



## **Minutes – Collaborative Meeting, Friday, August 9, 2024**

The meeting of Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Friday, August 9, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. In Attendance: Tom Niswander, Mark Snoddy, Melanie Davis, Julie Murphy, Crystal Hughes, Teresa Ross, Becky Goodman, Nicole McDearis, Sherry Echelberger, Sherry Lang, Lori Kantner, Tara Cantrell, Angela Vincente, Mark Knowles, Joy Sneed, Sherry Basham, and Mandi Hyde.

Sherry Echelberger, FCFC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04pm. Introductions were made by those present. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from May 10, 2024, for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes and then seconded; the minutes were approved without corrections.

The first speaker was Angela Vincente, Independent Living Coordinator with NW GA Council on Independent Living. Angela did a townhall question and discussion about our community. First was housing in the area and if it was affordable and the accessibility. Our county has a few low-cost housing complexes, but all have waiting lists, and some have accessibility. Next topic was transportation, which there is little to none. The MATS bus runs by appointment only and charges \$2 -\$3 one way and only until 1pm. Emergency preparedness in the county is pretty good. Need more assistance for the elderly. Community access is good in most places except some businesses in downtown Blue Ridge. Mental Health Awareness is becoming more available but is limited.

Tara Cantrell, Social Worker, Fannin County Schools reported that the Back to School Bash was a huge success. 548 kids participated in the event. 200 back packs and numerous school supplies were given out to students in the county.

### **Community Calendar**

August 16-17 ~ Kiwanis Rodeo, Kiwanis Fairgrounds, 124 Jones St, 7pm

August 20 ~ GED Resource Fair, N GA Technical College, Blairsville Campus, 3-7pm

September 9 ~ Georgia Recovers Bus Tour, Kiwanis Fairgrounds,

September 12 ~ Family Care Support Group, FCFC, 10:30am

September 12 ~ Early Literacy Program for Children 18mo – 5yrs; FCFC

**September 13 ~ COLLABORATIVE, FCFC, 11:30am**

September 24 ~ Civic Dinner, The Craddock Center, check-in 5:30pm; Dinner begins at 6pm

September 26 ~ UNG Tomato Sandwich Supper, UNG Campus

October 5 ~ Aging Well Fair, The Craddock Center, more to be announced soon

October 8 ~ Poverty Simulation, Fannin High Gym – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; sign-up links will be sent soon

October 10 ~ Family Care Support Group, FCFC, 10:30am

October 10 ~ Early Literacy Program for Children 18mo-5yrs; FCFC

**October 11 ~ COLLABORATIVE, FCFC, 11:30am**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris