

# COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES



**Date:** 4/17/26

**Location:** White County Board of Education

## Attendees: 39

WCFC	Dept. of Public Health
DFCS	Ninth District Opportunity
CASA	Street Exit
WCSS	Cornerstones Counseling
DJJ	Cleveland Police Dept.
SECAC	Chamber of Commerce
Amped Kids	Georgia Vocational Rehab
Circle of Hope	
Adventure Bags	

## Announcements

- Summer Meal Program: 17-20 more locations, children aged 2-22; 74,000+ meals last summer.
- South Enotah CAC: Mini Golf Fundraiser April 29
- Ethics Training: June 11 at Mountain Ed., \$25
- Circle of Hope: Denim and Diamonds, May 2
- WCFC: Free Food Distribution April 29 at 11 a.m.
- Enotah CASA: Free poverty simulation with CEU credits, April 22, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Matthew 25 Alliance: Center opening soon in White County

## Presenter: DFCS

- We partner with families to offer them options to let them be decision-makers.
- CarePortal: Helps to assist and stabilize families by providing immediate resources. Sometimes connections turns into life-long resources, such as a parent mentor.
- Foster Care: Unification is the goal. White County has gone from 90 kids in care three years ago to 21 kids. Most kids enter care due to poverty or parental substance abuse. Number entering from abuse and neglect has declined. Foster home shortage locally, especially for teens and sibling groups.
- Service Gaps: mental health, especially for teens and insurance issues

## Presenter: Enotah CASA

- Court Appointed Special Advocates serve Lumpkin, White, Towns and Union counties
- CASA volunteer is that one consistent person in a child's life when so much changes
- Focus on what's in best interest of the child
- Poverty situation is huge for these kids. Many times, it creates child abuse.
- Always in need of volunteers. Never enough.
- April 22: UGA Extension is holding a poverty simulation in Blairsville. Event is free and free Chick-fil-a lunch and CEU credits. Sign up at [Enotahcasa.org](http://Enotahcasa.org).
- First step to empathy is seeing what the other side deals with.

## Presenter: South Enotah CAC

- DFCS or law enforcement makes referral.
- SECAC does forensic interview, potential medical examination.
- Lots of intervention (parent education and prevention training) to help crimes from happening again.
- Courage to Care Training: Virtually or in person. Practical prevention for adults working with youth. Learn to recognize warning signs, establish safe environments, promote healthy relationships and respond to abuse concerns.

## Presenter: WC Family Connection

- Goal: reduce stressors to create stable families.
- Family Advocacy program: Two paths: direct emergency assistance (55 Referrals for short-term support in March) or individualized family plan (family goals, life skills and parenting skills).
- Warrior Connection: Resource center providing immediate needs of food, clothing and hygiene.
- Grand Connections: Kinship care program to help caregivers connect and find resources.
- Cook & Connect cooking class and Food Distributon also help reduce stressors.

**Next Meeting:**  
**May 15, 11 a.m.**

Our May Collaborative Meeting will take place at the New Rec Center Cafe. The Rec Center will explain its offerings to the community and the Brayden Philyaw Foundation how its work impacts kids and families locally.