

Georgia **25**  
FamilyConnection

JULY 1, 2016



PRESENTED BY: KIDSJOURNEY

HOUSTON COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION  
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## HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION

In 1997 the Georgia General assembly created Legislation Act 266 based on Senate Bill 373 creating Houston County Commission on Children and Youth. Later that year, the local commission chose the name Kids Journey: A Partnership for our Future to represent this collaborative. This collaborative was commissioned to: a) develop and adopt a vision of success for children and families, b) develop a core set of goals for children and families based on community assessments, c) develop and amend a comprehensive plan to address needs, d) develop and facilitate collaboration among public and private agencies, e) coordinate, evaluate, and manage the on-going implementation of the comprehensive plan, and f) facilitate and coordinate the integration and coordination of programs and services in the comprehensive plan. Since 1997, Kids Journey collaborative has shifted operational paradigms from one of service delivery to strategic planning and coordination of services.

In 2016 The Georgia General Assembly repealed the act that created the Houston County Commission on Children and Youth: Kids Journey. The Board of Directors moved, with Georgia Family Connections, into renaming Kids Journey to “Houston County Family Connection.” As we celebrate 25 years of operation, this organization has achieved many accomplishments which include: Teen Headquarters, Community Assessments, Wrap Around Services for Juveniles, System of Care Grant, Even Start Programs, and 100 Best Communities for youth.

Houston County Family Connection is made up of a Board of Directors who provide leadership and guidance to the Executive Director for the legal 501c3 entity. The collaborative partners are the heartbeat of the organization providing the work, creating the strategic plan, and making positive collaborative change.

## SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

The collaborative and Board of Directors have made positive steps toward a stronger future for Houston County Family Connection.

**Strengths:** Agencies and individuals are committed to this collaborative

- new and old partners want to be engaged in collaborative activities
- sub-committee meetings have improved partner participation and engagement
- New partner agencies include: Salvation Army; Board of Education (social work, transition specialists, homeless liaison); Lakebridge, WR Police, Safe Kids, Amerigroup, Peach state, Real Men, Real issues, Visions 4 Youth, Life League, STARS, JAT Ministries, Right touch Ministries, Church of the Nazarene, Centerville Community Church, Olympia Skating Rink, District Attorney’s office at DJJ, Probation, DJJ, Hope Ministries, Single Mom’s Connect, GA Legal Services, Centerville, Perry and WR Police, Mercer EOC, Phoenix Center, City of Warner Robins



## FISCAL AGENT - STRUCTURE

Beginning fiscal year 2016 the City of Warner Robins agreed to be the host for Houston County Family Connection. We are thankful for the many years of support from the Houston County Board of Education as the fiscal agent. Also during this fiscal year, this organization began the process moving from a Legislative Authority to a 501c3 Non-profit. This change will allow this organization to operate in a manner better suited for the work ahead.

## COLLABORATIVE FUNCTIONAL TYPE

### PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

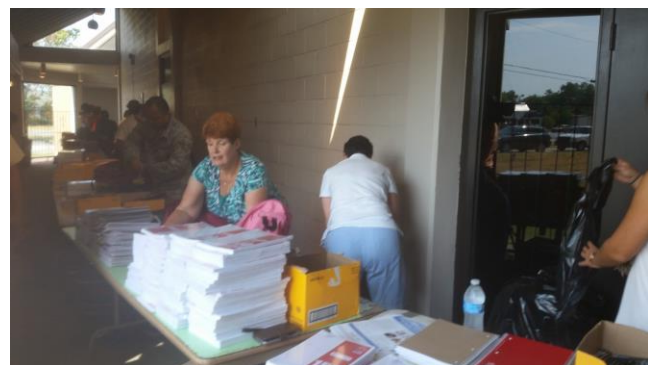
A decline in participation and unclear goals and objectives has resulted in a lack of participation with collaborative members. This year was spent re-organizing, setting goals and creating strategies that will help rejuvenate the collaborative partnership.

### FOCUS AREAS

#### \*Improving Community Health

#### \* Strengthening Families

Outcomes	goals	Data Source	Beginning Data
<b>Improving Community Health</b>	To identify, access, and share resources among partner agencies and the community	United Way 211 Resource Guide	Resource locator problems Difficult to keep current Prefer an online version User Friendly system
<b>Indicator</b>	Low Birth weight babies	GA Kids Count	2014 – 149 or 7.7%
	Households with children receiving food stamps	GA Kids Count	2013 – 6,472
<b>Strengthening Families</b>	Understanding resources for better referrals	Resource Guide improved online system	
<b>Indicator</b>	Teens ages 16 – 19 not in school and not working	GA Kids Count	2010-2014 – 813 or 9.9%
	Teens who are high school drop outs ages 16 -19	GA Kids Count	2010-2014- 504 or 6.1%
<b>Strong Collaborative</b>	Increase participation in Collaborative Activities and meetings	Sign in Sheets/ Meetings held	



## IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH

**Objective:** *Houston County Family Connection will work to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations such as pregnant mothers and low income families that reside in Houston County.*

### TRACKING THE COLLABORATIVE WORK

Name	Description	Target Group	Accomplishments
Healthier Food Donations	Work with food banks and soup kitchens to improve the food donations.	Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens	Identify 6 food pantries/food kitchens to work with  Created a food donation survey for those 6 pantries  Provided 10 health fairs at food pantries/soup kitchens 7 collaborative partners assisted with these health fairs.
Healthy Eating Cooking Demonstrations	Provide Nutrition Education and promote Farmers Market EBT program -double your dollars	Pregnant Mom's, low income families	Hosted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meet me at the Market May 5, 2016  Attendance 1900+  56 First Time Visitors  14 new EBT Inquiries  \$878 in EBT Sales  Food Demo Samples: 100+  HAWC table Giveaways: 100+
Attend Health Fairs	Participate in Health Fairs	Pregnant Moms, low income families	Attended Back 2 School Bash (over 2500 people)  Attended Bright Beginnings Fair (84 registrations)  RAFB HAWK Triple Ribbon (200+ participants)  Attended 6 events at Farmers Market



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

**Objective:** *Houston County Family Connection will work to provide children and youth with the development of positive behaviors with the intention to prevent youth crime and violence.*

### TRACKING THE WORK OF THE COLLABORATIVE

Name	Description	Target Group	Accomplishments
Systems Change	To revise update DJJ’s database of resources	Court System, Collaborative Partners	Attended Court Fall 2015 Met with Judge and Staff Fall 2015 Identified top 5 resource needs of DJJ Spring 2016
Youth Development	Selection of a pilot program (20 youth) to be referred by Juvenile Court	Court system, collaborative partners	Developed collaborative programs, presented to HCBOE and DJJ Fall 2015 BOE did not want to isolate students declined 2 programs Fall 2015 Offered 2 programs to the community with DJJ support. 5 children registered for one 0 for the other. Decided the need for this program was not strong enough Spring 2016 Decided to look for other ways to support DJJ.
DJJ Resource List	Current List of Resources for DJJ	DJJ Resources	Received training about HCBOE resources for Truancy Spring 2016 Will schedule truancy process training Fall 2016. Meeting with DJJ – Probation for list of needs/resources for youth and parents Spring 2016



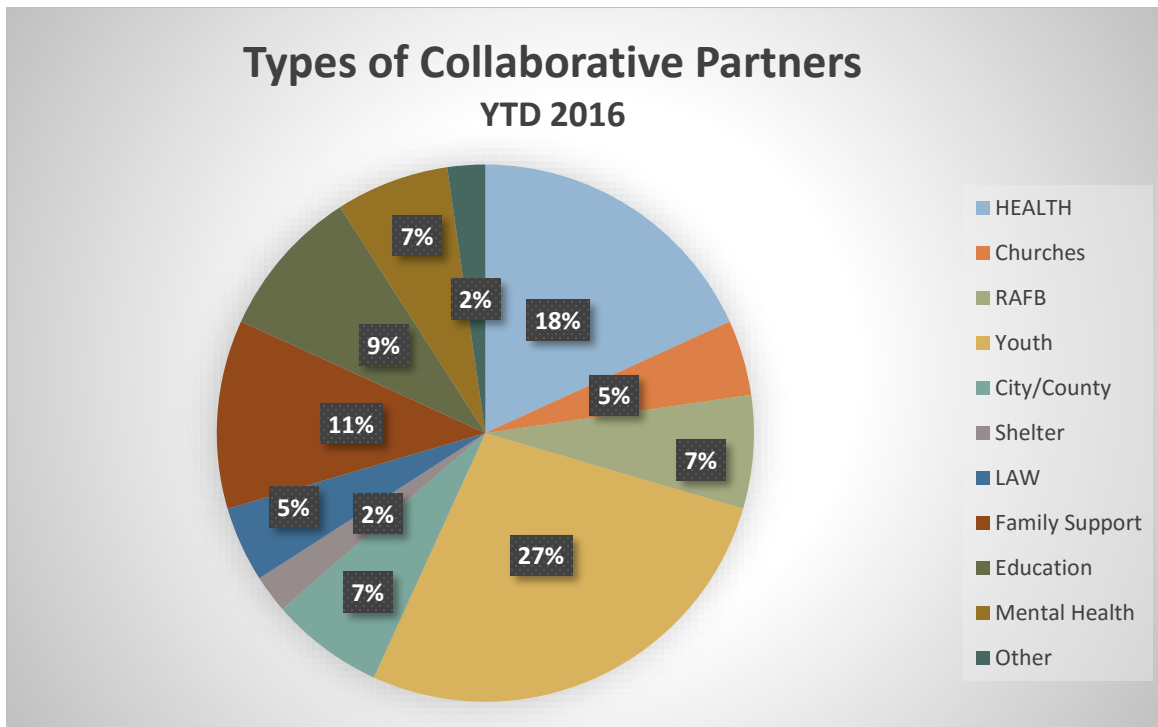
# COLLABORATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is a list of items that the collaborative agreed to work to improve in 2016.

Activity	Description	Target Group	Accomplishments
Collaborative Orientation	Create guidelines and educate collaborative members on the goals, objectives, structure and operating procedures for HCFC meetings.	Old and New Collaborative Members	<p>Created a Collaborative Membership committee met once decided we need additional help on this committee February 2016</p> <p>Located old operating procedures for collaborative. Will use this document to engage new partners in this discussion and planning.</p> <p>Created Sample MOU needs more discussion membership responsibilities needed</p>
Resource Fair Planning Team	Create a team to plan and implement a resource fair for the community and Doctor's Offices to improve communication about resources	Collaborative Partners	<p>Established Resource Planning Team engaged needed partners Spring 2016</p> <p>Planning Team Met twice Spring 2016</p>
Family Advisory Council	FAC will serve as the advisory resource for the collaborative. They will provide input regarding program development and actively work to implement change within the community.	Community at Large	Nothing was accomplished
Grant Team Establishment	Develop a grant team to research potential grants for collaborative partners who submit appropriate information	Collaborative Partners	<p>Created a Grant Team (4 members) Fall 2015</p> <p>Grant Team met 4 times</p> <p>Purchased Grantwatch.com and Grantstation.com</p> <p>Created a data base of potential grants for collaborative members Ongoing</p> <p>Created a grant application for partners interested in grant funding (2 returned) Spring 2016</p> <p>8 grants forwarded to partners. 3 were applied for and awarded to partner agencies Spring 2016</p>



<p>Partner Recruitment</p>	<p>Recruit new partners for Family Connection meetings</p>	<p>New partners and those who have not been consistently attending meetings  Establish Sub Committees New and Old Partners</p>	<p>Assembled 22 individuals to attend Teen Maze in either Hawkinsville or Cordele in Spring 2016.  Identified partners willing to engage in planning a Teen Maze in 2017.  Two Teen Maze planning meetings were held Spring 2016  9 collaborative Meetings held * 9 – 16 partners attended (see chart on pg 6)  19 Sub Committee Meetings held * 2 – 12 partners attended (see chart page 7)</p>
<p>Social Media</p>	<p>Revise Website, Create Facebook page</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>Created Facebook, twitter, Instagram Fall 2015  Attended Website Training, updated webpage Spring 2016 (www.houston.gafcp.org)</p>
<p>Speakers Bureau</p>	<p>Establish a pool of speakers within the collaborative to promote services in the community and provide information about the collaborative</p>	<p>Faith based organizations, civic groups, employers</p>	<p>Established guidelines, evaluations, applications, mailing list Fall 2015  Received 9 applications for speakers. 0 requests for speakers. Fall – Spring 2016 2015  Collaborative decided not to pursue this indicator Spring 2016  ED did get invited to speak at 2 Rotary Clubs. She offered to schedule their monthly speakers Spring 2016</p>



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Board determined to move from a Legislative Authority to a Non-Profit.

**Strengths:** The City of Warner Robins has agreed to be the fiscal agent for FY 2017. Board of Directors are committed success for Houston County Family Connections.



Activity	Description	Target Group	Accomplishments
Executive Board Orientation	Orient new and current Board Members regarding roles and responsibilities of the BOD	Board of Directors	Held a Board Orientation Spring 2016. Created Board Binders for each member Spring 2016 Voted on New Board Executive Committee Spring 2016
Dissolve Legislative Authority	Change structure from Legislative Authority to Non-Profit 501c3	Board of Directors	Repealed legislative authority Act Spring 2016 Applied with GA Secretary of State Spring 2016 Inquired Board Insurance Quotes Spring 2016
Board Orientation/Training	Provide Training for Board on roles and responsibilities	Board of Directors	Held Board Orientation Spring 2016.
Board of Directors	Create and approve by-laws	Board of Directors	Approved By -laws April 2016.



