

# Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children

## Executive Committee Meeting

Eagles Way Church

January 16, 2014

**Present:** Stephanie Windham, Jewel Walker-Harps, Georgette Wimbush, Joseph Walker, and Regina Abbott; there was no quorum. Therefore, no action was taken.

**Call to Order:** Stephanie Windham

**Minutes:** Deferred to next meeting

**Financial Report:** Deferred to next meeting

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Healthy Youth Strategy – Brian Miller is chairing this year; he has lots of ideas, but progress has been hampered due to low attendance. The book bags will ship to the Port of Savannah upon payment of the balance agreed. Will Doss has access to a truck with lift. Bill Norris has agreed to provide on-going in-kind storage for the Collaborative.

Senior Issues – Planning for the year's activities has begun, e.g., conference and food program for seniors.

Healthy Children Strategy – Almost 200 school staff at Anne Street, Atkinson, Moore and Jackson Road Elementary Schools, Kelsey Academy, Mainstay Academy and Kennedy Road Middle School were trained in Stewards of Children after the Christmas break with the assistance of facilitators from Pike, Fayette and Lamar counties. A total of 374 trained to date. The tipping point is 2,393 by July 1, 2018. A date is being planned to train the mentors and funded by PCA-Spalding. The Healthy Children Conference is scheduled for April 17 at UGA Griffin Campus using the Senior Issues' model of providing resource information to the community. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has been a tremendous asset in the planning. Dr. Perry Buffington of UGA shall speak on the topic of psychopharmacology during lunch.

Re-entry Task Force – Pastor Grady Caldwell has agreed to become the "face" of the RTF. Theo Harris has been engaged with the Governor's Office of Transition and Reentry. The preliminary framework of the GA Prisoner Reentry Initiative will be presented for public input. Prison Fellowship Ministry founded by Chuck Colson is scheduled to train local churches to become linking churches for returning citizens. Housing has been the biggest challenge for re-entry. Theo has contacted William Wilson about the state-owned property, formerly Regional Youth Detention Center, as a possible housing option for returning citizens rather than using it to expand the jail. A new resource, People Helping People United, Inc., has surfaced that can provide housing and programming for ex-offenders. Further investigation will go into the possibilities of collaborating with People Helping People United.

Backpack Food for Kids Program – 225 children are being served at the same four schools, Moore, Anne Street, Atkinson, Jackson Road, and Kennedy Road Elementary Schools; additional funding is needed to expand the program to more schools. Due to injury, Vanora O'Dell will no longer be available to oversee the program. Georgette Wimbush is coordinating a region wide food drive and is interested in keeping the contributions local with the Backpack Program or food pantry.

Educational Prosperity Initiative – The Fairmont Heritage Park design plan and final report were delayed from UGA's Dr. Pratt due to helping in Haiti. An outgrowth of the EPI, Resident Council, was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta Neighborhood Fund, which includes two community coaches and funds to implement a Neighborhood Watch Program.

### **Coordinator's Report:**

Financial Review for period ending June 30, 2013 has been completed by Clifford, Lipton, Hardison and Parker. Haisten and Johnston are working on the Form 990 for the same period. The report will be sent electronically to the current and previous board members. A hard copy of the report will be distributed to current members and the Form 990 will be reviewed at the March board meeting.

FY2015 fiscal agent designation, taxpayer certification, and the signed Responsibilities of a Family Connection Collaborative are due to GA Family Connection Partnership by February 17. The second quarter FY2014 report was submitted.

The Kroger Community Rewards program has earned the Spalding Collaborative approximately \$66.

**Old Business**

Re-development of Meriwether Homes has been funded \$14 million with tax credits. Only five residents are remaining to re-locate. Almost 100 families have completed Ready to Rent, of which 17 are homeless.

A meeting will be convened with key stakeholders to explore the possibility of collaborating with A. D. Smith Community Development Services to administer the summer food program throughout Spalding County.

**New Business**

Georgette Wimbush will contact a representative from the Georgia Provost Academy to present at a Collaborative meeting on the Magic Johnson Bridgescape™ Learning Centers, you also have the option of face-to-face instruction, site-based guidance, and access to computers and internet. Each center provides students who have dropped out or are at-risk of dropping out of high school with a free alternative path to earn a Georgia-certified high school diploma in an environment that fits their schedule, life circumstances and learning needs. Centers are located in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted:

Approved:

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

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Carmen Caldwell, Chair  
Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children