



December 11, 2009 Meeting Notes

Members met at The Community Foundation office on Friday, December 11. The meeting began with Melissa Creighton explaining the nonprofit with which she is employed, the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council, Region 9 (SAWDC). She noted the mission of SAWDC is to stimulate job growth to foster economic growth in our 8 county region. Their vision is to develop a comprehensive, integrated workforce development system which creates a skilled diverse, motivated, adaptable workforce. Governor Riley divided the state into 9 regions, each composed of several counties; Mobile and Baldwin Counties belong to Region 9. SAWDC has at least two representatives from each of the eight counties in our region. Miss Melissa noted that with more and more “baby boomers” retiring, there will be more and more job openings which is good news for the younger generation. Also, today’s jobs require higher skills, education and training. Most of the unskilled jobs are non-existent. Since there are fewer members of the younger generation, it may be necessary to align trained workers for specific jobs.

Ms. Janine welcomed everyone to this important meeting where members will be deciding the grant initiative for 2010. She reviewed the attendance policy for the board, stating there will only be allowances for emergencies. The policy in the Syllabus states:

- It is your responsibility to let the YGAB Director know when you are going to be late or absent (as soon as you know) by calling 438-5591, or by emailing to program@communityendowment.com.
- If you miss a meeting, it’s your responsibility to review, before the next meeting, missed material and minutes placed on the website and FaceBook: [CFSA Youth Grant Allocation Board](#). You must call the YGAB director to discuss the material.
- A member may not miss more than **three** meetings.

To not attend the meetings or not call about the minutes or give reasons for missing a meeting indicates a lack of interest or inability to participate. YGAB is a real functioning board, similar to adult boards, that is responsible for its activities.

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth website. This website is a free service of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children and Families. The NCFY has national monthly themes focusing on issues with youth and families. For November the theme is **Runaway Prevention Month**. Please read the handout and note the 1-800 number which youth can call to receive help.

Random acts of kindness report. Miss Melissa asked members to tell instances since the last meeting where they showed simple acts of kindness to others. This is a form of philanthropy.

Needs Assessment/Developing the Initiative. Ms. Janine asked members to tell reactions they received from their calls. Unfortunately there were a few nonprofits that were reluctant to speak or only spoke of their agency's needs and not that of the whole county. Ms. Janine asked members to offer any suggestions for improving the assessment process. Members expressed agreement that contacting 4 agencies/people over two months was reasonable.

Members were divided into groups to review their findings with each other using the CNA forms. Each group wrote answers to questions 1, 3 and 4 (from the CNA form) on charts and reported to the whole board. Below are the questions and answers from each group.

1. What are the top 3 problems in the county?

- Group 1: **Unemployment**, **crime**, few activities for teens/children
- Group 2: high school drop-outs, **unemployment**, **crime**, lack of safety and health services
- Group 3: lack of recreational activities for you; ignorance of today's technology; **unemployment**; abandonment of animals
- Group 4: **crime**, **unemployment**, lack of education

3. What groups of people are lacking the most services:

- Group 1: **teens**, **seniors**, **children**
- Group 2: minorities, **elderly**, **youth**, disabled
- Group 3: **seniors**, unemployed adults, **children**
- Group 4: minorities, **teens**, **children**

4. What are the greatest needs of these groups?

- Group 1: teens lack motivation, direction and opportunities; there is a lack of constructive activities for teens/children
- Group 2: agencies need to collaborate more with each other and with the local government; infants and children lack proper nutrition; teens need parental supervision; many adults are unemployed; seniors need recreation and transportation
- Group 3: children need recreation, education and healthy environments; teens need more involvement and education for better decisions; adults need to be more healthy and become more tech savvy; seniors need transportation and financial help
- Group 4: infants need better parenting; teens need more mentoring; adults need better job skills; seniors need health care

Ms. Janine noted repeating issues and groups that needed help. Repeating issues were unemployment, crime, and health. Needy groups consisted of minorities, teens, children and seniors. Members were then asked to decide on one issue and one group they would like to address using the "Guide for Deciding the YGAB Initiative" which asked them to think on those issues they would like to support, issues the nonprofits would like to support and issues the donors would like to support. Members were asked to place a mark beside the issues and groups they each wanted to help. The tally on issues was as follows:

- Crime: 9

- Unemployment: 4
- Health: 3
- Housing: 1

The tally on groups was as follows:

- Teens/youth: 9
- Children: 4
- Seniors: 4
- Minorities: 0

It was apparent that members were most interested in crime among youth. Ms. Janine asked a member to make a motion. Anthony Nishida gave a motion that the YGAB Grant Initiative for 2010 be focused of **preventing crime among youth**. Another member seconded the motion. There was an opportunity for discussion but none was made. Members were asked what was meant by “consensus” which means to agree as a whole. The board verbally agreed to offer a 2010 grant initiative focused on preventing crime among youth.

Using a handout showing categories of service, members agreed the new grant initiative would fit best under Human Services. Members then turned in their CNA forms which will be compiled into a booklet; everyone will be given a copy. Members are to be commended for their time and work on the assessment and developing the initiative. Congratulations!

Request for Proposals. Members were given a copy of last year’s Request for Proposals (RFP) to review. They were then given a blank RFP to fill in the blanks. Members agreed to verbalize the grant initiative will fund **programs that offered a supportive atmosphere to teens to prevent crime among youth**. They then determined the following criteria for the programs to be funded:

- For all youth (ages 11 to 18 preferred)
- Provide a safe, supportive program after school and/or the weekends
- Provide fun, engaging, recreational activities
- Focus on character building
- Provide a facility devoted to teens if possible, like the Senior Center

Ms. Janine will write up the RFP which will be mailed and emailed to nonprofits and placed in newspapers. The deadline for nonprofits to turn in applications will be Feb. 1. Members will learn how to evaluate applications at the January meeting.

Fundraising. Each member needs to raise AT LEAST \$250 in order to raise \$7,500 but is encouraged to raise more than that since some members will be dropping out. The fundraising goals for this year are: **\$50 in Jan.; \$150 in Feb.; \$250 in Mar.** Everyone will be given points toward Mister and Miss YGAB if they meet their monthly goal by bringing donations to each meeting (or bring a signed statement of commitment from a donor). Donors MUST put member’s name on checks or letters to receive credit.

One way to raise money is through sponsorships for the YGAB newsletter. Members should tell businesses that they can provide a business card as an ad in the newsletter for \$100. Distribution of the newsletter goes out to several thousand so this is really cheap advertising! Members were given sponsorship forms that should be filled out by the businesses and returned to us with the business card and check.

Members were each given five YGAB brochures and last year's newsletter to hand out to donor prospects. **If you run out, feel free to ask for more.** We will mail brochures and newsletters to those who missed this meeting.

Another handout was given that listed many other fundraising ideas. Members are encouraged to work with other members and to **START NOW!** If anyone is unsure about fundraising, please talk to us now!

Service Project. For the January meeting, bring hygiene products for the Lighthouse of Baldwin County which offers direct services to adult female victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. These services include safe shelter, 24-hour crisis lines, crisis counseling, individual counseling and support groups, victim advocacy, school programs, and community education. Needed products include soap, dental products, lotion, towels, wipes, sponges, body powder, hair products, perfume, manicure set, etc.

Next Meeting. Saturday, January 9, 10 to 12:30 at the Daphne Civic Center on Highway 98 in Daphne. Members will learn how to evaluate programs and proposals. DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING!