



WCCY MINUTES

Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

Date | time 03/05/2025 12:30 pm-1:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Jennifer Phillips

In Attendance

Karen Zak, Jennifer Phillips, Bonnie Wertenberger, Aaron Taylor, Lottie Roy, Laretta Compton, Jana McCommon, Melonie Hendry, Rebecca Sahar, Caden Gruebel, Amanda Gruebel, Karl Gruebel, Regina McQueen, Vickie Bell, Verna Brock, Tamara Lockley, Jenniffer Masters, Lisa Sherry, Amanda Madden, Anne Bozik, Karley Gordon, Amber Volano, Melanie Sanders, Novella Franklin, Yolanda Gillette-Carlson, Kaizsa Threatt, Graciela Marquina, Kenny Manning, Necia Little

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December Meeting – Lottie Roy and Rebecca Sahar Approved

Agenda Items/Presentation

1. Jennifer Phillips on Vice President Nominations:

- No one was nominated. We will continue this discussion next month.

2. Laretta Compton and Jenniffer Masters on Future Leaders of Wakulla:

- As a community project, FLOW collected hygiene items to be given to our students in Wakulla Co. The project name is "Fresh 'N Shine."
- Collections have now ended and thanks to contributions from the community, FLOW was able to collect 206 items.

3. Karen Zak on Drug-Free Communities Grant:

- FLOW will host a community-wide end of the year dance for youth in May at the Extension office.
- Teaching 'Too Good For Drugs' to 4th and 5th graders at COAST and currently on Lesson 4 of 10.
- Parent Information kiosk at the Library: theme will be "Planting Seeds of Greatness" and will be pulling information from Resiliency Florida for parents with reading lists.
- Poster #5 is ready for distribution and will be displayed until April 2nd.

4. Regina McQueen/Karen Zak on Fundraising Committee:

- Will meet to discuss fundraising opportunities and will bring discussion back to coalition

5. Jennifer Phillips on Bylaws Committee:

- Goal of committee is to update bylaws by April 1st
- Volunteers for committee: Jennifer Phillips, Rebecca Sahar, Lottie Roy, and Novella Franklin

County Report

Josh Lawhon was not in attendance.

Sheriff Report

Lt. Tom Mallon was not in attendance.

School District Report

Jana McCommon: Spring Break on 3/17-21, End of Nine Weeks is Friday before Spring Break, Law Enforcement Torch Run is 4/15 at 10 AM

Treasurer Report

Regina McQueen is meeting with David Conn to go over our coalition's tax information.

Partner Reports

Melonie Hendry (Healthy Families Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf): Offers free home visiting for prenatal and postnatal mothers

Lt. Aaron Taylor (Florida Army National Guard): Advocacy Day with Community Coalition Association in Jacksonville is 3/25 from 12 PM – 5 PM at the Tallahassee Armory and 3/26 at the Capitol; will have a booth at Wakulla Wonderful

Rebecca Sahar (Wakulla Co Public Library):

Weekly Programs: Tuesdays Book Bunch 10-11AM (2.5 years - Pre-K age); Wednesdays Book Babies 10-11AM (Newborn - 2.5 Years).

Monthly Programs: Thursday, March 6th - Math Night 5:30-6:30PM (2nd-8th grades) - Math concepts taught through gameplay; 2nd Thursday (3/13) - Middle Manga 5-6PM (5th-8th grades) – Manga & Anime Book Club for Middle Schoolers; 1st & 3rd Tuesdays – (3/18) Lego Club 4-5:30PM (All Ages) - We supply the Legos you bring the imagination; 3rd Thursday – (3/20) Teen Manga 5-6PM (9th-12th grades) - Manga & Anime Book Club for High Schoolers; 3/28 - Family Game Night 4-5:30PM (For Families) We supply the games and they bring the family.

Special Programs: Intro to Coding 3/11-14; Kids Tech 5-week Workshop for CodeCombat 4:30-5:30PM (School Age kids 9+) an educational video game that teaches computer science and programming languages through gameplay. 3/19-4/16 Mommy & Me Yoga (moms + babies; Newborn to 2yrs) at the community center on 3/7 and 3/8 and then they will be meeting at library; Open House/Star Wars Day is 4/5 from 9 AM -1 PM.

Lottie Roy (LWREA): One of Ms. Meyers' 5th grade students from Shadeville placed in the essay contest; Starting a Walk with a Doc team starting in September; LWREA has a scholarship program for a senior interested in a career in education, a teacher continuing education, and a college student enrolled in a college for education

Regina McQueen (Mobile Response Unit at Apalachee Center): Supports community with mental health services – “Same Day Access” program allows citizens to register online from home for mental health services (medication support, therapy support, etc). 1-800-342-0774 is the Mobile Response Team 24/7 mental health helpline.

Lauretta Compton (Wakulla 4-H): Wakulla Wonderful is March 8th to celebrate Wakulla's birthday

Jennifer Phillips (North Florida Learning Center): 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

Amanda Madden (Capital Area Healthy Start): Safe Sleep bags were given out at Valentine's Day festival that gives information to new or expecting mothers on safe sleeping for infants; will be at Family Fun Day on 4/26 with more education; Community Needs Assessment through TMH is available now.

Bonnie Wertenberger (FSU FCPR): Currently working on STOP Act grant proposal which is for DFC grantees only and focuses on alcohol prevention - proposal is due 3/17; graduated from the National Coalition Academy in January

Karen Nazworth (Big Bend AHEC): Tobacco Cessation Program 3/11 at Wakulla Library at 5:30 – 6:30 PM – for attending enrollees, they receive Walmart gift cards through June

Karley Gordon and Graciela Marquina (STAC): Third Friday March 21st from 1-2:30 PM – Part 2 of their Human Trafficking and Trauma training focused on how to be a trauma informed organization. Please email Karley@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org or robin@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org for more information or to have a HT training hosted by STAC for your organization.

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 or 850-510-0855.

Lisa Sherry (DISC Village): Collecting gently used men's clothing/shoes (casual/professional preferred but also taking jeans) for "Dress for Success." The goal is to help male clients reintegrate back into the community. Donations can be dropped off at the Wakulla DISC Village office. Lisa will be speaking to the Wakulla Optimist Club on May 1st at Myra Jeans about the opioid epidemic and safety around pain medication.

Novella Franklin (Zeta Phi Beta): Finer Womanhood Observance Month is March; ZPB will have a table at Wakulla Wonderful on 3/8; 3/14 is Movie Night; 3/15 Wakulla St. Patrick's Day Parade; Healthy Drive in 2025 is happening every Monday at 7 PM online and it's a check-in to talk about healthy eating and to have accountability; 3/20 is Game Night at FAMU; 3/22 is Fitness Night and they will be walking at Lake Ella; 3/26 Bowling at Galimore Lanes and Dinner at Olive Garden; 3/29 2nd Community-Wide Baby Shower to collect baby/child supplies for those in need at Wakulla Library and they are looking for sponsors to help.

Kenny Manning (Wakulla County Christian Coalition): Arthur Lee Andrews Scholarship application is due 4/5 and can be found here: <https://www.wcchristiancoaliti/on.com/arthurleeandrews>; will be at Wakulla Wonderful on 3/8 and has collaborated with 4-H for their Historical Project which will be on display; FRESH Back to School events will be coming up this summer before school starts on 8/11.

Yolanda Gillette-Carlson (Big Bend AHEC): Tobacco Cessation Classes are in English or Spanish, in-person or virtual. Attendees receive \$125 if they attend all 4 classes. For those who need help with health insurance, it is a "special enrollment" time for individuals who have had a change in circumstance – contact Yolanda for more information: ygillette@bigbendahec.org or 850.661.0120. Coming soon for seniors: Tai Chi program and "Bingo-cise" (combo of Bingo and Exercise).

Rebecca Sahar moved to adjourn the meeting. Regina McQueen seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Next Meeting

April 2nd, 2025 at 12:30 pm at Wakulla County Public Library & Virtually