



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 10/08/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

In Attendance

Jennifer Phillips, Bonnie Wertenberger, Rebecca Sahar, Lisa Sherry, Tammy Boone, Novella Franklin, Melonie Hendry, Amanda Madden, Caden Gruebel, Peggy Sullivan, Yolanda Carlson, Erika Jackson, Patrick Allison, Aaron Taylor, Emily Kohler, Graciela Marquina, Tamika Rich, Renita Dixon, Matthew Carter, Karley Gordon, Kimberly Mattox, Amy Frazier, Allison Leatzow

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes postponed due to the circumstances of the called special meeting.

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Caden Gruebel (Future Leaders of Wakulla/4H):

- Discussed the Wakulla County 4-H community pride project focused on addressing substance abuse stigma through peer conversations. He highlighted plans for a youth town hall in April and invited community organizations to collaborate. Additionally, he announced the Teen Leadership Summit on October 13th, featuring workshops for youth aged 11 to 18, with registration details provided.
- Community Pride Project and its focus on substance abuse conversations.
- Collaboration and networking among community organizations.

County Report

Josh Lawhon: Was not in attendance.

Sheriff Report

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

School District Report

No representative was present.

Treasurer Report

Lottie Roy: was not in attendance.

Partner Reports

Karley Gordon Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center: Karley provided a registration link and invited contributions for upcoming events.

Lisa Sherry (DISC Village): Detailed a wellness event scheduled for November 1st in Wakulla County, highlighting presentations and activities from various organizations.

Amanda Madden (Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition): Announced the Walk to Remember event on October 9th, which will include a dinner, resources for bereavement, and a candle walk.

Partner Reports Cont.

Yolanda Carlson (NWF Health): announced an expo in Liberty County on October 13th and emphasized the value of the NWF Health Connects resource guide for accessing local health resources. Yolanda Carlson highlighted her efforts at NWF to gather and share resources for families involved in foster and adoptive care, encouraging others to send her any relevant information.

Emily Kohler (Big Bend AHEC): discussed the ongoing Tobacco-Free Florida Group Quit Services classes and the potential for diabetes education activities at an upcoming event in November.

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla County Public Library): Shared information about the library's ongoing kids programs, highlighting the Read therapy dogs event this Saturday October 11th . She also discussed the trick-or-treat story walk on October 25th, mentioning the expected attendance of over 4,000 children and the increased number of vendors due to improvements at Hudson Park. Vendors were advised to contact Linda for more details.

Aaron Taylor: Red Ribbon Week will take place at the end of October, featuring a presentation of the new night vision program in schools. He also mentioned an advocacy day on November 17th, organized by CCA in Jacksonville, which aims to teach citizens how to lobby legislators. Participants were encouraged to reach out for more information and registration links.

Patrick Allison (Caroline's Agape Project): A nonprofit focused on helping homeless individuals connect with essential resources. Matthew Carter, the new Chief Probation Officer, asked about the age requirements for assistance, specifically regarding homeless youth, to which Patrick confirmed he could help those aged 17 and 18.

Graciela Marquina (Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center): Highlighted her organization's services for victims of labor and sex trafficking, emphasizing their commitment to assisting individuals regardless of age or background.

Renita Dixon (Unity in the Community): Shared her excitement about honoring the Youth Coalition at Unity in the Community and thanked those who participated in the event.

Bonnie Wertenberger (FSU Prevention Research): Acknowledged the support shown to Karen and her family, inviting anyone needing to communicate with Karen to reach out to her.

Jennifer Phillips (North Florida Learning Center): Jennifer Phillips highlighted the importance of candy donations for an upcoming community event and welcomed contributions from attendees. rsahar explained the logistics of candy distribution, noting that the library accepts donations and that State Farm representatives will assist in delivering candy to booths. They encouraged participants to communicate if they run out of supplies to ensure everyone has enough.

Amanda Madden (DOH Healthy Start): Amanda informed the group that Wakulla County will officially recognize October as SIDS Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, following approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

Jennifer Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:13PM.

Next Meeting

November 5, 2025 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually