



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 01/08/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

In Attendance

Karen Zak, Jennifer Phillips, Bonnie Wertenberger, Sandra Schul, Gabrielle Aboki, Anne Bozik, Cindy Wilson, Lt. Tom Mallon, Karley Gordon, Kenny Manning, Debbie Saenz, Lisa Sherry, Amber Volano, Quincee Messersmith, Olivia Piazza, Genesis Knight, Stephanie Cash, Jenniffer Masters, Amanda Madden, Allison Leatzow, Nicole Dempsey, Novella Franklin, Jacklyn Burkett, Kaizsa Threatt, Rebecca Sahar, Laurretta Compton, Regina McQueen, Amanda Gruebel, Caden Gruebel, Danielle Cimino, Lottie Roy, Aaron Taylor, Susie Tooke

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December Meeting – Rebecca Sahar and Laurretta Compton Approved

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Jennifer Phillips on Vice President Nominations:

- Nancy Floyd Richardson has stepped down as VP and we are now taking nominations for VP candidates via email to be discussed and voted on at February's meeting.

2. Laurretta Compton and Jenniffer Masters on Future Leaders of Wakulla:

- As a community project, FLOW will be collecting hygiene items to be given to our students in Wakulla Co. The project name is "Fresh 'N Shine." Supplies being collected will include: shampoo, body wash, deodorant, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.
- You may view the Amazon Wish List here: <https://tinyurl.com/457nyz2p>
- Items can be sent to or dropped off at the Wakulla Extension office located at: 84 Cedar Ave through mid-February; they are also accepting cash and/or gift cards to allow FLOW to purchase these items for the project.

3. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- We are now partnering with Wakulla Giving Hands to provide them with our resource guide to give with their weekly food distributions
- Our resource and referral guide is digital at: www.wccy.org
- 4-H County Council has a Community Pride project, "Deeply Rooted in the Hands of Time" where they are seeking to document Wakulla's history. They will be photographing heirlooms, and interviewing for family stories 1/25 and 2/1. If you would like to participate in sharing your family's story, contact Amanda Gruebel at: a.gruebel@ufl.edu. 4-H County Council will have a display of this project at Wakulla Wonderful in March.
- Social Norms Poster #3 in our "Join the Crowd" campaign is being displayed in January through mid-February.
- Parent Information Kiosk: January's theme is dedicated to "Substance Use Disorder Treatment" month and information regarding "Screen4Success" which is an online survey with questions about substance use, mental and physical health, general well-being, and family life. Screen4Success connects survey participants to local professionals.
- Fundraising Committee: We are still in need of more people to join our fundraising committee.

Two fundraising ideas from Susie Tooke: 1. Selling roses at Ace Hardware and Tractor Supply, and 2. Yard Sale/Craft Sale at the Shrine Club on 4/5. Please contact Karen at hello@wccy.org to help organize a fundraising event.

- 4H Clover Gala: WCCY has been nominated for the “Friend of 4H” award and will be honored at the gala on 1/30. Tickets are \$75/person and can be purchased at: <https://tinyurl.com/WCG25>

County Report

Josh Lawhon is our appointed commissioner and will begin attending meetings soon.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon: WHS Theatre Troupe 5036 Annual Garage Sale will be held on 2/1 and the Sheriff’s office will be serving BBQ plates to support the theatre students, Teen Challenge will be at the end of February.

School District Report

No one was present for the meeting to represent the school district.

Treasurer Report

Regina McQueen completed the BOI.

Partner Reports

Sandra Schul (Big Bend AHEC): Offers tobacco education, NRT classes at the library, and diabetes education in English and in Spanish. Big Bend AHEC also provides Narcan to communities who need it.

Karley Gordon (STAC): January is Anti-Trafficking Month and Imagine Freedom Event on 1/28 from 5:30-7 PM at TNL Performing Arts Center. HT community conversation Leon County Jan 30 from 5:30-7:00pm @ TNL Performing Arts Center, Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG) Training Jan 22 from 11:30-1:30pm at Leon County School Board offices, and STAC 3rd Friday Webinar on Jan 17th! Please email Karley@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org or robin@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org for more information or to have a HT training hosted by STAC for your organization.

Amanda Madden (Capital Area Healthy Start): Team Dad Program on Wednesdays and Saturdays and gives support for fathers; Community Doula Program gives support for expectant mothers. www.capitalareahealthystart.org

Nicole Dempsey (Department of Veteran Affairs): Works with suicide prevention in veterans

Jacklyn Burkett (Legal Services of North Florida): Provides free legal services for family law, probate, social security appeals, housing, etc. Contact: lsnf.org or 850-385-9007.

Allison Leatzow (FSU CARD): Provides support for families living with autism; new webinar: “Supporting your Child with a New Autism Diagnosis” on 1/14 from 12:30 – 1:30 PM – register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yrsmcxdz>

Gabrielle Aboki (Big Bend ELC): Assists families with locating childcare providers and assists in paying for childcare. Email: gaboki@elcbigbend.org for additional questions.

Amber Volano (211/Help Me Grow): If anyone is interested in joining the Help Me Grow Leadership Team, email Amber at: AVolano@211bigbend.org. There are two meetings a month with discussions on community data, community needs, and ways that agencies can collaborate.

Kenny Manning (Wakulla County Christian Coalition): MLK Celebration and County-wide Breakfast at Palaver Tree 1/20 starting at 9 AM at the courthouse; 2/14-2/16 African American Heritage Celebration with a Gala on 2/14, Parade and Celebration in Hudson Park on 2/15, and an African American Reading on 2/16 at Palaver Tree.

Lt. Aaron Taylor (Florida Army National Guard): Advocacy Day with Community Coalition Association in Jacksonville is 1/21 from 9 AM – 5 PM at the Tallahassee Armory and 1/22 at the Capitol

Lottie Roy (LWREA): Donated three Toys for Tots boxes to Operation Santa; 5th grade essay contest is underway, and the deadline is 1/30; Partnered with American Red Cross to form a Red Cross Action Team to go into schools to talk to students about preparing for disasters (fire/hurricane/etc).

Danielle Cimino (Wakulla 4-H): Clover Gala is 1/30 from 5:30 - 10 PM and tickets may be purchased at: tinyurl.com/wcg25; Residents are encouraged to join the 32 mile Walk Across Wakulla Challenge leading up to Wakulla Wonderful – the “final mile” will be celebrated at Hudson Park on 3/7 with music and food trucks; Wakulla Wonderful is 3/8.

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library):

Weekly Programs: Tuesdays Book Bunch 10-11AM (2.5 years - Pre-K age); Wednesdays Book Babies 10-11AM (Newborn - 2.5 Years).

Monthly Programs: Saturday, January 11th 9:30-10:30AM Family Storytime (Kids of all ages & accompanied by an adult caregiver); 1st Thursday - Math Night 5:30-6:30PM (2nd-8th grades) - Math concepts taught through gameplay; 2nd Thursday - Middle Manga 5-6PM (5th-8th grades) - Manga & Anime Book Club for Middle Schoolers; 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Lego Club 4-5:30PM (All Ages) - We supply the Lego's you bring the imagination; 3rd Thursday - Teen Manga 5-6PM (9th-12th grades) - Manga & Anime Book Club for High Schoolers; Saturday, Jan. 25th - R.E.A.D Therapy Dogs 10AM-12PM (kids of All Ages); Friday, January 28th - New Family Game Night 4-5:30PM (For Families) We supply the games and they bring the family.

Special Programs: Wednesday evenings from January 22-February 12th - Kids Tech 4-week Workshop for CodeCombat 4:30-5:30PM (SchoolAge kids 10+) an educational video game that teaches computer science and programming languages through gameplay.

Coming Soon: Mommy & Me Yoga (moms + babies; Newborn to 2yrs) at the library or the community center, either 1/23 or 1/24; Friends of the Library is hosting their Mardi Gras Ball on 2/22, \$50/ticket or \$500/table.

The library sent 251 letters from Santa to children this year!

Regina McQueen (Mobile Response Unit at Apalachee Center): Supports community with mental health services – “Same Day Access” program allows citizens to register online from home for mental health services (medication support, therapy support, etc). 1-800-342-0774 is the Mobile Response Team 24/7 mental health helpline.

Next Meeting

February 5th, 2024 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually