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**Minutes – Collaborative Meeting – April 6, 2022**

The meeting of Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Wednesday, April, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. In Attendance: Anna Speessen, Lori Kantner, Brittney Stites, Chris Martinez, Kirk Cameron, Joy Sneed, Mark Knowles, Jacqueline McKee, Giovanna Quiros, Tara Cantrell, Joe Marteski, Candace Youngberg, Kristy Lindstrom, Susan Barnhill, Sandy Bridges, Meredith Yacavone, Victoria Turner, Misty Dove, Tom Niswander, Clarissa Carter, Sherry Morris and Mandi Hyde.

Jim Yacavone, FCFC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. Introductions were made by those present and on zoom. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from March 2, 2022 for approval. After a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Niswander and seconded by Misty Dove, the minutes were approved without correction.

The first speaker at the meeting was Jacqueline McKee, the PEAKS Program Coordinator at UNG. PEAKS is starting In-Person presentation and workshops on Thursdays beginning June 2, 2022 running until July 28, 2022. There will be morning and afternoon sessions available at the UNG Blue Ridge Campus. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. For more information contact Jacqueline McKee at 706-946-5476 or email PEAKS@ung.edu.

The next speaker was Lori Kantner, Executive Director at Her Hope Pregnancy Center. Her Hope was started here in Blue Ridge in 2018 and helps educate and empower women and men on pregnancy. There are advocates that help determine the needs of the clients that come in. Clients are offered classes on pregnancy that cover all trimesters and care of the infant after birth. The center provides baby items to clients and also refers them to other agencies that can help with their needs. The center is looking to start a medical center that will provide clients with an initial ultrasound. Her Hope is hosting a fundraiser “Walk 4 Life” Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Fannin County Recreation Center from 8:30am – 11:30am.

Anna Speessen spoke about FCFC Strategy Team and that the articles on Mental Health have started running in The News Observer. Articles will run monthly in the Observer for free. Anna mentioned that Faith Presbyterian will be starting a NAMI mental health support group with the help of Martha Heffner. This group will start May 23, 2022. For more information contact Martha at 662-934-5501. The next Strategy Team Meeting will be June 7, 2022.

Sherry Morris spoke about the Poverty Awareness Team and a new group starting called ACT, Ambassador Connection Team. This team will help assist families in finding the resources they are in need of in the area. The team is hosting an outreach at Brooks Summit Apartments Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:30pm with food, drinks and an egg hunt for the kids to build a rapport with possible families.

Upcoming Community Calendar events:

North Georgia Community Action has cooling assistance available for homebound and elderly now through April 30, 2022. There is also assistance for people who are behind on rent, mortgage or utilities available. Call 706-632-2854 for more information.

Georgia Mountains Health is offering a free training on Youth Mental Health First Aid Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 8am -5pm at Family Connection in the community room.

Saturday, May 7th – Her Hope Pregnancy Center will hold their 2nd Annual “Walk 4 Life” at Fannin Recreation Center from 8:30am to 11:30am.

The Craddock Center will be having a Summer Send-Off and will give children a bag of goodies that includes a book and craft materials for a little arts & crafts fun.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris