

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Spalding County Health Department

June 12, 2013 9:00 AM

Present: Regina Abbott, Tammy Bradberry, Carmer Walker, Carmen Caldwell, Ann Cherrette, Janie Clark, Betsy Cox, John Devlin, Denise Eady, Phyllis Easton-Barkley, Jeannette Greene, Joe Grubbs, Sharon Harvey, Anthony Hill, Tricia Hill, James Johnston, Jessica Layfield, Mollie Pruitt, Jillian Rafter, Jewell Walker-Harps, Joseph Walker, Georgette Wimbush, and Stephanie Windham. Youth guests from New Mercy Summer Camp: Key Odom, Indiana Flynt, Yasmine King, Shamere Crawford, Jailan Logan, Diamond Bailey, Neisha Talmadge. (30)

Stephanie Windham, Chair, called the meeting to order. Carmen Caldwell opened with prayer followed by pledge.

Janie Clark moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting; seconded by Sharon Harvey and unanimously approved.

The Backpack Food for Kids Program will increase from 147 students served during the 2012-2013 school year to 200 students during the 2013-2014 school year. The original goal was 25 students per the four identified schools (Anne Street, Atkinson, Jackson Road and Moore Elementary), but the demand for services quickly rose and community response afforded us the opportunity to expand the capacity of the program.

To date several organizations, including but not limited to WellCare, Brightmoor Hospice, United Bank, Eagles Way Church and First Baptist Church, have committed to sponsor the Sole+ Back to School Block Party. The Council on Alcohol and Drugs is covering the cost of entertainment with an emphasis on the prevention of underage drinking. Tennis shoes and backpacks will be given the first 1,000 students to pre-register on-line. Another 1,500 backpacks will be available with on-site registration. Exhibit space will be limited to the first 20 organizations to respond to Joseph Walker. Exhibitors must furnish their own table, chair, tent and water.

Speedway Children's Charities has committed to distribute 400 boxes of food the Friday night prior to the Back to School Block Party. Further clarification is needed from Speedway Children's Charities to determine if eligibility is limited to families with children. Only one voucher per family will be issued.

Anthony Hill, WellCare, presented the program. WellCare is one of the managed care plans available to Medicaid consumers in Spalding County. At the state level, WellCare supports Ferst Foundation and community gardens as well as Action Ministries in Atlanta and Augusta. Prenatal resource showers are provided throughout the region for anyone with Medicaid coverage, not just WellCare enrollees. WellCare will pay the \$160 GED testing fee for their enrollees and offer a stroller program for those keeping six or more prenatal appointments.

Strategy Team Updates:

The **Senior Issues Committee** met yesterday. The caregivers conference is planned for September 20 at the Senior Center.

The **Healthy Children** Strategy Team meets the fourth Thursday at noon at Kim Stephens' office at Spalding Regional Hospital. First Steps parent resource bags were issued to 76 Head Start families with 83 registrations coming back for Ferst Foundation. Six Community Action Team members of Ferst Foundation Spalding have expressed interest in volunteering for First Steps. The low birth weight strategy is targeting Caring House, Young Lives, Southern Crescent Technical College and University of Georgia Griffin Campus with an emphasis on prevention. Stewards of Children training was provided for the Spalding County Health Department in April and for New Mercy Community Development Center and the Educational Prosperity Initiative during May. Prevent NOW will be presented to the Foster Care Association and University of Georgia Griffin Campus this month.

Healthy Youth had no representative present. .

Re-Entry had no representative present. 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. Eighteen EPI members completed the Darkness 2 Light Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention training. At tomorrow's meeting, results of several focus groups will be discussed in more depth. Pastors and others in the community have been asked to bring youth to the meeting for their participation and input. The school system has posted a call for nominations to the Educator's Hall of Fame for outstanding educators retired five or more years.

Introductions & Announcements

The **Mentoring Program** continues to recruit volunteer mentors. Several training opportunities are scheduled during the summer. For more information, visit www.gscmentor.org. Caring House Board Chair John Devlin is a mentor at Kennedy Road Middle School.

New Mercy introduced youth from the **Youth Advisory Council** and New Mercy's summer program.

Caring House needs volunteers. Life Chain Griffin is scheduled for October 6.

Brightmoor Hospice will hold a free workshop on June 25 at 2 pm on wills.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is set for August 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Spalding County Health Department Training Room.

Approved, Stephanie Windham – Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Regina Abbott – Coordinator
