

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Spalding County Health Department

May 8, 2013 9:00 AM

Present: Regina Abbott, Betty Arthur, Shaheer Beyah, Carmen Caldwell, Pete Chagnon, Janie Clark, Will Doss, Daphne Dumas, John Devlin, Juanita Gilford, Theodore Harris, Sharon Harvey, Anthony Hill, Tricia Hill, Kelly Leger, Pamela Little, Molli Pruitt, Jillian Rafter, Eula Redding, Ella Sellers, Sharon Sims, Kim Stephens, Stephanie Summers, Rhonda Tucker-Williams, Joseph Walker, Shani Waters, and Stephanie Windham. (27)

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

Will Doss moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 meeting; seconded by Theodore Harris and unanimously approved.

As a result of Grow Griffin, the Griffin Police Department will be holding Coffee with a Cop at various locations over the next several weeks at different times so the police force can better develop relationships with community members. Two known locations at present are Louise's Cafeteria and Phillips Food Pride on Hill Street.

Volunteers are need for the Backpack Food for Kids Program to pack the bags each week.

The 2-day Grantwriting Bootcamp experienced technical difficulty at the original location on the the first day and was re-located on the second day to Southern Crescent Technical College. Eleven individuals attended.

The Pike and Spalding Collaboratives are collaborating to bring GA Family Connection Partnership's Kids Count Workshop to Southern Crescent Technical College, Building 100, 501 Varsity Drive on June 19 from 9 am – 5 pm. Seats are limited to the first 40 to register. Registration is free and lunch is on your own. Participants must bring a laptop.

The local Caterpillar Team has recommended the \$10,000 request for the Backpack Food for Kids Program to the Corporate Foundation for consideration of funding.

John Devlin, chairman of the Caring House board of directors for the past year, presented the program. The mission is to save babies. The Caring House offers free pregnancy testing, but is not just a crisis pregnancy center. They also provide Earn While You Learn. All services are free. The Caring House is funded through donations and fund raisers; the newest being the Almost Mother's Day Golf Tournament for Almost Mothers the Saturday before Mother's Day and the most prominent being the Baby Bottle Boomerang. Since becoming chairman, Mr. Devlin has been working hard to strengthen the board of directors with movers and shakers that will give and persuade others to give as well as finding an executive director, Rita Perdichizzi. Mr. Devlin is also a member of Life Chain Griffin. Life Chain sponsors an annual nationwide silent vigil in 1,500 cities the first Sunday of October from 2:30 – 4 pm. The Griffin event convenes at Chic-Fil-A parking lot. Help is needed to get the word out. Signs are furnished for participants to line both side of the street.

Strategy Team Updates:

The **Senior Issues Committee** will not meet this month.

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.

Healthy Youth has many opportunities to participate in the Back to School Block Party scheduled for August 3. While several streets in the downtown area will be closed off for the event, the focal point will be the Park at Sixth.

The solicitation for the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance **Re-Entry Demonstration Program** has dropped. Proposals are due June 20. The task force meets the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Griffin Police Department.

The **Educational Prosperity Initiative (EPI)** meets monthly on the second Thursday at 10 a.m. and is meeting temporarily in the Media Center of A.Z. Kelsey Academy while the Fairmont Community Center is roofed. The May meeting will be a Darkness 2 Light Stewards of Children training.

Introductions & Announcements

Daphne Dumas, new coordinator for the Upson County Family Connection collaborative.

New Mercy announced Vacation Bible School.

The Youth Advisory Council will be attending Teen Institute with funding from The Council on Alcohol and Drugs.

Eula Redding is the recipient of the Bain Proctor Volunteer of the Year Award presented annually by Spalding County Parks and Recreation.

Pete Chagnon, New Life FM, announces community events.

Paxen Learning Center, 215 S. 11th St.

Mentoring program continues to recruit volunteers for the upcoming year for elementary, middle school and high school; approximately 26 mentors trained and placed this school year; some may not have made contact with mentee yet. A. Z. Kelsey Academy will be added to the schools for mentoring this fall. The next mentor training is May 9 from 6-8 pm at the Central Office of the School System. Mentor training will continue throughout the summer in preparation of the 2013-2014 school year and will probably occur on Tuesday and/or Thursday evening. For more information go to www.gsmentor.org.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is set for June 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding County Health Department Training Room.

Approved, Stephanie Windham – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Regina Abbott – Coordinator
