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**Minutes – Collaborative Meeting January 20, 2023**

The meeting of Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Friday, January 20,2023, at 11:30 a.m. In Attendance: Chris Martinez, Kristy Lindstrom, Mark Snoddy, Nicole Post, Crystal Cooke, Kirk Cameron, Jim Yacavone, Tom Niswander, Swan McKnight, Joyce Dorian, Michael Kilpatrick, Jeff Milway, Megan Beavers, Robert Gleadall, Jamie Hensley, Alexis Edelstein, Victoria Turner, Sherry Lang, Hope Burns, Mark Knowles, Brian Higgins, Robin Davenport, Annette Tyo, Meredith Yacavone, Emily Meeks, Tara Cantrelll, Sheena Rymer, Elaina Hinton, Sally Masters, Teresa Ross, Sherry Morris, and Mandi Hyde.

Tom Niswander, FCFC Board Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 11:55am. Introductions were made by those present and on zoom. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from November 11, 2022, for approval. After a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Snoddy and seconded by Jeff Milway, the minutes were approved without correction.

The first speaker was Jamie Hensley, Chairman, Fannin County Board of Commissioners. Jamie spoke about the Warming Shelter that was coordinated between Fannin County Board of Commissioners, Fannin County EMA, Fannin County Sheriff’s Office and Fannin County Family Connection and how fast it was put together and that word of the shelter was difficult to get out to the community since it was organized so quickly. The commissioner mentioned how he would like more agencies and people to get involved and help create ‘Unity in the Community’. There are several projects that are taking place in the county by the board of commissioners. Some that were mentioned were the library is getting a new building on the property that the school system’s county office was located, upgrades to 2 fire stations in the county, new water tankers, update and reopen the city pool and add a splash pad. The commissioner talked about how the SPLOST funds have helped with many things in the county and how the funds might be used in the future.

The next speaker was Nicole Post, North Georgia Recovery Navigator, Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. Nicole spoke about the different recovery meetings that are available some of which are virtual. Nicole stated that there will be new meetings and activities starting that will include movie night, monthly hikes, camping trips, starting a garden and a resource guide is in development. Nicole said that she needs a space for offices, furniture, office supplies, a van and volunteers. Nicole also has NARCAN available to administer to people who have overdosed on opioids and Deterra which is used to dispose of opioids safely. You may contact Nicole at 404-655-7851 or brightspiritswellness@outlook.com.

Upcoming Community Calendar events:

***Saturday, February 18th*** *– 12th Annual Fire & Ice Chili Cook Off and Craft Beer Festival –* downtown Blue Ridge 12 pm – 5 pm. $10 for a Tasting Card to sample the chili.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris