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**Minutes – Collaborative Meeting – February 3, 2021**

The meeting of the Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:30 am. In Attendance: Benji Parker, Chris Martinez, Lori Kantner, Candy Sisson, Sarah Welch, Susan Hayes, Joy Sneed, Kristy Lindstrom, Stephen George, Megan Beavers, Kirk Cameron, Shane Stepp, Bill Echelberger, Jena Evans, Kristie Richardson, Sydney Criteser with The News Observer, and board members Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Jim Yacavone, Tom Niswander, Anna Speessen, Joan Rearick, Sherry Echelberger, and staff Mandi Hyde and Sherry Morris.

Cathy Cox-Brakefield, FCFC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33am. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from January 13, 2021 for approval. After a motion to approve and seconded by the minutes were approved without correction. Sherry Morris asked everyone to introduce themselves that were attending in-person and by Zoom.

The first speaker was Stephen George Jr. MPA, Regional COVID-19 Crisis Counselor for DBHDD Region 1, with the Georgia Recovery Project. Stephen shared information on resources for emotional support for people dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Crisis Counseling offers in-home and community based help focusing on identifying strengths and using coping skills. Number to call for help:

**Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line - 866-399-8938**

**Georgia Crisis & Access Line – 800-715-4225**

**Stephen George – 404-788-8313 or** [**stephen.george@dbhdd.ga.gov**](mailto:stephen.george@dbhdd.ga.gov)

The next speaker was Joy Sneed with CareSource. Joy stated that with the recent purchase of WellCare, the Georgia Medicare healthcare has changed. WellCare clients will have to participate in an open enrollment beginning March 1, 2021 and going through March 31, 2021.

The last speaker was Tom Niswander, FCFC Board member and representative of the newly reformed EFSP Board. This board will apply for funds available to Fannin County from the Emergency Food & Shelter Project. These funds will be used for residents of Fannin to help with utility and rent/mortgage assistance. Contact Tom at 312-802-1940 for more information.

**Community Calendar – Resources Available**

* ***Georgia Mountains Health – Waiting List for COVID-19 Vaccine –*** Email - [vaccine@gamtnhealth.org](mailto:vaccine@gamtnhealth.org) and include: Name, Date of Birth, Phone Number, Office Site (Blue Ridge, Chatsworth. Dahlonega, or Ellijay.
* ***February 10, 2021 – Heart for Literacy*** – meeting on literacy in Fannin County – Contact Sarah Welch at [swelch@fannin.k12.ga.us](mailto:swelch@fannin.k12.ga.us) for more information
* ***Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – ‘Read Across America’ Dr. Seuss’ Birthday*** – Craddock Center Book Mobile will be giving out books to local children
* ***Thursday, April 22, 2021*** – ***Civic Dinner –*** Fannin County Family Connection will hold a dinner & discussion regarding services provided in the county

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris