



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 11/05/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

In Attendance

Karen Zak, Bonnie Wertenberger, Jennifer Phillips, Simeon Nelson, Lottie Roy, Angela Hicks, Gabrielle Aboki, Melonie Hendry, Tamara Lockley, Debra Saenz, Chase Savary, Amanda Madden, Amber Volano, Lisa Sherry, Pam Pilkinton, Lauretta Compton, Rev. Renita Allen-Dixon, Katrina Bombrys, Jelissa Knight, Rebecca Sahar, Amanda Gruebel, Caden Gruebel, Amy Frazier, Tammy Boone, Novella Franklin, Kimberly Mattox, James Lewis, Tamika Rich, Olivia Piazza, Graciela Marquina, Allison Leatzow, Yolanda Carlson, Stacey Bian, Kaizsa Threatt, Tom Mallon

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 2025 Meeting – Rebecca Sahar and Lottie Roy Approved

Minutes from October 2025 Meeting – Caden Gruebel and Kimberly Mattox Approved

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Jennifer Phillips on Officer Elections:

- James Lewis was nominated for President at the September 2025 meeting. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Karen Zak to vote on the nomination, and the motion was seconded by Rebecca Sahar.

Voting was conducted by in-person raise of hand/Zoom chat. The vote was as follows: 27 in favor and 0 opposed. James Lewis received all 27 votes and was unanimously elected as President of WCCY. James accepted the position and will assume the office effective immediately.

- Kimberly Mattox was nominated for Vice President at the September 2025 meeting. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Rebecca Sahar to vote on the nomination, and the motion was seconded by Caden Gruebel.

Voting was conducted by in-person raise of hand/Zoom chat. The vote was as follows: 27 in favor and 0 opposed. Kimberly Mattox received all 27 votes and was unanimously elected as Vice President of WCCY. Kimberly accepted the position and will assume the office effective immediately.

2. Jennifer Phillips on Bylaws Committee Update:

- Additional revisions are being made and will be signed and ready for review by next month.

3. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- WCCY newsletter continues to be sent out monthly
- Social Norms Poster #3 is available for distribution

4. Jennifer Phillips on Toys for Tots/Adopt a Family:

- A motion was made by Caden Gruebel for WCCY to donate \$100 to Operation Santa Wakulla and the motion was seconded by Kimberly Mattox. Motion passes by unanimous vote.
- Members are invited to make donations to WCCY to add to our contribution. All donations should be sent to Lottie Roy by 12/3.

5. Jennifer Phillips on Spring Creek Hwy Land Opportunity:

- Rev. Renita Allen-Dixon has proposed that WCCY partner to develop a community center for youth on her property off of Spring Creek Hwy. Currently, the coalition is not in a place to help with this venture. Will be discussed later with the new WCCY board.

County Report

Josh Lawhon: No county updates currently.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon/Chase Savary: Christmas in the Park 12/12

School District Report

Simeon Nelson: Thanks were extended to *Who We Play For* for conducting EKG screenings. Volunteer orientation is being offered via Zoom on November 10th. Information is available on both the District website for anyone who still needs to complete orientation.

To date, **511 volunteers** have been Level 1 cleared and are eligible to volunteer. However, **77 individuals** have not yet accepted their clearance invitation—likely due to the email going to spam, clutter, or junk folders. Anyone who has applied online but has not received communication from Sterling Volunteers is encouraged to check those folders for pending messages.

Treasury Report

Lottie Roy and Jennifer Phillips opened the treasury box from past Treasurer, Regina McQueen. We have a bank account at Capital City Bank and will be working on getting the names of the new board members on the account before the next meeting. We have successfully completed the 990 for tax purposes. There is approximately \$3,000 in our bank account.

Partner Reports

Caden Gruebel (4H/Future Leaders of Wakulla): 1. Emily Zak will serve as the lead for the new *Prevention for Intervention* project, which focuses on substance abuse prevention among teens. The project will include hosting a Teen Town Hall in April. Local organizations interested in participating are encouraged to contact Karen Zak to be added to the email list for a planning meeting in December. 2. Future Leaders of Wakulla will host a Friendsgiving event for youth ages 11–18 on November 22, 2025, from 5:30–9:00 PM. The event will feature a formal sit-down pizza dinner followed by a ball dance. Donations of dessert pies are requested, and admission is free with a donation of non-perishable food items. 3. Save the date for the Clover Gala on January 29, 2026.

Angela Hicks (Capital Area Community Action): Capital Area Community Action is currently recruiting participants for the Spring 2026 *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* program. Classes are expected to begin in mid-January. Those interested in more information can contact Angela at angela.hicks@cacaainc.org.

Amanda Madden (Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition): The agency has moved to a new location less than a mile from its previous site. The new address is 2650 Appalachee Parkway. In January, they will host a large open house for the community and for families to visit the new space. Everyone is invited and they look forward to seeing you there.

Yolanda Carlson (NWF Health): Individuals experiencing issues with SNAP benefits or federal worker-related needs can visit nwfhhealthconnects.org for vetted resources that are free or offered on a sliding scale.

Kaizsa Threatt (MADD): MADD is hosting its annual Step Challenge this month to raise awareness leading into National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Participation is completely free, and individuals or organizations can sign up and log their steps using the provided JotForm link. Participants will be competing statewide, and a gift basket will be awarded to the top individual or team. Those who choose to donate \$100 will receive a commemorative MADD “Step In”

t-shirt. Register Here: <https://give.madd.org/event/2025-madd-florida-steppin-to-a-safer-holiday/e729695> and log your steps here: <https://form.jotform.com/MADDFL/FLSteppin>

Amber Volano (211 Big Bend/Help Me Grow): Their team is seeking community events to attend in December and January, which are typically slower months for them. Anyone hosting or aware of events during this period is encouraged to reach out to Amber at AVolano@211bigbend.org. They are happy to participate and support local activities.

Graciela Marquina (STAC): STAC's Third Friday Training for November has been canceled due to its proximity to Thanksgiving. Attendees are encouraged to visit the organization's website to explore additional available trainings, as many other options are still being offered.

Jelissa Knight (FLNG Counterdrug): Advocacy Day is 11/17. Contact Jelissa at jelissa.a.knight.mil@army.mil for more information.

Novella Franklin (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc): They are recognizing Prematurity Awareness Month throughout November. The chapter is also launching its 10th year of service in Wakulla County and will host a Gala on **April 11th**. Tickets are \$75, and proceeds will support the sorority's first scholarship award this year. Attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets or become sponsors; additional information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Caden Gruebel moved to adjourn the meeting. Novella Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Next Meeting

December 3, 2025 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually