



## **Minutes – Collaborative Meeting, Friday, March 8, 2024**

The meeting of Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Friday, March 8, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. In Attendance: Tom Niswander, Chris Martinez, Kirk Cameron, Sue Blakeman, Becky Goodman, Brian Higgins, Tara Cantrell, Jane Kimzey, Judy Mascho, Linda Fitzpatrick, Laren Walton, Jane Nowak, Sandra Bridges, Joy Sneed, Lori Kantner, Bonnie Villeneuve, Caroline Hernandez, Flor Mendoza, Sherry Lang, Amy Miles, Mandi Hyde, and Sherry Morris.

Tom Niswander, FCFC Board Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm a.m. Introductions were made by those present. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from February 9, 2024, for approval. After a motion to approve the minutes and seconded the minutes were approved without correction.

The speaker for today's meeting was Flor Mendoza, Regional Lead Coordinator, N.GA Health District. Flor presented on the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program from the State Department of Public Health. Lead poisoning is still a concern in our communities. We are all exposed to lead through everyday items, hobbies, and occupations. Lead poisoning in children can lead to developmental delays, behavioral changes, and lower IQ among other damages. Testing children under the age of 6 is crucial to detect lead poisoning and initiate a home visit to identify sources of lead exposure. Inspections are free to homes with children. All children that are on Medicaid are automatically tested for lead poisoning at 12 and 24 months of age at their doctor's office.

Sherry Morris mentioned a Book Study on "What Happened to You?" Conversations On Trauma, Resilience, and Healing by Bruce Perry, MD, PhD, and Oprah Winfrey. Join Jordan VanHorn and Sherry Morris as FCFC hosts this book study group on Tuesday afternoons March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sessions will be held from 3:30pm – 5:30 pm in person and available for virtual attendance. FCFC has 18 books that can be loaned for the book Study. Books are also available at the library and your local bookstores. Register online at [fcfc1.org](http://fcfc1.org). Complete the google form and return to FCFC.

### **Upcoming Community Calendar events:**

**Community Resource Fair** – Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 5pm – 6:30pm at Fannin County High School and Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 5pm – 6:30pm at Blue Ridge Elementary School

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – **Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby** at Fannin County Middle School

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris