



# WCCY MINUTES

## Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

*Date | time* 04/02/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

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### In Attendance

Karen Zak, Jennifer Phillips, Bonnie Wertenberger, James Lewis, Lottie Roy, Melonie Hendry, Caden Gruebel, Amanda Gruebel, Lisa Sherry, Anne Bozik, Amber Volano, Melanie Sanders, Novella Franklin, Kaizsa Threatt, Graciela Marquina, Margaret Waldbauer, Stephanie Cash, Tracey Robison, Kate Epperson, Lori Fewell, Emily Kohler, Olivia Piazza, Allison Leatzow, Josh Lawhon, Tammy Boone, Stacy Beckford

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### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March Meeting – Lottie Roy and Caden Gruebel Approved

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### Agenda Items/Presentation

#### 1. Jennifer Phillips on Vice President Nominations:

- James Lewis was nominated by Bonnie Wertenberger and Emily Kohler seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made.

A motion was made by Karen Zak to vote on the nomination and the motion was seconded by Lottie Roy.

Voting was conducted by in-person raise of hand/Zoom chat. The vote was as follows: 16 in favor and 0 opposed. James Lewis received all 16 votes and was unanimously elected as VP of WCCY. James accepted the position and will assume the office effective immediately.

#### 2. Caden Gruebel on Future Leaders of Wakulla:

- FLOW is coordinating with DOH for a youth bubble run on May 3rd, "Burst Out of Your Bubble."
- FLOW is also hosting a "safe space" dance for ages 11-16 on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM at the Extension office, "Dance Into the Decades."

#### 3. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- WCCY represented at Wakulla Wonderful and handed out 15 R&R guides and had three parents sign up to receive our emails.
- Submitted our proposal for the STOP Act grant (Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act) on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The STOP Act is only awarded to DFC grantees and focuses on the prevention and reduction of alcohol use among youth, as well as focuses on capacity building activities – less about our implementations and more about equipping people in our community to do the work.
- Teaching 'Too Good For Drugs' to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at COAST and currently on Lesson 6 of 10.
- Parent Information kiosk at the Library: April is Alcohol Awareness Month with NIAAA and so the information available will surround the topic of how parents can talk to their teens about alcohol as well as information for youth on why alcohol is dangerous/why it's important to avoid it and ways to say no.
- Poster #6 is ready for distribution and will be displayed until May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4. Jennifer Phillips on Bylaws Committee:

- Volunteers for committee: Jennifer Phillips, Rebecca Sahar, Lottie Roy, Regina McQueen, and Novella Franklin

- Revisions are in progress and a committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

5. **Jennifer Phillips on \*2024 Taxes:**

- Jennifer has a meeting with H&R Block and will provide an update afterward.

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## County Report

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**Josh Lawhon:** Provided a Letter of Commitment from the BOCC to FCPR in support of their proposal for the STOP Act grant.

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## Sheriff Report

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**Lt. Tom Mallon** was not in attendance.

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## School District Report

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No one from WCSB was in attendance.

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## Treasurer Report

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**Regina McQueen** was not in attendance.

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## Partner Reports

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**Amber Volano (211 Big Bend/Help Me Grow):** Provides free screenings to children 0-8 years old for behavioral and developmental concerns.

**Lottie Roy (LWREA):** Dahlia Hunt, a 5th-grade student at Shadeville Elementary, earned 1st place in the annual Florida Retired Educators Foundation essay competition. This year's theme invited students to share something meaningful they learned from a grandparent or grandparent-like figure. Dahlia's winning essay, titled "*Golf Cart Perseverance*," which reflected the life lessons she gained from her Papa. She was awarded a \$100 prize, and her teacher is Mr. Wallis.

**James Lewis (Wakulla DOH):** Wakulla County participated in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted by Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH), with focused efforts to boost local response rates. Approximately 220 surveys were completed by Wakulla residents, making up about 20% of total responses during the final weekend alone. TMH has confirmed these responses are specific to Wakulla County. In exchange for our support in promoting the survey, TMH will provide access to Wakulla-specific data. This information will be incorporated into our own Wakulla County Community Health Assessment, which is expected to be completed by year-end 2025.

**Jennifer Phillips (North Florida Learning Center):** STEAM Summer Camps will last six weeks Monday – Thursday starting in June for kids 7-12 years old, 9 AM – 4 PM, 1626 Crawfordville Hwy Suite C, for more information email: [info@northfloridalearningcenter.com](mailto:info@northfloridalearningcenter.com)

**Margaret Waldbauer (Wakulla DOH):** May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8-9 AM Bubble Run in partnership with FLOW; Family Fun Day is 4/26 in Hudson Park from 9 AM – Noon; DOH will have a booth at the Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy on 4/12; "Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens" talk at the Wakulla Co Public Library on 5/29 from 6-7 PM and attendees receive a free book.

**Melonie Hendry (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf):** Offers free home visiting for prenatal and postnatal mothers in the Wakulla health department. Will have a booth at Family Fun Day.

