



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 05/06/26 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | Meeting called to order by James Lewis

In Attendance (Zoom Only due to Power Issues at WCPL)

James Lewis, Karen Zak, Lisa Sherry, Bonnie Wertenberger, Kaizsa Threatt, Caden Gruebel, Kimberly Mattox, Lottie Roy, Rebecca Sahar, Tom Mallon, Chase Savary, Emily Kohler, Liz Neighbors, Maddie Barrett, Lt. Jelissa Knight, Chandra Godwin, Carl Roach, Stephanie Cash

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 2026 Meeting – A motion was made by Caden Gruebel and seconded by Lisa Sherry to approve. The motion carried.

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:
 - Continuing Too Good for Drugs at Coast Charter (5th–8th grade).
 - Program wraps in coming weeks as school ends.
 - Teaching at 4-H Summer Camp in partnership with Sun Chaser CrossFit (three weeks).
 - Teen Town Hall – May 16
 - Theme: *Prevention Before Intervention*
 - Panelists include: Stacey Bian (DISC Village), Gretchen Rovira (DEA Miami), Michelle Peltier (DOH), Sheriff Miller
 - Includes dinner + “Sunset Social” safe-space dance
 - Registration via QR code; event is free
 - Swag bags: Goal is 30 bags; donations requested
 - Action items:
 - Karen to send flyer to Kaizsa Threatt
 - Members encouraged to share event on social media and submit flyers for newsletter
2. Kimberly Mattox on Fundraising Committee Update:
 - Brunch event successful; sponsor thank-you submitted to newspaper.
 - Silent auction baskets (6 remaining) will be moved online for broader participation.
 - Committee will continue meeting (often at Myra Jean’s).
 - Seeking ideas for next fundraising event.
 - Action item: Members encouraged to join the fundraising committee.

County Report

Josh Lawhon was not in attendance.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon/Chase Savary:

- Busy May schedule.
- Golf Tournament (funds youth outreach) happening next day.
- Project Graduation on May 20; DOH will have a tent present.

School District Report

Simeon Nelson was not in attendance.

Treasurer Report

Lottie Roy:

Lottie reported that online sponsorships and donations do not immediately appear in the bank account because they remain pending until processed by individual credit card companies. As of the current treasurer's report, the coalition has collected **\$1,251** in brunch sponsorships, donations, and ticket sales, along with **\$100** from the Firehouse Share Night and additional revenue from the sale, bringing the total balance—including previous funds and new receipts—to approximately **\$4,973.37**. Recent disbursements included a **\$70 Sunbiz fee**, which renews annually from January to December, food purchases for the brunch, and Elevon online service fees of **\$170 for April** and **\$35 for May**. After subtracting these expenses, the working balance is approximately **\$4,469.89**. Lottie noted that the bank account does not yet match the bank statement because six transactions totaling three sponsorships and three donations are still pending, and an insurance check for **\$21.25** written two and a half weeks ago has not yet been cashed. A more complete and updated treasurer's report will be available at the June meeting. Lottie concluded by expressing appreciation for the success of the coalition's first fundraiser.

Partner Reports

Lisa Sherry (DISC Village): During coalition business, Lisa Sherry introduced the idea of partnering with Second Harvest of the Big Bend to bring Neighborhood Empowerment Resource Fairs (NERFs) to Wakulla County. These events provide free food and connect residents with nonprofit organizations offering resources, materials, and giveaways. Lisa explained that DOH is already a strong partner in other counties and asked whether the coalition would like to explore hosting similar events locally. Several members expressed interest, including Liz Neighbors and Kenny Manning, who noted that their existing outreach events could align well with NERFs. Liz Sherry requested contact emails so she could coordinate with James Lewis and schedule a planning meeting. James agreed to help organize next steps and identify a point of contact for the coalition.

Caden Gruebel (Future Leaders of Wakulla/4H): Caden reported that 4-H will hold a fundraiser at Dairy Queen on June 2 to support the Shotgun Club's trip to Nationals. Four youth will also be competing in the upcoming area horse show. Additionally, a collaborative Maker Derby is being developed with Wakulla STEM Club, Friends of the Library, and Extension, with classes planned to teach youth how to build and race model derby cars. Caden also received congratulations for his upcoming graduation and recognition as a Champion for Change.

Emily Kohler (Big Bend AHEC): Emily shared that tobacco cessation classes continue to be offered at the Wakulla Library on the first Tuesday of each month, providing free nicotine replacement therapy to adults. A Tai Chi program will begin in July at the Senior Center, and Florida KidCare assistance remains available for families seeking health coverage for children. Emily also recently completed a full day of tobacco education presentations for the Medical Academy at Wakulla High School.

Liz Neighbors (Wakulla DOH): Liz announced that a long-awaited Car Seat Technician Course will soon be offered through Safe Kids, with priority registration for DOH staff and the Sheriff's Office. The training will conclude with a community car seat safety event on June 29 at Fire Station 1. She also highlighted ongoing Healthy Start services for pregnant women and families with children up to age three, as well as the upcoming Tobacco-Free Partnership meeting on May 14.

Maddie Barrett (Chrysalis Health): Maddie shared that her focus for the summer months is connecting youth to mental health services while school is out. She has been reaching out to summer camps, after-school programs, and Vacation Bible Schools to ensure children can access therapy and medication management during the break.

Lt. Jelissa Knight (Florida Army National Guard): Lt. Knight did not have major updates but attended the meeting to stay connected with coalition activities.

Chandra Godwin (SWAT/Wakulla DOH): Chandra reported that SWAT recently completed Chalk the Walk events at all middle schools and the high school, with strong student participation. She is preparing for a community carnival on May 13 to give students a fun break after testing season. SWAT meetings will wrap up soon as the school year ends, with planning for next year already underway.

Lottie Roy (LWREA): Lottie recognized Teacher Appreciation Week and shared that the Wakulla Retired Educators Association recently held its volunteer luncheon, awarding two scholarships—one to a rising teacher from FSU and another to a veteran teacher pursuing a master's degree. She also thanked everyone for their support during the coalition's first fundraiser.

Carl Roach (CareerSource): Carl announced upcoming job fairs, including one at the Leon office on May 8 and open hours at the Wakulla Center on May 15. He is leading efforts to expand youth outreach, encouraging referrals for individuals ages 16–24 who may benefit from employment and training services.

Stephanie Cash (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf): Stephanie shared that Healthy Families Wakulla continues to offer free home-visiting services for expectant parents and families with children up to age five. The program is now fully staffed with two home visitors based at the Wakulla Health Department.

Kimberly Mattox (FSU Clinical Research Hub): Kimberly noted that several new research studies will soon be available in the county, including projects related to breastfeeding, infections, and RSV vaccinations. She will share more information as recruitment begins.

Caden Gruebel moved to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Sahar seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM.

Next Meeting

June 3 , 2026 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually