future of housing before the City and County Commissions, Board of Education and several other interested parties.

The scheduled presenter, Advantage Counseling Services, cancel at the last moment. The opportunity was provided each attendee to give a brief update or announcements from their organization.

Since becoming a stand-alone agency, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is experiencing a decrease in caseloads. Vocational Rehabilitation serves ≥ 17 year olds with a disability. There is no income eligibility. Post-secondary education opportunities are arranged.

NAACP is advocating for greater access to more programs for the federally qualified Summer Food Program. Concern was expressed over the leaving of the Golden Age Club at the old Senior Center rather than moving those individuals to the new center.

Habitat for Humanity currently has four new projects going.

Len Moore and Theo Harris are planning a trip to Fayette County for a visit to Better Way Ministries who provides employment for 38 ex-offender males in their moving and carpentry enterprises.

G-S School System Parent University is scheduled for April 30 at 6 pm to inform students and parents about the new FAFSA and Hope requirements.

The Griffin Bicycle Coalition is advocating for safe routes to school in communities where it would work. The Coalition has approximately 15 members. The second Sunday of each month they hold Slow Spokes rides.

WellCare is paying for GED testing and providing prenatal resource showers. WellCare is a supporter of Ferst Foundation. WellCare is doing a spa day at the Senior Center on the 4th.

The Prevention Coalition meets today at 10 a.m. There are five trained Stewards of Children facilitators.

The Mentoring Program has a goal of 40 mentors for this school year.

McIntosh Trail Community Service Board is offering Women's Empowerment. They are in need of certified staff to adequately meet the need for adolescent substance abuse treatment.

The Spalding Board of Health has sent a press release to the local media in response to the WXIA 11-Alive news report on Spalding County's health ranking in the 2012 University of Wisconsin and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation nationwide county-by-county health rankings report. The board is planning another retreat in June. Grow Better Griffin rose from that report. GBG is a group of individuals that came together at Bank Street Café to discuss what can be done to improve our community health. There have been in excess of 700 responding on Facebook. This may be an opportunity for after-hours collaborative meetings.

The grand opening of the Senior Center is scheduled. They are in need of funding for staff; especially for oversight of the equipment room and for training. Volunteers are needed at the center and for the Senior Games. Approximately 125 people are already signed up for one of the four fishing days per year.

The Christian Women's Center is receiving donations at the CWC Thrift Store to furnish The Well, their new resource center for women.

Strategy Team Updates:

The **Senior Issues Committee** met yesterday. Senior Games are scheduled for May 2. Magnets have been ordered to be given at the Expo area of the Senior Games. Left over magnets will be distributed at the senior conference. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Senior Games may contact Jo at the Senior Center.

The **Healthy Children** Strategy Team meets the third Thursday at noon at Kim Stephens' office at Spalding Regional Hospital. Organizations with access to parents with children ages 0-5 years are requested to contact Molli Pruitt so she can get resource packets to those families. The resource packets are valued at more than \$100 per packet. Low Birthweight Connection Groups are planned to be held at the Caring for families with babies born less than five pounds five ounces.

Healthy Youth has responsibility for raising funds and the logistics for the 2,500 backpacks and supplies.

The **Re-Entry** strategic plan has been completed and sent to the Department of Justice. We are waiting for the solicitation of the implementation grant. The challenge now is to secure housing. The original partner with capacity for 80 (our target 75) may not be an option. The next task force meeting is next Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Griffin Police Department.

The **Educational Prosperity Initiative (EPI)** meets monthly on the second Thursday at 10 a.m. Meetings are temporarily in the Media Center of A.Z. Kelsey Academy while the Fairmont Community Center is roofed. Cynthia Anderson and Art Cain from UGA Griffin Campus will be present at tomorrow's meeting to get feedback from the group on what educational needs exist in the neighborhood that UGA might address. There was a hotdog cookout at the garden yesterday. Families selected garden sites.

McIntosh Trail now offers Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) at Hope Health Clinic.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is set for May 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding County Health Department Training Room.

Approved, Stephanie Windham – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Regina Abbott – Coordinator