

Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 ☺ 10:30am – 12:00am

Partnership for Community Action –Tucker, Georgia

MINUTES

Present (*On Site*): Rutha Turner, DeKalb Community Service Board; Debbie Connell, South GA Regional Prevention Coalition/DFCS; Astrid Wilkie-McKellar, DeKalb County Board of Health/Safe Kids; Larry Poole, Family Nurturing Center; Fernanda Fuentes and Karelis Ferrer, CEPTA Inc.; Lori Ann McCaslin; Linda Ashley, Learn to Grow, Inc; Yotin Srivanjarean & Prisca Kim, Center for Pan Asian Community Services; Gregg Raduka and Simone Powell, TCAD/Georgia Underage Drinking Initiative; B. Thurya Wingate, DeKalb Prevention Alliance.

Present (*On Phone*): Becky Croft, Region 1 Prevention Specialist (NW GA Area); Christine Saunders, East Point Community Action Team; Kristie Burchett, Region 2 Prevention Specialist (NE area of GA); Amanda Bryant, Douglas C.O.R.E.- Community Organizing Resources for Excellence! Inc.; Griffin Lotson, Sam's Memorial & 1st Vice President; Marie Bryant, TCAD/Georgia Underage Drinking Initiative, South Georgia Coordinator; Leanne Henry Miller, Oglethorpe University; Emma F. Sinkfield, Family Connection Warren County; Afiya King, TCAD/Project Coordinator - Cobb and Douglas Alcohol Policy Program (CDAPP)

Regrets: Cathy Finck; Joanna Crews

Absent: Ed Deming

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:35 am.

II. Opening Inspiration/Meditation. Becky Croft read an inspiration from *Apples of Gold* re if there is righteousness in the heart...

III. Welcome & Introductions. The Chair extended a warm welcome to all followed by introductions by all present.

IV. Review of August 5, 2009 Meeting Minutes. S. Powell stated that she had not completed the Committee Chairs Directory, but that she will do so and e-mail to everyone prior to the next meeting. [action] G. Lotson moved to accept the minutes as disseminated; second by Debbie Connell. Motion carried by consensus.

V. Committee Updates

A. Strategic Planning. S. Powell reported on behalf of C. Finck. Dr. Strasser and Cathy Finck have worked to develop the surveys and they will be sent for completion to the list serve before the next scheduled Coalition meeting in December. T. Wingate stated that the surveys were reviewed in-depth by the Board who approved minor revisions made to the surveys and they are now ready to go live

B. By-Laws Committee. The first draft of the By-Laws were disseminated for review. G. Lotson, who took the lead on this activity re-emphasized that the By-Laws is a dynamic document that can be revised by the membership at any time; therefore, he would like to move forward with completion and approval of the By-Laws as soon as possible. He further stated that the By-Laws were developed based on Ohio Safe Kids Coalition By-Laws, The Non-Profit Center and the work of John Carver, as well as his own experience. T. Wingate stated that the process for review and approval of the By-Laws will be done Article by Article. Thurya further stated that the Preamble will be developed later. Since Articles 1 and 2 were previously approved by the membership, the review began with:

- **Article 3. Membership and Fee Assessment**

- Article 3.1 Membership was approved as written.
- Article 3.2 Membership Categories. Yotin recommended that all 12 community sectors, as well as parents of youth, be listed. The intent is to be inclusive and ensure that no one desiring to be a member is denied membership who is a resident of the state. G. Lotson stated that membership should not be limited to the 12 sectors. A. Wilkie-McKeller stated that if we list the categories then there should be a different membership fee for each category. **[action]**
- Article 3.3 Fee Assessment. Okay as is; but develop fee structure as per above recommendation. Considerable discussion ensued about when to assess membership fees. The chair stated her belief that the timing is not right now due to the economy, downsizing, furlough days, etc. G. Raduka suggested assessing a minimal fee of \$10 that could be implemented now to raise some funds for expenses. G. Lotson suggested that we move forward with developing the structure and address this in more detail later. A. Wilkie-McKeller stated that if we determine the fee structure now, it can be included in budgets for grants and contracts and will be helpful for agencies to consider when preparing their budgets. She further stated that some agencies may not be able to pay or support membership fees at this time and asked the question in that case, would the member be considered as an individual member or agency member? The membership agreed that this is not the best time to assess membership fees; however, we should develop the structure so we will have something place when the time is right. The treasurer will be asked to develop a draft fee structure. **[action]**

- **Article 4. Organization Structure and Governance**

- Article 4.1 Organization Structure Okay as is.
- Article 4.2 Officers of the Board of Directors. L. Ashley asked if the first Vice Chair will be a part of the Officers of the Board. The response by the chair was yes. The establishment of a Chair, Chair-Elect and Immediate Past Chair was to assist in providing continuity of leadership of the coalition. (Note: this needs to be discussed in more detail to assure that the intent is clearly understood.) **[action]**

- At this point, L. Poole stated that this process is very time consuming and may require more than this meeting to accomplish the goal. He suggested that all members review

the 1st Draft of the By-Laws at length and provide comments, suggestions or concerns to Griffin and Thurya for review and incorporation of changes. This suggestion was accepted by consensus of the participating members. A request was made to send any changes, comments, questions, etc to Thurya by the first week of November. She will incorporate the changes into a 2nd Draft for action at the December meeting. **[action]**

- G. Raduka suggested that the GA Initiative staff be listed as ex-officio members because of voting rights. T. Wingate stated that since the coalition is striving to become an independent entity and currently we are all serving as volunteers, the Initiative staff should have the same rights of membership as everyone else. G. Lotson stated that we needed to complete the By-Laws so we can proceed with applying for 501(c) 3 status to secure funds to recruit and hire staff and advance the mission of The Coalition. During the ensuing conversation, Yotin stressed his concern that once we receive 501(c) 3 status, The Council becomes the fiscal agent for the coalition to financial purposes. Thurya suggested The Coalition engage in a facilitated dialogue on this important issue. **[action]**

VI. Comments by the Membership

- ✓ G. Lotson – has served as an advocate for prevention for over 2 decades. Some of their money for prevention has been cut at the state level. Suggested that we develop some type of advocacy efforts for prevention efforts in the state
- ✓ E. Sinkfield – appreciate the fact that there is a coalition out here fighting for drug prevention; in Lawrence County they flunked the compliance check
- ✓ T. Wingate – stated that The Coalition needs to develop a list of common terminology regarding definition of prevention, advocacy/education vs. lobby; etc., so we are all on the same page in our conversations
- ✓ T. Wingate – stated that she hopes we can have at least two face-to-face meetings per year, so we can get to know one another, establish rapport and build relationship
- ✓ L. Poole – stated he appreciates Thurya’s leadership and the direction The Coalition is going
- ✓ C Saunders – suggested using SKYPE for our meetings. This will allow us to at least see one another.
- ✓ G. Raduka spoke again of \$2,000 being available for the Coalition from the Initiative contract for a tangible project. Dr. Raduka gave several examples of such projects.

VII. Announcements

- L. Poole - Family Nurturing Center of GA providing training for two anti-drug marches -- Steven County AntiDrug Coalition 2nd annual community-wide march; Habersham County having one a week later. White County wants to do it next year. October 17th in Toccoa at 11am and October 24th in Cornelia Habersham County.
- Yotin – Center for Pan Asian Community Services hosting their annual TEA walk, October 10th at 10am
- S. Powell – 2nd Annual Kick-Off for Georgia’s Red Ribbon Campaign, Tuesday, October 20th, 10:30am, at Centennial Olympic Park. Requested membership sends their Red Ribbon activities to her for dissemination to the membership.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Simone Powell and Thurya Wingate