

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children

Executive Committee Meeting

Eagles Way Church

February 20, 2014

Present: Carmen Caldwell, Bob Dull, Donna Parks, Cynthia Tidwell, and Jewel Walker-Harps; Joseph Walker and Regina Abbott

Call to Order: Carmen Caldwell

Minutes: Motion by Bob Dull and seconded by Jewel Walker-Harps to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2013 and January 16, 2014 meetings. Motion carried with unanimous vote to approve October 17, 2013 minutes and Bob Dull and Cynthia Tidwell not voting on January 16, 2014 minutes since they were not present.

Financial Report: Motion by Bob Dull and seconded by Donna Parks to accept the financial report through January 31, 2014 as presented.

Executive Director's Report:

Healthy Youth Strategy – Book bags have not been paid or shipped; planning to pull group together quickly for 2014 event.

Healthy Children Strategy – Healthy Children Conference scheduled for April 17, 2014 at UGA Griffin Campus based on the Senior Issues conference model of providing resource information to the community.

Re-entry Task Force – A nonprofit, People Helping People United, Inc. (PHPU) is interested in partnering with Spalding Collaborative around re-entry. Executive Director Ashley Rogers has met with RTF stakeholders several times. The organization is based in Hawkinsville and provides transitional housing, soft and hard skills training, job training and placement, and home ownership. The organization is considering placing an office in this area. Since housing is the missing link in Spalding's current plan and there is no local organization with demonstrated capacity to deliver the comprehensive re-entry program. PHPU has the experience, resources, capacity and interest to work with Spalding County to provide services for returning citizens.

USDA Nutrition Programs – Stakeholders have discussed options to expand the Summer Youth Feeding program by Spalding County partnering with A. D. Smith Community Services (a 2010 Strengthening Communities Fund sub-recipient) to service the sites previously served by Parks & Recreation. The program will not only save the County the operating costs overage, AMBUCS Park will be added as a site and the number of weeks served will increase from 5 weeks to 9 weeks. If logistics can be worked out, the four BPFCK schools will be sites as well. Ms. Smith will meet further with Ruth Daniel to discuss options for maximizing Council on Aging meal dollars.

Educational Prosperity Initiative – Resident Council has identified the Fairmont E-Neighborhood Watch target area as bounded on the North by Lexington Avenue, the west by North Hill Street, the south by West Cherry Street, and the east by North 3rd Street. Five tablets were purchased for the E-Neighborhood Watch from the Neighborhood Fund.

Coordinator's Report:

Haisten and Johnston is expected to have Form 990 for period ending June 30, 2013 ready for the March board meeting.

FY2015 fiscal agent designation, taxpayer certification, and the signed Responsibilities of a Family Connection Collaborative have been submitted.

Seven mentors trained in Stewards of Children and funded by PCA-S funds. To date, 382 Spalding County adults have been trained. The tipping point is 2,393 by July 1, 2018.

Housing Authority and School System were reminded to consider FY2015 funding for the Mentoring Program.

Encouraged by UGA First Steps Coordinator to apply for 2014 Governor's Office for Children and Families First Steps grant. Healthy Children Strategy Team is not interested to pursue the funding opportunity – no financial support for the requirements

Old Business:

The City of Griffin has appointed Doug Hollberg to replace Shaheer Beyah on the board. The County has re-appointed Jewel Walker-Harps for another two-year term. Need to follow-up on Bar Association/Stephanie Windham, Legislative Delegation / John Yates, Chamber / John Quinn, and DFCS / Carmen Caldwell.

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.

Healing Bridge is meeting in Forsyth today with Department of Corrections and Veteran's Administration regarding returning female vets. Healing Bridge plans to locate in Spalding.

The Fairmont Re-vitalization and Design Concept report is still being worked on by Dr. Pratt of UGA. He was called away to help with crisis in Haiti.

City of Griffin has donated 12 fruit trees for Healthy Living Community Garden to be planted on Arbor Day.

New Business:

Motion by Bob Dull and seconded by Donna Parks to apply to Dollar General Literacy Foundation for \$15,000 to purchase 18 laptops for the Fairmont Community Center GED program. Unanimous vote.

Board of Health Chair Merrilea Reeves is presenting on obesity at May meeting of Spalding Collaborative.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 17.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted:

Approved:

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

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