

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children
Executive Committee Meeting
Eagles Way Church
April 18, 2013

Present: Stephanie Windham, Bob Dull, Jewel Walker-Harps, Carmen Caldwell, Donna Parks, Joseph Walker, and Regina Abbott

Call to Order: Stephanie Windham

Minutes: Approval of March 19, 2013 Board meeting minutes deferred until June 18 Board meeting

Financial Report: Motion to accept through March 31, 2013 by Donna Parks, second by Carmen Caldwell, unanimous vote

Executive Director's Report:

The Back to School Block Party is scheduled for August 3, 2013 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The City has approved the use of The Park at Sixth as the focal point. The planning kick-off meeting was well attended. The goal is to provide 2,500 book bags packed with school supplies, food, inspirational speakers, entertainment, vendor booths, sporting events and 1,000 pairs of Converse tennis shoes. Logistics for registration and eligibility for the supplies and shoes is still in discussion. Grow Better Griffin offered to help with registration for shoes at the USDA Summer Food Program serving sites and May Fling.

Senior Issues will distribute refrigerator magnets at the Senior Games in May. Any leftovers will be offered during the annual seniors' conference in September.

Low Birthweight Prevention and First Steps are progressing nicely. However, the First Steps mid-grant benchmark was short 69 participants of the required 400. In spite of the tremendous challenges with data entry, all 331 records were entered by the deadline.

The strategic plan was submitted in March to the U.S. Department of Justice for review by the program associate. Regina will submit the plan, the final federal financial report, and complete the grant close-out. One challenge to implementation has arisen due to issues arising between the planned housing provider and the Georgia Department of Corrections, which could prove to be an obstacle for the 75 men returning to Griffin upon release.

Backpack Food for Kids is currently serving 146 students from the four target schools (Moore, Atkinson, Anne Street, and Jackson Road Elementary Schools). Requests for presentations and inquiries about how to help keep coming in. A sufficient number of volunteers are on hand to pack and deliver. Help in fundraising activities is needed. We have received or had commitments of \$13,000 in the past 30 days. The school year will finish with a cash reserve for the 2013-2014 school year. The plan is to expand to one or two additional schools next year.

The Educational Prosperity Initiative continues to grow in number with approximately 40 in attendance. Grassroots involvement is picking up. Activities at the community garden have drawn some of the residents out. Grow Better Griffin has met twice in response to the published report concerning Spalding County's health ranking in comparison to Forsyth County. The Collaborative has been represented at both of the meetings and has offered to work with the group. The next meeting is planned for the first Saturday in May at 10 a.m. at Safe House Coffee.

Discussion of the USDA Summer Food Program coordinated by Spalding County Parks and Recreation stressed the need to serve children county-wide. Some service providers are being served out of Lamar County. This is an ongoing problem that has perpetuated over the past several years as a result of local budget cuts. A plan of action is needed to improve the program before next summer. Carmen, Bob, Will and Eula will meet with county manager

and Parks & Recreation to determine how to improve implementation of the 2014 summer food program county-wide.

The annual Pinwheels for Prevention took place April 1 at the corner of 6th and Taylor Streets. Sam Parks arranged for inmate labor to put the pinwheels in the ground.

Coordinator's Report:

Central Georgia EMC awarded an additional \$2,500 for the 2012-2013 school year Backpack Food for Kids Program. Darden Foundation (Longhorn in Griffin and Olive Gardens in Morrow and McDonough) awarded \$3,000 to the Backpack Food for Kids Program. The Agnes B. Hunt Trust Fund awarded \$5,000 to the Backpack Food Program. However, the \$5,000 request for the First Steps was not awarded.

Two Stewards of Children (SOC) trainings conducted and two more are scheduled. Spalding has six certified SOC facilitators. Griffin Housing Authority and Spalding County Health Department have met the training requirements for Darkness 2 Light Partners in Prevention designation and are currently working on adoption of their respective prevention policies. Regina Abbott will follow-up with Street Grace out of Fayette County to see how Spalding can work with them to bring awareness and training to Griffin to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation. Street Grace is working with the Governor's Office for Children and Families to eliminate child sex trafficking.

The minimum threshold for the YouthBuild grant was met. If awarded, this grant will serve 16-24 year olds.

New Business

Jewel Walker-Harps moved to adopt the Volunteer / Intern Policy & Procedure and seconded by Bob Dull. Unanimous vote to adopt the policy.

Griffin Housing Authority has procured the services of a national grant writer in the amount of \$28,000 with specific experience and success in writing proposals for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods grant. Key stakeholders include the Spalding Collaborative, Partners for a Prosperous Griffin-Spalding, Educational Prosperity Initiative, Griffin Housing Authority, and the University of Georgia. The Housing Authority will serve at the applying entity, but requests the Spalding Collaborative serve as lead administrator. The \$500,000 planning grant requires a 5 percent match. Above 5 percent receives bonus points. Jewel Walker-Harps moved with second by Carmen Caldwell to approve Spalding Collaborative to serve as co-administrator of Choice Neighborhoods grant. Bob Dull recused himself due to potential conflict of interest. All others voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted:

Approved:

Regina Abbott, Coordinator
Spalding County Collaborative Authority
for Families & Children

Stephanie Windham, Chair
Spalding County Collaborative Authority
for Families & Children