

Georgia's Family and Community Engagement System: Starting and Sustaining Continuous Improvement

**Georgia Compensatory Educational Leaders (GCEL) Conference
February 2018**

Cook County Family Connection, Toombs County Family Connection,
and the Georgia Department of Education



What Questions Do You Have?

What Brought You To This Session?

Objectives



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
gadoe.org

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the goals of a Family Connection Local Collaborative
- Identify local needs by collaborating with local community partners

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
ga DOE.org



Framework

The Content of Continuous Improvement



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
gadoe.org



STRUCTURES

- Welcoming All Families and the Community
- Communicating Effectively with Families and the Community
- Supporting Student Success
- Empowering Families
- Sharing Leadership with Families and the Community
- Collaborating with Families and the Community



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
gadoe.org

Presenters



GEORGIA
family connection[™]
PARTNERSHIP

Zoe Myers, MS

Executive Director

Cook County Family
Connection

zmyers@cookcountyfamilyconnection.org

Paige Williamson

Director

Toombs County Family
Connection

familyconnection9@gmail.com

Toombs County Family Connection



Paige Williamson, Director
Board Members:

Shirley Hayes, Board Chair
Department of Juvenile Justice

Chief Wesley Walker, Vice Chair
Lyons Police Department

Nancy Edge, Secretary
Keep Thinking

Anna Bullard
Early Autism Project

Stephanie Smith
Toombs Co. Board of Education

Georgia Family Connection's Beginning.....

Back in the early 1990s, conditions for children and families in Georgia were among the worst in the nation. The private and public sectors—though working hard to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens—weren't working together. Georgia Family Connection was established to connect and convene key community members committed to improving the well-being of children and families.



Georgia Family Connection's Vision:

We envision a Georgia where all children are healthy, primed for school, and succeed when they get there; where families are stable, self-sufficient, and productive; and where communities are vibrant, robust, and thriving.





Three Functional Types:



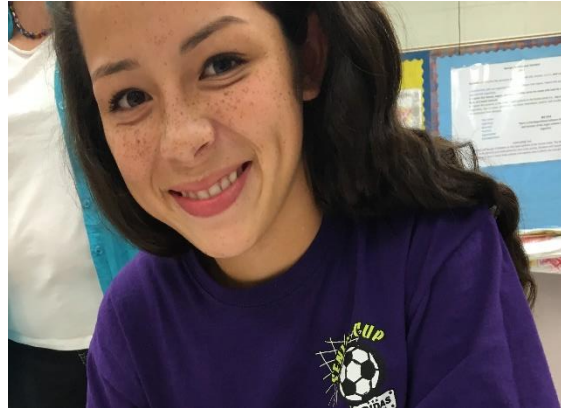
- **Partner Engagement** – Increase partner awareness of community and system needs and barriers
- **Program and Services Coordination** – work with partner organizations to change policies or practices, reduce barriers to services and reduce service duplication
- **Issue or Population-Focused Action** – target and intentionally change policies and practices to improve conditions around an issue and/or target population.

What We Do

***Act as a liaison between Toombs County families and children and the resources available in our community**

***Identify community needs and service gaps**

***Convene partners and other community organizations to work together to address those high priority issues and fill the service gaps**





— TOOMBS COUNTY —
family connection™

**Strategy for
2018:
To Improve
School Success**

Target Indicators:

- Teen Pregnancy
 - Teen Births
- Low Birthweight Babies
- STD Incidence For Youth
- Children Absent More Than 15 Days From School
- Students Who Graduate From HS on Time
- 3rd Grade Students Achieving Developing Learner or Above on Milestones ELA
 - Children Living In Poverty
- Locally Developed Indicators (21st Century)

How Do Schools and Community Organizations Collaborate To Engage Families and Support Student Success?

21st Century Community Learning Center



Teen Maze



Two hundred fifty 8th grade students from both school districts experienced Teen Maze for the first time last year.

School Based Mentoring Program



Co-Host Parent Events



**Get GA
Reading Campaign**

Back to School Bash



Over 800 students from both school districts were served.



How We Secure Funding For Collaboration Efforts

- Co-write grants
- Local fundraising
- Provide in-kind donations / cost sharing
- Regularly schedule speaking engagements



Data Collection and Dissemination

- 21st Century Summative and Formative Evaluations
 - KIDS COUNT www.datacenter.kidscount.org
 - Needs Assessments for Various Grants
 - Partners' Needs Assessments

Impact on Students and Their Families

- <https://youtu.be/esqETwXje9Y>
 - 21st Century Surveys
 - Graduation Rate Improvement
- Families Linked To Resources – Success Stories

www.gafcp.org

Cook County Family Connection

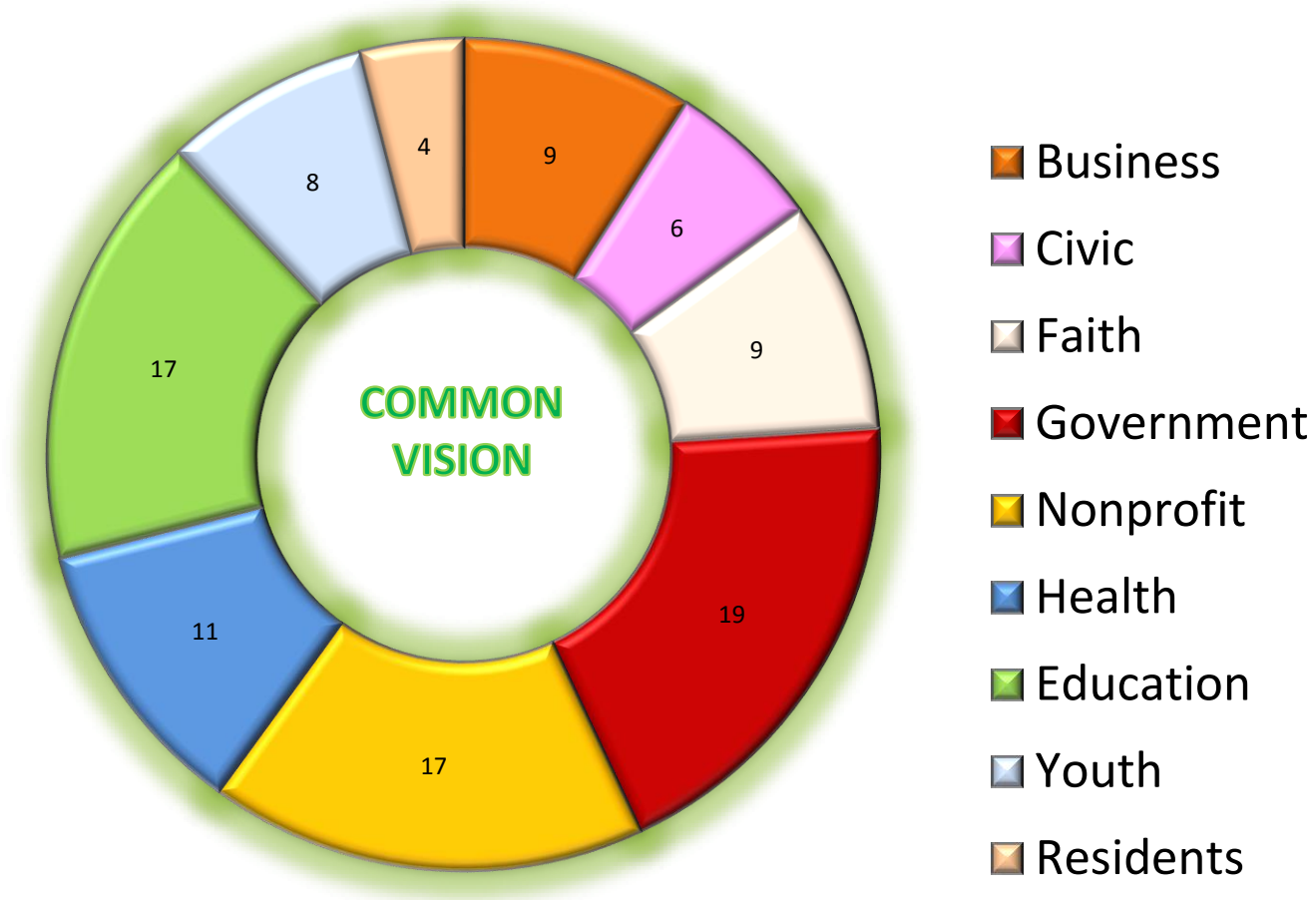


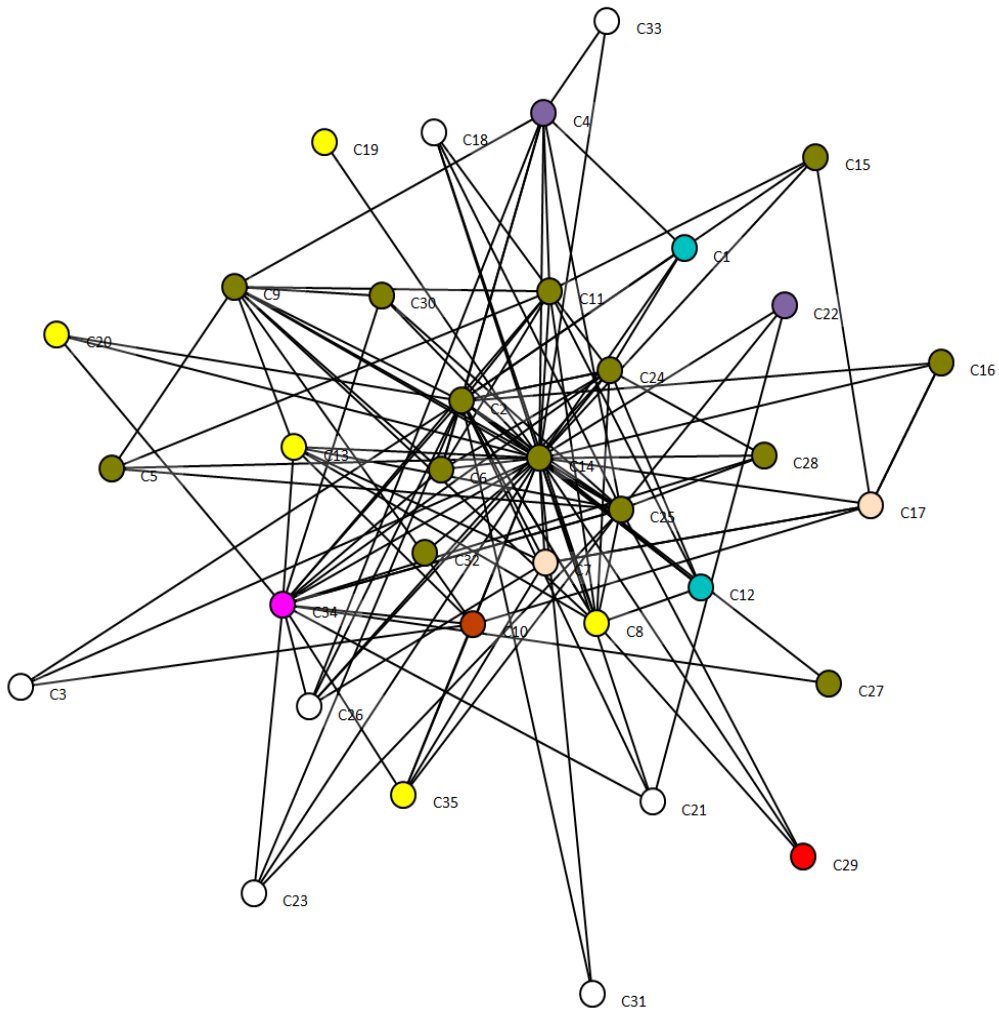
Zoe Myers M.S., Executive Director
Jennifer Lovett, Project Coordinator
Virginia Dick, Evaluation Consultant

Butch Fausett, Adel City Council
Don Huckaby, Adel Kiwanis Club
Colonel Ron Mitchell, Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Deborah McNair, Cook School System
Dr. Becky Ratts, Cook School System
Dr. Chet Ballard, Valdosta State University
Rebecca Allgood RN, Cook Health Dept.
Phyllis Cannington, Coastal Plains
Rick Ratliff, Cook County Boys/Girls Club
Gloria Mitchell, South Ga Military Affairs
Candace Horne, Candy Cane's Pre-K

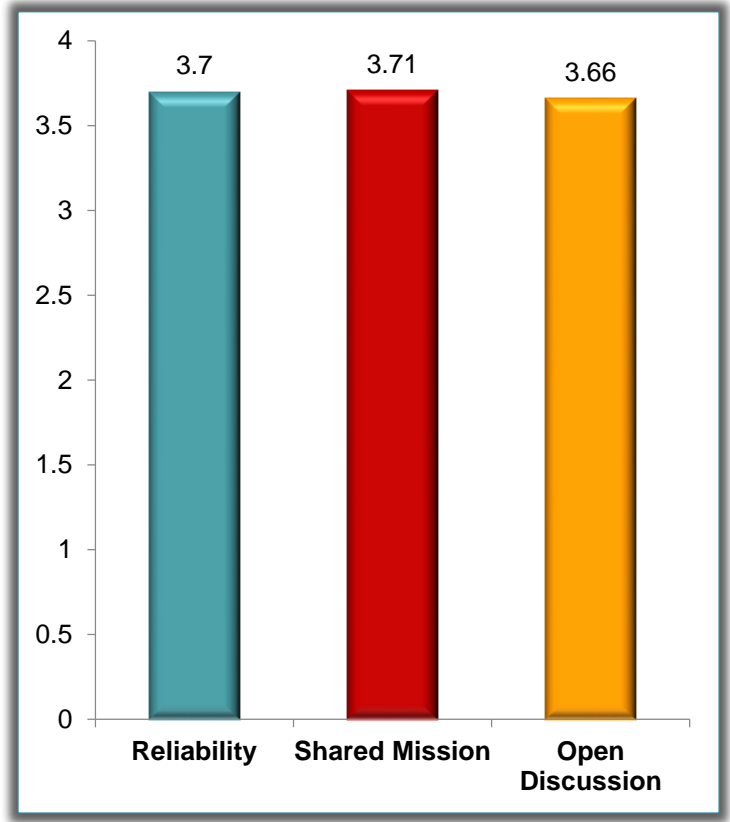


The Power of Collaboration... Analysis of Social Networks

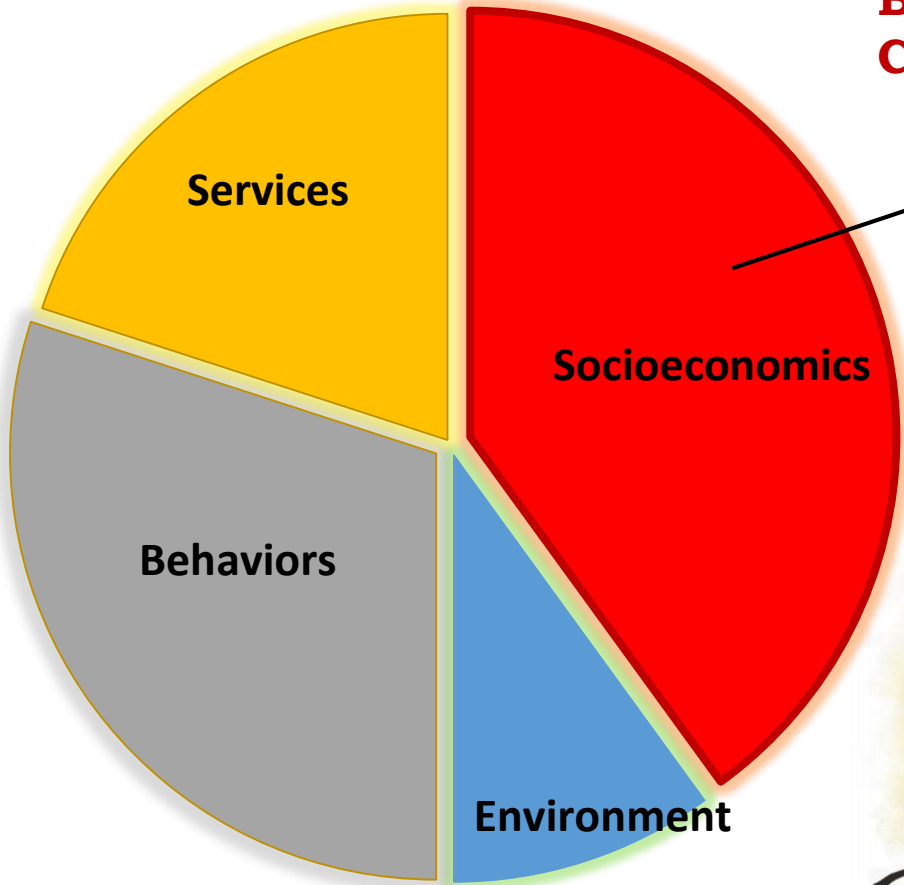




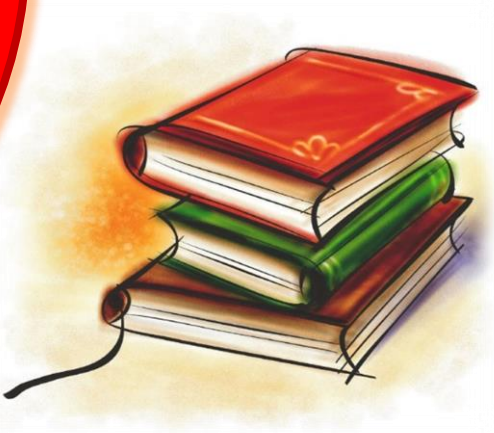
Perception of Trust Levels:



Building a Healthier Community



- LITERACY
- EDUCATION
- SKILLS
- EMPLOYMENT
- POVERTY
- INCOME
- POSITION
- STATUS

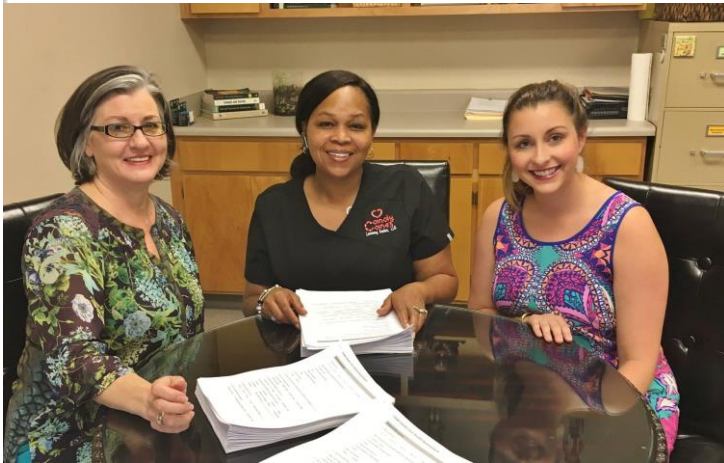


Understanding our Needs and Inequities



- Secondary Data Sources
- Locally-Developed Surveys
- Key Informant Interviews
- Focus Group Discussions
- Environmental Scans
- Collaborative Surveys
- Qualitative Studies
- State-Level Data Partners

Georgia Family Connection Partnership
GSU Health Policy Center
Emory University
Valdosta State University



Digging Deeper into the Data



	Cook County	North	East	West	South
Child Poverty	35.7%	22.7%	27.6%	52.1%	21.2%
Family Poverty	42.6%	39.4%	38.2%	48.7%	44.6%
Children with no health insurance	11.8%	29.8%	11.8%	6.6%	8.5%
Unemployed parents	10.8%	9.9%	7.2%	25.3%	4.8%
Adults with no high school diploma	24.8%	17.4%	22.7%	33.0%	24.1%
Children not attending pre-school (age 3-4)	50.8%	54.2%	38.9%	58.0%	89.7%
Teens not in school and not working	16.3%	16.8%	23.1%	7.3%	14.9%

<http://gafcp.org/census-tract-map/>

Civic Health Survey



- Social Connectedness
- Community Engagement
- Level of Volunteerism
- Civic Participation
- Confidence in Institutions
- Community Concerns
- Demographic Data

The Impact of Collaboration...Improved Literacy for Everyone



The Impact of Collaboration...Improved Health for Everyone



The Impact of Collaboration...Improved Outreach to Everyone



The Impact of Collaboration...Improved Equity for Everyone





Revisiting Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the goals of a Family Connection Local Collaborative
- Identify local needs by collaborating with local community partners





Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
gadoe.org

Office of Federal Programs Contact Information

Israel Cortez, Program Manager, Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children	866-505-3182	jcortez@doe.k12.ga.us
Nathan Schult, Program Manager, 21 st Century Community Learning Centers/Title IV, Part A	404-232-1197	nschult@doe.k12.ga.us
Amy Song, Program Manager, Title I, Part A – Family-School Partnership Program	404-463-1956	asong@doe.k12.ga.us

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://partnerships.gadoe.org>



@GaDOEPartners
@Georgiamep

YouTube bit.ly/gadoeparentsyoutube



GaDOEPartnerships

