

## **The Brantley County Family Connection Meeting Minutes**

The Brantley County Family Connection (BCFC) Collaborative conducted their Annual Operating Planning, Data Review, and Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, January 12, 2024 from 10am – 1:30pm at the Hoboken Community Center. There were 11 members present.

Executive Director Dawn Deen called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone. Partners were asked to introduced themselves.

Dawn Deen reminded partners that everyone has a voice at the table and can make a motion and voice their opinion on agenda items.

### **Old Business**

#### *Approval of the November 9, 2023 Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

Michelle Hinds made a motion for the November 9, 2023 Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes to be approved as submitted. Pam McGauley seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

#### *Approval of the December 5, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

Michelle Hinds made a motion for the December 5, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes to be approved as submitted. Shannon Murray seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

#### *Approval of the November 2023 and December 2023 BCFC Finance Report*

Dawn Deen stated that the BTC bill has not been received for November, December or January. Those bills should reflect on the January Financial at the February Meeting.

Michelle Hinds made a motion for the November 2023 and December 2023 BCFC Finance Report be approved as submitted. Pam McGauley seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

### **New Business**

#### *\*November 2023 and December 2023 Directors Report*

Dawn Deen reported that she missed printing the November 2023 and December 2023 Directors Reports. She will add them to the February agenda.

#### *\* Fiscal Agent Designation, Update*

Dawn Deen reported that the FY25 Fiscal Agent Designation Form has been triggered in Clix to be sent to Rene' Herrin, County Clerk via DocuSign to be placed on the Board of Commission's meeting agenda for approval. Once that form is complete and approved it will be placed on the BCFC meeting agenda.

#### *\*Responsibilities of a Georgia Family Connection Collaborative*

Dawn Deen outlined the following from the Georgia Family Connection Collaborative:

##### Collaborative

1. act in a manner that furthers the best interests of the communities we serve with a high degree of integrity, transparency, accountability, and responsibility;
2. provide leadership, oversight, and fiscal accountability for the Collaborative's work;
3. develop and/or review and comply with additional Collaborative policies to avoid and/or address conflicts of interest, acting for personal gain, ethical dilemmas, and management of risks;
4. demonstrate effective collaboration by being inclusive and nonpartisan;
5. develop and implement a data-driven annual plan that focuses on indicators of child and family well-being.

##### Governing Body

1. elect a chair who will ensure that meetings are run in a productive manner and that the actions of the governing body are implemented for the good of the Collaborative;
2. ensure that decisions are made jointly and are documented in meeting minutes;
3. meet, communicate, and take action, regularly and consistently;
4. ensure that the appropriate processes and agreements are in place and documented;
5. develop and/or review and comply with additional Collaborative policies;
6. prioritize equity in all practices, policies, and programming;

7. protect and promote consistent brand standards;
8. provide leadership and oversight for the Collaborative's work;
9. review the *Responsibilities of a Georgia Family Connection Collaborative* annually;
10. leverage the Georgia General Assembly's annual allocation;
11. supervise the salaried executive director;
12. build the Collaborative's capacity for governance, and develop, implement, and sustain data-informed, community-inclusive annual plans that measurably impact and improve outcomes for children and families.

#### Collaborative Executive Director

The Collaborative executive director position carries with it certain responsibilities that will advance the work and preserve the integrity of the local Collaborative and the Georgia Family Connection statewide network. Under the direction of the Collaborative governing body, the coordinator/executive director, at a minimum, will:

1. serve as liaison between the Collaborative and the community and between the Collaborative and GaFCP, in conjunction with the Collaborative chair;
2. support the Collaborative governing body and fiscal agent in providing oversight of the Georgia Family Connection fiscal allocation;
3. protect and promote consistent brand standards;
4. coordinate the development and implementation of the Collaborative's annual plan;
5. report regularly to the Collaborative governing body at meetings and via email on actions taken on behalf of the Collaborative;
6. develop and expand professional capacity by seeking and sharing external professional development opportunities

Michelle Hinds made a motion for the Responsibilities of a Georgia Family Connection Collaborative be approved as submitted. Shannon Murray seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

#### \*OATH End of Year Report

Dawn Deen highlighted the following data from the OATH End of Year Report:

From January 1, 223 through December 18, 2023 OATH has served:

- 306 Adult clients
- 176 child clients
- 38 senior clients

Provided:

- 34 Birth certificates
- 9 ID's
- 36 Application fees
- 15 utility assistance
- 5 hotel stays
- 43 rent/deposit assistance
- 25 laundry services (beginning August 23)
- 55 showers (beginning August 23)
- 10 transportations

Currently are serving:

- 46 active adult clients
- 19 child clients
- approximately 30 lunches served per day
- 2 at Patrick Hicks Men's Shelter
- 22 literally homeless (plus 3 children)
- 20 housed temporarily with others
- 2 in unlivable housing
- 12 are working
- 24 are not working
- 10 are on SSI or Disability
- 6 are awaiting disability approval
- 17 are on housing waiting lists
- 3 refused housing/shelter
- 2 need move in fees
- 10 are Unison clients

- 3 have secured housing and are moving in January

#### Meal Train

- 15 open days for January! Share that link to your social media and sign up to provide food once a month for us when possible. We are now serving 30 clients daily. We have enough freezer food for 2 meals. Please refer all families and organizations to sign up on the Meal train app in order to provide meals for our clients. This ensures first, that we have a point of contact if communication is needed, and also sends the person reminders of the day they signed up, so nothing is overlooked.

#### Community Outreach

- Abby is present at Sycamore Tree in Blackshear once a month to meet needs of clients who are unable to get to us. I would like to do more outreach in Brantley County in the upcoming year. We are open for ideas and assistance to make that happen.
- The City Manager is in the planning stages to use the City Auditorium as a warming station/overnight shelter on the evenings when the weather is too cold. Details are being discussed at the possibility of this becoming reality.

#### Showers

- We now have no shower funds at this time. With permission from the Board member who donated laundry funds, I would like to use \$100 of that to purchase 10 showers, which will be matched for 10 more showers, at Circle K

#### Second Chance Market

- Store income 11/07/2023 – 12/01/2023 \$1,329.96

#### *\*Ferst Readers Book Distribution and Budget*

Dawn Deen reported that attached to the meeting packet is the account summary and book distribution information for Ferst Readers. With BCFC being the lead of the Community Action Team, this information will be provided for you monthly.

As of December 2023, there is 2 months of funding left with 105 books being distributed to Brantley County youth birth to 5; 70 books were mailed in November 2023 and 105 in December 2023.

OREMC has blessed Ferst Readers of Brantley with a gracious \$5,000 donation!

#### *\*December 2023 and January 2024 Slide for Brantley County High School*

Dawn Deen reported that attached to the meeting packet is the slides that were sent over to Mr. Paul Winder with the Audio-Visual Club for December 2023 and January 2024 for the tv's at the high school.

#### *\*Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force Final Report and Update*

Dawn Deen reported that the January Progress Report and Final Reports have been completed and turned in to Julian Serracin with the Department of Public Health. On Tuesday, January 16, 2024 the final invoice will be sent to Julian along with the meeting agenda and minutes from this meeting.

On the resource table are the window decals, local business flyers, and statistics that are going out on pizza boxes to the community. Please feel free to pick some of them up to place in your office and/or hand out to clients.

BCFC will not be in the group receiving the next funding round however through a partnership with the Board of Education (BOE) trainings will be provided for BOE staff and students attending Brantley schools. Teri Hendrix with the BOE and I will be starting a new task force to plan the trainings.

#### **Any Other New Business/Partner Updates**

##### *Pam McGauley, Action Pact*

Head Start applications are now being accepted.

##### *Chelsea Owens, Savannah Technical College - Child Care Resource & Referral of Southeast Georgia*

Provided a Brantley County, Georgia Early Childhood Profile and reported that there are currently 11 quality rated child care centers operating in Brantley serving 307 children that are available to receive CAPS Funding.

##### *Christine Rogers, Peach State Health Plan*

Brochure provided for partners to use to assist clients with the redetermination processes.

*Shannon Murray, Brantley County Board of Education*

Medication lock boxes and information flyers are on the resource table for partners to take. The boxes were provided by Camden Connection as part of the Stand Together Brantley Suicide Coalition partnership. She is unsure if Camden Connection will receive further funding to continue the coalition next year.

Dawn Deen reported that the need is still there and through a partnership with the BOE the Stand Together Brantley Suicide Prevention Coalition will continue. After she meets with Teri Hendrix an email invitation will be sent out to partners that would like to join.

*Patrick Woodward, LIFE Inc.*

Offer resources, assisted living equipment, build ramps, install pull up bars and assist with transitions from nursing home back to their home. LIFE will be presenting to the collaborative in March.

*Michelle Hinds, Brantley County Board of Education*

The Heron Hustle is scheduled for March 23, 2024. The flyer and more information is on the BOE Facebook page.

**Lunch Break**

Lunch was provided by Scott's BBQ through BCFC

**Local Data, Trends, and Indicators**

Dawn Deen provided the following data:

- In 2022 there were 18 Teen Pregnancies for youth – a decrease from 27 in 2021
- In 2022 there were 14 1<sup>st</sup> time pregnancies and 4 repeat pregnancies for youth
- There are currently 2 females pregnant at the high school and 1 father to be
- In 2021 there were 21 youth diagnoses with sexually transmitted diseases
- In 2021 there were 103 total cases for all ages for sexually transmitted diseases
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 6 disciplinary referrals related to possessing or using illegal substances on school property at the elementary schools – a decrease from 19 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 28 disciplinary referrals related to possessing or using illegal substances on school property at the middle school – an increase from 18 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 87 disciplinary referrals related to possessing or using illegal substances on school property at the high school – an increase from 45 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 22 disciplinary referrals related to bullying/fighting on school property at the elementary schools – an increase from 12 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 49 disciplinary referrals related to bullying/fighting on school property at the middle school – an increase from 3 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 59 disciplinary referrals related to bullying/fighting on school property at the high school – an increase from 1 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 0 disciplinary referrals related to sexual nature on school property at the elementary schools – no change from the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 0 disciplinary referrals related to sexual nature on school property at the middle school – a decrease from 2 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- In the 2022-2023 school year there were 8 disciplinary referrals related to sexual nature on school property at the high school – an increase from 0 for the 2021 – 2022 school year
- 2022 – 2023 Graduation Rate was 94% - an increase from 88.8% in the 2021 - 2022 school year
- 10 GED Graduated through the Coastal Pines Technical College Adult Education Program
- 17 drop outs from the 2022 – 2023 school year at the high school
- 823 Children Absent more than 15 Days in all Brantley schools – a decrease from 855 in 2021
- 16 Underage Drinking Arrests made in 2022 – an increase from 7 in 2021
- 4 Underage Drug Arrests made in 2022 – a decrease from 16 in 2021
- 152 total Drug Arrests for 2022 – a decrease from 205 in 2021
- 0 youth overdose deaths in 2022 – no change from 2021
- 9 total overdose deaths in 2022 – an increase from 5 in 2021
- 37 overdose calls were received in 2023 at the E-911 Office – a decrease from 64 in 2022
- 118 overdoses, 6 fatal overdoses and 48 Narcan was administered that were logged in the OID Mapping Software – all increased from 2022
- 11 ER Visits were made by youth for overdoses for 2022 – an increase from 8 in 2021
- 71 total ER Visits were made for overdoses for 2022 – an increase from 68 in 2021
- 77 calls were received to E-911 pertaining to suicide in 2022 – an increase from 15 in 2021

