

The Dawson Community Resource Center  
Planning Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2009

A planning meeting for the Dawson Community Resource Center was held on August 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dawson library. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Rueil Taylor who then opened with prayer. There were \_\_ people in attendance.

Board Chairman Rueil Taylor encouraged the team to continue to work together and with those who come to center by never putting people down but always lifting God up. The foundation is being laid and although much has been done, this is just the beginning.

Flyers are ready for the Annual Ballas Epidemic Tournament to be held Aug. 29 and 30. The theme is "Keepin' a Community Together." Gloria (green or heard?) is in charge of concessions. Donations of sodas and gaiter-aide are needed. Kids court night is Aug 28 from 6 to 9:30. Volunteers are needed. There is a meeting of volunteers August 25 at 6:00 pm.

Chester Houston- maintenance - reported on the care of a 30 year old chiller that needs consistent prayer. It is working now and much has been learned about its operation. The kitchen is up and running and food from the food bank is working out well. Ants and bugs are a problem the exterminator was scheduled for Aug 5. People continue to ask how the campus is kept so clean. Than answer is, lots of work! Workers come from a variety of sources and all are treated with appreciation and respect. This policy has shown excellent results as people learn to work together. The library is really looking good. There is a need for more books--donations are appreciated! A hurricane plan as been developed.

Mr. Coleman mentioned the trash behind the school. It is in the area still under the control of the school district. A call is to be made to get it cleaned up.

Stavon Baines – Yes WE Can -- There were 70 children enrolled during the summer session. Numbers were limited because there was no transportation as there had been during school. Thursday, August 13 was the last day of the summer session. Early registration for fall is from August 14 through August 31. For those enrolled in the summer program or Little League the registration cost is \$5.00 per student. If you register during early registration the cost is \$10.00 after that it is \$15. The goal for this school term is 250 participants.

Lisa Holiday – Food Service – the food bank is proving to be a great asset. The children love the food and the cost is very low. In addition the food bank has donated some excess items that can be used either for the children or given to those in need. Plans for cooking classes in the fall are in process and the response from the teens is encouraging.

Carolyn Mitchell – Facility Director On July 23, Lisa and two others took a class at Victoria College and are now Certified Food Handlers. Three organizations have rented the cafeteria. There are more scheduled for fall. The Juneteenth celebration was great and generated support for the DCRC. Texana uses the gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for their clients to exercise. They have mentioned that the participants are losing weight and enjoy the facility. This is an excellent partnership. Thanks to Jeff and Tim the computer room is up and running with 20 computers available for use.

Pat Joyce reported proposals had been sent to the Justice Department mentoring program, the Dobson Foundation for Yes We Can and Gulf Coast Medical Foundation for operational support. Grant funds from the Kansas City Southern, the Trull Foundation were used for the Yes WE Can Summer program and a grant from the Dobson Foundation helped with operational expenses. Additional proposals are now being considered. Areas of need should be documented and submitted to Carolyn Mitchell so that funds can be sought in best and most cost effective way.

Curtis Evans – Programs – Summer track has been happening for the last 10 years. This year the program moved under the umbrella of JDIN. There were 70 participants. Parents met the needs for transportation to meets. Twenty-five qualified for the state meet in San Antonio. Twelve kids paced and two girls won gold. Two attended the national meet in Des Moines and one placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the \_\_\_\_\_. One of the students mentioned that this was his first time to leave Texas. The Youth Football program is interested in partnership and will be under the JDIN umbrella next year.

Debbie Baines reported that there is a free CPR class being offered at the Civic Center on Aug 22 from 2 to 4:30. This is training we all need.

Greg Baines – Marriage and Family counseling is available at the DCRC on Mondays from 6-9 pm. There is a Substance Abuse program on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00. These programs have been in scattered locations and now they can be centralized at the DCRC. Head Start may be interested in locating at the DCRC as their lease with the city has been cancelled. They also want to start an Early childhood intervention program and need room.

Repairs on the gym roof turned out to be a minor problem solved by an \$11 bucket of tar. Gret will be attending the American Leadership forum in Denver with leaders from the Houston Area from August 22 through August 25. The topic is Criminal Justice. There will be many representatives among them judges, parole, lawyers. These are great connections for JDIN. Many have already expressed a desire to see our campus. There is a need for a treatment facility in our area and there is support for JDIN to take on the project. There is a need for land. Additional partnerships are important. Gulf Coast Medical Foundation grant should be announced within the next week.

Board members were asked for comments. Ken Barnett mentioned the impressive amount of work that has been done in the past 6 months. Vanessa Baines reminded Greg that she “had his back.” Debbie Baines remarked about how wonderful it was to see the

vision unfold and to continue to look to the future with a treatment center and additional programs and changes. She encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Dennis Morgan reminded us to keep trusting God. This only words with His blessing and by listening to His leading. He said that JDIN had been a topic of conversation at the local district Attorney's office. He also mentioned how Wharton might be an example or model for the nation.

Greg noted the desperate need for transportation to allow students from the other side of town to participate. He noted the difference the Yes WE Can program had already made. Only three participants were not passing by the end of the year. Yes WE Can is far more than tutorials. It is other intangibles including food, encouragement from staff and getting parents and community to reinforce the importance of academics and good behavior.

Dennis Morgan closed this **excellent meeting** with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Joyce