

Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 10:00am – 11:30am

at the

Partnership for Community Action

815 Park North Boulevard

Clarkston, GA 30021

MINUTES

Present (on site): Britt Wood, Troup County Prevention Coalition; Mandy Hill, Troup County Prevention Coalition; Kay Manning, TCAD; Joanna Crews, Kids Matter; Rutha Turner, DeKalb Community Service Board; Yotin Srivanjarean, Center for Pan Asian Community Service; Brenda Taylor-Hines, DeKalb Prevention Alliance; Debbie Connell, South Georgia Prevention/DFCS; Cathy Finck, Cobb Community Collaborative; Astride Wilke-McKellar, DeKalb County Board of Health; Thurya Wingate, DeKalb Prevention Alliance; Simone Powell, the Council on Alcohol & Drugs.

Present (call-in): Rachel Brantley, South Side Recreation Center; Marie Bryant, the Council on Alcohol & Drugs; Barbara Jones, Office of Highway Safety; Linda Ashley, Learn to Grow, Inc; Helen Morgan Fulton County Dept of Health; Kimberly Fluellen, GA DHR; J. P. Banks, Drug Free Coalition Hall County; Mr. Chin, Center for Pan Asian Community Service; Griffin Lotson, Sam's Memorial; Jessica Landreth, Camden Children Alliance;

Regrets: Gregg Raduka, Georgia Initiative to Prevent Underage Drinking; Dr. Strasser, Evaluator.

I. Call to Order. T. Wingate called the meeting to order at 10:30a.m.

II. Opening Inspiration. Mandy Hill expressed her sentiments “as excited to be here and what the coalition is doing and its plans across the state to do some good and make some shifts.”

III. Welcome and Introductions. The chair thanked everyone for taking time to participate either in person or via the phone. Everyone introduced themselves including those via teleconference.

IV. Review of March Coalition Meeting Minutes. C. Finck made a comment on Page 3 that while there were suggestions, not action was taken. The chair reminded all of the need to identify youth to serve on committees. Motion made by C. Finck to accept minutes as distributed. R. Turner seconded – Motion carried by consensus.

V. Ratification of Board's Appointment of Emma Sinkfield as Parliamentarian. T. Wingate said that Ms. Sinkfield was highly recommended by the prevention specialist for Region 2. She was interviewed by C. Finck and T. Wingate at the annual meeting in

Macon. She has a wealth of experience in prevention, working with youth and in coalitions and partnerships. Based on her qualifications the Board agreed by consensus of those present at their May 27th meeting to offer her the appointment and asked the Coalition to ratify their action. Motion made by D. Connell to accept action taken by the Board; R. Turner seconded – Motion carried by consensus.

VI. Committee Updates.

- a. **By-Laws.** First Vice-Chair, G. Lotson reported that they are still working on getting the committee together and are still looking for volunteers. Interest has been expressed by parties from southeast Georgia who are interested in serving on this committee. It was mentioned that Cathy Windholt-McDade volunteered to chair this committee at the last coalition meeting and she should be contacted to see if she is still available to serve. Mandy Hill volunteered to work on this committee; her contact info is 706.302-2638; mhill@twincedar.org. Mr. Lotson said he would send out an e-mail to the membership and interested parties to recruit volunteers.
- b. **Strategic Planning.** C. Finck, Second Vice-Chair, is in need of volunteers. She expressed the need to develop a process to engage everyone in the process. Suggested holding some kind of retreat to work towards the planning. A. Wilke-McKellar volunteered to help move this process forward. A suggestion was made by the chair that this committee in particular need representation by Simone and/or Gregg.
- c. **Youth Committee.** A. King reported that they are working on recruitment of youth from all regions of the state; the committee has had one meeting and will meet again during the month of June. Fliers and applications are being developed. Once a cadre of youth is engaged there is the need to have a leadership conference for them. C. Finck stated that resource support is needed to move this forward (note: no volunteers for resources were forthcoming). T. Wingate reminded the committee that once the plans are finalized it needs to come to the coalition for approval before implementation. C. Finck stated that each committee must submit a copy of all meeting minutes to Joanna Crews, coalition secretary, for the files once the committee report has been made.

VII. Results of Coalition Survey. C. Finck reviewed the results of the initial annual survey administered by the evaluator, Dr. Strasser. Another survey will be implemented sometime in the near future to obtain a more significant response. Cathy requested that everyone be sure to get a copy of the survey comparing the early coalition to the current coalition and send any comments or questions to Dr. Strasser, Cathy and/or Thurya. Based on the survey, the coalition is moving in the right direction as shown by the graphs. Per questions 24 and 25 there needs to be focus on decision-making between the members and board members (?). T. Wingate stated that the coalition adopted the consensus decision-making model. The Board takes action on behalf of the coalition between meetings and the coalition ratifies the action at the next coalition meeting, or not. In on-going dialogue the following unrelated comments (re the coalition survey) were made:

- ✓ M. Hill – has not received e-mails in a year.

- ✓ S. Powell – stated that she sent a letter to everyone to find out who was interested in being a part of the coalition. GSU students cleaned up the list and compiled a new list. New members were recruited at the summit.
- ✓ S. Powell stated she will make a page for the coalition on the website that will also include a calendar of meetings, etc.
- ✓ T. Wingate stated that there is no funding for the coalition. Simone, Gregg and Afiya have been doing a great job, but everyone’s input is needed especially during this critical start-up phase. She asked everyone to be patient and said that having a secretary on board will solve some of the communication problems. She urged the members to call her, Joanna, Cathy or Simone if they need assistance or have questions about communications. She also stated that we need to empower the marketing committee as soon as possible to help with communication flow.
- ✓ Marie Bryan volunteered to work on the marketing/communications committee for three months. Simone, Marie and Joanna will also serve on this committee.

VIII. Dot-mocracy Exercise. C. Finck that the comments received at the summit was very useful, especially from the open answer responses. The purpose of this exercise was to begin prioritizing the environmental strategies the coalition will be implementing over the next two years using Recommendations 4-13 of the Needs Assessment as our guide. Since the response was very low and a little confusing, the exercise will be repeated and it is hoped that the entire coalition will respond. Mandy asked if this would just include coalition members. Thurya responded that it would. However, since “membership” has not been defined as yet, anyone participating in the coalition and considering themselves as members of the coalition can participate. The chair asked what environmental this strategies are being addressed at the local level? S. Powell stated that there is no official membership packet. There are approximately 100 members in the database. T. Wingate suggested that the coalition meetings are moved to different parts of the state to increase our visibility, recruit new members and assure that everyone who wants to be heard is heard. C. Finck stated that webinars work very well and that this is referred to the communications committee to look at as an alternative.

IX. Announcements

- ✓ Barbara Jones and Linda Ashley want to be more involved with the youth committee [**action**].
- ✓ Simone developed a post summit web page. Information will be on DHR website.
- ✓ The 11th Annual Underage Drinking Conference will be August 13-14 in Dallas, Texas. There will be a Georgia exhibit. Mary Gordon is the contact for the conference she will be at the Georgia School in September.

X. Next meeting day/time/place. Wednesday, August 5 in Macon.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 11:40 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Crews, Secretary*