

The Brantley County Family Connection Meeting Minutes

The Brantley County Family Connection (BCFC) Board of Directors and Collaborative conducted their Monthly Meeting and Annual Operating Planning Retreat on Friday, January 13, 2023 from 10:00am until 2:30pm at the Hoboken Community Center with 13 members present.

Chairman Renee Mumford called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and reminded each partner that they have a voice at the table to vote.

Old Business

Approval of the November 11, 2022 and December 9, 2022 BCFC Collaborative and Board of Directors Zoom Meeting Minutes*

Renee' Martin made a motion for the November 11, 2022 and December 9, 2022 BCFC Collaborative and Board of Directors Zoom 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 19, 2022 BCFC Board of Directors Zoom Meeting Minutes*

There were not enough Board of Directors present to approve the December 19, 2022 BCFC Board of Directors Zoom Meeting Minutes. Chairman Renee Mumford asked for a motion for the meeting minutes be tabled until the February BCFC Board of Directors and Collaborative Meeting.

Renee' Martin made a motion for the December 19, 2022 BCFC Board of Directors Zoom Meeting Minutes be tabled until the February 2023 BCFC Board of Directors and Collaborative Meeting. Mallory Rutledge seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

Approval of the November 2022 and December 2022 BCFC Finance Report*

Dawn Deen reported that the BTC bill was received late from the Brantley County Commission Office causing the December Finance report to show a total of \$196.36 for Telecommunications reflecting both payments.

Heather Flowers made a motion for the November 2022 and December 2022 BCFC Finance Reports be approved as submitted. Renee' Martin seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

BCFC Future Meetings, In person/Zoom

Chairman Renee Mumford asked the members present if they prefer to continue Zoom Meetings or would like to return back in person for the February BCFC Board of Directors and Collaborative Meeting. After much discussion it was decided to start hybrid meetings in February. Renee' Martin agreed to assist in setting the meeting up if needed.

Pam McGauley made a motion that starting February 10, 2023 the BCFC Board of Directors and Collaborative Meetings will be offered hybrid. Tanesha Slocumb seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

New Business

BCFC Board of Directors Meeting update

Chairman Renee Mumford reported that the Brantley County Board of Commissioners approved the \$ 15,450 grant match for their budget year. Due to their calendar year being January to December and BCFC being July to June the Board of Directors approved a Budget Revision moving \$7,725 from Per Diem to Other Operating. \$1,225 to Father ~ Daughter Event, \$2,500 to Jr. Police Academy, \$800 to Listening and Learning, \$1,200 to Literacy Project and \$2,000 to Youth Leadership Brantley. The Board of Directors also approved Brantley County Board of Commission to continue as the FY24 Fiscal Agent.

November 2022 and December 2022 Director's Report*

Dawn Deen stated that the November 2022 and December 2022 Director's Reports are attached to the meeting packet but wanted to report on a few of the activities.

November 11th Dawn Deen and her daughter worked the registration desk at the Okefenoke Alliance for the Homeless (OATH) Fashion Show at the City Auditorium in Waycross. \$22,000 was raised

for OATH. Renee Martin reported that less than that was actually received after the cleaning crew and other payments were made.

November 30th Dawn Deen partnered with Heather Flowers and Pam McGauley from Magnolia House at Brantley County Middle School at 7:15am to set up breakfast for the coaches and counselors who were able to hear Adrian Peterson speak prior to him speaking to the middle school students and then heading over to Nahunta Primary School.

December 1st Stand Together Brantley, Suicide Prevention Team met at the Brantley County Board of Education with six members present. Teri Hendrix and Mallory Rutledge signed a memorandum of understanding for the partnership and quarterly meeting dates were scheduled.

December 5th, Dawn Deen attended the Reach Scholarship Signing Ceremony at the middle school. A huge congratulations to Joy Miller and Kandise Snyder!

December 7th, The Work Plan was submitted and second Progress Report for the Sexual Violence Prevention Project to Julian Serracin with Department of Public Health.

December 15th, Dawn Deen read “Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” at the Brantley County Library for Story Time. There were three children present and the book was provided by Ferst Readers. She spoke about BCFC along with our partnership with Ferst Readers as a member of their Community Action Team and what Ferst Readers is.

Fiscal Agent Designation Form, Update

Chairman Renee Mumford reported that the Board of Directors approved Brantley County Board of Commission as our FY24 Fiscal Agent. We are waiting on approval from the Board of Commissioners as their meeting was re-scheduled due to the holidays.

Responsibilities of a Georgia Family Connection Collaborative

Chairman Renee Mumford asked all members present to take a minute and review the document attached to their meeting packet; once reviewed it will need to be approved.

Mallory Rutledge made a motion for the Responsibilities of a Georgia Family Connection Collaborative be approved as submitted. Renee’ Martin seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

2023 BCFC Calendar

Chairman Renee Mumford reported that the 2023 BCFC Calendar is attached to the meeting packet so partners will have meeting and activity dates in advance.

Vitality Survey Results

Chairman Renee Mumford reported that 15 Vitality Surveys were completed by Board and Collaborative Members last October. Up to a seven in each category could be received with BCFC scoring a 6.7 in Community, 6.7 in Productivity, 6.6 in Accountability, 6.6 in Communication, 6.5 in Participation and 6.4 in Synergy. The results are included in the meeting packet for partner review.

Guest Speaker, Tanesha L. Slocumb, Program Manager, Share Health

Tanesha Slocumb stated that she is partnering with The Trust and collecting data for the three year grant they just received. The stigma surveys will only take a few minutes but will produce vital data needed. Dawn Deen stated that she will report on the results when given at the Trust Meeting.

Local Data, Trends and Indicators

Dawn Deen reported that the local data was placed with the corresponding state indicator so members could see what indicators BCFC matches.

The following local data was highlighted:

- 355 child abuse and neglect reports were received; of those 26 were substantiated and 41 were family preservation cases.
- 13.5% of children's parents lack secure employment even though unemployment has dropped to 266 from 373.
- There were 27 teen pregnancies in 2021.
- There are currently four known teenagers pregnant at the high school.

- STD's are on the decrease, down to 22 from 33 for ages 10-19 and 64 from 96 for all ages.
- There were 855 students' school wide absent more than 15 days, up from 230 the year before.
- The graduation rate has decreased to 88.8% from 94.5%.
- Teens who are high school drop outs are decreasing from 17 to 9 but is still higher than the state.
- Children living in poverty has decreased to 1,157 from 1,162; but is still higher than the state and has only dropped 369 in 5 years.
- 40.8% of families with children have annual incomes less than 150% of the federal threshold.
- 61.5% of children ages 3 to 4 are not attending pre-school.
- There were 7 underage drinking arrests.
- 16 underage drug arrests - Partners suggested to break the number down into marijuana and opioid arrests.
- There were 8 Inpatient ER visits due to overdose for ages 0-19.
- 860 books were distributed to the lending libraries.
- 1,752 books were mailed to children 0 to 5 through First Readers.
- The population dropped 1,101 from 19,202 to 18,101 in one year.
- School disciplinary referrals for possession or using illegal substances on school property has increased from 12 to 19 at the elementary schools yet it has decreased at the middle and high schools.
- School disciplinary referrals relating to bullying on school property has increased at the elementary schools from 0 to 12 and the middle school from 0 to 2 yet decreased at the high school.
- School disciplinary referrals relating to sexual nature on school property has increased at the middle school from 0 to 2, stayed at 0 for the elementary schools and decreased from 2 to 0 at the high school.
- There were 518 clients seen at Unison Behavioral Health with 7,000 appointments being held.
- 647 contact hours were served by Magnolia House; an increase from 285; with 50 women and children, 3 men and 49 families served.
- There were 205 drug arrests made.
- 64 overdose calls were received by E-911.
- 105 overdoses, 2 being fatal were reported on OD Mapping with 24 doses of Narcan being administered.
- 15 suicide related calls were received by E-911.
- BCFC received \$128,318 worth of In-kind donations.

She asked members to keep in mind that Covid may have some of the data skewed still resulting in huge increases and decreases.

Mission and Vision Statements

Dawn Deen reported that the Mission and Vision statements have not been updated since 1996 when BCFC was formed. She asked members present to look at the current Mission to see if it needs to be updated. She stated that the mission statement should define BCFC's purpose and the reason BCFC exists.

After some discussion it was decided that no changes needed to be made to the Mission; it still speaks to what BCFC does. However, the Vision Statement was updated to ***Brantley County Family Connection envisions a community where all children enter our world healthy, prepared and successful in their education, and become prosperous, productive, self-sufficient citizens in a safe, relaxed environment.***

Renee' Martin made a motion to approve the changes made to the Vision Statement. Shannon Murray seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

Strategy Statement

Dawn Deen reported that the Strategy Statement gets revised every year for the Annual Operating Plan. Currently the Strategy Statement reads Brantley County Family Connection through engaged partners, will provide an array of educational and prevention supports to improve children, youth and

family quality of relationships and stability. She stated that the statement should include what BCFC will do, with who they are going to do it for and whom they are doing it for.

After some discussion it was decided to change the Strategy Statement to ***Brantley County Family Connection utilizes engaged partners to provide an array of educational and prevention initiatives to improve the quality of relationships and stability for children, youth and families.***

Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve the changes made to the Strategy Statement. Susan Melton seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

Outcome

Dawn Deen reported that the current outcome for the Annual Operating Plan reads Improved Children, Youth and Family quality of relationships and stability. She stated that the desired outcome for BCFC is the result that is being worked towards through the work of the collaborative. The statement should be broad but brief and should begin with an adjective such as increased, improved, or decreased. Examples provided by Georgia Family Connection Partnership include Improved School Success, Improved Family Stability and Decreased Child Abuse and Neglect.

After some discussion it was agreed to change the Outcome to ***Improved quality of relationships and stability for children, youth and families.***

Renee' Martin made a motion to approve the changes made to the Outcome. Emily Raley seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

Lunch

Annual Operating Plan Discussion

Activities

Dawn Deen stated that while reviewing the activities listed in the current Annual Operating Plan, to think about the purpose of each activity and if it serves the purpose of our Mission and Vision. The following activities were kept:

- Assess Local Services – Renee' Martin stated that her and Dawn Deen work together to continuously add new resources to both BCFC's website and the Okefenoke RESA Wraparound Services App. The suggestion was made to create a QR Code and add to flyers and brochures that leads to the BCFC website.
- Hub for Services – Dawn Deen stated that she would like to expand the Hub for Services to include all agencies that serve Brantley County. She is going to place a book shelf in the office to include applications and information.
- Waycross Family Justice Center – Heather Flowers reported that land has been purchased, they have a floor plan, are currently working on funding, going to add transportation and should be completed by July 2024.
- Countywide Partners Meeting
- Brantley County Board of Commission, Match
- Listening and Learning
- Media Campaign

The following activities were removed:

- Robert's Rule of Order – It was suggested to add an introduction at the beginning of each meeting letting members know that everyone has a voice and can vote.
- Strategy Team Meetings – As we, the collaborative, review all activities, programs and services with regard to successes and barriers as they are implemented and completed.

The following changes were made:

- Capacity Mapping was changed to Partner Engagement - To increase partner engagement, inclusive of youth and families in the Collaborative work.
- Awareness Campaigns changed from an activity to program – inclusive of Pinwheels for Prevention and Wear Blue Day.

Programs

Dawn Deen reminded partners to keep thinking about the purpose of each program and if it serves the purpose of our Mission and Vision. All programs were kept except the following:

- Paint the County
- B Kind Project – Spend the remainder of the monies for supplies for the Kindness Closet. Renee' Martin suggested finding someone that used to sell LuLaRoe Leggings, may receive a donation from them.

The following changes were made:

- First Readers – Add Community Partners to implementing partners and add Community Action Team under collaborative responsibility.
- Literacy Project, Lending Libraries – Remove the gazebo
- Trauma Informed Training – Remove Connections Matter and Community Resource Model trainings, leave Handle with Care, include emotional trauma, poverty and youth mental health trainings and remove target population of 100 Brantley County Board of Education Personnel and leave Countywide.
- Pharmacies and Funeral Home as Partners – Add Trust Partnership
- Bullying Prevention Campaign – Added to Awareness Campaigns

The following suggestions were presented to be added to the FY24 Annual Operating Plan:

- Collaborative Development - Annual Report
- Collaborative Development – Logic Model Development
- Narcan Training
- Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force
- Pinwheels for Prevention
- Sources of Strength

Of those suggestions the following decisions were made:

- Collaborative Development - Annual Report – Add to FY24
- Collaborative Development – Logic Model Development – Add to FY25
- Narcan Training – Add to FY24
- Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force – Add to FY24 if new contract is received
- Pinwheels for Prevention – Added to Awareness Campaigns
- Sources of Strength – Not added but open for partnerships

Any Other New Business/Partner Updates

Dawn Deen, Brantley County Family Connection

She reported that Gregory Rosso has resigned from the Board of Directors effective immediately due to he is no longer serving our county.

Renee' Martin, Okefenoke RESA

She reported that OATH has a new fundraiser coming up in February called Hearts for the Homeless. Be on the lookout for the flyers to come out.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Dawn Deen and Chairman Renee Mumford thanked everyone for coming and participating in the planning of FY24.

Emily Raley made a motion for the January 13, 2023 Collaborative and Board of Directors Annual Operating Planning Meeting be adjourned. Mallory Rutledge seconded the motion; all in favor with none opposed, the motion stands approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Included in meeting packet.