

Minutes – Collaborative Meeting – August 11, 2021

The meeting of the Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 8:30 am. In Attendance: Joy Sneed, Kristy Lindstrom, Kirk Cameron, Victoria Turner, Megan Beavers, Monica Clark, Hope Burns, Sheena Rymer, Melissa Clements, Alexis Edelstein, Benji Parker, Mark Knowles, Kimberly O’Neal, Carol Martel, Mollie Allen with The News Observer, and board members Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Tom Niswander, Sherry Echelberger, Michael Kilpatrick, Theresa(TC) Dillard, Robert Gleadall, Gordon Riddoch. Candace Youngberg, Renee’ Lunney, Chris Martinez, and staff Mandi Hyde and Sherry Morris.

Cathy Cox-Brakefield, FCFC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33am. Introductions were made by those present and those on Zoom. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from May 5, 2021 for approval. After a motion to approve by Renee Lunney and seconded by Robert Gleadall, the minutes were approved after correction made on listing Cathy Cox-Brakefield as attending the meeting..

The first speaker at the meeting was Sheena Rymer, with Fannin County School System. Sheena spoke about student homelessness and what is considered homeless by the McKinney Vento Act – doubling up in a house with family, temporary housing, shelters, abandonment at hospital, sleeping at friends or in public areas. The school system provides services to these students with starting school as soon as possible, transportation to school, free/reduced lunch, giving partial credit on classes and help with funds for extra-curricular activities. Sheena also mentioned that the school system is starting up with more mental health assistance for students by offering small group counseling and referrals to different agencies.

Next, Sherry Morris spoke about FCFC Strategy Team and the mental health events that will be offered. Monthly talks on “Your Mental Health Matters” on ETCTV3 from August through December. There will also be viewings for the movie “Angst” at several locations in Fannin County available to the community.

Then, Kirk Cameron, with The Craddock Center, mentioned their Book Drive they are having for the month of August. Blue Jeans Pizza and Like’s Trackside BBQ are collecting brand new books at their restaurants and giving \$1 off coupons towards your next visit with them to eat.

Sherry Morris spoke again about Kid’s Count Statistics for Fannin County regarding Healthy Children, Children Primed for School, Children Succeeding in School and other health and well-being information. Sherry stated if there is any more information any agency might want to contact her and she can get them the information available.

Community Calendar

Fri-Sat, Aug 20-21 Kiwanis Rodeo, fairgrounds, 6pm

Fri-Sat, Aug 20-29 Feed Fannin’s Bowls of Hope Online Auction

Tue, Aug 17 Strategy Team Meeting - join us to be involved

Thur, Aug 19 “Your Mental Health Matters” on ETCTV3

Sat, Aug 28 Blue Ridge UMC Men, Spaghetti Dinner 4pm, benefits FCFC Food Pantry

Weds in Aug Poverty 101, Faith Presbyterian, 1-3pm

Month of Aug Craddock Center Book Drive @ Blue Jeans & Mike’s BBQ

Sept 1-17 Blue Ridge Community Theater, “Matilda”

Mon, Sept 6 Labor Day BBQ benefits Good Samaritan of Fannin County, 11am

Wed, Sept 8 Tentative – Lighthouse Mobile Vision Clinic, ages 5-17

Fri, Sept 10 Poverty 101 Crash Course, FCFC, 9am-1pm

Wed, Sept 15 Youth Mental Health First Aid, presented by GA Mtns Health & FCFC, limit 20

Sat, Sept 17 Kiwanis Blues Train to support Ferst Readers, books for kids newborn to 5yrs

Thur, Sept 23 UNG Tomato Sandwich Supper, 5:30pm, UNG Blue Ridge Campus

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Morris