

COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES



Date: 8/21/26

Location: White County Board of Education

Attendees: 35

White County Family Connection
WCFC Board
White County School System
Matthew 25 Alliance
Mountain Education
Enotah Family Therapy
Wellroot Family Services
North Georgia Tech Adult Education
White County Parks & Recreation
White County DFCS
White County Health Dept.
988 Crisis Hotline
Family Promise
Family Resource Center of Northeast GA
Circle of Hope
Cleveland First Methodist
Therapeutic Impressions
Ninth District Opportunity
Hearts for Families
Enotah Family Therapy
Department of Juvenile Justice
Cornerstones Counseling

Announcements

- White County Family Connection:
 - Aug. 26: Free Food Distribution
 - Sept. 10: Grand Connections Kinship Care Meeting (SECAC presenting Rock the Talk)
 - Sept. 22: Celebrate Connection Awards Dinner at Meadows at Mossy Creek.
 - Nov. 7: Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Sautee Nacoochee Center
- Wellroot: New HOPE Training offered
- Mountain Education: Gospel singing fundraiser, Aug. 22 at the new Parks & Rec gym
- Matthew 25 Alliance: Resource sessions in partnership with StreetExit. are held every other Tuesday morning at First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland
- Parks & Rec: Movie in the Park is Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. at Tesnatee Gap fields.
- Ninth District Opportunity: Funding for cooling program is open until end of August.

Presenter: Chuck and Kori Roddy with Christ Kids Ranch

- Founded in 2020 with a vision to minister to at-risk children ages 6-18.
- Serves children who have experienced: childhood trauma, foster care placement, death of a loved one, neglect, abuse and more.
- Currently has 2 horses and 3 donkeys.
- Combines a mentorship program with equine-assisted activities to connect the child, mentor, and horse.
- Staff members are not therapists; the program uses horsemanship as a hands-on approach to personal growth and life skills.
- Provides an active, engaging alternative that can complement traditional therapy. They are open to partnering with traditional therapists.
- Each child receives: an intake assessment, an individualized plan of care, short- and long-term goals
- Mentors meet with children weekly for at least one hour. Emphasis is placed on building a consistent, dependable relationship between the child and mentor.
- Goals may include improving: attention span and focus, communication, boundary awareness, stress management, emotional regulation
- Children take an active ownership role in caring for and working with their horse, which help them learn to regulate their emotions.
- It is not a riding program. All activities are ground-based, such as directing and grooming the horse.
- Future plans include developing a garden program.
- Located in south White County. For more info, visit christkidsranch.org

Next Meeting:
Sept. 18, 11 a.m.

Enotah Family Therapy is our speaker for September. Funded by a federal grant through DJJ since 2014, Enotah offers a 4 to 6 month program for children and their families ages 12-18 using therapy, education and barrier removal for success.