



Visioning Success



TOMORROW BY DESIGN

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Acknowledgements

Family Connection Partnership appreciates the board members, Family Connection coordinators, and partners who contributed to our Fiscal Year 2005 Year-End Report. Thank you for contributing to our collective success.

VISIONING SUCCESS...TOMORROW BY DESIGN

Close your eyes and imagine what the future holds for Georgia's children, families, and communities. Do you see children completing high school with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in life? Do you see young adults establishing themselves in the workforce before starting their families? Do you see families taking responsibility for the economic growth and success of their communities? Leaders from our state shared this vision 15 years ago when they pioneered building a statewide community-based support system to improve results for Georgia's children, families, and communities. That support system became Family Connection.

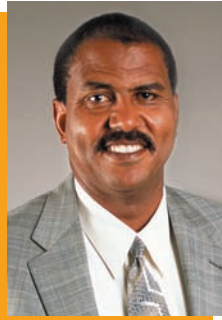
Today, Family Connection is a statewide network of 159 county collaboratives comprised of community partners that include families, local business and civic leaders, local elected officials, faith-based and school-based organizations, and public/private human service providers. Each collaborative coordinates a planning process that identifies community needs and resources, sets goals and priorities, evaluates strategies and practices, and measures and reports results for their county.

Family Connection Partnership is the supporting state intermediary that links more than 3,000 partners throughout the network, builds the capacity of partners to implement their community plans, and leverages resources to help partners strengthen families.

This FY05 Year-End Report highlights a year of visioning—of creating a shared image of our future and planning how to bring about that potential. With a clear image and plan in mind, we face the future with the determination and resources needed to reach our goals.

FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Albert Wright
Board Chair
Family Connection Partnership



As the Board of Directors anticipated the 15th anniversary of Family Connection, we embarked on a journey of reflection, visioning, and planning to look back at our original vision, check our progress, and determine a course for the future.

Through this visioning process, the board shared passions, dreams, and hopes for how Family Connection and Family Connection Partnership can make an even greater impact for Georgia's children, families, and communities. Part of that vision includes maintaining a diverse and committed Board of Directors, developing tools and resources that grow the capacity of our collaboratives and partners, and illustrating to funders that Family Connection is still one of the best investments in Georgia's future.

When I think of "tomorrow by design," I am excited that Family Connection has the vision, the leadership, and the passion to impact the future in Georgia. I am also very proud that other states across the nation want to replicate the Family Connection model. When they do, they will realize the power of a shared vision and community collaboration.

It is our goal as the Family Connection Partnership board to provide quality training, strategic direction, and strong leadership to each of Georgia's 159 county collaboratives.

As chairman of the board, I appreciate the hard work of our board members, partners, collaboratives, and staff, and the collective progress we made this past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Wright".

Albert L. Wright
Chair

Gaye Morris Smith
Executive Director
Family Connection Partnership



It gives me great pleasure to report on another successful year for Family Connection Partnership, a year where our primary focus was visioning the future of Family Connection and planning strategies that support its success.

The five stories featured in this report illustrate a collective visioning

process where collaboratives, partners, staff, and board worked together to create an image of what they needed to succeed in the future. From those images came strategic plans, and from those plans came commitments to build tools, processes, and resources designed to help achieve our mission well into the future.

As we prepare to embrace the 15-year milestone of Family Connection, we add a new result area to our work—building strong communities. We will track indicators of progress in the number of adults attaining high school or higher education, unemployment, poverty status, homeownership, crime rate, and voter registration.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Imagination is the beginning of creation; you imagine what you desire; you will what you imagine; and at last you create what you will."

I appreciate the many partners who have helped us vision success and design a brighter tomorrow for Georgia's children, families, and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gaye Morris Smith".

Gaye Morris Smith
Executive Director

imagine... guidelines that encourage collaborative growth and success

Documented guidelines provide a roadmap for quality assurance. They define clear and reasonable expectations. They focus on local decision-making. They provide a template for organizational growth. When partners vision guidelines for the future success of Family Connection, they see Standards of Excellence as a pathway for improving results for children and families in Georgia.



Ellen Gerstein

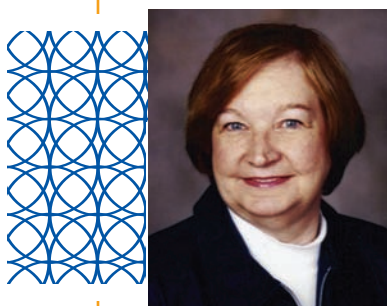
Executive Director, Gwinnett Coalition for Health & Human Services

Each Family Connection collaborative is unique: some represent a few sectors of the community, while others reflect the community's full diversity; some are in the early stages of development, while others have a comprehensive plan; some are leading the way with their time-proven best practices, while others are learning by trial and error.

While this uniqueness makes it possible for every community to achieve success, it also makes it difficult to describe Family Connection to policy makers and supporters.

The Family Connection Standards of Excellence will help define Family Connection and set criteria and measurements for quality performances. With the Standards, we finally can say, "This is who we are, and this is what it means to *meet standards*, be *proficient*, or be a *model of excellence*."

As a member of the Standards workgroup, I appreciate Family Connection Partnership for guiding this effort and including representatives from each region. Just imagine the future for Georgia's children and families when supporters understand our work, and we can demonstrate our model of success.



Shari Adam

Coordinator, Toombs County Family Connection

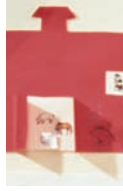
Part of the success of Family Connection is its grassroots. Its current structure offers collaboratives the flexibility to organize under a variety of governance types with partners that develop strategies based on their community's needs.

Initially, many collaboratives thought that the *Standards of Excellence* would move us away from our grassroots, but that didn't turn out to be the case.

By participating in the planning process, collaboratives had the opportunity to build in the flexibility we needed to keep our uniqueness while developing a framework to help achieve greater results.

Collaboratives are proud of the work we do to improve outcomes for Georgia's children and families, and we want to reach a higher standard of excellence. The Standards offer concrete steps and measures for taking us to the next level.

Being a part of the Standards workgroup has been an incredible experience. It's been intellectual, fun, challenging, and a real joy to work with all of the good hearts dedicated to children and families.



Family Connection Standards of Excellence in Collaboration and Community Decision-Making

Measures	Core Elements
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Representation • Collaborative Decision-Making • Family Involvement/Engagement
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan • Strategic Plan Implementation • Collaborative Involvement in Planning
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation Plan • Results Report • Collaborative Involvement in Evaluation
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Financial Management • Fiscal Policies and Procedures • Resourcing the Collaborative and Community Plan
Administration & Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator • Coordination • Personnel Management • Communication

What are the Standards?

The Standards of Excellence outline basic guidelines for ensuring collaborative quality and comprehensiveness with clear and reasonable expectations for growth and success.

They include:

- 5 measures of collaborative responsibility
- 16 core elements with Standards
- Indicators that define expectations for fulfillment of each standard
- 3 status levels:
 - Meets Standards
 - Proficient
 - Model of Excellence



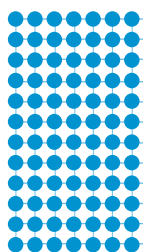
How do they improve Quality?

Standards serve as a roadmap for quality improvement by:

- Providing guidance for improving skills and processes for decision-making and management
- Serving as a framework for consistency from county to county
- Defining roles and responsibilities
- Identifying training and technical assistance needs

imagine... **measures that accurately reflect community results**

Effective measures are relevant to community goals. They reflect issues that are important to the community. They adapt to changing circumstances and conditions. They show correlations between local and national efforts. When collaboratives vision measures of community success, they see indicators in five result areas: healthy children, children ready to start school, children succeeding in school, stable self-sufficient families, and strong communities.



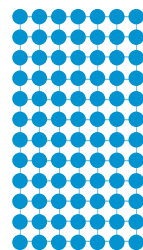
Robert Bauer

Member, Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors

The original result areas and indicators developed in 1995 helped set the direction for Family Connection. But as the measurements approached the 10-year mark, the board recommended taking a fresh look at them to determine if they still reflected the communities' work.

The indicator committee used a visioning process to look at where communities are now, where they are going, where they want to be, and how they get there. What we saw was a clear indication that strong communities and economically self-sufficient families are necessary to the success of children, families, and communities.

Revising the result areas and indicators was a huge step, and we owe its success to the diverse indicator committee, the feedback we received from community surveys, and the facilitation skills of our committee chair, who helped us build relationships with each other and stay focused on results. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our board chair, Albert Wright. He has done a fantastic job of moving the board forward so we're at a place where we can determine how the future will look.



Rebekah Hudgins

Consultant, Family Connection Partnership Evaluation Team

The 10-year milestone was a good time to revisit result areas and indicators because much has changed in the world of measurement. We have updated data from national sources, good locally developed benchmarks, and 157 community plans.

The indicator committee reviewed existing data, developed criteria for selecting indicators, reviewed national and state indicators, solicited feedback from partners, and finally sent our recommendations back to the board. I think the committee members would all agree that the process was very engaging and productive.

Our next step will be the implementation phase, which will kick off with a workshop at the Family Connection Conference in October. After that, a committee will review the result areas and indicators every five years to make sure they are still appropriate for our work.

I enjoyed working on the indicator committee because it combined my two special interests: children and families, and evaluation. I also enjoyed working with committee members that all shared a common passion to make a difference in the lives of children and families.

Family Connection Partnership
Georgia Kids Count Indicators
2006–2010

Healthy Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start Index (all three components) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Birth weight > 2,500 grams* – Prenatal care in first trimester – No maternal smoking or drinking alcohol during pregnancy • Infant mortality* • Eligible children enrolled in Medicaid or PeachCare • Child deaths, ages 1-14* • Teen pregnancies, ages 15-17 • Teen births, ages 15-19* • Teen repeat births, ages 15-19 • Incidence of STDs for youth, ages 15-17 • Teen deaths (homicide, suicide and accident), ages 15-19*
Children Ready to Start School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible children, age 3, enrolled in Head Start • Eligible children enrolled in GA Pre-K • Children from low income families enrolled in GA Pre-K • Number of out-of-home child care settings with national or Georgia accreditation • Babies born to mothers with less than 12 years of education
Children Succeeding in School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent more than 15 days from school • Meet or exceed state standards on curriculum-based promotional tests (CRCT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3rd-grade (Reading) – 5th-grade (Reading, Math) – 8th-grade (Reading, Math) • On-time high school graduation • High school dropouts, ages 16-19* • Not working or not in school, ages 16-19* • High school graduates eligible for HOPE scholarship
Stable Self-Sufficient Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First birth to mother, age 20 or older, with 12 years of education • Children living in single parent families* • Substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect • Foster care children reunified with families or relative within 12 months of entering foster care • Eligible families enrolled in the WIC program • Eligible families receiving Food Stamps • TANF recipients who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Employed when they exit the program – Employed one year later – Earn wages above the federal poverty threshold • Children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment*
Strong Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult educational attainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High school graduate or higher – Bachelor's degree or higher • Unemployment • Poverty Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children living in poverty* – Students eligible for free or reduced price meals – Families with annual income of 150% of the federal poverty threshold or less • Homeownership • Crime rate, age 17 or older <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Violent crimes – Other crimes • Voter Participation

* Kids Count national indicators tracked by Annie E. Casey Foundation

imagine... meetings that lead groups to successful outcomes

Facilitated meetings build consensus and achieve results. They spur valuable ideas and innovative suggestions. They foster relationships and teamwork. They lead groups to action plans that accomplish results. When partners vision meetings that successfully build local decision-making, they see facilitators that plan focused meetings, encourage diverse points of view, build relationships and resolve conflicts, move groups towards consensus, and develop action plans that lead to results.



Jolie Bain Pillsbury

President, Sherbrooke Consulting, Inc.

When Family Connection Partnership initially contacted me about leading a Results Based Facilitation™ workshop, our first step was to co-design the workshop. We sent out self-assessments and met with the Family Connection Partnership Community Support team and Family Connection collaboratives to assess current skill levels, desired areas of improvement, and specific problem areas.

Co-design is an important step in Results Based Facilitation because it encourages active participation from stakeholders right from the start. Once the meeting's agenda and goals are set, the facilitator's job focuses on the three Rs – Relationships, Resources, and Results.

Relationships determine how people relate to you, to others, and to the results. Resources are what people have to contribute to the results—their time, commitment, passion, and talent. Results are what you see when actions achieve their purpose.

Results Based Facilitation is a valuable skill for building local-decision making, and I applaud Family Connection Partnership for building the capacity of its Community Support team and local collaboratives.



Sandra Hathaway

President/CEO, United Way of Coastal Georgia

Participating in the Results Based Facilitation workshop helped me facilitate an important retreat. The United Way and Glynn County Family Connection collaborative recently had merged, so the purpose of the retreat was to consolidate resources, move to a community impact model, and create new committees to follow through on community assessment, strategic planning, and outcome measures.

Increasing my skills contributed to the success of the retreat. I used the co-design process and the three Rs (Relationships, Resources, and Results) to help partners reach major policy and vision decisions. Our successful retreat led us to reformat board meetings so that 50 percent of our time is spent on facilitated discussion around community and policy issues.

Over the past year, my facilitation skills have improved my performance in my daily work. They are even effective with my 10-year-old daughter.

As we continue to integrate the Family Connection impact model over the next three years, facilitation will play an important part in our success. I appreciate Family Connection Partnership helping me build my capacity in this area.



Facilitated Meeting Design

M E E T I N G R E S U L T S

	Type of Work	Approaches	Preparation
Strengthen Relationships	People getting to know each other	Los Conocimientos (Eating together)	Gather materials Bring food Have stress toys
Share Information	People learning new things	Story telling Reviewing report highlights Coaching and feedback	Choose topic Prepare report Read report Practice
Generate Ideas	Creative thinking	Post-it® notes Drawing pictures	Gather materials Set context
Explore Issues	Inquiry and dialogue	Paired conversations	Set context
Develop Solutions	Problem solving	Defining problems Creating options	Set context Define problems
Make Decisions	Making choices together	Consensus (rule of thumb)	Learn rule of thumb Identify sources of conflict Set context
Make Commitments	Negotiating requests and contributions	Dialogue to identify barriers to actions and what is needed to overcome them	Set context Develop solution Make decisions Build relationships

The facilitated meeting design is provided courtesy of Sherbrooke Consulting, Inc. Results Based Facilitation is a trademark of Sherbrooke Consulting, Inc.

For more information see: www.sherbrookeconsulting.com

What is Results-Based Facilitation?

Results Based Facilitation uses a three-tiered approach to design and facilitate meetings that get results:

1. Develop skills and behavior in facilitator
2. Employ a design focused on purpose and results
3. Execute the design to get the decisions, commitments and action steps

How does it improve Results?

Facilitated meetings help accomplish goals by:

- Encouraging full participation,
- Building consensus and
- Developing action steps



Training schedule

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Oct 2005 | Workshop offered at Family Connection Conference |
| FY06 – Q1 | Workshops offered through Family Connection Partnership Community Support team |

imagine... **tools that promote the Family Connection network**

Communication tools simplify the process of sharing information. They save time and valuable resources. They connect partners and supports to news and information. They illustrate the individual success of each collaborative and the collective success of the Family Connection network. When collaboratives vision tools that promote their success, they see Web sites for every collaborative in the Family Connection network.



Angela Westra

Coordinator, Visions for Sumter: Seeing Through Young Eyes

Our collaborative was in the process of developing a traditional Web site when Family Connection Partnership introduced the idea of offering Collaborative Webs.

With a traditional Web site, we would have had to pay for a Web address, hosting services, site design, and maintenance. With the Collaborative Webs, we received all of these services free, and we have the flexibility of making our own updates.

The first thing I loaded to our new site was our county resource directory. Now anyone in the county can access our alphabetized list of resources and services for Sumter and surrounding counties. I also loaded our annual plan goals and Family Connection Fact Sheet. This type of information will really promote our collaborative and its work. However, my favorite part of the Web is the calendar. With this tool, I can publicize our events and keep everyone on schedule.

I really appreciate the Family Connection Partnership effort to develop and deliver this new tool. Just imagine the near future when all 159 collaboratives start promoting Family Connection on the World Wide Web.



Sherry Witherington

Coordinator, Stewart County Family Connection

I recently had purchased software so I could learn how to design a Web site for our collaborative. Then Family Connection Partnership asked for our input on the new Collaborative Webs, and I began to see how this new tool might simplify the whole process.

For one thing, I wouldn't have to learn Web site design. Family Connection Partnership planned to offer pre-designed Web sites and an online tool for making updates. In addition, the standard pages did a great job of describing our collaborative so I could load the optional pages as my schedule permitted.

After a three-hour training session, I was delighted to have our new Stewart County Family Connection Web site online. Our site has information about our collaborative, our scheduled events, and photos that highlight our community successes.

In my opinion, this is one of the best services Family Connection Partnership has offered. Our county doesn't have the resources to develop a county Web site, so our collaborative Web site has the potential to serve the whole county.

Collaborative Webs

Collaborative Webs promote the network of 159 Family Connection collaboratives.



The Web site design includes:



- **Family Connection template**
- **Six standard pages**
Home, News, Success Stories, Event Calendar, About Us, Contact Us
- **Nine optional pages**
Resources, Photo Gallery, Publications, Annual Plan, Fact Sheet, Reports, Partners, Goals, Links
- **FCP Global Navigation**
FCP Home, FC Search

Family Connection Region 8 coordinators

Family Connection Region 8 coordinators piloted the Collaborative Webs in preparation for the rollout in FY06.



Front Row, Right to left: Rachael Oliver, Macon County; Valecia Sales, Dooly County; April Smith, Region 8 Family Advisor; Kathy Garwood, Crisp County; Sara Lee Crumbs, Quitman County

Back Row, Right to left: Leata Gleaton, Clay County; Kevin Brown, Marion County; Sherry Witherington, Stewart County; Annetta Berry, Region 8 Community Facilitator; Angela Westra, Sumter County; Diane Willis, Webster County; John Winchester, Harris County

Here is what they had to say:

Rachael Oliver, Macon County –

“Our partners have been asking for the resource directory; now we can post it and make it available to the whole county.”

Kathy Garwood, Crisp County –

“We already had a Web site but it was difficult getting it updated. With the Collaborative Web, I now have the flexibility of making my own updates.”

Leata Gleaton, Clay County –

“I just love it. I can’t wait to give the Web address to all of my partners.”

John Winchester, Harris County –

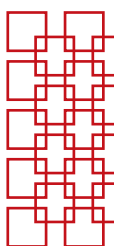
“The Collaborative Webs are fairly simple and straight forward. Coordinators shouldn’t have any problem learning the new tool.”

Diane Willis, Webster County –

“I just needed a quick introduction before feeling comfortable enough to create my own Web.”

imagine...resources that provide partners opportunity for success

Good resources fortify the efforts of partners. They strengthen and secure positions. They turn the impossible into probable. They move goals toward accomplishments. When partners vision resources for their future success, they see a support system that builds their capacity to perform, inform, and lead the statewide effort to improve outcomes for Georgia's children, families, and communities.



Rural Health Care Services Outreach Region 7 Grant Recipients

Front Row, Right to left:

Katie Gentry, Wellness Coordinator, Taliaferro County; Carolyn Reynolds, FC Coordinator, Wilkes County; Margaret Mercier, Asst. Project Director, Rural Health Outreach

Second Row, Right to left:

Julie Chance, FC Coordinator, Jenkins County; Mary Ann Kotras, FC Coordinator, McDuffie County; Donna Hardy, Wellness Coordinator, Wilkes County; Kym Snyder, Wellness Coordinator, McDuffie County; Emma Sinkfield, FC Collaborative Chair, Warren County; Wanda Davis, FC Coordinator, Glascock County

Mary Ann Kotras

Executive Director, McDuffie County Partners for Success

Eight counties in Family Connection Region 7 shared a common vision for students in their communities: decrease the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; delay the onset of sexual activity; increase physical activity; and increase good nutrition.

Rather than work toward these goals independently, we pooled our resources and jointly applied for and received a three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. With this grant, we have the potential to impact the lives of 75,000 children living in eight counties.

Our strategy is to train youth wellness teams consisting of 120 students ages 10-18. Twenty students from each county will participate in a workshop to learn about local health indicators, including substance abuse, teen pregnancy, at-risk behaviors, cholesterol, high blood pressure, physical activity levels, and nutrition habits. Once the training is complete, the wellness teams will return to their communities and work on at least four health promotion projects each year targeting local middle and high school students.

While our work on this project is just beginning, building the foundation for regional collaboration has taken years of dedicated work. One driving force behind our success is our regional community facilitator, Marcell Johnson.

Working for Family Connection Partnership gives Marcell the big picture of what's happening in the state. She shares resources such as best practices, legislative updates, and issues that impact us and other regions. At the community level, she gives each collaborative one-on-one support, making sure we each have the type of resources we need. She helps level the playing field so no collaborative falls behind, while the others are on the road to success.

As we envision the future, we see collaboratives working independently and jointly throughout the region to make improvements for our children, families, and communities. Together, we are a force to be reckoned with.



Georgia House District 32
Representative Judy Manning
Committee Chair, House Children and Youth Committee
HR 518 House Study Committee on Children:
Newborns to Age Five

Georgia's children are Georgia's future. If we are going to invest in that future, we have to start at the beginning and develop the full potential of preschool children. They need loving, nurturing relationships with their parents or guardians; good nutrition; screening for developmental and health problems; good role models; and adequate exercise, stimulation, play, and communication.

The House Study Committee on Children and Youth was created to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems that impact preschool children, and create a vision—and a long-term plan—to help children and families thrive. Before we begin our study, we will start by looking at statistics to better understand where the problem areas are and who has come up with solutions.

Family Connection Partnership provides a tremendous value with its statistical resources. The Georgia KIDS COUNT database puts county-level statistics at our fingertips, and the Georgia KIDS COUNT publications break the information down into high-level summaries that give us the big picture.

Family Connection Partnership staff also offer customized support by extrapolating information from its database of county plans to show us which counties are working on indicators related to our primary focus—preschool children. When we find a county that is succeeding in one of our problem areas, we get very excited because it means they've hit on a best practice we can replicate in other counties.

As we vision the success of preschool children in Georgia, we see state government and communities working together to ensure that every child in our state is safe, healthy, and growing towards successful lives.

Comprehensive Support

KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States.

Georgia KIDS COUNT provides citizens and policy-makers with current reliable data needed to make informed decisions about priorities, services, and resources impacting Georgia's children, youth, families, and communities.

As the state grantee for Georgia KIDS COUNT, Family Connection Partnership produces and disseminates annual Georgia KIDS COUNT publications and provides online access to the Georgia KIDS COUNT database.



Family Connection Partnership supports the network of collaboratives, state, and national partners by providing:

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Community Planning
- Development of Collaborative Standards
- Results Accountability
- Participation in State Initiatives and Planning
- Public Affairs and Policy/Advocacy
- Fund Development

imagine... plans that support the mission of **Family Connection**

Comprehensive plans hold us accountable for our work. They set measurable objectives that lead to results. They provide timetables for reaching milestones. They keep us focused on our goals. When Family Connection Partnership visions the success of our plans, we see accomplishments that build the capacity of collaboratives and partners, promote the work of Family Connection, support state initiatives and projects, show accountability for our work, and maintain effective operations.

Collaborative Standards

- Coordinated with the statewide Standards Workgroup comprised of a representative selected by each region, Family Connection Partnership staff, consultants, and board members. Refined the *Family Connection Standards for Excellence in Collaboration and Community Decision-Making*
- Implemented pilot for documents and processes; finalized standards for the first year of implementation in FY06



Communications & Policy

- Updated the Family Connection and Family Connection Partnership fact sheets
- Developed and distributed a new Family Connection Partnership brochure and FY04 Year-End Report
- Published *Connected to Public Policy* newsletters, providing up-to-date information on legislative bills related to the work of the collaboratives to collaborative coordinators, chairs, and partners during the General Assembly
- Worked with Family Connection Partnership board and Family Connection Leadership Council to draft a communications plan to promote Family Connection Partnership and the Family Connection Network
- Developed and distributed a policy paper in response to the national Kids Count essay, *Moving Georgia Youth from Risk to Opportunity*
- Supported and attended more than 14 collaborative policymaker events, meet-the-candidates forums, and annual meetings
- Presented at the Child Policy Partnership Symposium sponsored by Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Public Policy and University of Georgia Carl Vincent Institute of Government
- Served on the Voices for Georgia's Children planning board to help create a network of child advocates
- During the 2005 legislative session: provided public testimony to two House committees; made presentations on both Family Connection specifically and children-at-risk generally at the request of two legislative committees; provided data to legislators for speeches; briefed legislators individually as requested; provided assistance to legislators in drafting bills; and sponsored the Child Advocacy dinner with key partners



Collaborative Webs —

"In my opinion, this is one of the best services Family Connection Partnership has offered."

— Sherry Witherington

Events

- Planned, coordinated, and hosted the 2005 Winter Training Event, offering capacity-building sessions in governance, funding, evaluation, planning, and administration to more than 250 participants
 - Planned, coordinated, and hosted the 2005 Family Connection Day for policymakers with more than 250 attending. Guest speakers included Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, President Pro-tem Eric Johnson, House Speaker Glenn Richardson, and keynote speaker Commissioner B.J. Walker from Georgia Department of Human Resources.
- Also attending were Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox and Commissioner Marsha Moore from Department of Early Care and Learning.
- Coordinated planning for the 2005 Family Connection Conference. Work completed in FY05 includes: selecting the conference location; soliciting, reviewing, and selecting conference workshops, speakers, entertainment, exhibitors, and sponsors; developing and launching the online registration system; and developing and distributing the registration brochure.

- Provided information, exhibits, and presentations for annual meetings and legislative events sponsored by the following organizations including: Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Center for Non-Profits, and the Carl Vinson Institute



Evaluation/Results Accountability

- Designed process for piloting sub-county data analysis in 10 metro counties and one rural county for replication statewide in order to perform better data analysis
- Revised result areas and benchmarks: organized benchmark review committee, drafted proposed revisions, solicited input from counties, delivered proposed recommended revisions to the Family Connection Partnership board, and provided staff support to board
- Reviewed and provided input to counties regarding their result reports and evaluation plans
- Provided eight evaluation consultation visits to counties
- Presented the Family Connection evaluation framework at the American Evaluation Association Conference and prepared an article about Family Connection evaluation work for the *American Journal of Community Psychology*
- Awarded four three-year grants to collaboratives interested in pursuing strategy level evaluation; provided technical assistance to applicants not awarded funds; developed training to prepare all collaboratives for the next round of awards
- Developed and piloted a member survey and revamped the annual Self Assessment to be used as measures of collaborative performance in relation to the Standards

Fund Development

- Received grants from Robert W. Woodruff and Annie E. Casey Foundations for continued support
- Secured two-year commitment from the UPS Foundation
- Distributed monthly newsletter advertising 20 funding opportunities
- Finalized funding for Fatherhood Initiative grants for four counties
- Extended Annie E. Casey Foundation funding to two collaboratives for continuation of previous Earned Income Tax Credit Georgia work
- Coordinated with Georgia Department of Community Health to notify collaboratives participating in Targeted Case Management for Children at Risk program of impending change in state Medicaid program
- Responded to all budget/financial requests from the Georgia Department of Human Resources Budget Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Distributed FY05 state grants to each of the 159 Family Connection counties, \$50,000 per county, through state fiscal agent; finalized contracts for FY06 state grants to each of the 159 Family Connection counties
- Finalized Georgia Department of Human Resources/Family Connection Partnership contracts for FY05 technical assistance support to communities and for the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children initiative
- Developed database to link FY06 community contact and plan information to Georgia Department of Human Resources contract and reporting processes and relevant standards indicators
- Provided feedback and regional technical assistance to collaboratives and state partners on financing strategies and FY05 contract reporting and expenditure requirements



- Developed financial process for distributing and tracking funds as program fiscal agent for Strategies Level Results Evaluation Incentive Grants

imagine... **plans that support the mission of Family Connection**

Comprehensive plans hold us accountable for our work. They set measurable objectives that lead to results. They provide timetables for reaching milestones. They keep us focused on our goals. When Family Connection Partnership visions the success of our plans, we see accomplishments that build the capacity of collaboratives and partners, promote the work of Family Connection, support state initiatives and projects, show accountability for our work, and maintain effective operations.

Initiatives

- Received funding from Annie E. Casey Foundation for statewide coordinator of Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (in Elbert, Fannin, Franklin, Haralson, and Polk counties) and the Early Learning Opportunity grant – South Georgia EXCEL (in Coffee, Crisp, Mitchell, and Turner counties)
- Provided support, in partnership with Division of Family and Children Services, to the eight counties implementing Community Partnerships for Protecting Children through technical assistance visits, planning guidance, Family Team Meetings, training, and evaluation
- Prepared end-of-grant programmatic report and evaluation for Early Childhood Initiative
- Served as member of the planning team to develop Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems federal grant application, in partnership with Georgia Division of Public Health and Department of Early Care and Learning. The state plan, submitted in May, promotes programs, funding, collaboration and policy over the next three years.



Operations

- Revamped the system for staff and consultants to report their work in implementing the Family Connection Partnership Operational Plan
- Developed Family Connection Partnership Three-Year Operational Plan
- Researched and developed plan to streamline management of Family Connection plan databases and contracts



“Family Connection Partnership is such an important partner in our work. I am grateful for all Family Connection does to help children in Georgia.”

— Georgia First Lady Mary Perdue

Partnerships

- Partnered with Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Georgia Division of Public Health in grant application by Centers for Disease Control to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for statewide teen pregnancy prevention efforts
- Provided five workshops on establishing a Parent Advisory Council for Georgia Division of Public Health teen center and district staff
- Established new partnerships with Education GO Get It, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Department of Early Care and Learning, Interdepartmental Faith-Based Coalition Work Group, Georgia Arts Council
- Collaborated with the Latin American Association to discuss ways to mutually support each other's work. We are working together to make training available for collaboratives that work in counties with growing numbers of Latino families.
- Working with the Council on Children and Youth and the First Lady's "Our Children" campaign to organize events in regions to recruit potential foster care parents
- Shared information and presented the Family Connection model to state leaders in Missouri and representatives of the Family Investment Trust, a state organization supporting local collaboration in Missouri; have been invited to present the Family Connection model to Missouri state leaders
- Met with state partners in a meeting hosted by the Blank Foundation to discuss a parent campaign, "Better Beginnings"
- Provided a presentation for Parent Leadership Coalition, established by Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Supported one region and several counties in parent and youth engagement activities



Technical Assistance

- Provided technical assistance to counties on family engagement
- Provided technical assistance to 159 communities in the planning process
- Planned, developed, and delivered orientation training for 12 new fiscal agents and 20 new coordinators
- Provided second in a series of facilitation training for community facilitators and collaborative coordinators as a part of on-going professional development
- Planned, developed, and delivered planning guidelines for communities for use in the community strategic planning
- Provided 112 technical assistance visits to counties
- Responded to 37 requests for assistance/information pertaining to a wide range of topics
- Providing technical assistance to counties on identifying and developing evaluation plans
- Delivered 76 sessions on Better Brains for Babies to more than 2,800 participants
- Provided technical assistance to communities on finance and funding
- Planned and developed training for the 2005 Family Connection Conference

