



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 06/04/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

In Attendance

Karen Zak, Jennifer Phillips, Bonnie Wertenberger, James Lewis, Lottie Roy, Emily Zak, Regina McQueen, Rebecca Sahar, Margaret Waldbauer, Anne Bozik, Stephanie Cash, Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, Lisa Sherry, Cindy Wilson, Olivia Piazza, Kaizsa Threatt, Rachel Pienta, Tammy Boone, Chase Savary, Tom Mallon

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 2025 Meeting – James Lewis and Lottie Roy Approved

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- End of year 2 reporting is due August 15th for activities during August 2024 – July 2025. Year 3 begins October 1st.
- TGFD will be taught during four weeks of “Teen Fit Camp” this summer, which is a collaboration between Sun Chaser Fitness and Wakulla 4-H. In addition, TGFD will be taught during five weeks of summer camp at Edge Athletics.
- New social norms campaign is near completion and will be revealed during the August 2025 meeting.
- Library kiosk theme for June will be “Family Safety.” Information on safe medicine disposal, safe medicine storage, safe driving for teens, emergency preparedness, and online safety. Also includes the summer safety handout from Safe Kids Big Bend coalition for younger children.
- “Dancing Into The Decades” dance was an end-of-the-year safe space dance hosted by 4-H and FLOW. There were 40 attendees between the ages of 11-17. They are hoping to continue hosting events like this for teens in Wakulla.
- Funding for the STOP Act grant may be cut with the current federal budget proposal.
- The newest update on the resource and referral guide will be completed by August 2025.

2. Karen Zak on Fundraising Committee:

- Proposal for a “donate” button to be added to the WCCY website and fundraise with the Dominos “Slice the Price” cards.
Motion to vote on the adoption of a “donate” button and “Slice the Price” cards made by Rebecca Sahar and was seconded by Lottie Roy.
Motion carried by unanimous vote. Motion approved.

3. Jennifer Phillips on Bylaws Committee:

- Jennifer Phillips and James Lewis will be meeting to discuss revisions to the bylaws.
- Bylaws will be finished by August 2025 meeting on 8/6/25 and a copy will be sent to all members two weeks prior to review.

4. Jennifer Phillips on Paul Hoover 5K Run:

- WCCY has a platinum sponsorship for the 5K on 6/28 at Wakulla Springs. Our logo will appear on the race

towels and the race banner.

- WCCY will have a table at the race. Jennifer Phillips, Lottie Roy, and Karen Zak will be in attendance to staff the table.

County Report

Josh Lawhon: was not in attendance.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon: Chase Savary will be taking over as the Outreach Coordinator. Project Graduation was held at Wakulla Springs with 100 students.

School District Report

No one from WCSB was in attendance.

Treasurer Report

Regina McQueen: Current Balance: \$3,065.76

Disbursements: Payment to Division of Corporations to add James Lewis (May): \$61.25

Adjusted Balance: \$3,004.51

Additional Notes:

- 2024 taxes have been completed.
- An accountant is still needed to assist with completing the 2022 and 2023 tax filings.

Partner Reports

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library):

Summer Reading has started! The summer kick-off event had 1,764 people who came.

Weekly Programs: Tuesdays - *Book Bunch* **10-11AM** for ages 2.5yrs through school age. Stories, songs, movement, & craft. Wednesdays - *Book Babies* **10-11AM** for ages newborn through 2.5 yrs. Stories, songs, movement, & socialization.

Summer Programming: Wednesdays - *Hue Crew*, **2-3 PM** for grades K-2nd. Thursdays - *Shade Brigade*, **2-3 PM** for grades 3rd-5th. Join Beanstack to log your summer reading hours and be entered to win a Stitch prize at the end of the summer.

Through the month programs:

LEGO Club, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. 4-5:30 PM Kids of all ages with adult caregiver. You bring the imagination and they provide the LEGOs.

Middle Manga & Teen Manga – Reference Library brochures at the front desk for dates and times or on Facebook.

Regina McQueen (Apalachee Center): Apalachee Center offers mental health services to children and adults: therapy, medication management, peer specialist support, etc.

Margaret Waldbauer (Wakulla DOH): Participated in Project Graduation by helping staff a photobooth. “Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens” talk on 6/5 at Palaver Tree, and “Be In The Know” talk for parents of teens on 6/26 at Wakulla County Public Library. They are also helping with 4-H camps this summer.

Tammy Boone (Wakulla DOH): Tobacco Free Partnership Meeting is 6/19 at Wakulla Health Department.

Rachel Pienta (Wakulla 4-H): Summer season is underway with multiple statewide and national leadership events for youth. Among the highlights, one youth will represent the state of Florida at the National Shooting Sports

Championships, competing in shotgun, skeet, and trap shooting. Another youth will participate in 4-H Legislature in Tallahassee, a civic education experience similar to Girl State or Boy State, but in a 4-H format. Additionally, several youth will travel to Gainesville in July to attend 4-H University, which offers state-level events and leadership training on the University of Florida campus.

Looking ahead, invitations will soon go out to begin planning for fall and spring events. A Teen Leadership Summit is being developed with support from community partners.

Lottie Roy (LWREA): Members of LWREA recently attended the Florida Retired Educators Association Convention in St. Augustine, where they gained valuable insights into how the association collaborates with the state legislature to advocate for retired teachers. LWREA is looking for newly retired teachers, particularly from Wakulla County to join to grow their Wakulla membership.

Stephanie Cash (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf): Offers free in-home support for families with infants.

Anne Bozik (SEDNET): Works with youth with emotional or behavioral disabilities or at-risk. Has materials to help schools create calming areas for students with emotional disabilities. Contact for more information: bozika@nefec.org or 850-510-0855.

Yolanda Gillette-Carlson (Big Bend AHEC): Offers health insurance assistance and various health programs, including a tobacco cessation initiative.

Lisa Sherry (DISC Village): A new opportunity is available through a partnership with the Department of Health, specifically coordinated by Lori Clark, under a program called *Impact*. This program offers free, 60-minute educational sessions for adults, such as parents, guardians, mentors, and professionals who work with youth. The sessions can be delivered as lunch-and-learns or as part of existing meetings. Topics include effective communication, jealousy, breakups, rejection, and social risks. The goal is to equip adults with tools and best practices for fostering healthy, trusted relationships with youth, ultimately supporting their development into independent and healthy individuals. The Impact team is willing to travel and provide these sessions at various organizations. Contact Lori for more information: 850-427-4030 or lori.clark@flhealth.gov

Olivia Piazza (TMH/Safe Kids Big Bend Coalition): Safe Kids Big Bend is a coalition that is focused on preventing or educating the community on preventable childhood injuries; established in Leon County, but expanding to Wakulla County. We are entering the "100 Deadliest Days of Summer," the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when childhood injuries tend to increase.

An upcoming family-focused event is being planned in Wakulla for September. Once the date is confirmed and a flyer is available, the information will be shared.

Jennifer Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Lottie Roy seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Next Meeting

August 6th, 2025 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually