

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

The Brantley County Family Connection (BCFC) Collaborative conducted its monthly meeting on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 1 pm, via Zoom. Fourteen members were present.

Executive Director Dawn Deen called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and reminded partners that everyone has a voice at the meeting to make a motion, vote, or provide input on any item on the agenda. Partners were asked to introduce themselves.

### **Old Business**

*Approval of May 10, 2024, Collaborative, May 17, 2024, Board of Directors, and June 3, 2024, Plan Implementation Review Meeting Minutes*

Teri Hendrix moved that the May 10, 2024, Collaborative, May 17, 2024, Board of Directors, and June 3, 2024, Plan Implementation Review Meeting Minutes be approved as submitted. Traci Carter seconded the motion; all favored it, and none opposed it. The motion stands approved.

*Approval of the May 2024, June 2024, and July 2024 BCFC Finance Report*

\*Dawn Deen stated that the approval could only be for the May 2024 and June 2024 Finance Reports due to the July 2024 Finance Report accidentally not being sent out to the Collaborative with the Meeting Packet.

Traci Carter moved that the May 2024 and June 2024 BCFC Finance Report be approved as submitted. Teri Hendrix seconded the motion; all favored it, and none opposed it. The motion stands approved.

### **New Business**

\* April 2024, May 2024, June 2024, and July 2024 Directors Reports

Dawn Deen reported that the April 2024, May 2024, June 2024, and July 2024 Directors Reports are attached to the meeting packet.

She reported the following:

- Kristi Cox and Chandra Floyd-Bryant were removed from the Collaborative Partner Email Distribution List due to a notification email stating the email addresses have been deactivated.
- Added Alicia Davis, Site Coordinator with Coastal Community Health, Myra Williams, Journalist with the Brantley County Express, Katie Phillips, Marketing with Coastal Community Health, and Connie Windham, Department of Juvenile Justice, to the Collaborative Partner Email Distribution List.
- Submitted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report into the Clix system. Signatures received from Rene' Herrin, County Commission, and Fairiby Frye, Board Chairman.
- Was contacted by Angie Wirth, City Clerk with the City of Nahunta, to partner with resource booth signups.
- April 2024 In Kind Total was \$15,131
- Added Ansley Williams to our partner update list.
- The Waycross Journal Herald contacted me for a story on Ferst Readers. I contacted the Community Action Team and received information so they could write the article.
- I attended the Reality Check Event at Brantley County High School and worked at the grocery station. Approximately 35 volunteers worked the event, which included an estimated 150 high school Seniors. The students were assigned a career, salary, and family life. The youth must work their assigned salary for a budget based on the assigned household size. Some youth have to get second and third jobs to break even.
- I met with Ansley Willaims with Unison at the BCFC Office on May 21st at 9 a.m. to make introductions and share resources.
- I set up a booth at the Taste of Brantley Event at the Brantley County Recreation Department on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 4 pm. The Brantley County Chamber of Commerce hosted the event. Approximately 25 vendors/organizations and food trucks were set up, and approximately 200 people attended. Rhonda Dowling and Karen Harrell assisted with the booth through the Ferst Readers partnership. Due to the weather Niki Spivey with OATH joined us under our tent. We left early due to a severe thunderstorm that was coming.
- I met with Joey Cason, County Manager, and Kendall Lewis, County Finance, on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Brantley County Board of Commission Office. BCFC received an increase in budget from \$15,450 to \$17,625!!! THANK YOU, BRANTLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION!!!
- May 2024 In Kind Total was \$62,043
- Added Jessica Linton, Action Pact Parent Engagement Specialist, to the BCFC Partner Updates email distribution list on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Added Mario Dixon, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, to the BCFC JPA email distribution list on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Registered BCFC with the Area Agency on Aging and Disability Resource Connections statewide EmpowerlinePRO Aging, Long Term Care and Disabilities Referral Database on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Rearranged the BCFC office to make it look more professional.
- On June 5<sup>th</sup>, I contacted Heather Flowers with Magnolia House to ask for a partnership for JPA to cover the cupcakes, hamburgers, and side items.
- I contacted all club advisors at the middle and high schools to offer a partnership in stocking the Heron Book Nests (lending libraries) on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- June 2024 In Kind Total was \$3,889,298
- Signed up 23 Susie's Daycare students, birth to five, to receive books through First Readers through conversations with Marie Westberry and Michelle Maddox.
- I started filing year-end paperwork and preparing for the Self-Assessment.
- I met with Noel Williams with Moonlight Dreams Inc. multiple times to discuss partnering for the Back to School Bash on August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-6 pm at the Brantley County Recreation Department. Brantley County Family Connection was a drop-off location for clothes and school supplies to benefit the event, and the event flyer was shared during July via Facebook and partner updates.
- July 2024 In Kind Total was \$13,439

#### \*FY25 MOU for Dawn Deen

Dawn Deen reported that the FY25 fully executed MOU for Dawn Deen is attached to the meeting packet. The Collaborative needs a new approval since the Board of Commission graciously increased the amount they contribute to her salary. Upon reviewing the budget for Family Connection, Joey Cason, County Manager, realized that last year, when all the departments received budget increases, Family Connection did not, so he gave it to us this year. The salary breakdown table shows the change from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025, from \$7,725 to \$8,812.50. This was reported to the Board of Directors, and all members approved it, but Collaborative approval is also needed.

Pam McGauley moved that the Revised FY25 MOU for Dawn Deen be approved as submitted. Teri Hendrix seconded the motion; all favored, and none opposed. The motion stands approved.

#### \*FY25 Department of Human Resources GaFCP Fully Executed Contract

Dawn Deen stated that the fully executed FY25 contract with the Department of Human Resources, Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP), Brantley County Family Connection, and the Brantley County Board of Commission is attached to the meeting packet for your records.

#### \*FY25 BCFC Budget Breakdown

Dawn Deen reported that before the Annual Operating Plan is submitted to the state office, she has to submit a proposed budget for the amount the GaFCP sets. This year's total budget is \$56,250. She proposed a breakdown to the state of \$2,500 for Regular Operating, \$1,100 for telecommunications, \$6,000 for Other Operating, and \$46,650 for her salary. The state has approved the submitted budget per the fully executed contract. The money for other operations must now be broken down into the programs and activities set in the Annual Plan. She suggests \$1,000 for Father ~ Daughter, \$2,000 for JPA, \$0 for Teen Maze, \$2,000 for Youth and Family Support, and \$1,000 for Youth Leadership Brantley to equal the \$6,000 budget set. Teen Maze is \$0 due to the County Commission fully funding it for three years. And just a reminder that in January, the \$8,812.50 will be revised from salary to other operating, so these numbers will increase.

Teri Hendrix moved that the BCFC Budget Breakdown be approved as submitted. Renee Martin seconded the motion; all favored, and none opposed. The motion stands approved.

#### \*FY25 State of Officers

Dawn Deen welcomed our newest Board Members, Maggie Santana, Satilla Advocacy Services and Patrick Woodward of LIFE, Inc.!! Maggie will serve her term from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027, and Patrick will serve his term from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.

#### \*FY25 Reporting Dates to Remember and Companion

Dawn Deen reported that the GaFCP FY25 Dates to Remember and its companion document are attached for your records. This document lets you know when reports, such as the quarterly reports, self-assessment, and vitality survey, are due to the state office. It also gives a heads-up for when documents such as the Fiscal Agent Designation form are due, along with the dates the state office will meet for FY26 Annual Plan Reviews. The companion document explains each process in more detail. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn.

**\*FY25 BCFC Meeting Dates**

Dawn Deen stated that everyone is gearing up for the new fiscal year. The upcoming BCFC Meeting dates are attached for partners to add to their calendars.

She asked if, due to kicking off the new fiscal year, our meetings should continue to be facilitated hybrid (in-person and via Zoom). All partners agreed to continue hybrid meetings for partners out of town or unable to make it in person.

**\*FY25 Region 12 PTPN Operation Guidelines**

Dawn Deen stated that the Region 12 Peer-to-Peer Guideline document for Region 12 Coordinators is attached for your records. This document gives partners some insight into the training and meeting information for the upcoming year that all Region 12 coordinators must abide by.

**Multi-Year Strategic Planning Tool**

Dawn Deen reported that she and April Jeans of Camden County Family Connection volunteered to try out GaFCP's new multi-year strategic planning tool. When printed before data has been entered, the spreadsheet is 14 legal-size pages long. She stated that this document will significantly assist BCFC's planning.

**\*Vitality Survey**

Dawn Deen stated that it is time to complete the Vitality Survey. For those new to the Collaborative, GaFCP developed the survey as an anonymous way for partners to express their experience with family connection and grade us on how we are doing in various collaborative areas. This will help us know areas we are strong in and where we need work.

Last year, Brantley County was the top region for completed surveys! Dawn urged partners to keep that going for FY25.

**\*FY25 MOA with Ware County Board of Health – HRSA RCORP Implementation Grant #756**

Dawn Deen reported that a copy of the FY25 MOU with the Ware County Board of Health is attached to the meeting packet. This MOU covers serving on the TRUST Board and hosting meetings, and the board will reimburse \$2,000 for costs incurred.

**\*FY25 MOU with The Southeast Health District**

Dawn Deen stated that the FY25 MOU with the Southeast Health District is attached to the meeting packet. This MOU states that we will partner to share information and community events and work as a team to advocate for the development of resources.

**\*TRUST Update, Know Your Worth, Meeting Dates, and May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Dawn Deen stated that Know Your Worth Week is coming up September 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>! There will be fun dress-up days again this year: Trust the Purple Spot Day, Silly Socks Day, Know Your Worth Day, and Shade out Stigma Day. The flyer is being worked on now and will be released soon. Know Your Worth Week is a tri-county Initiative with Brantley, Pierce, and Ware through the TRUST Coalition.

She reported that the meeting dates for the TRUST for the year are attached for partners to add to their calendars.

She reported that the meeting minutes from the May 9, 2024 TRUST meeting that Brantley hosted are attached.

**\*2024 Jr. Police Academy, Update**

Dawn Deen reported that the document that was submitted for the newspapers and the state office for JPA is attached to the meeting packet for partners to enjoy. JPA was held at the middle school June 10-14, 2024, from 8 am to 5 pm. There were 44 cadets, 13 junior staff, and 20 staff members. New presentations were made this year, including those by the GBI Bomb Squad, Georgia Department of Public Safety, and Motor Carriers Compliance Division. The cadets got to work the mock crime scene every day instead of only having two hours. We even got a surprise visit from a real-life alligator that the Brantley County Sheriff's Office wrangled from daycare in Waynesville and brought to Georgia Game Management. The cadets, jr. staff, and staff members could hold it and take pictures.

**\*2024 – 2025 Academic School Calendar**

Dawn Deen reported that the 2024-2025 Brantley school calendar is attached to the meeting packet for partners.

**\*Data, The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

Dawn Deen reported that New Kids Count data came out for Georgia, ranking us 37<sup>th</sup> overall. This data will be used for the BCFC FY26 AOP.

#### \*New Resources

Dawn Deen reported that there are two new food resources in Ware County:

- Way of Cross EPC holds a free food and clothes giveaway at 8 a.m. the first Sunday of each month at 512 Lee Avenue, and Higher Heights offers items from 9-11 a.m. the first Thursday of each month at 979 Tebeau Street.
- DC Downtown added food pick-up hours to 201 Jenkins Street: from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays.

#### \*OATH Update, Free Showers

Dawn Deen stated that Josh Tillman deserves a huge thank you for blessing OATH with a homemade trailer shower stall. Josh is in long-term recovery and wants to give back to an organization similar to what helped him. Destination Church has permitted the shower stall to be set up at 402 Brunel Street, providing drainage, water, and electricity.

#### School Supplies, Update

Dawn Deen reported that over 5,000 items were donated for the school supply stations for all seven schools, plus Head Start. We were able to provide each school with two boxes of school supplies!

Family Connection also partnered with Noel Williams of Moonlight Dreams for the Back to School Bash, which took place on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Rec Department. BCFC purchased 100 packets of loose-leaf notebook paper and 100 rulers to be added to Noel's bookbags. BCFC was also a drop-off point for clothes and school supplies for the event. We did not receive any school supplies for the event but did receive around 3,000 pieces of clothing. More event details and the in-kind value will be shown in the August Directors Report.

#### Guest Speakers

Dawn Deen stated that she tries to schedule a guest speaker every month. She asked partners present if there were a specific topic or speaker they would like added to the agendas throughout the year.

The partners present suggested promoting early education to get children in school, Bright from the Start, and Chelsea with Decal.

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

Dawn Deen stated that partner flyers and newsletters are emailed each Friday. If you have a local event that you would like to share, submit your flyers and information to her at [bcfcdawndeem@gmail.com](mailto:bcfcdawndeem@gmail.com).

#### *Pam McGauley, Magnolia House*

The Waycross Family Justice Center is now open and operating.

#### *Jeff Riggins, Brantley County Recreation Department*

Jeff Riggins is the new director, and Joey Saunds is in charge of the athletic department. He stated that he would like to have a gym built at the rec department and is looking to partner with agencies for new programs for the county.

#### *Traci Carter, Brantley and Charlton County DFCS*

Brantley County's lobby is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm. It is closed for lunch from 12 to 1 pm. Self-service is still available out front of the office, with a drop box.

#### *Renee Martin, Okefenokee RESA*

The Wrap Around Newsletter is sent out every Wednesday. Please email her at [rmartin@okresa.org](mailto:rmartin@okresa.org) for submissions.

#### *Tess Aldridge, Satilla Advocacy Services*

A Human Trafficking Symposium in Waycross will be held on October 29, 2024. Details will be sent out soon. Kaylee Herrin has been hired as an advocate, and Tori Boatright as Crisis Intervention. \$20,000 was raised with the First Responders Fundraiser.

#### *Patrick Woodward, LIFE Inc.*

Independent Living Skills are being hosted at Garden Gate. Memory Cafes have been set up in Wayne County to offer social networking and dementia awareness.

*The next Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative Meeting will be Friday, August 9, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the ARK Center, 10305 Main Street North, Nahunta, Georgia 31553, and via Zoom.*

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

Teri Hendrix motioned to adjourn the August 9, 2024, Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative meeting. Pam McGauley seconded the motion; all were in favor, and none opposed it. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

\*Included in the meeting packet.

**Friday, August 9, 2024**  
**BCFC Collaborative Zoom Chat**

12:57:55 From Dawn Deen to Everyone:

Good Afternoon and welcome to the August Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative Meeting! Please sign in for record of attendance :)

12:59:41 From Elizabeth Williams to Everyone:

Noel Williams

12:59:45 From Lisa gillis to Everyone:

Lisa Gillis

12:59:48 From Teri to Everyone:

Teri Hendrix

13:00:12 From PatrickWoodward to Everyone:

Patrick Woodward, LIFE & Board Member

13:01:14 From Traci Carter to Everyone:

Traci Carter, Brantley DFCS County Director Phone: 912-390-2366 [traci.carter@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:traci.carter@dhs.ga.gov)

13:02:29 From Lisa gillis to Everyone:

No mic sorry

13:03:36 From Ferst Readers to Everyone:

Hello! Michelle Maddox, Ferst Readers of Brantley County, [michelle@ferstreaders.org](mailto:michelle@ferstreaders.org)

13:04:56 From Guynelll Grant to Everyone:

Guynell Grant, Adult Education

13:14:51 From Traci Carter to Everyone:

just you

13:21:21 From Guynelll Grant to Everyone:

I appreciate hybrid

13:22:39 From Pamela McGauley Magnolia House to Everyone:

Pamela McGauley Waycross Family Justice Center-Email [fjcintake@waycrossareashelter.com](mailto:fjcintake@waycrossareashelter.com)-cell 912-670-3278.

13:25:20 From Ferst Readers to Everyone:

Can you please share the link for the survey again? Thank you!

13:25:47 From Renee Martin to Everyone:

Renee Martin- Okefenokee RESA- [rmartin@okresa.org](mailto:rmartin@okresa.org)

13:31:28 From Andrea Daigle to Everyone:

was it Chelsea from DECAL