Technology

- Updated and revised the Family Connection Partnership Web site based on feedback and surveys from collaboratives. Updates include a new collaborative section with an enhanced contact search function, a new news and events section with a detailed conference section, and a new publications section.
- Developed Collaborative Webs, an Internet tool for creating individual Web sites for the 159 Family Connection collaboratives. Work included meeting with focus groups to assess needs; developing criteria for vendors; soliciting, reviewing, and selecting a vendor; coordinating the project; developing an implementation and rollout plan; and implementing a pilot group of 16 collaboratives.
- Reviewed a streamlined, electronic method for submission and collection of county data currently underway in Region 7 for possible replication across the state

imagine... supporters that fund and manage the Family Connection initiative

Public and private supporters invest in our work. They provide grant funding to collaboratives. They fund operational expenses for Family Connection Partnership. They share resources to support our mission. When Family Connection Partnership visions support that contributes to the success of Family Connection, we see a diligent effort by board and staff to maintain a sound infrastructure that will continue to support Family Connection well into the future.



Bob Patterson

Treasurer, Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors

I am pleased to report that Family Connection Partnership ended Fiscal Year 2005 in excellent financial condition. Chief Financial Officer Don Walraven's diligent effort in two areas maintained this sound condition. The continuation of fund diversification from our private sector support and consistent support from our state partners places us in a good financial position. As always, we monitor our spending patterns to ensure efficient operation.

Family Connection Partnership continued absorbing significant budget cuts from our primary funders while maintaining our services to our customers. The effective management of our resources resulted in the maintenance of the basic level of grant funding we administer to counties. We will continue providing quality support services to counties, partner agencies and administration.

The graphs below represent our financial position at the year ended June 30, 2005. Once again we received an "unqualified opinion" on our audit. This unqualified opinion reflects well on the organization and Don Walraven. We are fortunate that he is our chief financial officer.

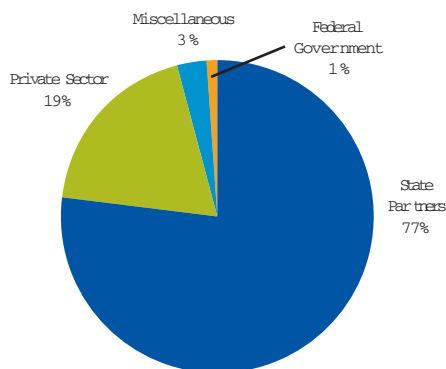
My commitment to Family Connection on the state and local level is strong. I am convinced that we are making a difference in Georgia. Family Connection Partnership is irreplaceable. Our counties would be in dire circumstances without the support and advocacy of Family Connection Partnership. Without the work of the local collaboratives, conditions for families in Georgia would not be improving.

Yours in a common cause,

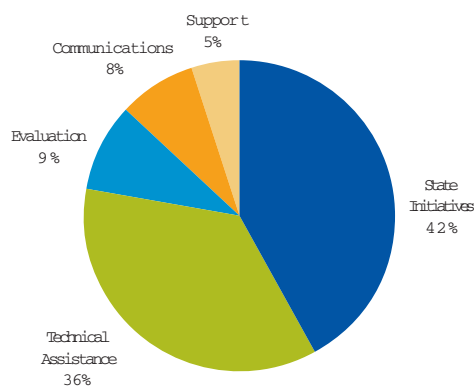
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob M. Patterson".

Bob M. Patterson, Treasurer

**Family Connection Partnership
Sources of Revenue FY05**



**Family Connection Partnership
Functional Expenditures FY05**



Family Connection Partnership

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

Our Mission is to work in partnership with communities, policymakers, service providers, businesses, advocates, and families to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities in Georgia.

Our Vision is for Georgia's children to be healthy, ready to start and succeed in school, have stable, self-sufficient families, and live in strong communities.

Our Goals as a nonprofit intermediary organization are to work closely with the network of community collaboratives, state and national partners to:

1. Provide a framework for planning and collaboration to improve results for Georgia's children, families and communities.
2. Build and maintain relationships with public and private agencies and communities to share and combine resources, link priorities, and improve services and supports for families.
3. Increase awareness, understanding, and commitment to improve results for Georgia's children and families.
4. Identify best practices of community collaboratives and develop capacity for conducting research and evaluation.
5. Sustain an effective, accountable organizational structure to support the mission of the Family Connection Partnership and leverage resources on behalf of the network of community collaboratives.

Our Board of Directors

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