**Fannin County Family Connection**

**Board Minutes**

**July 8, 2021**

In Attendance for 1:30 Premeeting of Current Board Members

Present: Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Jane Kimzey, Doug Beck, Tom Niswander, Jim Yacavone, Sherry Echelberger, Anna Speessen

Staff: Sherry Morris, Kristy Lindstrom

Absent: Laura Thomas, Maureen Escott

The current board voted to accept the new member slate: Theresa Dillard, Gordon Riddoch, Cindy Trimble, Chris Martinez, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, James Brumbelow, Candace Youngberg, Robert Gleadal

All members were in favor of accepting the new slate.

A suggestion was made that each committee write up a short explanation of their function to include in the notebook.

All were in favor.

In Attendance for 2:00 Regular Board Meeting

Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Jane Kimzey, Doug Beck, Tom Niswander, Jim Yacavone, Sherry Echelberger, Anna Speessen New Board Members: Theresa Dillard, Gordon Riddoch, Cindy Trimble, Chris Martinez, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, James Brumbelow, Candace Youngberg

Absent: Laura Thomas, Robert Gleadal

Staff: Sherry Morris, Kristy Lindstrom

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Yacavone and seconded by Tom Niswander to approve the minutes. All were in favor of approval.

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Cox-Brakefield. We introduced ourselves. Cathy Cox Brakefield asked each person to sign up to help with our clothing inventory on July 16 from 3-6 or landscaping around the building or Saturday July 17 from 9-noon.

Finance Committee Report: Tom Niswander

Tom Niswander gave the treasurer’s report which is attached. We have exceeded our expectations with regard to donations and our expenses are in line with the budget.

Nominating and Governance Committee: Sherry Echelberger

Sherry Echelberger warmly welcomed the new board members. Tom Niswander, Jim Yacavone and Sherry Echelberger prepared a notebook for all board members with all relevant information including board member names, board policies and financial statements. Each new board member was assigned a mentor to answer questions and generally support the new member.

Strategy Team Update: Anna Speessen

Anna Speessen explained that the Strategy Team is composed of members of the community who look to identify gaps in services and make a plan to support work to fill those gaps. They are a newly organized committee. As a result of the community dinner that Family Connections hosted, mental health was identified as a major gap in services. The committee moved to address mental health stereotypes with “Watch Parties” to view a movie about mental health, a series of talk shows on the Talk of the Town with Kristy Lindstrom and periodic panel discussions with experts in the field.

Fundraising update:

Renee Lunney has agreed to be the fundraising chair. Cathy Cox- Brakefield reported that we have a Christmas Tour of Homes scheduled for December 5, 2021. We have 4 houses and would like to have 6. Sponsorship is the main way that we raise money for this activity.

Chamber of Commerce Open House:

The Chamber “After Hours” for July is scheduled at Family Connections on July 22 from 5:30-7. There should be a good turnout of 70-100 people because this is the first open house since the pandemic. Family Connections board members are asked to bring a snack/appetizer for the event. **Please let Sherry know what you are bringing so that we have sufficient food.** Serenberry is donating and pouring wine. Grumpy Old Men is donating beer and the Marines are pouring. Chef Noah Sims is grilling on the back porch. There will be a loop of FCFC photos on the big screen. Sherry is working on a newsletter and other printed material. Board members should try to arrive at 5:00 to welcome the other guests.

Feed Fannin Report:

Jane gave the Feed Fannin report.

Feed Fannin is working an online auction similar to last year’s event. It will be held August 20-29 with pickup Friday and Saturday of Labor weekend. There will be a preview the weekend prior to the auction.

Total donations from Feed Fannin including food are $42,225 for the year beginning in January.

Directors Report:

Monthly statistics

As always Food Lion leads the way, donating the greatest number of pounds. Monthly reports are attached. End of year numbers should be ready shortly. Client visits are at an all-time high with seniors growing at the fastest rate.

Faith Presbyterian and the Jewish Congregation received a grant and will be hosting a poverty training, one hour a week throughout August on Wednesdays from 1-3. Sherry will be teaching this class. She will also teach the same information on September 10 from 9-1. We would like all board members to sign up for the poverty workshop.

Adjournment

Cathy Cox-Brakefield adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Jane Kimzey

**UPCOMING DATES:**

Next Collaborative meeting - August 11 at 8:30

Next Board meeting - August 12 at 2 PM

Poverty 101 Class - Wednesdays 1-3PM throughout August at Faith Presbyterian Church

Poverty 101 Class - Friday, September 10, 9-1PM

Chamber After Hours at Family Connections - July 22, 5:30-7PM