

Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking
Wednesday, February 4, 2009 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30085

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

- A) Thurya Wingate called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM. Thurya Wingate announced that Keith Tallmadge, former chair of the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (“The Coalition”), resigned for professional reasons. As the Vice Chair of The Coalition she announced that she had assumed the position of Chair with the consensus of the other officers.

- B) Members and attendees introduced themselves including those via teleconference.

II. Inspiration/Meditation

- A) Simone Powell asked the participants to join her in a reflective moment of silence.

III. Welcome & Introductions

- A) As the new Chair of The Coalition, the first act of the chair was to appoint Mr. Griffin Lotson as Vice Chair upon recommendation of the staff. Mr. Lotson is from southeast Georgia (Region 5) near Savannah and Brunswick in the City of Darien. Members present and via teleconference voted to ratify the appointment of Griffin Lotson as Vice Chair of The Coalition.

- B) The coalition members welcomed Griffin Lotson as he gave a brief bio which included his many years of experience working with youth in the state of GA.

IV. Remarks by the Chair

- A) Due to interest in time, The Chair recommended tabling review of the past two sets of meeting minutes until the meeting in April.

- B) During her comments, she stated that the direction of The Coalition will change from Mr. Tallmadge's perspective, but that the change will be minimal.
- C) Thurya provided a brief overview of her preferred way of working together and her 30 years of experience as a community organizer and activist. She described her leadership style as inclusive especially in assuring that all of the state is represented in key leadership roles' participatory decision-making – win/win philosophy; transparent – open, honest and frequency communication a priority; open minded and welcoming of out of the box thinking and creative approaches.
- D) She stated that her second act on behalf of the coalition was to sign on to two policy statements (see below for details).
- E) Dr. Raduka presented a description of the policy statements to the coalition members. These letters have been emailed to the coalition members via the coalition list serv.
 - 1) Center for Science and Public Interest (CSPI) letter to urge Congress to increase the excise tax on alcohol, particularly on beer. The GA Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking as well as the Council on Alcohol and Drugs and other national and local agencies have signed on to the letter.
 - 2) Letter to Commissioner David Stern of the National Basketball Association (NBA) asking the NBA to reconsider lifting the ban on courtside hard liquor advertisements.
- F) Simone Powell informed coalition members who may be interested in signing on their agency to contact Kim Crump of CSPI directly. Kim Crump's contact information was provided in a prior email sent out by Simone Powell.

Kim Crump, Manager of Federal Relations
Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)
Alcohol Policies Project

1875 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009-5728
Tel: 202/332-9110, x338
Fax: 202/265-4954
Web: <http://www.cspinet.org/alcohol>
E-mail: kcrump@cspinet.org

- G) Thurya asked members present and via teleconference to ratify the action that the board took on these two items. Members voted yes to ratify the actions.

V. Organization Development Interactive Work Session

- A) In setting the tone for the working session, Ms. Wingate said that we must make very clear that the state-wide coalition is not designed to compete with coalitions at the local level but rather to support existing coalitions and promote the development of new coalitions in the state, in addition to addressing environmental issues and campaigns. She presented the priorities of the coalition by the conference in April as:
 - 1) Develop and finalize the infrastructure to officially begin the work of the GA Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking at the annual meeting in April.
 - 2) Create a brochure that clearly defines the Mission and Values of The Coalition to aid in the recruitment of members.
 - 3) Decide on how we will make decisions and the roles and responsibilities of officers of The Coalition. To indicated that we must fast track this process in order to begin developing rules that will determine how The Coalition is lead.
 - 4) She said that Cathy Finck will facilitate a working session at the end of which we have decided on a clear purpose, mission and decide on how decisions will be made.
- B) The creation of two committees was proposed;

- 1) Bylaws Committee to work on other components of the bylaws.
 - 2) Policy/Advocacy Committee that will make recommendations to The Coalition and Board on situations that may arise between meetings and need immediate attention.
- C) Thurya asked for volunteers to serve on the two committees. Members present via teleconference were asked to email Simone their possible interest on the committee. She appointed Dr. Raduka to assist the Policy and Advocacy Committee; to which he accepted. The committee still needs a chair.
- D) She asked for everyone's commitment to accomplish the goals established for today's meeting. The response was a resounding YES.
- E) Cathy Finck facilitated a working session to determine a decision making process, articulate a clear purpose, develop a mission statement, and define the roles and responsibilities of the officers. Members present and via teleconference provided feedback on the decision making process, the purpose of the coalition, and in the mission statement development. During the next 10 minutes members present were divided up into groups to brainstorm and develop a mission statement. Several mission statements were developed and presented to the coalition members. Members will email potential mission statements to Cathy Finck. She will then compile a list that she will send out to the members to come with 2 or 3 choices that will be presented to the coalition for adoption and/or consideration.