- 57 threats
- 18 attempts
- 2 successes
- In 2022 620 clients were seen in the Nahunta office of Unison Behavioral Health with 10,629 appointments being held – and increase from 2021
- In 2022 342 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by DFCS with 31 being substantiated and 13 being family preservation cases
- In 2022 62 children in foster care with 11 foster homes available
- In 2021 989 children living in poverty – a decrease from 1,157 in 2020
- In 2022 256 were unemployed – a decrease from 266 in 2021
- In 2022 Brantley County’s population was 18,183 – an increase from 18,101 in 2021
- Brantley County is above the state value for teens who are drop outs, ages 16-19 at a 17.8
- Brantley County is above the state value for teens not in school and not working, ages 16-19 at a 23.6
- Brantley County is above the state value for children living in poverty at a 26.9
- Brantley County is above the state value for families with children with annual incomes less than 150% of the federal poverty threshold at a 40.8
- Brantley County is above the state value for children without health insurance at a 12.1
- Brantley County is above the state value for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting alcohol use in the past 30 days at a 14.6
- Brantley County is above the state value for teen pregnancies, ages 15-17 at a 13.1
- Brantley County is above the state value for teen births at a 34.5
- Brantley County is above the state value for children with substantiated incidents of abuse and/or neglect at a 7.4
- Brantley County is above the state value for children whose parents lack secure employment at a 13.5
- Brantley County is below the state value for children leaving foster care who are reunified with their families or placed with a relative with 12 months of foster care at a 17.9
- Brantley County is above the state value for children not attending preschool, ages 3-4 at a 61.5
- In 2023 there were 955 households with children receiving food stamps
- In 2022 Brantley County was above the state percentage for low-weight babies at 12.7%
- In 2022 Brantley County was below the state percentage for adult education attainment – high school graduate or higher at 79.6%
- In 2022 Brantley County was above the state percentage for children enrolled in the Georgia Pre-K Program from low-income families at 62.2%

## Annual Operating Plan Discussion

Dawn Deen reported that beginning in fiscal year 25, while Collaboratives will continue to submit plans annually, we are asking Collaboratives to think more long-term about their priorities. FY25 will be year one of the FY25-FY27 planning and implementation cycle. The goal of thinking long-term is to help Collaboratives and GaFCP technical assistance (TA) providers focus on the strategic nature of the work, along with sustainability.

In addition to the TA available throughout the planning process, you will be engaged in a cross-team TA session prior to submitting the annual plan. The purpose is to discuss current-year progress and the work the Collaborative anticipates in the coming year to build on that work. This is your opportunity to share the Collaborative’s process for developing the annual plan, who was involved, and how data was used in decision-making. Every Collaborative must participate in this 1.5-2-hour session before the plan can be submitted in CLIX. The sessions are held virtually at the discretion of the TA providers with the requirement that it be held in person once every three years. It is also required that the Collaborative chairperson, strategy team chair/member, or other involved Collaborative member(s) participate in the session for both virtual and in-person sessions.

The annual plan is designed to allow Collaboratives to communicate to funders and stakeholders their priority focus, work planned, and plans to document and monitor progress. The plan is a result of an ongoing cycle that involves planning, implementing, learning, and responding to those learnings. The plan should:

- be realistic and provide guidance for the Collaborative’s regular work;
- be brief while providing enough details to allow a reader to understand the logic of the plan;
- demonstrate a focus on embedding a race, equity, and inclusion lens;
- be intentional in engaging diverse sectors in the community; and
- focus on supporting underserved populations.

A race, equity, and inclusion lens may include programs, services, and other activities that:

1. assume all populations have inherent value and assets,
2. consider the impact of decision-making on historically underserved groups,
3. disaggregate data and differentiate strategies to focus and meet the needs of each

sector of the population served,

4. consider population needs in the distribution of resources (financial and otherwise), and/or

5. consider and actively work to change the systems, practices, and policy decisions that may disadvantage a population.

Dawn asked each partner that was in attendance to anonymously answer the 9 questions on the Guiding Questions for the Plan Implementation Review paper. The following results were received:

Question 1 – The current Collaborative annual plan has not evolved with the changing social and economic needs of the community. 6 disagrees were received

Question 2 – The Collaborative has had limited or no implementation of the activities in the annual plan. 6 disagrees were received

Question 3 – The annual plan is not strong enough to improve outcomes for children and families. 6 disagrees were received

Question 4 – The Collaborative is struggling to engage partners in the work. 1 agree and 5 disagrees were received

Question 5 – The Collaborative governance structure is dysfunctional. 6 disagrees were received

Question 6 – Collaborative meetings are unproductive and do not lead to true collaboration. 6 disagrees were received

Question 7 – Collaborative reporting is not up to Family Connection contractual requirements. 6 disagrees were received

Question 8 – Communication is lacking. 6 disagrees were received

Question 9 – TA efforts have been met with resistance or not utilized. 1 agree and 5 disagrees were received

The following comment was received – We're always provided great data and current information that is very useful. Great job Dawn, thanks Brantley County for community support.

Dawn Deen asked the partners to review the Governance Type, Collaborative Functional Type, Strategy Name, Desired Outcome and Strategy Statement to see if changes need to be made. She explained the differences in the Collaborative Functional Types as follows:

### **Partner Engagement**

Collaboratives that seek to improve outcomes for children and families through Partner Engagement have the primary role of developing strategies for:

- connecting partners and community organizations,
- sharing data and other information,
- enhancing communication,
- building capacity,
- responding to Community needs, and
- linking people with community resources.

### **Programs and Services Coordination**

Collaboratives that seek to improve outcomes for children and families through coordination of programs and services have the primary role of developing strategies for:

- coordinating community partners who seek to work together to address high-priority issues,
- raising community awareness of local issues, and
- promoting or providing new programming to fill service gaps.

### **Issue or Population-Focused**

Collaboratives that seek to improve outcomes for children and families through issue or population-focused action have the primary role of developing strategies for:

- encouraging and facilitating integrated partner efforts to develop strategies for improving outcomes for high-priority populations;
- identifying additional partners who can support the strategy; and
- helping partnering organizations to:
  - engage families,
  - overcome system barriers affecting outcomes for the population of focus,
  - develop strategy sustainability plans, and
  - evaluate the impact of implemented strategies.

After discussion it was decided to change the BCFC Collaborative Functional Type from Program and Services Coordination to Partner Engagement.

The following suggestions were made regarding the plan:

- Remove Waycross Family Justice Center on page 3 – BCFC has not taken part of meetings or trainings for FY24
- Remove Kinship Caregiver Project on page 5 – After many meetings Kinship Caregivers state they do not need financial assistance
- Remove Nahunta End of School Bash on page 6 – Due to the change of elected officials not sure the activity will continue
- Remove Trunk or Treat on page 6 – BCFC assistance was not needed for FY24
- Remove Disposal of Medication on page 7 – The TRUST Partnership has taken this over
- Remove Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force on page 7 – Funding is not continuing for FY25
- Remove Camden Connection from the lead implementing partner under Stand Together Brantley on page 7 and add BCFC
- Remove data collected on the Waycross Family Justice Center, Kinship Caregiver Meeting, End of School Bash, Trunk or Treat, Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force and Disposal of Medication.

Pam McGauley made a motion for the changes be made to the FY25 Brantley County Family Connection Annual Operating Plan to be approved as submitted. Shannon Murray seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

### **Adjournment**

Pam McGauley made a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2024 Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative, Annual Operating Planning and Data Review meeting. Shannon Murray seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned.

\*Included in meeting packet.