**Stephanie Cash (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf):** April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 15<sup>th</sup> is Children's Day at the Capitol for anyone interested in coming out to advocate for the importance of children and children's programs. Video on Child Abuse Prevention Month: <https://youtu.be/i8JcX0zg-FU?si=9Z2yZ-TkOWRFJAqJ>

**Emily Kohler (Big Bend AHEC):** Tobacco Cessation classes are available at the Wakulla Co Public Library in the evenings. Pre-registration is required and those interested may do so at: <https://tobaccofreeflorida.com/blog/smoking-support-group-calendar> or they may call their office. They also offer a Diabetes Education Empowerment Program: <https://tobaccofreeflorida.com/healthcare-providers/request-automated-referral-form>  
Health Insurance help is also available through the Affordable Care Act – call their office for more information.

**Anne Bozik (SEDNET):** Works with youth with emotional or behavioral disabilities or at-risk. Works on an IDEA funded project through DOE to work with communities or state agencies to provide training specific to behavior or specific to those who work with different populations. Contact for more information: [bozika@nefec.org](mailto:bozika@nefec.org) or 850-510-0855.

**Novella Franklin (Zeta Phi Beta):** No update, but if any agency needs volunteers please contact her at: [baizpresident@gmail.com](mailto:baizpresident@gmail.com)

**Lori Fewell (DCF Program Administrator for Wakulla/Franklin and Gadsden/Liberty):** No update. Contact [lori.fewell@myflfamilies.com](mailto:lori.fewell@myflfamilies.com) for any questions.

**Lisa Sherry (DISC Village):** Will have a booth at the Wakulla Co Public Library's Spring Open House on 4/5.

**Olivia Piazza (TMH/Safe Kids Big Bend Coalition):** Safe Kids Big Bend is a coalition that is focused on preventing or educating the community on preventable childhood injuries; established in Leon County, but expanding to Wakulla County. Next meeting is 4/17 and they meet every other month.

**Allison Leatzow (FSU CARD):** Provides support to individuals with autism of all ages, including children, teens, and adults, with no cut-off after high school. Services are available to families, schools, and the broader Wakulla County community, including regular visits to local elementary and preschool programs.

An event: *Kicking It for Autism*, is held annually in partnership with the FSU Women's Soccer Team and will take place on April 26 which includes a youth soccer clinic. The registration fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 on-site, with all proceeds supporting autism awareness and services. Contact: [aleatzow@fsu.edu](mailto:aleatzow@fsu.edu) for more information.

**Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library):**

Weekly Programs: Tuesdays - *Book Bunch* **10-11AM** for ages 2.5yrs through school age. Stories, songs, movement, & craft. Wednesdays - *Book Babies* **10-11AM** for ages newborn through 2.5 yrs. Stories, songs, movement, & socialization.

Through the month programs: *StarWars Spring Open House*, happening, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm the library opens their doors for their Spring Open house. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. There will be: opportunities to sign up for a library card (for residents only), learn about the many benefits the Library has to offer, photo opportunities with characters, food, a StoryTime with a special guest, GAMES (a few scheduled and top secret games), tattoos (temporary), Community Partners, a make and take craft \*All crafts and snacks are available while supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of WCPL.

*LEGO Club*, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Kids of all ages with adult caregiver. You bring the imagination and they provide the LEGOs.

*Math Night*, Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-6:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Mommy and Me Yoga*, Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 AM. Mommies with babies newborn through 2 yrs. Registration is required per session and can be found on the library website on the event calendar.

*Middle Manga*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of the month, April 10<sup>th</sup> 5-6 PM, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Japanese comic books and Anime club.

*Teen Manga*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, April 17<sup>th</sup> 5-6 PM, grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Japanese comic books and Anime club.

*TMH R.E.A.D. Therapy Dogs* 1 Saturday a month, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – NOON. This is a program through TMH that is dedicated to improving children's reading skills by using registered Pet Partner therapy teams as literacy mentors.

*Family Game Night*, 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month, April 25<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30 PM. You bring the family, and they will provide the games. Kids of all ages with adult caregiver welcome.

### Spring Kids Tech workshop:

*Beginners Coding using Scratch.* Each Wednesday evening (March 29<sup>th</sup>-April 23<sup>rd</sup>) from 4:30-5:30 PM. Registration was required and the workshop has already begun. This is a children's 5-week beginners level introduction to coding using Scratch & Java. Learn basic language of Coding using Java script. Build a game. Program a Sphero Bot. This coding workshop for kids is intended for kids ages 9+.

\*\*\*Urgent need: We are still searching for anyone who might be interested in making a donation to our Friend of the Library to help us register two LEGO Robotics teams (middle school ages) that will compete in the 2025-2026 First LEGO Robotic League. Please reach out to Mrs. Patty at [POWENS@MYWAKULLA.COM](mailto:POWENS@MYWAKULLA.COM) for details. This can be a tax-deductible donation.

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Jennifer Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Novella Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM.

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### Next Meeting

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May 7th, 2025 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually