



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 04/01/26 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* James Lewis

In Attendance

James Lewis, Karen Zak, Carl Roach, Caden Gruebel, Amanda Gruebel, Chandra Godwin, Katie Walker, Lottie Roy, Eddie Hand, Stacey Bian, Mattie Barrett, Stephanie Cash, Tamika Rich, Yolanda Carlson, Emily Kohler, Matthew Carter, 1Lt Jelissa Knight, Amy Frazier, Karley Gordon, Kaizsa Threatt, Angela Hicks

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 2026 Meeting – A motion was made by Caden Gruebel and seconded by Amanda Gruebel to approve. The motion carried.

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- Reviewed the two primary grant goals:
 - Establishing and strengthening community collaboration, accomplished through work with WCCY.
 - Reducing youth substance use, addressed through multiple prevention strategies.
- Highlighted implementation of the Too Good for Drugs curriculum:
 - Delivered in partnership with Coast Charter School.
 - Curriculum taught to all 5th–8th grade students.
 - Four lessons completed so far covering:
 1. Goal setting
 2. Responsible decision-making
 3. Emotions
 4. Effective communication
 - Six lessons remain and will continue through May.
- Shared plans to partner again with Wakulla 4-H and Sunchaser CrossFit:
 - Too Good for Drugs will be taught during three weeks of summer camp.
 - This will help increase participation numbers for the end-of-Year 3 grant report.
- **Social Norms Campaign:**
 - Announced the start of planning for a **new social norms campaign**.
 - Proposed hosting a **Zoom meeting** to review and discuss the social norms campaign developed in partnership with **MSU's College of Communication**.
 - Purpose of the meeting:
 1. Review proposed campaign materials.
 2. Gather input from coalition members.
 3. Begin shaping the **Year Four campaign**.
 - Zoom meeting scheduled for:
 1. **April 28th at 10:00 a.m.**
 - Interested members were asked to email **hello@wccy.org** to receive a calendar invitation.
- **Reporting & Budget Updates:**
 - Confirmed that the mid-year report and Year Four budget have been submitted.

- Once approved, documents will be available for review upon request.
- Members will be notified once approvals are finalized.
- **Future Leaders of Wakulla Update:**
 - Provided an update on Future Leaders of Wakulla (FLOW):
 1. A youth-led branch of the coalition.
 2. Partnership between WCCY and Wakulla 4-H.
 - Described FLOW's community-focused project for the year:
 1. "Prevention Before Intervention"
 - Project overview:
 1. A Teen Town Hall to be held at the Extension Office on May 16th.
 2. Goal is to shift focus from reacting to problems after they occur to preventing issues before they start, particularly substance use.
 - Event details:
 1. A DEA agent will provide a presentation and resources for youth.
 2. Community attendance and support requested from:
 - a. Elected officials
 - b. Sheriff's Office
 - c. DISC Village
 - d. Florida National Guard
 3. Middle and high school clubs
 - Coalition members will be contacted to:
 1. Coordinate logistics.
 2. Participate in upcoming Zoom planning calls.
 - Shared full-day event plan:
 1. Teen Town Hall
 2. Dinner provided for attendees
 3. Followed by a Safe Space Dance (supervised youth dance/event)
 - Identified needs:
 1. Funding for event t-shirts
 2. Support for food costs
 - Members interested in donating or supporting the event were encouraged to contact:
 1. Karen Zak: hello@wccy.org
 2. Rachel Pienta at the Extension Office

2. Kimberly Mattox on Fundraising Committee Update:

- **Firehouse Subs Share Night:**
 - WCCY held its first Share night with Firehouse Subs in Crawfordville on 03/29/26. During the Share night we had a bake sale and raised \$131 in cash and \$30 was donated to us by using the QR Code totaling \$161 from the bake sale alone. The district manager is finalizing what the sales were for that night and will let us know what that donation would be we expect a good turnout as many orders were taken during the hours of the share night. As soon as we have the full total, we will provide that with you.
- **Champions for Change Brunch:**
 - WCCY will be hosting the Champions for Change Brunch on May 2, 2026, at the Wakulla Community Center (Crawfordville Room) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event will honor youth volunteers, adult volunteers, and volunteers who have passed on, all of whom have made a meaningful and lasting impact in Wakulla County. This event will include brunch and a silent auction. The fundraising committee is actively working to secure event sponsors and in-kind donations to support this celebration.
 - Please reach out to Karen if you would like to nominate a volunteer and she will provide the link to the google form to place your nominations. Nominations due by 4/15/2026. Buy your tickets for the event by 4/17/2026.
 - Confirmed In-Kind Donations to Date:

