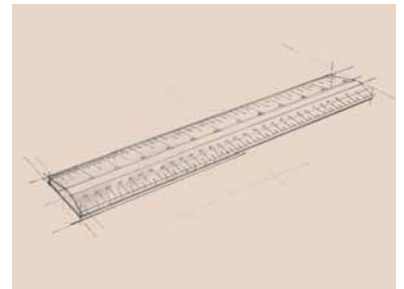
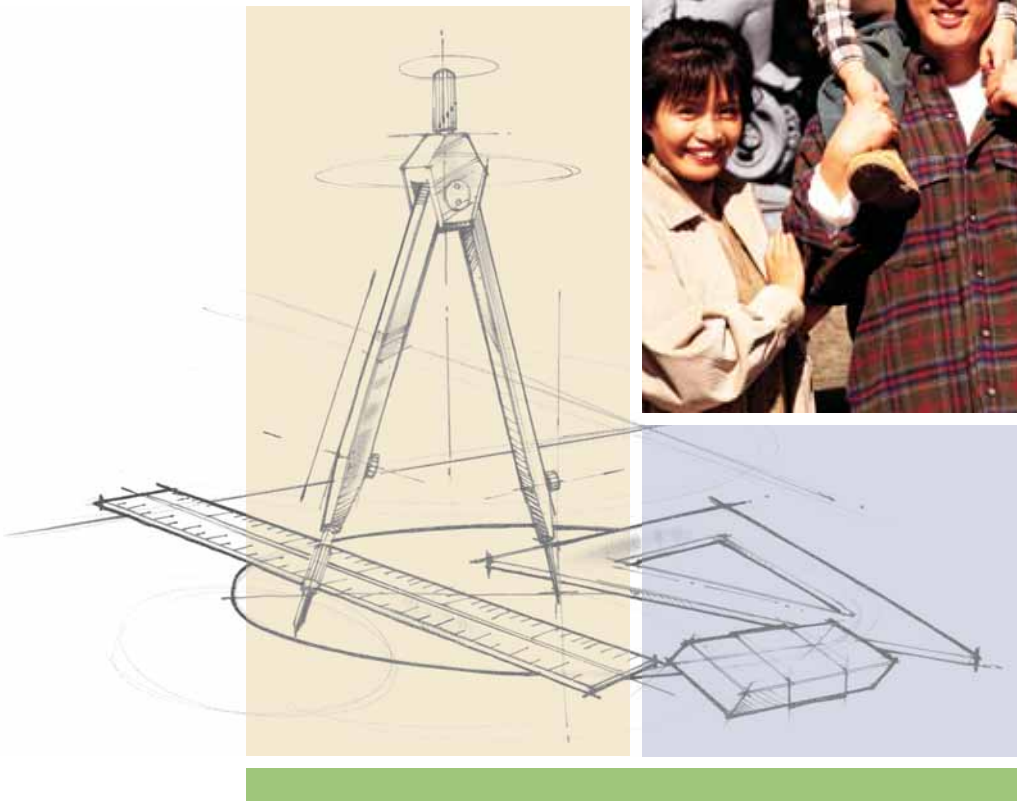
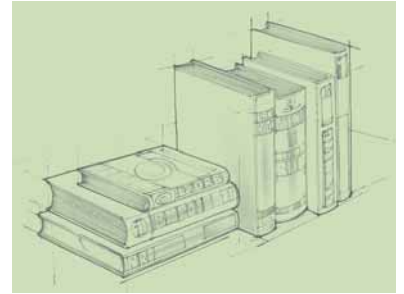


PERSPECTIVES

ON OUR WORK



P R O G R E S S | P L A N S | P E R S P E C T I V E S

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Acknowledgments

Family Connection Partnership appreciates the board members, Family Connection coordinators, and partners who contributed to our Fiscal Year 2003–2004 Year-End Report. Thank you for taking time to share your unique perspectives on our work.



PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Family Connection Partnership (FCP) believes the key to strengthening families is for people at the local level to develop and implement strategies based on their community's need. We call this process local decision-making.

In Georgia, local decision-making is mobilized through Family Connection, a statewide network of county collaboratives committed to improving the quality of life in their communities.

Collaboratives are made up of community partners. Each collaborative coordinates a planning process that identifies needs and resources, sets goals and priorities, evaluates strategies and practices, and measures and reports results for their county.

Family Connection Partnership (FCP) links partners throughout the network, builds the capacity of partners to implement local decision-making, and leverages resources to help partners strengthen families.

PROGRESS

Sustained the largest statewide network of community collaboratives working to improve results for children and families in five result areas:
healthy children,
school readiness,
school success,
strong families, and
self-sufficient families

PLANS

Coordinate the development and implementation of standards aimed at strengthening the collaborative structure and process

PERSPECTIVES

Modeled, promoted, and supported the collaborative process as the key to making improvements for Georgia's children, families, and communities

Albert Wright, Board Chair
Family Connection Partnership



This past year marked a major milestone in the progress of Family Connection. With the reactivation of collaboratives in five counties, we now have Family Connection collaboratives representing all 159 counties in Georgia.

As the nation's largest collaborative network focused on improving conditions for children, families, and communities, Family Connection has set high standards. Our board is here to help.

Our board stepped up efforts to communicate the value of Family Connection to the governor's office and state appropriations chairs. We were able to leverage support and resources to fully fund all 159 collaboratives.

Our board formed an advancement committee tasked with identifying ways to resource FCP needs. Our efforts enabled the Partnership to expand support to the collaboratives.

Our board supported the 7th Biennial Family Connection Conference by presenting the keynote speech, securing sponsors, and inviting state partners to attend.

Our board supported the development of the Family Connection Standards of Excellence as a method for strengthening collaborative processes, structures, and accountability.

Our board solicited feedback on FCP's progress from the management team, community facilitators, state partner organizations, and Family Connection collaborative coordinators and chairs to help shape our future plans.

As the board chair, I am very proud of our board members and their investment in Family Connection—one of the best investments in Georgia's future.

Albert L. Wright
 Chair

Gaye Morris Smith, Executive Director
Family Connection Partnership



I am extremely proud of the progress we made in supporting the Family Connection initiative during the past year.

Our Community Support team delivered training and technical assistance to more than 5,120 collaborative members and partners.

Our State Initiatives team added a statewide coordinator, with funding from Annie E. Casey Foundation, to support Community Partnerships for Protecting Children that fosters community involvement in keeping children safe.

Our Public Affairs and Policy team coordinated and hosted the 7th Biennial Family Connection Conference, the Winter Training Event, and the Family Connection Day Breakfast.

Our Fund Development team developed an electronic newsletter to inform collaboratives about funding opportunities and also provided partners with county data to help direct their initiatives.

Our Evaluation team conducted an impact study to evaluate collaborative performance on key benchmarks at different levels.

Our Finance and Administration team worked with the board to reduce the impact of the state budget cuts affecting funding for our collaboratives.

Our Management team strengthened relationships by serving on state partners' boards and committees, presenting at national conferences, and attending monthly collaborative functions.

As I consider the progress, plans, and perspectives on our work featured in this year-end report, I'm reminded of Henry Ford, who said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Gaye Morris Smith
 Executive Director



The Community Support team builds the capacity of collaboratives and partners to develop the relationships, knowledge and skills necessary to implement community-driven plans.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

■ Supporting Collaboratives

- Completed strategic planning with 159 counties; coordinated 64 planning forums in communities working on three-year plans.
- Expanded Family Connection from 154 active counties in FY03 to all 159 counties in Georgia in FY04.
- Offered multiple training sessions on Culture Competence, Making Meetings Work, Drugs: Living in the World of Better Living through Better Chemistry, Conflict Resolution, Communication Skills, Case Staffings, and Parents as Partners.
- Supported the Family Connection Winter Training Event, which drew more than 250 participants.
- Supported the Family Connection Biennial Conference, which drew more than 700 participants from across Georgia. Support included serving on planning committees, moderating, and leading workshops.



■ Supporting Partners

- Worked closely with Georgia First Lady Mary Perdue's office to organize six summits across the state to kickoff the "Our Children Campaign," an initiative to increase the level of awareness and volunteerism on behalf of Georgia's foster children and youth in state custody.
- Conducted six child abuse and neglect learning institutes. Georgia First Lady Mary Perdue was a guest speaker in Atlanta and Augusta.
- Provided multiple Brains and Behavior training sessions for partners and county collaboratives on impacts of abuse and neglect on brain development.

■ Supporting Staff

- Offered facilitation training with nationally renowned facilitator, Jolie Bains Pillsbury. The train-the-trainer model enables community facilitators to train local coordinators, who in turn train their peers and colleagues across the state.
- Offered Family Circles training to further enhance facilitation skills used to support planning events.
- Offered cross-team training in evaluation to community facilitators.
- Facilitated staff meetings on community team-building and the collaborative process.



PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Our plan for FY05 is to deliver and document training targeted for new collaboratives. The information will help collaboratives with succession planning and ensure that the information gleaned from FCP training and technical assistance remains a permanent part of a collaborative's knowledge base.

JULY 2003



Redesigned strategic planning process

Conducted 64 community forums

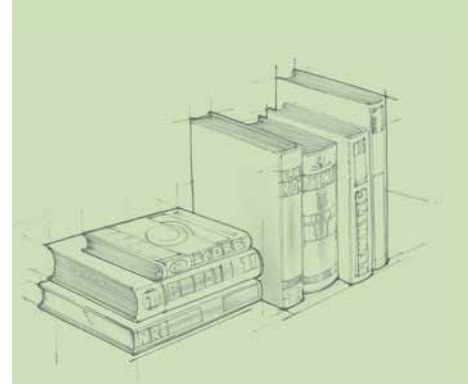
Provided technical assistance on implementing CPPC

Cross-trained staff in delivery of technical assistance in collaboration, planning, finance, and governance

Delivered learning institutes on community engagement to six regions

Delivered learning institutes on child abuse and neglect to six regions

Reviewed annual plans from communities



PERSPECTIVES

ON LEARNING

Sheryl Rehberg

Coordinator, Mitchell County Children and Youth



Family Connection Partnership models the collaborative process by teaming up with key state partners. As a part of the Community Support team, our community facilitator, Jenny Bostick, is our connection to the state office. She regularly attends regional peer-to-peer meetings and brings us valuable information and tools to help us implement our community plans.

We receive great support from other team members, as well. The Evaluation team has provided excellent training in our region. When funding became available through the Early Learning Opportunities Act, FCP's Fund Development team identified Mitchell County as a potential grantee. And when I needed to share some results with a Department of Human Resources board member, who was 200 miles away in Atlanta, the Georgia Kids Count database on the FCP Web site made it easy to review the data with him.

I also have had the opportunity to represent the Partnership at two conference events during the past year. These opportunities were made possible by my community's involvement in the Family Connection process. I like to think of our communities as the 'proof in the pudding' that collaboration really works.

Mitchell County's Family Connection collaborative is proud to be a part of the statewide network.

