

Hall County Commission for Children and Families

DRUG FREE COALITION OF HALL COUNTY

United Way of Hall County, Lower Conference Room

Minutes of the August 24, 2009 meeting

Coalition Members Attending: (=PRESENT, =ABSENT)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Banks	<input type="checkbox"/> Bekki Benton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Benton	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Brownell	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristie Burchett	<input type="checkbox"/> Sargeant Cliff Cagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Cooley
<input type="checkbox"/> Lora Cooley	<input type="checkbox"/> Erika Floyd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Ann Ligon	<input type="checkbox"/> Orisa Durggin
<input type="checkbox"/> Ava Goble	<input type="checkbox"/> Tess Guilfoile	<input type="checkbox"/> Betty Guilfoile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/> Candy Hicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Brianna Holcomb	<input type="checkbox"/> Elaine Hortman	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge Cliff Jolliff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karla Jordan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hall Co. Sheriff office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caro Landers	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Beth Little
<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Neff	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Norton	<input type="checkbox"/> Kathy Norton	<input type="checkbox"/> Rodney Osborne
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angel Randolph	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sylvia Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Rudeseal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Shepherd	<input type="checkbox"/> John Sisk	<input type="checkbox"/> David Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> Darby Thompson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Vinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Ware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Webster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lizzie Webster
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Webster	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. David Westfall	<input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Williams
<input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Woodard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASA / Connie Stephens		

Guests Present: Paula Semple; Donna Scohier; George Wangemann; Bay Nixon

6:15 - 6:30 PM (15 minutes)

- A. Eat and Greet (pizza and salad provided)
- o Networking

6:30 – 6:45 PM (15 minutes)

- B. Call to order / Business, JP Banks
- o Welcome guests and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

JP introduced Connie Stephens, Hall/Dawson CASA, Executive Director (a new member of the Coalition); George Wangemann, Gainesville City Council Member; Paula Sample and Donna Scohier of Georgia Family Connection Partnership; Carol Ann Ligon, Safe and Drug Free Schools, (a new member of the Coalition); and Bay Nixon, a new student member from Lakeview Academy.

- o Review / approve agenda for August 24th meeting, and minutes of the May 18th meeting; Judy Brownell moved; Mary Parks 2nd, and all approved with no changes made.

6:45 – 7:00 PM (15 minutes)

- C. Workgroup Reports
- o Parent/Adult Messaging, Jody Cooley, Chair

The billboards went up in the week of July 4th. Although there is no way to totally measure the effectiveness of billboards, positive comments are being heard by coalition members. In addition, there have been seventeen respondents to the website poll regarding the billboards. All but one agreed that Hall County has a drug problem and alcohol and marijuana being the biggest problems. JP reported the sports banners are

being designed and will be reviewed at the next PMWG meeting. The next meeting of this work group is being scheduled in a few weeks. Jody met with Merrienne Dyer, Supt. of Gainesville City Schools, about drug testing GHS students, and she did not express an interest in pursuing same at this time.

The Back-to-School Rally was a huge success. Although geared primarily for students, the two events for parents were well attended. Over 600 book bags and supplies were distributed through United Way's "Stuff the Bus" campaign. The crowd was very large and well behaved, but backpacks ran out before everyone got one. The day was quite hot, which made folks waiting in line for the supplies very uncomfortable. Several coalition members (Carol Ann Ligon, Mary Parks, Caro Landers, and Pat Ware) were there to help with the day's activities.

Suggestions for next year's rally are: to give the bags/supplies out at the end of the day's planned activities; offer a family pass to Lake Lanier Islands for families who follow through with their children completing the school year in good standing and drug free - coordinate that effort through the school counselors.

- Steering Committee, Betty Guilfoile, Chair

The Steering Committee did not have their usual planning meeting prior to the August Coalition meeting due to scheduling conflicts. However, they had met recently to review the Coalition Evaluation Plan and begin planning for the October 19th Coalition retreat. They have also prepared for a meeting next week with the grant's Federal Project Officer from SAMHSA.

- 7:00 – 7:15 PM (15 minutes)
- D. Coordinator Report, JP Banks

JP reported:

- The billboards are up and the movement from one location to another has begun.
- With the assistance of Sylvia Rodriguez, a student drug free coalition is being formed at Gainesville College. JP had an initial meeting with Sylvia and one student in July where they brainstormed ideas. A meeting with a group of interested students is scheduled for Sep.16th. A representative from this group will begin attending the Coalition monthly meetings.
- Hall/Dawson CASA has joined the Coalition. Connie Stephens, Exec. Director, and the office manager (Lisa Mc.) will rotate attendance at the meetings. CASA has offered use of their new building's conference room for special occasions.
- Rebecca Davis, Exec. Director of the Children's Center for Hope and Healing is about to join the Coalition.
- Presentations are scheduled for the school counselors, psychologists, and social workers groups within both the Hall County and Gainesville City School districts.
- SAMHSA has approved the transfer of un-used salary fund from October 2008 (JP was hired Nov. 1) and a contracted services line-item for student data input to purchase Red Ribbon Supplies for the County and City school districts. Both districts had to cut these supplies from their budgets. JP will be ordering supplies for the schools and supervising distribution for the Oct 23-31 week of events. He will notify the members of the Coalition regarding additional supplies for their use.
- Collaboration with MADD GA has been established. There is not a chapter in Hall County. Thus, the new relationship with the state group. JP reported that

MADD GA will provide free red ribbons for car antenna to any school that asks. JP has shared the contact info with both city and county schools.

- CADCA, the national association of Drug Free Communities has recently signed an agreement with LIONS Clubs International. JP asked for personal contacts with the Hall County clubs so we can pursue collaboration.
- JP and Ann Price, Coalition Evaluator, attended the CADCA training in Louisville, KY July 26-30. This was the last of 3 required trainings for first year grantees. JP made a required presentation regarding the works to-date of the Drug Free Coalition of Hall County to a panel of experts. It was very well received.
- In speaking with the Project Officer from SAMHSA, JP has learned that he believes the current group of first year grantees (3 n GA), are ahead of the curve / game as compared with first year grantees from previous years.
- JP was on vacation in Uzbekistan August 1-15.

7:15 – 8:00 PM (45 minutes)

A. Cultural Diversity Through Your Own Filter

- Presentation by Paula Semple, Facilitator, Region 3, Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Ms. Semple conducted a revealing activity to help coalition members think about our diversity and how our cultures are formed. She asked each member to use crayons and to draw their view on a coffee filter. She pointed out that culture is more than race. It is the sum of who we are and what has influenced our lives and how we view our world. Her point is we view our world based on the (filtered) lens through which we view the world. SAMSHA encourages cultural diversity of its membership. There was a time for questions and answers following her presentation.

8:20 PM

B. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.