- Firehouse Subs has generously committed to donating:
 - · 50 subs
 - · 50 bags of chips
 - · 4 dozen cookies
 - · 2 gallons of tea
- Dunkin' Donuts has generously committed to donating:
 - · Boxed coffee along with sugar, creamers, coffee stirrers
- Gulf Specimen Aquarium
 - · 14 Passes to the Aquarium
 - · 1 Fahlo Stuffed Manatee- Follow a Manatee on a 3D tracking map!
- O'Rileys Auto Parts
 - · Chemical Guy's Car Wash Bucket worth \$50
- Hair It Is by Suzuane
 - · \$50 donation
- Wakulla High School Catering
 - · Will be assisting with providing catering services for a small fee while providing the students more experience with catering events!
- Lamar Advertising Company of Tallahassee (Chad Oaks)
 - · Run our flyer on the billboard next to Hardee's from 4/6- 5/2
- Mike's Feed Store will be sponsoring the event
- LWREA
 - · \$75 donation
 - · 5 cases of water for the event
- North West Florida Learning Center
 - · \$ Donation
- Anonymous Donator
 - · Shakespeare Saltwater Fishing Pole (\$60)
 - · Plano 22 Piece Saltwater Tackle box with tackle (\$63 Value)
 - · Fishing Accessories (\$17)
- FSU Health
 - · Partnering with WCCY in the rental of the Wakulla Community Center Crawfordville Room for the event worth \$250
- The Wakulla Sun
 - · Advertisement in the Neighbor Paper in March and April
- Lamar Advertising Company of Tallahassee
 - · Chad Oaks is providing digital billboard advertisement at the billboard near Hardees on Crawfordville Highway on both sides from April 6th until the date of the event!
- Community Partnership Fundraisers
 - No updates, waiting to hear back from DQ, and Zaxby's
- Sponsorship & In-Kind Support Opportunities
 - Individuals or organizations interested in sponsoring an event or providing in-kind donations—either for food or silent auction items—are encouraged to reach out to Kimberly or Lottie for more information.
- Upcoming Events
 - Looking ahead, WCCY is planning a Back-to-School Event prior to the start of the school year. This event is expected to include fun and engaging activities such as basketball, volleyball, pickleball, or similar recreational options (details to be determined). More information will be shared as planning continues.
- The Fundraising Committee appreciates the continued support of our community partners and looks forward to building this momentum in the months ahead. If you would like to attend or join the fundraising committee, our next meeting is 03/13/26 at 11:00 am.

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:

Lottie presented the quarterly financial report covering December through February, dated March 4, with a beginning balance of \$4,026.77. During this period, a total of \$390 in donations was collected from WCCY members. As referenced in prior meeting minutes, these funds were combined with an additional contribution from the coalition, and an extra \$10 was added to round the total to an even \$500, which was then donated to Operation Wakulla. Expenses for the quarter included standard operational costs such as monthly bank maintenance fees totaling \$45, a Sunbiz registration fee of \$61.25, and the annual P.O. Box renewal fee of \$69.15. All expenses and checks, including the \$500 donation, have cleared the account, and the account remains in good standing. Lottie noted that donations and sponsorships have been coming in slowly but steadily, including a recent contribution from Hair by Suzanne and a \$75 sponsorship from the Leon-Wakulla Retired Educators Association. Additionally, the coalition received 10 passes to the Gulf Specimen Aquarium for future use. She reported that the new Elavon online donation platform is now fully connected to the coalition's bank account, with the organization's debit card on file to process transactions. Finally, she confirmed that the coalition's mailbox has been checked and is currently empty, with all items accounted for.

Partner Reports

Chandra Godwin (FL Dept of Health/SWAT): Provided an update as the program enters its final quarter. Upcoming activities include Chalk the Walk events at local middle and high schools, which have generated strong student engagement and enthusiasm. An additional community event, *It's Fun to Be Tobacco-Free*, will be held at Coast Charter School on May 7, featuring sports activities, arts and crafts, and interactive programming. SWAT student membership continues to grow, and encouragement was extended for continued community support in promoting tobacco-free lifestyles among youth and families.

Caden Gruebel (Future Leaders of Wakulla/4H): Shared recent accomplishments and upcoming opportunities. Caden and Emily Zak attended 4-H Ignite in Washington, D.C., where they led sessions on youth voice and podcasting and participated in workshops. As a result of this work, they were personally invited to present three workshops at 4-H University in Gainesville later this summer. While in Washington, they also pitched a project focused on expanding opportunities for youth in the community and were invited to apply for further development, with plans to submit the application in the coming weeks. Caden thanked partners for their continued support of 4-H and reminded members that summer camp registration is underway, encouraging interested families to contact Christy Pearson for more information.

Stacey Bian (DISC Village): An update was provided on the launch of a **24/7 peer support line** available to both youth and adults in the community. The peer line operates **24 hours a day, seven days a week**, allowing anyone to call at any time and speak with a trained team member. Callers receive assistance with a range of needs, including housing, food access, mental health concerns, substance use, and general support, with some individuals calling simply to talk. The service is **free and open to all community members**. Outreach efforts are underway, with flyers posted in locations such

as urgent care facilities and plans to add additional locations, including the library. Members were encouraged to share the resource and display flyers in any appropriate community spaces.

Katie Walker (FSU FCPR): An update was shared regarding a new partnership between FCPR, the College of Medicine, and the Department of Geriatrics to support the broader Wakulla community. This collaboration is launching the Wakulla County Healthy Aging Series, which is being held at the library. The series features educational sessions on a variety of healthy aging topics and will take place over the coming months, with upcoming dates scheduled for April 10, May 1, and June 5. Members were invited to pick up a flyer and help spread the word about this community-focused initiative.

Carl Roach (CareerSource): An update was provided regarding the relocation of the Wakulla office to 1616 Crawfordville Highway, located at the North Point Center near the Marathon on Bloxham. Staff have settled into the new location, and community traffic has already been established as awareness of the move continues to grow. Additionally, an upcoming Find a Job Friday event was announced, taking place at the Leon County location on April 10 from 9:00–11:00 a.m. No further updates were shared at this time.

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library): An update was provided regarding staffing and upcoming programming. Lauren, who has been a part of the youth programming team, will be leaving her role to become a stay-at-home parent. A replacement has already been secured, and Naomi, a longtime volunteer who previously served in another county office, will be transitioning into the position. Attendees were advised that regular programs continue as scheduled and are listed on the organization's calendar. A Spring Open House, themed Dr. Seuss, is planned for April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with partner organizations invited to participate by hosting information tables. The availability of READ therapy dogs on that date remains uncertain and will be confirmed closer to the event. Additionally, a monthly Family Game Night will be held on April 24 beginning at 4:00 p.m., featuring Nintendo Switch games, large interactive games from the Library of Things, and other group activities.

Eddie Hand (Wakulla Co School Board): An update was provided on the All Pro Dads program, which has been successfully launched in all elementary schools and continues to perform well. Plans are underway to explore expansion into the middle schools, either in the upcoming year or the following year. It was also shared that the speaker serves as the team captain for Shadeville, where Fist Bump Fridays have been implemented to encourage and energize students at the start of the school day. This initiative has been held twice so far and will continue, including planned efforts during state testing periods, to help students feel motivated and supported throughout the testing process.

Mattie Barrett (Chrysalis Health): Chrysalis Health provides a range of services, including outpatient therapy, substance abuse counseling, targeted case management, and psychiatric services, serving clients ages three and older. Services are offered in clinical settings as well as through community-based and ambulatory care, including schools, homes, aftercare programs, nursing homes, and daycare settings. Chrysalis Health accepts Medicare, Medicaid, commercial insurance, and offers a sliding fee scale. Contact information was shared in the chat, and appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to join the coalition and learn more about the Wakulla community.

Stephanie Cash (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf): An update was provided on the Healthy Families Franklin–Wakulla–Gulf Home Visiting Program, which offers voluntary, free in-home parent support and education services to families in the Franklin, Wakulla, and Gulf service areas. Members were reminded that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, symbolized by blue pinwheels, representing the hope for safe, healthy, and happy childhoods for all children. Opportunities to get involved were shared, including resources and a downloadable toolkit available through Prevent Child Abuse Florida, highlighting ways individuals and organizations can support prevention efforts within the community.

Tamika Rich (Wakulla County Christian Coalition): An announcement was shared regarding the review of applications for two scholarships to be awarded in May. Community members were reminded that applications are still being accepted through April 11. Eligible applicants include high school seniors in Wakulla County, including students at Wakulla Christian School and Wakulla High School, as well as individuals pursuing a GED who are seeking financial assistance to support their educational goals. Members were encouraged to help spread the word to ensure eligible students are aware of the opportunity.

Lottie Roy (LWREA): An announcement was made that the fifth-grade essay contest has concluded, with Shadeville Elementary earning second place this year following increased competition from Killarney Lakes. Additionally, due to an especially strong submission, an Honorable Mention award was introduced for the first time, which was also awarded to a student from Shadeville Elementary. An ice cream social will be held on April 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Temple Israel on Mahan, where the students will read their essays. Parents, family members, school administrators, and teachers have been invited to attend, with teachers also recognized during the event. Coalition members were invited to attend as well.

Yolanda Carlson (NWF Health): Serving as the Bilingual Community Relations Specialist for Circuit 2, provided an update on upcoming NWF Health Expos. The next expo will be held in Carrabelle, with flyers shared for distribution, particularly for partners serving that area. Additional expos are scheduled for April 29 in Leon County and May 13 in Franklin County at Weems Hospital. Each event will feature a CORE Network table, offering an opportunity to learn more about CORE Network services across the region. Plans were also shared to host a future NWF Health Expo with the CORE Network in Wakulla County following coordination with the Wakulla Sheriff's Office. Information about NWF Health Connects, a resource tool to help locate free or sliding-scale services, was shared in the chat, and members were encouraged to verify their organization's inclusion or reach out to be added.

Emily Kohler (Big Bend AHEC): An update was provided by the Big Bend Area Health Education Center Tobacco Program Manager. The recent gift card incentive period has concluded; however, the program continues to offer a free monthly tobacco-cessation class at the library, with the next session scheduled for April 7 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required, and participants receive free nicotine replacement therapy including patches, gum, and lozenges. Additional programming includes Tai Chi classes beginning in July at the Senior Center, diabetes education, and access to health insurance marketplace and Florida KidCare enrollment assistance. Tobacco education is also being provided to Wakulla High School science and medical academy students through a day-long presentation on the dangers of tobacco use. Members were reminded that tobacco treatment services are available within behavioral health and substance use disorder recovery facilities, including ongoing weekly classes at DISC Village in Woodville. All services are provided at no cost.

Matthew Carter (DJJ Circuit 2): A major update was shared regarding the implementation of Pre-Arrest Delinquency Citation services affecting Wakulla County youth. The program provides a non-criminal alternative for first-time youth misdemeanor offenders, allowing eligible youth to receive a citation rather than entering the juvenile delinquency system. Participants complete community service and are connected to supportive services such as counseling and substance use intervention to help prevent future delinquency. The department officially assumed responsibility for the program as of today, following the expiration of the previous service contract. Aside from this transition, operations continue as usual. It was also noted that there are currently vacancies for probation officer positions, and interested individuals are encouraged to inquire.

1Lt Jelissa Knight (FL Army National Guard): No new updates.

Amy Frazier (FL Dept of Health): No new updates.

Karley Gordon (Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center): An announcement was made regarding an upcoming Third Friday training scheduled for April 17, 2026, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. This month's session will provide participants with STAC Pro certification, offering a valuable professional credential for workplace and community engagement. The training is being hosted by STAC, the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and Leon County Schools. Registration details will be shared, and attendees were encouraged to reach out with any questions.

Kaizsa Threatt (MADD): An update was shared regarding upcoming Move Like MAD (formerly Walk Like MAD) programming. The 11th Annual Move With MAD event will be held on Friday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Safety Complex in Tallahassee. Organizations were invited to participate by hosting information tables, with additional sponsorship opportunities available. In May, the Ride Like MAD Challenge, a virtual statewide cycling challenge, will take place, encouraging participants to track miles in support of preventing impaired-driving fatalities among cyclists. A \$250 small-business sponsorship option is also available. It was further noted that the program remains available to provide presentations for elementary, middle, and high schools, including Power of Youth programming and Promposal events, focused on alcohol and drug prevention.

Angela Hicks (Capital Area Community Action Agency): No new updates.

Caden Gruebel moved to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Sahar seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:19 PM.

Next Meeting

May 6th, 2026 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually