



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time January 7th, 2026, 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* James Lewis

In Attendance

Karen Zak, James Lewis, Sgt Kenneth Feinberg, Bonnie Wertenberger, Tara Cockman, Jennifer Phillips, Lottie Roy, Kimberly Mattox, Rebecca Sahar, Patrick Allison, Caden Gruebel, Amanda Gruebel, 1Lt Jelissa Knight, Amy Frazier, Debbie Saenz, Novella Franklin, Carl Roach, Tammy Boone, Amber Volano, Lisa Sherry, Emily Kohler, Stephanie Cash, Gabrielle Aboki, Pamela Pilkinton Tracy Melin, Kate Epperson, Tamika Rich, Rachel Pienta, Latoya Stevens, Yolanda Carlson, Stacey Bian, Taylor Caswell, Rev. Renita Dixon

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December 2025 Meeting – A motion was made by Caden Gruebel and seconded by Rebecca Sahar to approve. The motion carried.

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- January newsletter was distributed
- Poster #5 in our social norms campaign was released and made available for community distribution
- FLOW (Future Leaders of Wakulla) event happening in April called Prevention Before Intervention. It will be a teen town hall event centered around substance abuse prevention and will prioritize conversations between the teens.

2. Kimberly Mattox on Volunteer Recognition Event:

- Hoping to do a brunch in April to honor the volunteers to help support WCCY and the community as a whole.
- Coming up with a group of volunteers to form a committee to help plan the event. The goal is to have an event for the youth and adult volunteers to participate in.
- Ideas like a basketball tournament, silent auctions, dodgeball tournament or a bingo night.

County Report

Josh Lawhon was not in attendance.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon/Chase Savary were not in attendance.

School District Report

Simeon Nelson was not in attendance.

Treasurer Report

Lottie Roy:

- Beginning balance: **\$4,026.77**
- Deposits: **\$340** (Operation Santa – second deposit)
- Disbursements included:
 - Bank maintenance fee
 - Sunbiz change of officers filing
 - \$500 donation to Operation Santa Wakulla
 - Post Office Box renewal at Crawfordville Post Office
- Current balance: **\$3,521.37**

Additional notes:

- Online banking access has been granted to the Treasurer.
- PO Box keys are held by the Secretary and Treasurer; renewal due **December 1, 2026**.
- WCCY donated **\$1,000** to Operation Santa Wakulla:
 - \$500 from member donations
 - \$500 donated by **Frances Casey Lowe of Lowe Legal & Title**
- Contributions for Operation Santa 2026 will be collected at October, November, and December meetings.
- Treasurer will continue monthly reports, with formal quarterly reports filed for audit per bylaws.

No questions were raised. The coalition commended members for their generosity and support of Operation Santa.

Partner Reports

Novella Franklin: Celebrating area founders' day on 17th in Tallahassee. Gala in April to support the community service done in the Crawfordville area.

Carl Roach (Career Advisor): Works closely with outreach events to raise awareness for career advising. Nothing new to report.

Tracy Melin (Big Bend Ahec): Brought fliers for federal marketplace open enrollment for health insurance. Left cards for Florida Kid Care. Emily Kohler also shared about Tobacco Free Florida gift cards for people who attend different events. The gift cards don't allow any purchase of tobacco or firearms.

Tammy Boone (Tobacco Prevention Specialist): Reported on the Valentine's season where SWAT youth will get the word out about tobacco free parks and beaches. February 12th department meeting at Department of Health at 4:00pm.

Kate Epperson (COAST School Counselor): Nothing new to report.

Kimberly Mattox (FSU Medicine): Nothing new to report

Gabrielle Aboki (Early Learning Coalition): Reported VPK applications are open for 26-27 school year. School readiness for tuition assistance is still available.

Tamika Rich (Wakulla County Christian Coalition): Reported on annual MLK Remembrance ceremony at the courthouse on January 19th. Annual African American Heritage Celebration starting third week of February.

Rachel Pienta (Wakulla 4H): Echoed the reminder to purchase tickets to the gala. Also, Wakulla Wonderful vendor registration is open.

Pamela Pilkinton (Wakulla Pregnancy Center): Reminded everyone of the Pregnancy Center services. Also shared a movie coming out about human trafficking.

Lisa Sherry (DISC Village): No updates

Latoya Stevens (Sickle Cell Foundation): Updated everyone on their services with individuals suffering from sickle cell disease.

Yolanda Carlson (NWF Health): Reported on a Rock the Kids event on January 29th, looking for sponsors to attend. Helps with foster kids in their program.

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library): Reported on Friends of the Library Fundraiser Martigras Ball on February 21st, 6-9pm, tickets are on sale. January 24th therapy dogs to help kids practice reading. New program called Tummy Time on Thursday mornings from 9-10am for moms with newborns. First event is February 5th. Mommy and me Yoga is starting February 14th. Family game night starts January 23rd, Fourth Friday of every month.

Caden Gruebel (Future Leaders of Wakulla/4H): Reported on the Gala on January 29th, tickets are available. Vendor registration is open for Wakulla Wonderful on March 14th at the Extension office. Continuing to work on the community pride project and is planning to host a 3rd annual Senior night at Senior center. Check out podcast on YouTube.

Stacey Bian (DISC Village): Provided an overview of substance use treatment, prevention, and youth services available through Disc Village.

Patrick Allison (Caroline's Agape Project): Reported on food deliveries with Wakulla Giving Hands for the homeless population in Wakulla and Leon County. Met with someone to start a non-profit in Tallahassee to do similar work in Leon County. Also working closely with the chamber to start a non-profit resource group on February 14th. Also announced to start a pinwheel garden to raise support for child abuse prevention.

Sgt Feinberg and 1 Lt. Knight (Night Vision/FLANG): Nothing new to update.

Taylor Caswell (Big Bend AHEC): Announced *Quit Smoking Now* classes scheduled for January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026 from 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the Wakulla County Public Library. Classes are open to adults 18 years and older and Participants receive a \$25 Walmart gift card per session, with a \$50 gift card awarded for attendance at all four sessions.

Lottie Roy (LWREA): Reported that 5th grade essay contest is underway, essays are due January 30th. LWREA has two scholarships available for a high school senior who is pursuing education and an active teacher continuing to pursue education. Alpha Delta Kapa scholarships are available for a student who is a current education major. LWREA and Alpha Delta Kapa will be participating in in Valentines Day Parade.

Bonnie Wertenberger (FSU FCPR): Reported that she got certified to teach the teen program curriculum. Offering as a service at FCPR.

Stephanie Cash (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf): Reported on filling the Wakulla County Base home visitor position.

Rev. Renita Dixon (Unity in the Community): Reported they are hoping to expand the group they are working with to grow in the Wakulla area.

Rebecca Sahar moved to adjourn the meeting. Caden Gruebel seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Next Meeting

February 4, 2026, at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually