

The Brantley County Family Connection Meeting Minutes

The Brantley County Family Connection (BCFC) Collaborative and Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on Friday, August 15, 2025, at 1 pm, via Zoom. 15 members were in attendance: Dawn Deen, Melissa Fombellida, Pam McGauley, Tania Steedley, Misty Strickland, Nathan Coflin, Jessica Linton, Sarah Jumper, Renee' Martin, Guynell Grant, Davion Baynard, Barbara Maefield, Maggie Santana, Donna Goodbread, and Michelle Hinds.

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 the Approval of the May 7, 2025, Executive Summary, May 9, 2025, BCFC Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, and May 28, 2025, Executive Summary*

Renee' Martin moved that the May 7, 2025, Executive Summary, May 9, 2025, BCFC Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, and May 28, 2025, Executive Summary be approved as submitted. Melissa Fombellida seconded the motion; all favored it, and none opposed it. The motion stands approved.

**Approval of the May 2025, June 2025, and July 2025 BCFC Finance Report*

Pam McGauley moved that the May 2025, June 2025, and July 2025 BCFC Finance Report be approved as submitted. Renee' Martin seconded the motion; all favored it, and none opposed it. The motion stands approved.

New Business

**April, May, June, and July 2025 Directors Reports*

Dawn Deen reported that the April, May, June, and July 2025 Directors Reports are attached to the meeting packet.

She reported the following:

- Attended the Brantley High FCCLA End of Year Banquet at the Brantley County High School Cafeteria. There were 25 in attendance.
- Added Latoya Hamilton with Southeast Health District – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Coordinator to the BCFC Partner Distribution List on April 1st.
- Added Investigators Will Kirton, Mark Stone, Mike Foreman, and Dewayne Whisenant to the BCFC Partner Distribution List on April 2nd.
- Added Jennifer Stockert with Unison Behavioral Health to the BCFC Partner Distribution List.
- Added Telisha Allen, Regional Reentry Manager for the Reentry Services Division of the Georgia Department of Community Supervision to the BCFC Partner Distribution List on April 10th.
- Submitted a grant application to the Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation Foundation for \$6,300 for our Brantley County First Readers Program on April 3rd.
- The total in-kind value for April 2025 was \$21,308.
- Our first client for the Kindness Closet was served on May 9th at 9 am.
- Volunteered at the Brantley County High School Reality Check Event on May 2nd from 8:30 am – 10:30 am. There were 40 volunteers with around 125 seniors going through the event.
- Added Kelli Cason-Head with the Department of Public Health – Babies Can't Wait Program to the BCFC email distribution list on May 6th.
- Submitted the BCFC FY26 Budget Request to the Brantley County Board of Commission on May 12th. The budget request submitted was for \$17,625 as a match from County Commission in addition to the \$56,250 reimbursement State Grant funds for a total of \$73,875.
- The total in-kind value for May 2025 was \$17,244.
- Jr. Police Academy was June 9th through the 13th at the Brantley County Middle School. There were 41 cadets, 9 jr. staff, and 19 staff registered for the event.
- A special thank you to the organizations and agencies that sponsored the 2025 JPA:
 - Brantley County Board of Commission
 - Brantley County Board of Education
 - Brantley County Middle School
 - Brantley County Probate Court
 - Brantley County Sheriff's Office
 - City of Hoboken Police Department

- Coca Cola Bottling Company – Provided beverages
- Georgia Department of Community Supervision
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia State Patrol
- Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant – Provided lunch
- Lang BBQ Smokers – Provided grill for cook out
- Mac 44 Trucking – Provided lunch
- Mobile Communications America – Provided lunch
- Pepsi – Provided beverages
- Resilient Georgia - \$2,000 Micro Grant
- Stewarts Candy Company – Provided snacks
- Thomas and Son's Wrecker Service – Provided vehicles for mock wreck
- BCFC summer hours changed from Tuesday – Friday from 9 am – 2 pm to Monday – Thursday due to Action Pacts hours changing.
- The Kindness Closet hours changed from Friday's from 9 am – 12 pm to Mondays from 9 am – 12 pm due to Action Pact being closed on Fridays.
- Zeroed out the State Grant Funding for June 2025.
- The total in-kind value for June 2025 was \$116,850.
- Southeastern Bank reached out and offered to sponsor a school supply drive for BCFC along with awarding us a \$1,000 check. The supply drive ends August 4th.
- Updated our service information in the EmpowerlinePRO Referral Database with the Area Agency on Aging on July 1st.
- Disconnected the fax number for BCFC on July 15th. due to not being used in over a year other than receiving spam faxes. County Commission emails all invoices and bills to the Executive Director.
- The total in-kind value for July 2025 was \$64.

**FY26 MOU for Dawn Deen*

A copy of Dawn Deen's approved fully executed MOU is attached to the meeting packet for your records.

FY26 BCFC Board of Commissioners Approved Budget

Dawn Deen reported that the Brantley County Board of Commissioners approved the FY26 budget for BCFC at \$73,875. That is \$8,812.50 per BCFC's Fiscal Year 26 & 27 totaling \$17,625 and the state grant reimbursement of \$56,250. Be sure to say thank you if you see one of our County Commissioners or the County Manager.

**FY26 Department of Human Resources GaFCP Fully Executed Contract*

Dawn Deen reported that the fully executed FY26 Department of Human Resources Georgia Family Connection Partnership fully executed contract is attached to the meeting packet for your records.

**FY26 Slate of Officers, Revised*

Dawn Deen reported that she received an email from Patrick Woodward announcing his retirement and resignation from the BCFC Board of Directors effective immediately. Karen Hunnicutt, Brantley High FCCLA Advisor has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors.

Barbara Maefield moved that the Revised FY26 Slate of Officers be approved as submitted. Renee' Martin seconded the motion; all favored it, and none opposed it. The motion stands approved.

**FY26 BCFC Meeting Dates*

Dawn Deen reported that the list of FY26 BCFC Meeting Dates are attached to the meeting packet and ready to be added to the partners calendars. BCFC meets on the second Friday of every month, except June and July, at 1 pm. December is the County-Wide Partners Meeting and January is the Annual Operating Planning and Data Review Meeting and are both held on the second Friday of the month, but the location and times differ. Those times and locations are released as the dates get closer.

Dawn Deen reminded partners that the BCFC Office is back to operating Monday through Friday from 9 am – 2 pm and the Kindness Closet is still operating on Mondays from 9 am to 12 pm.

**FY25 4th Quarter Report*

Dawn Deen reported that the 4th Quarter Report was submitted into Clix on July 17, 2025. A copy of the report is attached to your meeting packet.

**Georgia Family Connection Partnership Audit Results*

Dawn Deen reported that the audit on Georgia Family Connection Partnership has been completed. A copy of what has been given to the Family Connection Coordinators is attached to your meeting packet.

The auditors' key findings include significant variations among collaboratives due to an emphasis on local control, that there is no clear evidence that the Family Connection model leads to improved outcomes, the Partnership provides training and assistance to cooperatives and monitors their adherence to the established framework, and collaborative resources vary, but many face resource limitations. They suggest that decision makers, Family Connection Partnership, could consider a regional model, which would allow state funding to be split among a smaller number of collaboratives or require smaller counties to share staff. This would lessen local control and strengthen the model.

She reported that she is unsure what Georgia Family Connection will decide to do, but as she receives more information she will update the Collaborative.

Brantley County Ferst Readers, Walmart Grant

Dawn Deen reported that the Brantley County Ferst Readers were awarded \$450 from the grant she applied for at the Walmart on Plant Avenue on May 12th.

Waycross Resilient Georgia partnership Micro Grant Request

Dawn Deen reported that in June she applied for a micro grant with Waycross Resilient Georgia through Magnolia House and was awarded \$2,000 to assist with costs associated with Jr. Police Academy.

**OATH April 2025, May 2025, and June 2025 Navigator's Reports*

Dawn Deen reported that the April, May, and June OATH Navigator's Reports are attached for your review.

She highlighted the following items:

- In April 2025 28 households with a total of 37 members, 6 of which are children were assisted.
 - 2 birth certificates were purchased, 5 laundry funds were issued, transportation costs such as cab fare and gas cards were given, assisted several clients with costs related to medications and phone minutes for work, and emergency shelter at Motel 6 was paid for a client who was in crisis.
 - Assisted 4 families consisting of 4 adults and 7 children with rental assistance.
 - Distributed 23 Narcan Kits, 30 test strips, and 4 sharps containers.
 - Two peers are completing community service hours at OATH.
- In May 2025 31 households with a total of 42 members, 3 of which were children were assisted.
 - 8 birth certificates were purchased, laundry funds were issued, transportation costs such as cab fare and gas cards were given, purchased 4 Georgia State Photo ID/ Driver's License, and provided 20 shower vouchers.
 - Distributed 29 Narcan Kits, 48 test strips, and 4 sharps containers.
- In June 2025 50 clients from 22 households were served.
 - 2 birth certificates were purchased, assisted 4 people with laundry funds, transportation costs such as cab fare and gas cards were given, purchased 2 Georgia State Photo ID/ Driver's License, and purchased necessities such as lunch bags, laundry detergent, toothbrushes etc.
 - Provided 2 clients with rental assistance.
 - 5 All Recovery Meetings were held, 4 of which were at Garden Gate.
 - Distributed 86 Narcan Kits, 80 test strips, and 15 sharps containers.

**School Supply Donations*

Dawn Deen reported that Atkinson Elementary picked their school supplies up from the office on August 4th. The remainder of the schools had their supplies delivered on August 11th. A list of the supplies that went to each school is attached to the meeting packet.

**FY26 MOU with Waycross Area Shelter for Abused Persons, Inc. d/b/a Magnolia House Resilient Georgia Initiative*

Dawn Deen reported that the FY26 MOU with Waycross Area Shelter for Abused Persons, Inc. d/b/a Magnolia House Resilient Georgia Initiative is attached for your records with BCFC. This MOU allows Magnolia House/Resilient Georgia and BCFC to partner throughout FY26 at any time for any project that may arise.

**FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – Opioid Overdose Prevention Program #652*

Dawn Deen reported that the FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – Opioid Overdose Prevention Program #652 is attached to your meeting packet. BCFC received \$1,000 for this MOU to work with TRUST and continue to spread awareness of opioids.

***FY26 First Readers Volunteer Leader Agreement**

Dawn Deen reported that the FY26 First Readers Volunteer Leader Agreement is attached to your meeting packet. This is the annual agreement for BCFC to continue as the lead implementing partner for the Brantley County Community Action Team.

***FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – Health Promotions #466**

Dawn Deen reported that the FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – Health Promotions #466 is attached to your meeting packet. BCFC received \$1,000 for this MOU to partner with the Southeast Health District in continuing to promote healthy options.

***FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – GTUPP Tobacco Education #727**

Dawn Deen reported that the FY26 MOU with Ware County Board of Health – GTUPP Tobacco Education #727 is attached to your meeting packet. BCFC received \$1,000 for this MOU to partner with the Southeast Health District in continuing to promote tobacco education.

***Know Your Worth Week Flyer**

Dawn Deen reported that Know Your Worth Week is back and coming up fast! The flyer is attached to your meeting packet. Please print it and post in your office, on social media and share with co-workers, friends, and family!

- #TrustThePurpleSpotDay September 2, 2025
- Sock it to Suicide and Drug Misuse Day September 3, 2025
- Know Your Worth Day September 4, 2025
- Shade out Stigma September 5, 2025

***Georgia Recovery Bus Flyer**

Dawn Deen asked Sarah Jumper with OATH to speak on the Georgia Recovery Bus Event.

Sarah Jumper reported that OATH is happy to host the Georgia Recovery Bus alongside The Hub on September 25, 2025, at the C.C. McCray Auditorium in Waycross from 1 – 3 pm. She encouraged partners to stop by and sign their name on the bus and learn about the resources that will be set up.

Guest Speakers

Dawn Deen stated that every month she tries to schedule a guest to speak at the Collaborative Meetings, bringing new resources and partners to the table. She asked the partners in attendance to please let her know if they know of any new resources or partners they would like to have present.

Nathan Coflin stated he would love to present at one of the meetings.

Any Other New Business/Partner Updates

Dawn Deen stated that partner updates are emailed each Friday via the Brantley Happenings Partner Update via MailChimp. If you have a local event that you would like to share, submit your flyers and information to her at bfcfdawndeem@gmail.com.

Dawn Deen, Family Connection

Erin Thrift sends her apologies as she had a crisis come up at the school but asked that I announce that starting in September the LIPT Meetings will follow immediately after the BCFC Board of Directors and Collaborative Meeting both in person at the ARK Center and Zoom for those partners that are unable to make it in person. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Pam McGauley, Magnolia House/Waycross Family Justice Center

Magnolia House hosted Dancing with Southern Stars. Team Three, Jane Jones and Jason White representing Brantley County took fifth place.

Maggie Santana, Satilla Advocacy Services

Presented at Jr. Police Academy and received a very special thank you note from the cadets. They are back in the schools full time. Brantley County Schools are the first to finish Erin's Law and have signed up for Bullying and Human Trafficking Trainings.

Sarah Jumper, OATH

Brantley County's own Jeremiah Bryd has recently received his Peer Certification. OATH is currently feeding 45 people daily. To donate a meal, visit their meal train on their Facebook page or Website. They will be receiving one of the few Narcan Boxes from Georgia Overdose Prevention. The box will be on the sidewalk outside their office for anyone to get free Narcan.

The TRUST Partnership Meeting is September 4, 2025, from 9 am – 12 pm.

Jessica Linton, Action Pact/Head Start

They are in their second week of school and will be starting parent meetings soon. They are planning a community day soon. More details are to come.

Davion Baynard, DFCS

October 18th is DFCS Day at Wild Adventures. Foster parents get free parking, admission, and lunch. He invites any agency that would like to set up a resource booth for the event to join them. Dawn Deen has his contact information for anyone interested.

November is Adoption Month. He would like to plan a community event. More information is to come.

He is working on a Foster Care Resource Fair targeting churches and schools.

He is speaking with Jim Holster with 92.1 Radio out of Valdosta regarding Adoption and Fostering.

Nathan Coflin, Senior Medicare

He works to bring awareness and stop Medicare fraud. There are scams out there asking senior citizens for their DNA for genetic testing and getting their Medicare numbers to file false claims.

Michelle Hinds, Brantley County Board of Education and Brantley County Fire Association

Weapons protection systems have been placed at all the schools and games.

September 20, 2025, is Hoboken Safety Day

September 22, 2025, is the Homecoming parade

September 26, 2025, is Homecoming

Misty Strickland, Hospice Satilla

Camp Hope is a free one-day grief camp for kids and teens 6 – 18 years old. The camp is scheduled for October 4, 2025, at the Lions Camp for the Blind. Registration is required. Anyone can make a referral.

Donna Goodbread, Affinis Hospice

They cover from Glynn to Coffee County.

Dawn Deen, Family Connection

- Brantley County Chamber of Commerce Meeting, ARK Center 10305 Main Street North, August 18, 2025, 4 pm
- OATH Board Meeting August 20, 2025, 2 pm via Zoom
- All Recovery Meeting, Every Wednesday, 1 pm OATH Office 115 Albany Avenue Waycross
- Project Preparing Seniors for Disasters August 28, 2025, 11 am Nahunta Methodist Church
- BCMS FFA Mum Sale Ends September 3, 2025
- Brantley County Library Story Time Every Thursday at 10 am
- KNOW YOUR WORTH WEEK
 - #TrustThePurpleSpotDay September 2, 2025
 - Sock it to Suicide and Drug Misuse Day September 3, 2025
 - Know Your Worth Day September 4, 2025
 - Shade out Stigma September 5, 2025
- TRUST Partnership Meeting September 4, 2025, 9 am - 12 pm Southern Georgia Regional Commission Waycross
- Brantley County Library Book Sale September 5, 2025, 9 am - 5 pm
- Brantley County Library Book Sale September 6, 2025, 9 am - 12 pm

The next Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative meeting will be September 12, 2025, at 1 pm hybrid, in-person at the ARK Cetner, 10305 Main Steet North Nahunta, Georgia 31553 and via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Pam McGauley motioned to adjourn the August 8, 2025, Brantley County Family Connection Collaborative and Board of Directors Meeting. Michelle Hinds 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 15, 2025
BCFC Collaborative Zoom Chat

12:54:43 From Dawn Deen to Everyone:

Good Afternoon Partners! Welcome to the first meeting of FY26!!! Please comment your name and agency for record of attendance!

12:54:49 From Dawn Deen to Everyone:

Dawn Deen, Executive Director Brantley County Family Connection bcfcdawndeem@gmail.com

12:57:29 From Tania Steedley to Everyone:

Tania Steedley - Family advocate, action pact (Brantley Co Head Start)

12:59:01 From Tania Steedley to Everyone:

joining me in my office is Jessica Linton - Parent, Family, Community Engagement Specialist - action pact

12:59:06 From Misty Strickland to Everyone:

Misty Strickland, MSW with Hospice Satilla

13:00:03 From read.ai meeting notes to Everyone:

Dawn added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting.

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Type "read stop" to disable, or "opt out" to delete meeting data.

13:00:23 From Melissa Fombellida to Everyone:

Melissa Fombellida - Social Worker for the Perinatal Health Partnership Program through the Southeast Health District - melissa.fombellida@dph.ga.gov

13:00:29 From Jacqueline to Everyone:

Pam McGauley Waycross Family Justice Center phone number 912-490-8961-cell- 912-670-3278-email- fjcintake@magnoliahouseshelter.com

13:00:46 From Renee Martin to Everyone:

Hey!!

13:02:54 From Guynell Grant - CPTC Adult Education to Everyone:

Good Afternoon, Guynell Grant, CPTC Adult Education Program, ggrant@coastalpines.edu

13:39:03 From Donna Goodbread to Everyone:

Donna Goodbread Affinis Hospice-Thank you for your help. I am on now.

13:44:53 From Maggie SAS to Everyone:

Maggie Santana, Community Awareness Coordinator, Satilla Advocacy Services, 912-285-7355

13:53:16 From Nathan Coflin to Everyone:

StopMedicareFraud.org - NCoflin@AdviseWell.org - 877-272-8720