



GEORGIA

family connection

Dawson County Family Connection, Inc.

Dawson County

FY24 Annual Plan

July 01, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Governance Type: Private non-profit body

Collaborative Functional Type: Partner Engagement

Collaborative Description and Activities to Strengthen Effectiveness: Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) will continue to coordinate & support programs that will improve family stability; specifically, for foster & kinship families. Family reunifications are more successful the closer a child's foster home is to their original home. With this in mind, DCFC will increase our efforts to support established foster families & recruit new foster families in our community. DCFC has identified a local non-profit called The Way Home as a key partner for this initiative because of their established relationship with the community's foster parents. The Way Home's Director accepted a position on DCFC's Collaborative Board in FY'23 & has provided valuable guidance on how to encourage & improve the collaboration of our local community-at-large, our faith community, our civic organizations, & local businesses to show additional support, physically & financially, to foster families. DCFC will continue, in collaboration with Legacy Link, to provide monthly meetings during the school year with the purpose of providing support & resources to those who are caring for children when their biological parents are unable to do so. In response to the Family Stability Strategy Team (FSST) recommendation, Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Training & Darkness to Light/Stewards of Children Training will be remain in our FY'24 annual plan.

In response to the Mental Wellness Coalition's (MWC) recommendation, DCFC is tasked with the creation of three (3) mental wellness brochures with students, parents, & adults as target audiences. The topic of mental wellness is a priority of most of our partner agencies & a consensus has been established that promoting the resources currently available to the community-at-large needs to be a priority. As a result, we plan to improve the Community Resource Directory and implement A Family Fair. Finally, we've identified a need for all mental health facilitators to have a unified approach & unified language when providing

resources to our community; therefore, DCFC has included Trauma Informed Care Training/Lunch & Learns in our FY'24 annual plan.

Strategy Name: Improved Family Stability

Desired Outcome: Improved Family Stability

Strategy Statement: Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) will work with partners to coordinate and support programs and services to improve family stability particularly as it pertains to kinship and foster families.

Child and Family Indicators:

Indicator	Result Area	Data Source	Notes
Children leaving foster care who are reunified with their families or placed with a relative within 12 months of entering foster care [SF5]	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	KIDS COUNT Website	
Children with a substantiated incident of abuse (per 1,000) [SF3a]	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	KIDS COUNT Website	
Other [LD10] Number of approved foster families in Dawson County who can accept children placed in care.	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	Dawson County DFCS	

Activities:

Type	Name	Description	Target Group	Code
Collaborative Development	Meet and Greet	DCFC will host a Meet & Greet BEFORE the beginning of the school year between local Division of Family & Children's Services (DFCS), school counselors/social workers, School Resource Officers (SRO), & other key stakeholders (i.e. local counselors, community collaborative) for the purpose of enhancing communication & trust between agencies.	DFCS, School Counselors/Social Workers, SROs, Key Stakeholders, DCFC Staff, Community Collaborative	[CA14]
Sustainability	Reverse Advent Calendar	Annual collection event requesting donations of basic need/essential items collected by DCFC (via collection bins and Amazon Smile Wishlist) in December for the purpose of distributing goods to foster & at-risk families or partner agencies that serve such families.	Community-at-large	[ST14]
Communications	Foster Care Month Campaign	Initiate & lead a campaign in May to distribute information to the community regarding the DIRE	Community-at-large	[CS3]

		need for foster families in our area for the purpose of acknowledging/supporting established foster families & encouraging new foster families. This would include a media campaign shared via social media, email, newsletter, billboards, & a community activity.		
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Programs & Services:

Type	Name	Description	Target Group	Lead Implementing Partner	Collaborative Responsibility	Code
Family/Adult Development	Kinship Care Meetings	Monthly meetings held with the purpose of providing support & resources to kinship caregivers. Meetings held during the school year, for adults caring for children when their biological parents are unable to do so.	Kinship Caregivers (15-20 families)	Legacy Link	Supply venue & speakers, promote meetings, track attendance, supply dinner, supply childcare. Cohort responsibilities: financial assistance.	[FD8]
Family/Adult Development	Promise 686	Facilitate introductions between Promise 686 & local churches for the purpose of initiating Care Portal to help meet the needs of foster families & families in our community who are in crisis.	Local Faith Community (5 churches to launch CarePortal)	Promise 686	Facilitate introductions between Promise 686 & local church representatives. Supply venue, promote meetings, track attendance, supply snacks/meal.	[FD20]

Family/Adult Development	Trust Based Relational Intervention Training	Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Trainings provided to those who work with children from hard places for the purpose of recognizing & meeting children's physiological needs.	Kinship, Foster, & Adoptive Families, Families or Individuals Serving/Supporting Children from Hard Places (75 trained)	Kelsey Harrison, TBRI Facilitator	Supply venue & facilitator & materials, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, track attendance, supply meal(s), supply childcare.	[FD3]
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To Document and Monitor Progress:

What is being measured?	What is the data source?	Who will be responsible?	How often will the data be collected?	How will you communicate these results?
Number of Kinship care meetings held with number of participants	Sign-in sheets	DCFC	Each occurrence	Bi-monthly report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of Kinship Care meetings	Annual satisfaction survey	DCFC/Legacy Link	Annually	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of churches partnering with Promise 686	Promise 686	DCFC/Promise 686	Each occurrence	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of participants fully trained in TBRI	Certificates of completion	DCFC/The Way Home	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of participants who complete TBRI training	Training satisfaction survey	DCFC/The Way Home	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of participants fully trained in Darkness to Light/Stewards of Children	Certificates of completion	DCFC/No One Alone	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of Darkness to Light/Stewards of Children Training	Training satisfaction survey	DCFC/No One Alone	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report

Strategy Name: Improved Mental Wellness

Desired Outcome: Improved Mental Wellness

Strategy Statement: Dawson County Family Connection will work with partners to coordinate & support programs & services to improve children & family mental wellness.

Child and Family Indicators:

Indicator	Result Area	Data Source	Notes
Other [LD10] umber of mental health days	Thriving Communities	BRFSS	
Other [LD10] How often do you feel stressed?	Healthy Children	Georgia Health Survey	
Other [LD10] In the past 30 days, on how many days have you felt depressed, sad, or withdrawn?	Healthy Children	Georgia Health Survey	

Activities:

Type	Name	Description	Target Group	Code
Collaborative Development	Mental Wellness Coalition (MWC)	Continue quarterly MWC meetings for the purpose of looking deeper into the risk factors associated with poor mental health, substance abuse, & potential suicide victims in our community & create a blueprint of how to address those identified risks with a focus on promoting positive mental health.	DCFC, MWC members, Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Stakeholders	[CA14]
Sustainability	Celebrity Waiter Breakfast	Yearly fundraising activity for the purpose of financially supporting current DCFC strategies. To be held at the Dawsonville Longhorn's with	Community-at-large	[ST14]

		notable members of the community serving breakfast to participants.		
Communications	Mental Wellness Brochure-Parents	Create a mental wellness brochure for the purpose of education & resource awareness with parents being the target audience that would include: definitions of varying stages of mental unwellness (i.e. anxiety, depression) & mental illness (i.e. clinical depression) & corresponding actions to take/resources available, definitions of counseling, therapy/psychotherapy & local resources for each definition, signs of suicide & local resources available.	Parents of Dawson County children	[CS4]
Communications	Mental Wellness Brochure-Adults	Create a mental wellness brochure for the purpose of education & resource awareness with adults being the target audience that would include: definitions of varying stages of mental unwellness (i.e. anxiety, depression) & mental illness (i.e. clinical depression) & corresponding actions to take/resources available, definitions of counseling, therapy/psychotherapy & local resources for each definition, signs of suicide & local resources available.	Adults residing in Dawson County	[CS4]

Programs & Services:

Type	Name	Description	Target Group	Lead Implementing Partner	Collaborative Responsibility	Code
Mental Health Development	Teen Maze	Teen Maze is a challenge to students for the purpose of allowing a student to "experience" real life consequences for a range of choices made in life (including suicide) in a safe controlled environment. At this event, students are provided with local	9th grade students attending Dawson County Junior High (DCJH) (350)	DCFC	Coordinate: time/location, opening scene, & facilitators for tables (20-25). Provide lunch for staff. Provide booklet & bag for each student.	[MH20]

		resources pertaining to mental wellness & suicide prevention.				
Mental Health Development	A Family Fair	Family friendly event presented by local resource agencies with field day type activities. The purpose of this event is to connect families with: each other, the community, the resources available to this community.	Dawson County families (400 families, 1500 people)	DCFC/MWC	Coordinate planning, insurance, permits, invitation of agencies, advertising, general oversight of event day of, activity & resource table.	[MH20]
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Suicide Prevention Month Campaign	Lead a campaign in September for the purpose of raising awareness of resources available for Suicide Prevention. This would include a media campaign with information shared via social media, email, newsletter, & billboards as well as a community activity: scheduling use of the traveling Suicide Prevention mural/photo op.	Community-at-large	DCFC	Creating advertisements, procuring space for advertisements distribution, scheduling/delivering/setting up Suicide Prevention mural/photo op.	[ID7]
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Mental Wellness Brochure-Students	Distribute a mental wellness brochure for the purpose of education & resource awareness with students being the target audience that would include: definitions of varying stages of mental unwellness (i.e. anxiety, depression) & mental illness (i.e. clinical depression) & corresponding actions to take/resources available, definitions of counseling, therapy/psychotherapy & local resources for each definition, signs of suicide & local resources available.	Children who attend Dawson County Schools (3,914)	DCFC	Updating, printing, & disseminating brochure.	[ID5]
Information Distribution, Community	Community Resource Directory	Distribute a Community Resource Directory for the purpose of connecting those in need of resources	Community-at-large (4,000)	DCFC	Updating, printing, & disseminating brochure.	[ID3]

Awareness, and Training		with those that provide resources locally.				
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Trauma Informed Care Training/Lunch & Learn	Provide a trauma informed care training to local mental wellness stakeholders with the purpose of establishing a unified approach with unified language regarding trauma/mental wellness.	Mental wellness stakeholders including school staff, local counselors, local resource agencies (50)	DCFC	Supply venue & facilitator & materials, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, track attendance, supply meal(s), supply childcare.	[ID9]
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Secondary Traumatic Stress Training	Provide a training that would teach social service workers to look for the signs of compassion fatigue/secondary stress for the purpose of preventing burnout.	Dawson County social service workers (40)	DCFC	Supply venue & facilitator & materials, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, track attendance, supply meal(s).	[ID5]

To Document and Monitor Progress:

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What is being measured?	What is the data source?	Who will be responsible?	How often will the data be collected?	How will you communicate these results?
Number of MWC meetings with number of participants	Sign-in sheets	DCFC	Each occurrence	Bi-monthly report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Mental Wellness Brochures-Students distributed	Distribution records	DCFC	Each occurrence	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of participants in Teen Maze event	DCJH attendance records & volunteer sign-in sheets	DCFC	Event completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report

Satisfaction of Teen Maze event	Event satisfaction survey & volunteer follow-up meeting	DCFC	Event completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Community Resource Directory's distributed	Distribution records	DCFC	Each occurrence	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Trauma Informed Care Training participants	Sign-in sheets	DCFC	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of Trauma Informed Care Training	Training satisfaction survey	DCFC	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report