Mary Perdue

Georgia's First Lady



Family Connection Partnership has been a wonderful partner in the "Our Children Campaign" and regional summits. The foster care learning institutes offered a wealth of information about how we can improve the system and help foster parents and DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) workers do their jobs more easily. I appreciate the dedication of the Family Connection Partnership Community Support team, as they work with Family Connection county collaboratives around the state to encourage interagency collaboration and communication.

In this day of fiscal accountability, it is a blessing that we have the Partnership as a resource to work with state agencies and county collaboratives in creating a more efficient system of service delivery to improve the lives of families and children in our state.



JUNE 2004

Delivered learning institutes on collaborative development to six regions

Delivered learning institutes on prevention strategies to six regions

Conducted pre-submission plan reviews

Conducted technical reviews of 159 plans

Conducted Brains and Behavior training in 22 counties for 631 participants

Assisted communities in three-year strategic planning process



The State Initiatives team links community priorities and practices to state and national initiatives.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

■ Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)

- Showed measurable three-year improvements in several child and family outcomes.
- Facilitated involvement of 15 Family Connection coordinators in regional Economic Development Leadership Academy.
- Assisted counties in creating economic development and sustainability plans.



■ Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)

- Coordinated quarterly cross-site meetings for peer learning.
- Hired a statewide CPPC coordinator with funding from Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Developed trainer and participant guides for family team meetings.
- Assisted in re-engaging local and state stakeholders to support the initiative.

■ Standards

- Worked with community and state representatives to develop the draft of Family Connection collaborative standards. Process was facilitated by the Center for the Study of Social Policy.
- Invited feedback on standards draft via Web site, mailings, and five regional input sessions.
- Established Phase II workgroup with representatives selected by each region to guide the FY04 pilot year.



■ Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA)

- Assisted counties in developing strategies for early learning and child abuse prevention.
- Assisted counties on replication of the ELOA model.
- Assisted counties with applications for private and public funding to continue adult literacy and home visitation.

■ Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign (EITC)

- Assisted with the development of EITC evaluation measures.
- Coordinated EITC tax preparation site training provided by IRS, United Way, and Georgia Center for Nonprofits.
- Presented workshop at Family Support America national conference.

■ Family Support

- Provided training on Family Circles for Family Advisors, ELOA, and CPPC.
- Provided technical assistance on family involvement.
- Continued facilitation of statewide family support group.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Our plan for FY05 is to support the full implementation of CPPC in the identified counties; to provide technical assistance for EITC and family involvement; and to refine the processes for the “Family Connection Standards for Excellence in Collaboration and Community Decision Making.”

JULY 2003



Developed and published three-year ECI report

Received fourth year funding through ARC for four ECI counties

Received grant from Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare to conduct evaluation of CPPC family team meetings process and results

Partnered with Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to host think tank on family support



PERSPECTIVES

ON PARTNERING

Eric Jacobson

Executive Director, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities



When we started thinking about family support, we weren't just focused on individuals with developmental disabilities. We were focused on the bigger picture—their families. For example, if a child with a developmental disability wanders away from home every time his mother starts to prepare dinner, the family doesn't need more state aid—they need a backyard fence.

We realized that we needed to collaborate with families and with the agencies connected to their communities. Working with Family Connection Partnership and several local collaboratives, we were able to target communities interested in developmental disabilities, gather information to assess needs, and develop solutions specific to the targeted communities and their families.

Family Connection Partnership has been a tremendous partner in supporting our work. They helped us identify communities that wanted to focus on developmental disabilities from among their 159 collaboratives, they linked us to other partners who supported our work, and they helped sponsor our think tank to collect data and plan our one-stop shops across the state. Our work with Family Connection has been so successful we're sharing the best practices we developed in Georgia with partners in Vermont.

Susan Phillips

Executive Director, Georgia Children's Trust Fund Commission



When the governor's office asked our agency to manage an initiative to improve the well-being of families with young children in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) counties, my first thought was to call Family Connection Partnership and propose that we work together on what became the North Georgia Early Childhood Initiative (ECI). No other organization in the state knows more about counties than FCP.

We were looking for counties who had prioritized early childhood issues; who had a high-functioning collaborative; and who had the potential for leveraging additional resources once the ARC funding ended. Thanks to having strategic plans readily available and FCP community facilitators who knew their regions well, we found five interested counties.

Had we not worked in partnership, the initiative never would have reached its potential. As new opportunities become available, it has almost become the norm to say, 'Let's look at Family Connection.'

JUNE 2004

Presented workshops on EITC and case study impact evaluation at Family Support America national conference

Co-chaired family support work group for public health's federal ECCS planning grant

Supported Leadership Council and Peer-to-Peer Network

Assisted in developing annual meeting of Covering Kids and Families

Developed quality assurance curriculum for counties with Targeted Case Management option

Served on more than 25 boards, committees, or task forces of state and national organizations



The Public Affairs and Policy team promotes the work of Family Connection collaboratives in Georgia and provides communications tools to collaboratives and partners to help facilitate their work.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

■ Publications

- Published the first Family Connection Partnership year-end report to share with internal and external stakeholders.
- Produced and disseminated a fact sheet on the new Department of Early Care and Learning.



- Produced bimonthly editions of *Connected* e-magazine, an electronic publication addressing the complex challenges facing children, families, and communities in Georgia.
- Promoted the national 2004 Kids Count Data Book in Georgia and published Georgia 2004 Kids Count materials to track and monitor changes in indicators of child and family well-being.
- Published and disseminated *Connected to Public Policy*, an electronic news bulletin, to inform collaboratives about key legislative policy decisions in Georgia.

■ Events

- Organized the 7th Biennial Family Connection Conference including 45 sessions and workshops, 50 exhibitors, a commissioners' panel, and an awards luncheon. More than 700 participants attended.
- Organized the 2004 Family Connection Winter Training Event and Family Connection Day Breakfast, showcasing best practices of collaboratives and celebrating the success of Family Connection. More than 250 people attended. Obtained Family Connection Day proclamation from Governor Sonny Perdue.
- Attended legislative breakfasts, partner conferences, collaborative meetings, peer-to-peer network meetings, and focus groups to promote the work of Family Connection.



■ Technology

- Developed a plan to update the Family Connection Partnership Web site with enhancements for collaboratives, including a new collaborative section with profile pages, advanced search capabilities, and updated content.
- Contracted with an audio/Web conferencing company to offer conference calls with document sharing via the Internet. The service will enable collaboratives to receive select training without the expense of traveling.



PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Our plan for FY05 is to provide Web pages for all 159 Family Connection collaboratives. The pages, which will be accessible from the FCP Web site, will promote individual collaboratives and the Family Connection network.

JULY 2003



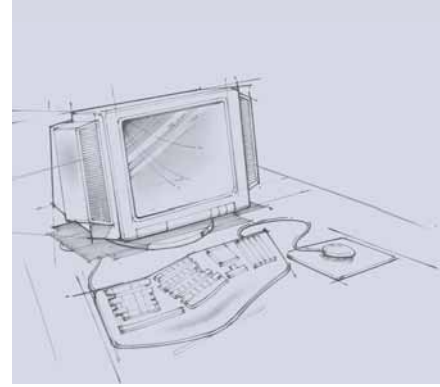
Published e-magazine with focus on school success

Completed conference registration and promotional materials

Published first year-end report

Hosted 7th Biennial Family Connection Conference at Jekyll Island

Published e-magazine with focus on strong families



PERSPECTIVES

ON INFORMING

Junie Christian

Coordinator, Columbus Children Youth and Family Coalition, Inc.



Family Connection Partnership is a total package of support to communities. The tangible value they offer is providing quick, reliable information. Whether it's their Web site, which offers information relevant to our communities, the Public Will and Governance manuals, which give us all the basics to set up local governance and organize our collaboratives, or the staff, who help keep us on track with our budgets, training, and other needs, the Partnership gives us the tools we need to help do our jobs.

The intangible value of the Partnership is its credible reputation. Because Annie E. Casey Foundation saw the importance of the work of Family Connection, Family Connection Partnership was designated the Georgia grantee for Kids Count. That really helps establish our credibility at the local level.

Without the Partnership, it could have taken our collaborative another five years to go from good to great. But thanks to their support and promotion of our work, our success has been accelerated.

Don Crary

Kids Count State Coordinator, Annie E. Casey Foundation



Most states don't have the collaborative structure in place that Family Connection does; therefore, for most other states, their data is shared primarily through the general media outlets in their states. Georgia is able to bring Kids Count data into all 159 counties because of the Family Connection network. That is one reason why Family Connection Partnership was selected as the Georgia Kids Count grantee.

Another outstanding feature of Family Connection Partnership is its ability to collect, analyze, and distribute data with the end user always in mind. FCP is so connected to local communities, state policy makers, and the media, it can tailor its data reports to their specific needs. The most recent Georgia Kids Count packet, which replaced the past data book with targeted information sheets, has been very well received nationally as well as in Georgia.

Family Connection Partnership is well respected as a credible source in Georgia. That enhances Kids Count's national credibility and our overall effort to improve family well-being.

JUNE 2004

Published "Connected to Public Policy" news bulletin

Developed and distributed 2004 Georgia Kids Count materials

Hosted the Family Connection Winter Training Event and Family Connection Day Breakfast

Provided information on child well-being to all state legislators

Published e-magazine with focus on foster care

Disseminated national Kids Count data and products to legislators, media, state partners, collaboratives, and other supporters



The Fund Development team manages the contract administration for the 159 Family Connection collaboratives and leverages resources for the collaboratives and Family Connection Partnership.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Funding Opportunities

- Researched 27 new funding opportunities for collaboratives. Pursued four grants for counties and 16 grants for Family Connection Partnership.
- Successfully received grants for counties working on efforts related to the Early Learning Opportunity Act and Early Childhood Initiative and provided fiscal oversight for \$665,000 for these counties.
- Submitted letters of support for state and local partners pursuing grant and resource opportunities.



Partner Support

- Managed and delivered financial technical assistance with reactivation of five county collaboratives for the first ever 100% statewide participation in Family Connection.
- Solicited and received funds from private donors, including the Robert W. Woodruff and Annie E. Casey

foundations, to match the state funds provided to support collaboratives.

- Developed and delivered training and resources for new collaborative fiscal agents.
- Promoted collaboratives' funding successes at local, state, and national conferences.

- Partnered with Georgia Center for Nonprofits to coordinate statewide fiscal operations training for Family Connection collaboratives.
- Completed financial review of 159 collaborative plans and 80 plan revisions.
- Prepared, managed, and executed contracts and grant awards for all 159 counties.

System Development

- Designed and published *Connected to Fund Development*, a monthly electronic newsletter that informs collaboratives about funding opportunities.



- Developed financial standards focused on local financial management, fiscal policies and procedures, and resourcing strategic plans.
- Continued support of grant tracking system for FCP and county collaboratives for potential grant opportunities.



Special Programs

- Halted the threatened statewide termination of the Targeted Case Management option for 36 participating Family Connection collaboratives serving more than 5,500 children.
- Successfully pursued second-year funding in three counties for the continuation of the Earned Income Tax Credit initiative funded through Annie E. Casey Foundation.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Our plan for FY05 is to identify and pursue funding opportunities that support the implementation of Family Connection community plans and Partnership plans and to provide technical assistance for fund management.

JULY 2003

Released approval for 159 grants from state appropriation

Maintained a system for grants and fund applications

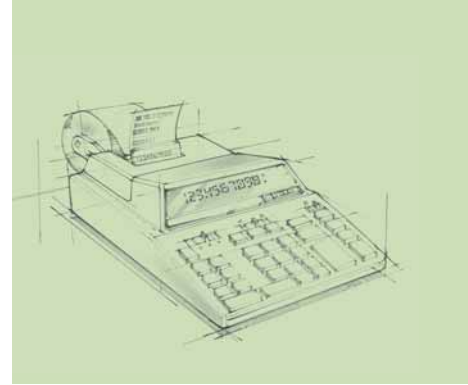
Submitted three grants on behalf of targeted communities (Earned Income Tax Credit, Early Learning Opportunity Act, Early Childhood Initiative)

Published "Connected to Fund Development," an electronic newsletter developed for communities

Continued a \$700,000 federal grant for early learning opportunities in four southwest Georgia counties

PERSPECTIVES

ON LEVERAGING



Targie Parks

Coordinator, Green County Family Connection



With Family Connection Partnership, we feel like we have someone looking out for us. They have the big picture across the state, so if an opportunity comes along that matches something we are working on, we are notified, helped, and supported.

That was the case when the Partnership learned about grant opportunities offered through the Annie E. Casey Foundation to help citizens who qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit prepare their income tax returns.

Our collaborative saw a clear relationship between family self-sufficiency and child abuse. We knew that the more financially stable a family was the less stress there would be on the family. When the grant opportunity came along, the Partnership reviewed the plans in the Family Connection network and saw that we were a good match. They were right—we received the grant.

The grant allowed us to receive training on the tax preparation software and financial literacy classes. We offered free tax preparation from January through the rest of the tax season and then offered follow-up workshops that included notebooks, materials, and other resources. When people walked away from our workshops, they had a little home office of everything they needed to do their finances.

A huge benefit of having the Partnership on our team is that they understand that local collaboratives hold the knowledge to what works in their communities—and they support our work, especially assisting us in the management of our initiative. It's almost like having a silent partner who helps you out then gets out of your way so you can get the job done.

Julian Pafford

Vice Chair, Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors



Family Connection is one of the most unique and powerful initiatives that battles poverty and improves family well-being. One of the roles of the Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors is to promote that message.

This past year, the Executive Committee stepped up its efforts to bring the Family Connection message to high-level officials and policy makers. In fact, many of us made it a personal crusade.

Board Chair Albert Wright personally hosted several dinners to give business executives and policy directors the opportunity to learn more about Family Connection. Many of them already knew about their local collaboratives but they didn't understand the big picture. They didn't realize how the network of 159 Family Connection collaboratives is changing Georgia and setting standards of excellence that other states want to emulate.

Other board members spread the word by letting their fingers do the walking through their Rolodexes. Imagine the power of networking when the board of directors includes leaders from global corporations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, state agencies, and collaboratives—and they're all promoting Family Connection.

You never see the direct results of face-to-face meetings or personal phone calls but there is no doubt that building relationships positively impacts Family Connection.

JUNE 2004

Received \$30,000 in foundation EITC funds for continuation of initiatives in three rural counties

Managed Georgia Kids Count funding from Annie E. Casey Foundation

Established fund advancement committee for FCP

Applied for six grants for FCP, including a Woodruff Foundation match for state support of FCP

Coordinated the development and delivery of fiscal operations training for communities

Continued state-appropriated support to local collaboratives, that leveraged an additional \$13.6 million locally

Researched grants and published 27 opportunities on the Web site and newsletter for communities



Evaluators conduct state and local evaluations and help build local capacity to determine effects of collaborative activities and related systems changes.

PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

■ Funding Opportunities

- Compiled findings from evaluation reports submitted by more than 90% of all collaboratives with information from our Kids Count database to develop the briefing summary *Helping Children Succeed in School through Collaboration*.
- Conducted qualitative case studies and quantitative impact studies to investigate performance on key benchmarks by collaboratives at different levels of development.



- Continued work to streamline data entry and improve the usefulness of databases containing vital information about collaboratives. The databases, which include information about planned activities and actual accomplishments, are used to answer questions posed by state and local Family Connection staff, state partners, legislators, the media, and national observers.
- Continued to help develop the Standards for Excellence in Collaboration and Community Decision Making. Modified existing evaluation tools and developed a new member survey to measure collaborative performance in relation to the standards.

- Helped evaluate FCP state initiatives operated in conjunction with Family Connection collaboratives including: Early Learning Opportunity Act, Early Childhood Initiative, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, and Georgia Partnership for Youth Investment.



PROGRESS | PLANS | PERSPECTIVES

Our plan for FY05 is to build FCP's capacity to evaluate its internal operations and to build local collaboratives' capacity to move from program to strategy-level evaluation.

JULY 2003

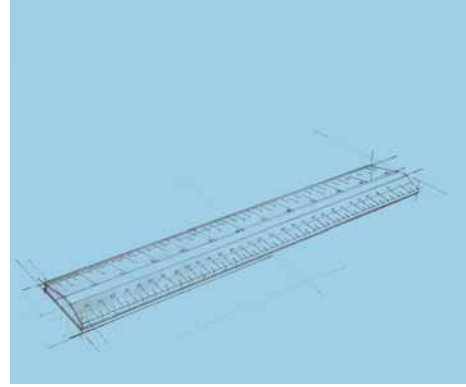


Received and reviewed 140 local results evaluation reports

Conducted Electronic Quarterly Report trainings in all 12 regions

Prepared and distributed Report of FY03 Self Assessment Findings

Conducted Community Assessment training with FCP Community Facilitators



PERSPECTIVES

ON MEASURING

Robetta McKenzie

Executive Director, Augusta-Richmond County Community Partnership for Children and Families



In this community, we don't do anything unless we have good data. Our first step is to access the Kids Count database on the Family Connection Partnership Web site. We know the database represents an accurate snapshot of what the Family Connection network is working on because the Partnership reviews every plan for all 159 collaboratives to ensure progress is accurately reported.

Our next step is to send that information to our evaluation committee, who gives us valuable input before we present the data to our local partners. Once everyone has seen the data, then we're able to collectively discuss our progress, next steps, and future goals.

Most collaboratives don't have the luxury of hiring an evaluation firm. That's why we value the FCP evaluation team. They've given us the foundation to look at our work critically, set measurable goals, and assess our results. Now they're taking us to the next level by teaching us about strategy evaluations.

If we're going to move our work forward, it's clear that we've got to have this evaluation process down pat. It's great to have Family Connection Partnership on our team.

Stan Schneider

Senior Vice President, Metis Associates



Metis Associates is no stranger to Georgia. Since 1988 with the onset of the evaluation of the New Futures Initiative in Savannah, Metis has been evaluating a wide range of social reform initiatives that have been designed to improve the lives of Georgia's children and families. Currently Metis is part of FCP's state-level evaluation and technical assistance team.

FCP is a learning organization. It is committed to ongoing evaluation to inform its policies and practices. In that spirit, FCP recently asked Metis to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of its operational plan, including an assessment of its effectiveness as an intermediary organization in supporting the statewide Family Connection network.

Although substantial evidence is mounting, it has been a challenge to demonstrate unambiguously that the local Family Connection collaboratives are directly responsible for improvements in outcomes for children and families. Making the case for an intermediary organization (i.e., one that does not provide direct services) is even more daunting. Nonetheless, as documented in Metis' recent implementation evaluation report, 'FCP brings substantial added value to the statewide network's efforts to improve the quality of life in Georgia.'

JUNE 2004

Received and reviewed more than 100 local results evaluation reports

Conducted ongoing impact studies and distributed summary report

Reviewed more than 60 local evaluation plans

Developed collaborative member survey for standards of excellence

Initiated entry of all community plans into a database

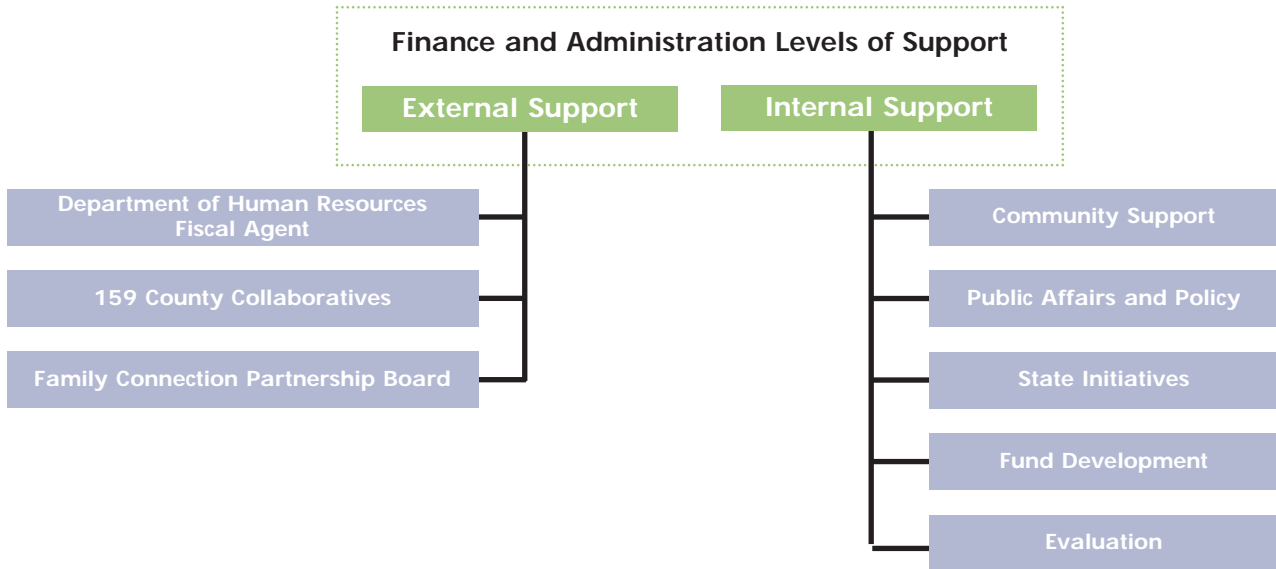
Developed and piloted a Self-Assessment training series



The Finance and Administration team sustains an effective, accountable organization structure to support the mission of Family Connection.

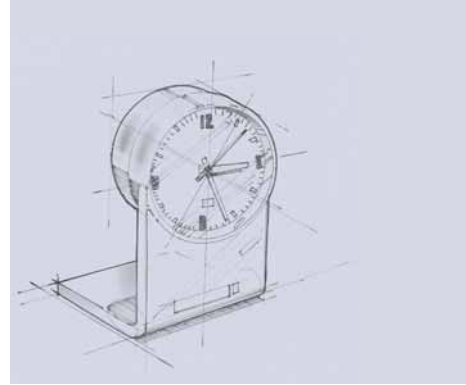
P R O G R E S S | P L A N S | P E R S P E C T I V E S

The success of any organization depends on strong leadership, solid business practices, and efficient operations. The Finance and Administration team manages Family Connection Partnership’s internal operations and supports the board of directors, and state fiscal contracts that support 159 county collaboratives.



P R O G R E S S | P L A N S | P E R S P E C T I V E S

Our plan for FY05 is to enhance the service we provide to our internal and external customers.



PERSPECTIVES

ON SUSTAINING

Bob Patterson

Treasurer, Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors



I am glad to report that Family Connection Partnership ended Fiscal Year 2004 in excellent financial condition. Diligent effort in two areas maintained this sound condition. First, we continued diversifying our funding sources by obtaining new private sector support, receiving federal grants on behalf of our counties, and working closely with state agencies. Moreover, we continued to carefully review our spending patterns to make sure we were as efficient as possible.

The Partnership was able to absorb significant budget cuts from our primary funders without significantly reducing our services to our customers. I am very proud that we did not have to reduce the basic level of grant funding we administer to counties. We realize that as the economy slowly recovers, additional funding reductions may be recommended. We are committed to meeting the challenges ahead and continuing to provide quality support services to counties, partner agencies, and administration.

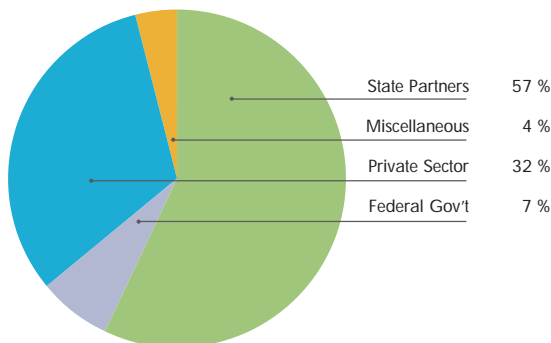
The graphs presented below represent our financial position at the year ending June 30, 2004. For the third year in a row FCP has received an unqualified opinion on our audit. An unqualified opinion means there were no problems or areas of concern noted on the final report. This opinion reflects Don Walraven's competency and professionalism. We are fortunate that he is our chief financial officer.

I observe the Partnership work from two perspectives. As treasurer and member of the Partnership Executive Committee I appreciate the staff's professionalism and commitment to helping our collaboratives. As a local collaborative chair, I see the value of this statewide Partnership supporting the local efforts to improve outcomes for families and children.

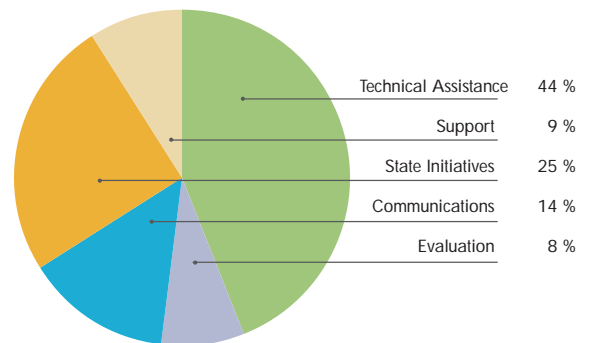
Yours in a common cause,

Bob M. Patterson
Treasurer

**Family Connection Partnership
Sources of Revenue FY04**



**Family Connection Partnership
Functional Expenditures FY04**





Collaboration is critical, especially in tight economic times, for tackling tough issues at the local level. Family Connection is the vehicle that drives community collaboration in Georgia.

P R O G R E S S | P L A N S | P E R S P E C T I V E S

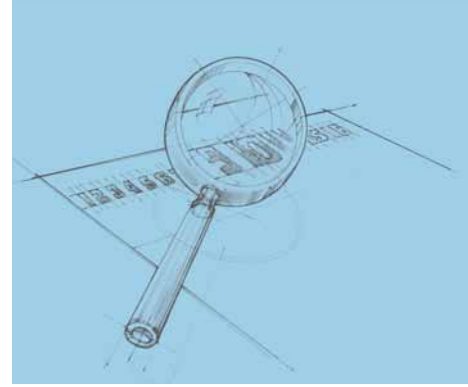
Family Connection collaboratives work to improve five areas of child well-being in Georgia: healthy children, school readiness, school success, strong families, and self-sufficient families. In 2004, Family Connection Partnership published a briefing summary that demonstrates how Family Connection communities are making a difference in improving school success.

P R O G R E S S | P L A N S | P E R S P E C T I V E S

Our plan for FY05 is to build upon the best practices of collaboration and community decision-making so Family Connection can continue to demonstrate that investments in local decision-making are making a difference in communities and are a wise and proven investment of state funds.

■ Grades Are Improving

- **Dodge County.** Nearly 300 children participated in a comprehensive after-school and summer program complemented by family support and case management services. Program Results: 52% of students improved their math grades, 47% improved language arts, and 52% improved reading after a few months of program operation.
- **Taylor County.** More than 350 children, grades 2 through 12, were involved in after-school programs that offered tutorial/academic remediation and homework assistance, supplemented by life skills training for grades 2 through 5 and abstinence education for grades 6 through 12. Program Results: 35% of students improved math grades; 61% improved reading grades, and 41% improved language arts grades. In 244 instances, failing grades were improved to at least a “C,” with some as high as an “A.”
- **Jefferson County.** More than 350 students, grades Pre-K through 5, in the Wadley Community Learning Center received extended learning and enrichment opportunities. Program Results: CRCT 4th-grade scores began improving after program implementation. The percentage of students meeting language arts standards improved 23% (statewide average 3%); reading improved 18% (statewide average 5%); and math improved 12% (statewide average 3%).
- **Turner County.** More than 600 students participated in a comprehensive, multi-faceted intervention. Program Results: 31% improved math grades; 30% improved reading, and 37% improved language arts. The percentage of program students either promoted to the next grade or graduated increased from 79% to 95%; the number retained or dropping out decreased from 14% to 5%.
- **Wilkes County.** The A-Star (After School Tutoring and Recreation) program had 154 participants. Program Results: 150 participants passed and moved to the next grade; none dropped out of school or became pregnant. Kindergarten children scored significantly higher on the LEXIA than contrast group members.
- **Brooks, Chattooga, Tattnall, and Webster counties.** Participants in after-school interventions improved their grades in reading, math and language arts.
- **Pulaski County.** After-school participants improved their reading grades.
- **Bleckley, Jenkins, Bulloch, Pierce and Appling counties.** Participants in various programs including tutoring and/or after-school and mentoring programs improved their grades during the course of their participation.



PERSPECTIVES

ON RESULTS

Julie Sharpe

Consultant to Family Connection Partnership



After 15 years of state and community collaboration, we're ready to move into the next generation of our work. With all 159 counties participating in Family Connection, local communities have the unique opportunity to create their own destiny.

Improving results for children, families, and communities through community collaboration is the essential framework of Family Connection. One key factor in sustaining collaboration is ongoing engagement and involvement of community leaders.

Collaboratives used to focus more on looking for resources to develop and implement programs. Collaboratives now focus more on strategies—they probe deeper into evaluating the impact of their work, they build partnerships to sustain their efforts, and they leverage multiple resources.

Family Connection Partnership supports community decision-making in many ways. Training and technical assistance informs and supports local leaders, publications and Web materials are resources for local learning, and the standards for excellence bring elements of quality and accountability to our collaborative efforts. But only through the results of the individual and collective actions of our community leaders across Georgia can we sustain community collaboration and continue to improve results for children and families.

Communities understand best the needs of their children and how to use resources to respond effectively.

School Attendance and Behavior Are Improving

- **Carroll County.** A comprehensive Youth Connections strategy sought to reduce truancy, juvenile offender recidivism, and inappropriate referrals to detention. Program Results: Through cooperative efforts of many partners—DJJ, DFCS, Juvenile Court, Family Connection, city and county school systems—truancy rates decreased by 17% for the county schools and 14% for the city schools; recidivism for 172 juvenile offenders was only 16%, and detention placements declined by 87% from the prior two years.
- **Turner County.** A multi-faceted youth program reported 85% of its 602 students were absent less than 10 days during the school year, compared to 70% for the state as a whole.
- **Echols, Jefferson and Tattnall counties.** Students in after-school programs showed a decrease in disciplinary referrals.
- **Pierce and Pickens counties.** Students in mentoring programs improved their school attendance over the prior year.
- **Long County.** The STAR Program, a comprehensive behavior modification program for students referred by the courts, the schools or the parents, had 128 students. Program Results: For participants, school absenteeism decreased by 79%; disciplinary referrals by 89%; in-school suspensions by 94%; and out-of-school suspensions by 66% with an overall recidivism rate of only 5.5% across all program aspects.
- **Echols, Jackson counties.** The after-school programs showed a decrease in school absenteeism for participating students.
- **Whitfield and Madison counties.** Truancy programs showed improved attendance for participating students.

Life Skills and Values Are Improving

- **Wheeler, Montgomery and Treutlen counties.** After six months, a newly funded comprehensive abstinence education and youth development program found participants had improved their grades; showed an increased appreciation for the importance of several key life values—vocation, patriotism, pleasure, citizenship and justice; and decreased importance of autonomy, aesthetics, recognition, and appearance or outward beauty.
- **Upson County.** Participants in Botvin Life Skills Training Classes improved their knowledge on the effects of using drugs/alcohol and the decisions that go with using drugs, and showed improved school attendance and grade point averages.



(From left to right: Bob Patterson, Albert Wright, Patricia Brunson, Julian Pafford, Tony Rojas)

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Julian Pafford, Vice Chair
Bobbi Cleveland, Secretary
Bob Patterson, Treasurer*

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FAMILY CONNECTION PARTNERSHIP

Family Connection Partnership, Inc., is a public/private nonprofit created and funded by the State of Georgia and the private sector.

Mission To serve as a catalyst for improving results for Georgia's children, families and communities.

Vision For Georgia's children to be healthy, ready to start and perform better in school, and have stable, economically self-sufficient families.

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Executive Director
Carlisa Beal

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Melanie Gresham-Smith
Natasha White

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Region 2 Donna Scohier
Region 3 Rita Morgan
Region 4 Joey Mullins
Region 5 Santina Fryer
Region 6 Kathy O'Neal
Region 7 Marcell Johnson
Region 8 Annetta Berry
Region 9 Lou Caputo
Region 10 Jenny Bostick
Region 11 Marion Jay Curry
Region 12 Tarry Rogers
Statewide John Bringuel
Statewide Andy Kogerma
Statewide Paula Semple

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