



Wakulla County Coalition for Youth Wednesday, April 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Wakulla County Coalition for Youth is committed to working collaboratively across agencies and provider networks to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth and families by addressing individual and environmental factors that increase risk and promoting those evidence-based programs and strategies that minimize the risk of substance abuse. (Adopted March 4, 2009)

Lynn Artz, Commissioner
Kathy Asbell, Dom. Violence
Det. Bruce Ashley, WCSO
Jo Barksdale, WCSB
Tammy Brannon, WCHD
Gail Campbell, Wakulla Co. Coal.
Khandis Cline, Workforce Plus
Sara Fulbright, Foster Home Licensing
Ken Gambill, Volunteer Wakulla
D. J. Gothe, YMCA
LeeAnn Heim, Apalachee Center
Tonya Hobby, Wakulla Co. Health Dept
Antonio Johnson, Court Admin.

Doug Jones, BOCC, Dir Public Svcs
Karyn London, DJJ
Elaine Martin, Dept. of Correx.
Gayle Myers, BBCBC
Elizabeth Phillips, DJJ
Cathy Price, WCS, WHD
Lisa Russell, WCSO Juv. Div.
Capt. Chris Savary, WCSO
Adream Stuger, DCF
Shelley Swenson, Wak. Ext. Office
Glen Wade, Mentor
Rebecca Weaver, Class Action

Tonya Hobby called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with round-one distribution of the Resource Directory conducted from 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. WCCY Secretary Gayle Myers read minutes from the March 3, 2010 meeting which were approved as written.

Resource Directory: Shelley Swenson and Ken Gambill explained the process of the first round distribution and members continued to sign up for copies to be distributed to fellow agencies and coworkers. When round-one is completed and coalition members have finished distributing to their colleagues and partner agencies, round-two will begin. This will take place at the Extension Office for individual distribution upon request, until the copies are depleted. Coalition members were given a sign-out sheet to be used as the directories are distributed, and instructed to bring the completed sign-out sheet to the coalition meeting in May.

County Commissioner's News: Lynn Artz reported on the status of the community center. The BOCC approved the sale agreement and purchase of the 22 acre property and facility at Trice Lane and Shadeville Rd. Included in the sale were furnishings, sound system, equipment, a van, as well as the electronic message board at the property. A closing date of May 15th is expected. Commissioner Artz asked for the Coalition members to help identify what programs and activities to have on the site. Doug Jones, BOCC, noted that a long list of requests and suggestions have been submitted by Wakulla Co. citizens for the facility. It was noted that there is no gymnasium in the building. A decision must be

made as to the urgency of construction of a gymnasium. Alternatives to an immediate construction of a gymnasium would be an outdoor basketball court, a swimming pool, tennis courts.

Commissioner Artz moved to a second item noting a deficiency of emergency food supplies in the county. Local food banks are not able to keep up with the high demand of canned goods for county residents in economic crisis. The county currently has five collection sites. It was suggested that members bring canned goods to the WCCY meetings in the future. This was confirmed in an email following the meeting, so members please bring your canned goods to May meeting.

Commissioner Artz announced the Wakulla Health Care Task Force is giving free Sports Physicals on Saturday, May 22. The physicals will cover all sports, Boy Scouts, and summer camps. Volunteers are needed for sign-in table, vision screening, etc. Contact Lynn Artz at Lartz@mywakulla.com.

The Green Living Expo will be held May 8, 2010 at Riversprings Middle School. This annual event will include children's activities, farmer's market, educational activities, etc. to illustrate ways to help the natural environment. A children's art contest is taking entries which will be displayed at the Expo; for information go to website at www.greenlivingenergyexpo.com.

WCS: Cathy Price reported on the web development of the WCCY website. The webpage is up, but content is not in yet. The students working on the website are in Spring Break and will continue the project next week when they return to school. Cathy reminded members to send in their information for the web site. A new Dept of Health website will be located at the youth and parents site; please view and offer comments and feedback.

Cathy reported on the Communication Plan. The committee has met once and has meetings scheduled. More information on this will be reported at the next meeting. Gail reported that the State has invited the coalition to be one in 10 acknowledged for their work and accomplishments. Det. Ashley stated that the Communication Plan is critical only as far as what the public knows what we are doing, parents knowing where they can go to find out information. Funding sources also want to know what we are doing; where the money is going. Proof of the productivity would be photographs of the far-reaching activities of the Coalition: distribution of Resource Directory, Be The Wall project, county kids in the parade, and many others. All efforts must be documented and shared with the public.

WAKULLA FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH: Tonya Hobby reported that only 3 students attended the meeting this month. She is still looking for youth to join. The group meets every 4th Thursday at the TCC campus in Crawfordville. An ad will be placed in Wakulla.com. If any members have students who would like to join please RSVP Tonya.

OPPORTUNITY CALENDAR: All summer events will be posted on a calendar to hand out to parents. There will be a meeting April 22nd, by which we will need all activities and dates turned in. The calendar will be printed and attached to post cards. Get your events in if you want them to be on the summer schedule. Any county events can be included; church, library programs, recreation park activities.

BE THE WALL: Glen Wade reported on the committee meeting where the members decided on three Be The Wall billboards, 1) Woodville Highway; 2)Crawfordville Highway; 3)Sopchoppy cutoff intersection (hwy 98). Det. Ashley reported that parents signed 100 pledges at the St. Patricks Day Celebration at the park. A Be The Wall banner is also displayed at the State Capitol. Det. Ashley stated that Be The Wall is also posted on the side of local bars to "get the message out there."

SUSTAINABILITY: Det. Ashley reported there are vacancies on the Sustainability committees. It is essential that Sustainability Committees be in place before the end of April for a meeting with the SARG Coach in May where work will begin in earnest.