VI. Special call meeting of the Coalition –March 2009

- A) The date for the special meeting is TBA
- B) Goal of the special meeting is to finalize the mission statement and the roles and responsibilities for the board in order to begin the development of brochures. The classification of membership will also be discussed at the special meeting. Members present and via teleconference agreed to participate in the special call meeting.

C) Thurya Wingate and Cathy Finck proposed that the coalition create:

- 1) Wordsmith Committee to finalize the mission statement and possibly create a logo and tag line. Volunteers included Yotin Srivanjarean, Millie Linville, and Stephanie Kootsikas
- 2) Public Relations Committee
- 3) Bylaws Committee

VI. Georgia Summit to Prevent Underage Drinking- April, 29-30, 2009

- A) Dr. Raduka informed coalition members that the summit will satisfy the contract deliverables for the regional prevention providers to attend one statewide conference.
- 1) Early Registration by 2/28/09 is \$120
 - 2) Guest Speaker includes Mike Lowther responsible for Strategic Prevention Framework
 - 3) Registration information can be found on the Council on Alcohol and Drug website www.livedrugfree.org

VII. Next Steps

- A) The Chair also announced that the secretary of the GA Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking has resigned and the coalition is looking for someone to serve in that capacity. Thurya reiterated her commitment to inclusion by having officers on the board represented from each of the 5 DHR regions. Seeking officers from DHR regions 1 (Northwest Georgia) and 2 (Northeast Georgia).
- B) Thurya Wingate will contact all members of the coalition to find out what their expectations as members of The Coalition are.
- C) Coalition Officers Contacts:
President: B. Thurya Wingate
Email: twingate@bellsouth.net
Vice President: Griffin Lotson
Email: griffin.lotson@mindspring.com
Facilitator: Cathy Finck
Email: cfinck@bellsouth.net
Treasurer: Ed Deming
Email: edeming@bgcalbany.org

IX. Member Announcements

- A) For efficiency and improved communications among the membership, Simone Powell asked for suggestions for an alternative tool that will allow coalition members to have immediate access to meeting notes and other materials. A link on the Council on Alcohol and Drugs' website that is password protected may allow for easy access to coalition materials. Simone will continue to send out reminders for coalition meetings and asked for suggestions and feedback on an alternative tool.

- B) Sisters Motivating Achievement by Recognizing Talent (SMART) will hold an End of School Year Celebration on May 16, 2009. More information can be found at www.smartchoiceonline.org

- C) MADD Georgia has taken over the Responsible Alcohol Sales and Server training (RASS) from the GT SMART project at Georgia Tech and it will now be managed by the Georgia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). More information can be found at www.maddga.org

- D) Dr. Sherri Strasser of GSU's Institute for Public Health, as the evaluator for the Georgia Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative, announced to the Coalition that GSU will be evaluating the Coalition. She asked for members present, either in person or by phone to complete the online GA Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking meeting surveys. Coalition members were asked by Dr. Strasser and Council staff to please answer the survey and provide feedback.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Thurya Wingate at 12:16 PM
Submitted by Afiya H. King, MPH
Project Coordinator
The Council on Alcohol and Drugs

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Attendees

1. B. Thurya Wingate
2. Griffin Lotson
3. Debbie Connell
4. Anna Fiere
5. Rachel Wright
6. Cathy Finck
7. Afiya King
8. Stephanie Kootsikis
9. Rhonda Wright
10. Larry Pool
11. Yotin Srivanjarean
12. Millie Linville
13. Astrid Wilkie-McKellar
14. Andre Castro
15. Dr. Gregg Raduka
16. Dr. Sheri Strasser
17. Simone Powell

Attendees via Conference Call

18. Rutha Turner
19. Christine Abel
20. Lorene L. Reid
21. Synthia Swaim
22. Darlene Bass
23. Linda Ashley
24. Lisa Shockley Moery
25. Becky Croft
26. Linda Gretin
27. Brenda Kennedy
28. Cathy Wendholt-McDade
29. Jennifer Lewis
30. Anna Jackson
31. Jessica Landreth