WAKULLA CO. SCHOOLS: Jo Barksdale reported on the county's homeless families and students. Some are living with other families but there are others who are literally homeless. Wakulla has no accommodation for the homeless, particularly women, children and families. Jo found churches in the county where, one time a week folks can sleep, eat and have somewhere to go during the day. Since last month 10 children were added to Wakulla's homeless list.

Jo announced that a Guiding Good Choices class will be starting up on Tuesday, April 27, led by Jo and Rita Haney. The parenting class will be held Tuesdays from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the TCC campus in Crawfordville and will be a 4-week class. There is a charge for participants: \$50 per person and \$75 per couple for the full course.

Jo announced she has completed training for Equine Assisted Training and Learning, a therapeutic class for adults, children, singles and groups, addressing a variety of problems. Cost is \$90 per session, and most insurance is accepted.

Jo reported that Make A Difference Day has been rescheduled to September 11, 2010 because of illness of Volunteer Wakulla's President.

CLASS ACTION Rebecca Weaver reported that grades are in and the students did exceptionally well. The students will be doing presentations in the classrooms on a number of topics.

NEW HORIZONS: Rebecca Weaver reported that this is Meghan Howell's last month as she is moving out of the area. A new prevention specialist will be hired; if you know someone who is qualified (bachelor's degree required,) please notify Rebecca or Sophia of Disc Village.

REFUGE HOUSE: Kathy Asbell reported that April is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Next Wednesday (4/14) at 12:30 at the TCC Campus Dawn Curley will be speaking at the DV Awareness meeting. The sheriff's office will celebrate National Crime Victim's Rights Week April 18 through April 24 by hosting the first of several plantings of flowering bushes at the sheriff's office flagpole and entrance sign.

WCSO Enforcement: Capt. Chris Savary reported on the S.A.V.E. Program kick-off (Students Against Violence Everywhere). Graduation and summer programs are a focus for the department this season. Several bicycle rodeos will take place over the summer at the Sheriff's office teaching bicycle safety; participants receive a free bike helmet. Another activity planned is the WCSO Youth Hunter Safety Program.

Dept. of Juv. Justice: Elizabeth Phillips introduced the new probation officer for Wakulla County, Karyn London. Elizabeth reported 140-plus kids in the DJJ System currently. Liz noted that domestic violence is on the rise in the County. A question on anger management referrals was noted and Rebecca Weaver, Disc Village, reported that New Horizons includes anger management therapy.

WORKFORCE PLUS: Khandis Cline reported that Workforce has made cutbacks. She also reported the graduation for the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) class takes place this month on the 15th. The graduates are hoping to be hired at Eden Springs.

APALACHEE CENTER: Leeann Heim reported that the agency is geared toward adults for medication management, case management. Call the New Patient phone # to begin services. Leeann reported the Center is short staffed at present with the loss of 2 case managers.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Doug Jones reported on the purchase of the property for the new Community Center. The public will be invited to brainstorm ways to make the newly purchased property into a functional multipurpose center. The summer will be spent planning and getting input for the Center. The 22 acre property and buildings will be expanded and consideration will be made to include such ideas as a swimming pool, community gardens, a farmer's market, and tennis courts.

WCSO: Det. Bruce Ashley noted the Department is looking at doing more with less, due to a tight budget. Det. Ashley reported on efforts to raise funds for the Special Olympics Torch Run. It was also reported that Keith Blackmar is the new Public Information Officer for the Sheriff's Office. Det. Ashley urged members to view the enhanced WCSO website. Keep Wakulla County Beautiful is looking for members. This is a good opportunity for youth and would help them with decision-making skills, etc. The group meets the 1st Thursday at 6:30 at Wakulla Co. Cooperative Extension Services in the Extension office.

Det. Ashley reported that the Sheriff's Office provides instruction to individuals for installing infant car seats. The Dept. offers a service of providing safety car seats to needy families also.

YMCA: D.J. Gothe reported that summer Day Camp is filling up fast. Camperships are still available, contact D.J. 926-3661. May 8th is Camp Volunteer Day. Come out at 9:00 a.m. to work, as YMCA really depends on its volunteers. Contact D.J. for details. Community Service is available also.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION GRANT: Gail Campbell referenced an email from Tonya Hobby about this grant focusing on teen pregnancy. Gail requested that Coalition members create a study group on this grant and put it together. The grant is a significant amount of money and could be very beneficial for this county. Several members volunteered for this evidenced-based grant: Jo Barksdale, Tonya Hobby, Lisa Russell, Gail Campbell, Shelley Swenson.

FADAA BEST PRACTICES RECOGNITION PROGRAM: Gail Campbell received a call for the nomination of Class Action, Social Norms and New Horizons programs for recognition in substance abuse prevention for the Best Practices Awards Program to be held at the 2010 FADAA Annual conference in Orlando August 11-13 2010. The Coalition voted unanimously to endorse the nomination of Disc Village for its work in Wakulla through these evidence-based programs.

Other grant opportunities: 1) Grant available to address children's exposure to violence (passed on to Capt. Chris Savary, WCSO); 2) A Better Health grant from the American Medical Association (passed on to Shelley); 3) Mental Health and Substance Abuse grant

TONYA HOBBY noted that the Coalition does not normally meet in July but suggests that we have a lunch meeting to ‘celebrate one another’ and invite some people to meet and mingle with us to get to know what the Coalition is about. Tammy Brannon agreed to spearhead the meeting, an informal celebration. Cathy Price made a motion for this meeting for Friday, the 16th of July at 1:00 p.m. Jo Barksdale seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

Tonya Hobby announced the next WCCY meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, 12:30 – 2:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Myers, WCCY Secretary