



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2022
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Naval JROTC Color Guard Cadets - Baldwin High School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. March 1, 2022 Work Session
March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting
March 1, 2022 Executive Session

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

3. Memorandum of Understanding for SAFE Program - Assistant County Manager
4. Report on Re-Valuations - Chief Appraiser
5. Update on Animal Control - County Manager

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

REMINDERS

April 5, 2022, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Regular Commission Meeting, Suite 220, Government Building.

April 15, 2022, Friday, All Non-Emergency Departments Will Be Closed in Observance of Good Friday.

April 19, 2022, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Regular Commission Meeting, Suite 220, Government Building.



**BALDWIN COUNTY
WORK SESSION**
March 1, 2022
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
5:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

ALSO PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Craig called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Current Legislation

Chairman Craig stated the Work Session is being held to discuss proposed legislation, the effect of such legislation on the County and whether to support or oppose certain proposed legislation. Commissioners discussed the following bills:

HB 1013 – significant bill about mental health changes and policies of the State. The bill would provide more flexibility for probate judges and sheriffs to cause mental health evaluations, require mental health insurance support, provide more beds for mental health evaluations and encourage more mental health providers in the State. Chairman Craig stated he feels this is a good first step in addressing mental health issues of our state and anything that can be done to support mental health is worthwhile. **SUPPORT**

HB 1329 – mandates an increase in coroners’ pay and benefits, authorizes coroner to set deputy coroner’s salary, makes coroner’s position full-time job with same employment benefits provided to other constitutional officers. If passed, this bill would increase costs to counties. **OPPOSE**

HB 975 – allows Probate Judges who serve as election superintendents to terminate their election responsibilities, mandates full-time election responsibilities to an established Board of Elections. Commissioners feel this should be local decision. **OPPOSE**

HB 1360 – repeals intangible recording tax which would mean less revenue for the County. **OPPOSE**

HB 1321- prohibits local government lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, marketers and retailers when such companies enter into a statewide settlement agreement with Attorney General. State has registration process, and Baldwin County is already registered if any money is distributed. Commissioners previously agreed to participate in settlements. **NO POSITION** since County currently participates.

HB 1093 and SB 494 - prohibits local governments from regulating or restricting corporately owned new-built rental only subdivisions. Feels should be local government decision. OPPOSE.

HB 1301 - prohibits local governments from regulating gas powered leaf blowers. SUPPORT

HB 997 – exempts ad valorem tax on timber equipment and HR 686 seeks to reduce the rate of ad valorem tax on timber for sale or harvest. Would mean loss of revenue to County. OPPOSE

HB 1372 – Additional requirements to Call Before You Dig Law; good safety issue that will close loopholes. SUPPORT

HB 1461 – revises annexation dispute resolution / arbitration process to include extending time period counties may object to annexation, splitting arbitration costs with city; authorizes notification requirements to be delivered by hand or email as long as it is verifiable, authorizes arbitration panels to postpone period by which they make findings. Bill improves county opportunity to protest. Good and bad aspects in bill. ACCG Supports. SUPPORT

HB 1439 – makes process, protections and other conditions same for both annexation and de-annexation. Currently property owners can annex into a city without the county's authorization; however, they cannot de-annex from city without the city's authorization. Applies to 100% method of de-annexation requiring written and signed applications of 100% of owners of all property to be de-annexed. SUPPORT

HR 845 - limits size of county districts to 50,000 residents. NO POSITION

HB 830 – mandates additional salary supplement for sheriffs of \$4,630.80 for each trial court they serve. This increase will be used as part of the funding formula for future cost of living adjustments to determine sheriffs' salaries. Unfunded mandate. OPPOSE

HB 496 – increases logging truck weight. Our highways cannot support the increased truck weight. OPPOSE

HB 1421 – dedicates hazardous waste management fee and hazardous substance reporting fee to Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF). Ensures that all fees that contribute to the HWTF are dedicated. If money is collected for specific purpose, it should go to designated fund. SUPPORT

HB 1394 – preemption bill on vaccine and mask mandates prohibiting local governments from establishing regulating regarding proof of vaccination or requiring face mask coverings. Feels this should be local decision. OPPOSE

SB 350 – makes it easier for local elections to be non-partisan. Local legislators could choose. Feel should be a decision by Commissioners. SUPPORT

SB 331 – allows local governments to limit / dictate work hours of private businesses. OPPOSE.

HB 75 – continues effort to change when tax payer notification requirements are required. Clarification of tax payer bill. SUPPORT

HB 992 – exempts state tax for all in law enforcement. NO POSITION

SB 361 – gives tax credit for financial support to law enforcement. NO POSITION

HB 1443 – regulates food trucks by requiring a license in only one county in state. SUPPORT

HR 756 – creates another special class for taxation of low-income housing for developers. Potentially another tax reduction for counties. More information needed. NO POSITION

Hb 1290 – Gives County opportunity to exempt food sold at recreation centers from sales tax. SUPPORT

Staggered Elections

Chairman Craig stated this matter has been discussed previously by the Board and warrants further discussion. He reported changing to staggered terms would remove the possibility of having all five commission seats change at the same time leaving the county government with a full slate of new leadership. Commissioner Davis stated even with staggered elections there is no guarantee it wouldn't happen. Chairman Craig proposed staggered elections for the Board of Commissioners following terms uniform with the school board. He stated it would be best if Commissioners' terms coincided with those of the school board so as not to further complicate the election process. In 2024 if school board terms are followed, County Commission districts 2, 3, and 4 would be up for re-election for two-year terms. Chairman Craig asked Commissioners to think about this, discuss it and be prepared to decide at a later date. Chairman Craig stated he favors staggered terms and hopes the County would request legislation in 2023 to become effective for the 2024 elections. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland stated he is also in favor of staggered elections. Commissioner Sammy Hall stated he has not been in favor of changing terms in the past; however, he now feels it would serve the County best if terms were staggered. Commissioner Kendrick Butts stated since this is his first term he is just becoming accustomed to the Board and feels it is good the way it is.

Chairman Craig stated he hopes the County will move forward in 2023 with legislative action to accomplish this for the 2024 election.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:57 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

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1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

ALSO PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

County Manager Carlos Tobar delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Naval JROTC Color Guard Cadets of Baldwin High School.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss litigation. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to amend the Agenda to discuss the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Resolution and Contract for State Paid County Reimbursed Personnel (SPCR) for District Attorney's Office

County Attorney David McRee presented a contract from the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia which allows non-state paid District Attorney personnel (SPCR) to have the same benefits package as other State employees. He also presented a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to sign the contract to allow county paid DA personnel to be processed through the State payroll system thereby entitling them to these benefits.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented authorizing the District Attorney to sign the SPCR contract. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Pension Plan

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported it is necessary for the County to restate the ACCG 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan and the 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan for Senior Management by March 31, 2022. The restatement incorporates changes to the Plan that must be made to reflect changes in the law and to protect the Plan's tax qualified status under the Internal Revenue Code. The restatement also incorporates any amendments to the Plan that have been approved by the County and by ACCG since the last Plan restatement.

Ms. Hudson stated that ACCG has obtained IRS preapproval for the amended and restated ACCG 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Document and accompanying amended and restated Adoption Agreement. The effective of the amended and restated DC plan will be January 1, 2022.

She stated a motion to adopt the Resolutions and adopt the 2022 amended and restated plans is needed authorizing the amendment and restatement of the plans and authorizing the Chairman to sign all documents and forms.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adopt the Resolutions and the 2022 amended and restated plans as presented and to authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary related documents. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of each Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Ocmulgee Drug Task Force

Assistant County Manager Hudson presented a Memorandum of Understanding / Intergovernmental Agreement for the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force. She reported this is the same agreement the County has approved in the past between counties and cities participating in the Task Force.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Airport Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

County Manager Tobar reported Georgia Department of Transportation is allocating an extra \$295,000 in federal funding through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to Baldwin County for the Regional Airport. He stated the additional funding will be received this year and the four subsequent years for airport projects. Since Baldwin County has received this additional money, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) must be updated to reflect the funds. The first year's funding will be used for runway rehabilitation and subsequent years funding is reflected in the CIP with actual project lists to be updated in the future.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the updated Airport CIP as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Capital Improvement Plan is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Emily Davis stated trash continues to be a major issue in that trash is not being picked up regularly, there is a lack of response from the waste management company, and the trash trucks are tearing up drives.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland stated the center on Meriwether Road has not been cleaned up and landscaping debris is being dumped inside the centers.

Chairman Henry Craig stated the centers are not for commercial use and this should not be allowed.

Commissioner Sammy Hall reported trash is continuing to blow out of backs of the trucks and this has to be stopped.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts requested an update on Ogden Circle. County Manager Tobar responded Public Works Department is working up a schedule for prioritization.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar presented the following update:

222 structures demolished with no fines or court cases; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application is being developed; new 4-H building remodel will be completed as soon as the flooring is installed; Department of Agriculture hosted Shelter Operations training here on February 22nd; a new Shelter Administrator has been hired; Faith-based teen organization will make presentation on March 6th; Zoning map nearly complete; will begin work on Land Use Code Manufactured Home and Burn Ordinances; and the County did not received an EDA nor water / sewer grant. Mr. Tobar reported a new adoption application and request for proposals is being developed for Animal Control. He also reported the round about has been completed at a total cost of \$170,000 which normally cost \$1.5 million.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following citizens addressed the Board regarding animal control:

Judy Veal, Christy Batchelor, Pam Peacock and Ali Duckworth. Written questions were presented to County Manager Tobar for open records requests.

Chairman Craig asked that County Manager Tobar schedule a meeting with him, Vice Chairman Westmoreland, County Attorney McRee and County Manager to discuss this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss litigation. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:12 p.m. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

WHEREAS, **Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office Victims' Assistance Program, Baldwin County Board of Commissioners, Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, Milledgeville Police Department, Georgia College and State University Police Department, Circle of Love Center, INC., Baldwin County Department of Family & Children Services, Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, and The Bright House** have come together to collaborate; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire and acknowledge that the SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office strives to provide the most thoughtful, timely, and comprehensive services to victims of crime. Therefore, those same noted partners enter into this Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the relationships and services further ensuring the greatest care and access for victims:

I) DESCRIPTION OF PARTNER AGENCIES

SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office

SAFE operates from within the Office of the Solicitor General, Baldwin County, Georgia. The Solicitor General for Baldwin County, Skye Gess, was appointed in 2018 and serves as a full-time Solicitor for Baldwin County. Prior to the Solicitor General's appointment, Mrs. Maxine Blackwell had served as the Solicitor General since 1992. The Solicitor's Office is responsible for prosecuting approximately two-thousand warrant cases each year that have an underlying victim as well as another six-thousand traffic offenses each year. SAFE provides advocacy and support to victims of crime prosecuted by the Solicitor's Office and also implements programs and activities that assist victims and raise public awareness to victims' rights and the importance of victim service programs.

Since the Office of the Solicitor General prosecutes 76% of all crime cases and 82% of all domestic violence cases made by officers each year, and since these cases are misdemeanor in nature, victim advocacy programs for misdemeanor victims of crime provide a unique opportunity that is not available at the felony level. Victims seen in the Office of Solicitor General have an opportunity to change their lives and protect their children before the felonious assault (shooting, stabbing) occurs, before the rape is committed, before the victim is killed. While much attention and funding is spent each year on felony crime (and necessarily so), it is at the misdemeanor level that advocates and prosecutors have an opportunity to make a real difference in victims' lives before it is too late. This opportunity is especially present in the more than 1,000 victims of domestic violence who seek assistance from SAFE each year.

In order to meet the needs of these victims and in order to offer programs and service aimed at preventing future assault on the hundreds of victims assisted by SAFE Program each year, SAFE provides emergency services, support programs, and community outreach projects. SAFE advocates provide a 24 hour per day on-call hotline to victims seeking assistance and to officers seeking information or guidance. SAFE advocates provide temporary protective order services to the community and surrounding counties, participate in training of law enforcement officers, speak at local businesses, civic organizations, churches, high schools, middle schools, and youth camps on domestic abuse issues, sponsor an annual candlelight vigil and an annual domestic violence awareness walk. SAFE has implemented and facilitate a highly successful battered women's educational program (In Our Best Interest).

The Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

The Baldwin County Commissioners are elected every four years. One commissioner serves each of the County's five districts with the Chairperson elected by the Board. The Commissioner's Office has been responsible for the admission of the SAFE Program grant.

Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office

The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office prosecutes felony and misdemeanor cases in an eight county judicial circuit which includes Baldwin County. The District Attorney's Office also provides services to victims of crime. The Baldwin County Office employs victim advocates providing assistance to victims through advocacy services, and assistance through the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Task Force.

Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

The Baldwin County Sheriff's Office is a state certified agency consisting of 154 employees, 59 of whom are sworn law enforcement officers. It has been in existence and serving the citizens of Baldwin County since 1887. The Sheriff's Office offers a broad range of law enforcement services, such as Judicial Security, Summons Service, Warrant Service & Fugitive Retrieval, Prisoner Transportation, and Landlord/Tenant Services but their primary purpose is to uphold the laws of the jurisdiction, provide patrol, and investigate local crimes, such as domestics, rapes, suicides, child neglect, child abuse, assist with death notifications, and homicides, and if needed, transportation to shelters. The Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.) is responsible for conducting follow-up investigations regarding calls for service from the public.

Milledgeville Police Department

The Milledgeville Police Department consists of 67 employees, 42 of which are sworn police officers. The department is a progressive law enforcement agency and earned state certification in 2001 by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. The department is 1 of only 76 agencies that have achieved this distinction in Georgia. Sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division. The Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.) is tasked with follow-up investigations into all criminal cases occurring within the city of Milledgeville. C.I.D. strives to thoroughly and professionally investigate all unsolved crimes occurring within its jurisdiction. C.I.D. is also responsible for identifying and apprehending offenders; recovering lost or stolen property; documenting, gathering, and evaluating evidence regarding criminal activity; and assisting in the prosecution of those charged with criminal offenses.

Georgia College and State University Police Department

Georgia College and State University Police Department employees sworn police officers and administrative staff. GC&SU Police Department enforces state laws and local ordinances. The department is responsible for several critical functions including communications center, staff, records, training, and crime prevention. Additionally, GC&SU Police Department administers Student Night Auxiliary Program (SNAP) assisting college students with safe transportation at night.

Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG)

JAG is a privately owned and managed probation company providing services to more than forty courts and supervising over 15,000 misdemeanor offenders. They currently have offices throughout the state of Georgia and in Florida. Their mission is to positively impact the community and provide the highest quality services to the courts, victims and offenders by employing professional staff, enforcing court orders, offering accurate and reliable information, providing recommendations to the court and facilitating rehabilitation of offenders. In addition, they offer offenders a domestic violence program, a "Paths to Change" Responsible Behavior program, and an Anger Management program.

Circle of Love Center, INC.

The Circle of Love is a non-profit organization located in Greensboro, Georgia which is funded by local, state, and federal grants, as well as community contributions. Their goal is to provide crisis intervention, comprehensive services, support, and safe shelter for victims of violent crimes, including sexual assault and domestic violence, and to educate the community about the cycle of violence and prevention thereof. The Circle of Love provides crisis intervention, advocacy and follow up services for those affected by sexual violence and domestic violence. Their team is comprised of trained staff and volunteer advocates who are on-call 24 hours a day to assist those affected by sexual violence and domestic violence. They work with the justice system, the medical community and other public & private agencies to provide need-based services to sexual assault survivors. Their shelter program addresses the problem of women and children displaced by domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence often find themselves homeless and in continued danger through no fault of their own, but as a result of their attempts to escape the violence. The Circle of Love serves these individuals at risk for domestic violence and domestic violence homicide. In addition to physical abuse most have also suffered from financial abuse, many are victims of generational poverty, and many suffer mental health issues due to prolonged trauma caused by intimate partner violence.

Department of Family & Children Services

The Baldwin County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) are the part of Department of Human Services that investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; helps low income, out-of-work parents get back on their feet; assists with childcare costs for low income parents who are working or in job training; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help troubled families. For victims of domestic violence and child sexual assault, they offer individual and family counseling and temporary financial assistance. The Department of Family & Children Services also offers referrals on an as-needed basis.

The Bright House

Established in 2018, The Bright House provides a safe location for victims of sexual assault to come for one on one attention immediately after a crisis. The victim and their non-offending family members receive support, crisis intervention, and resource referrals for mental health, medical treatment, and additional services, if needed. Their main objective is to reduce trauma to victims by providing a safe, comfortable location while ensuring all of their medical and emotional needs are met.

II) HISTORY OF RELATIONSHIP

The Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

The Baldwin County Board of Commissioners has worked in collaboration with the Solicitor General's Office for over twenty years by administering grants for the SAFE Program. The Commissioner's Office has assisted in the allocation and distribution of grant funds allowing the Solicitor General's Office to focus on victim services without the cost of employing a financial administrator.

Ocmulgee District Attorney's Office

The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit is the 2nd largest judicial circuit in the State of Georgia. The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Victim Advocate Program offers essential, direct services to victims such as accompanying victims to the hospital, emergency assistance, referral counseling, orientation to criminal justice system, court escort, crisis intervention, defendant arrest and bond status, case status and disposition information, contact persons within the judicial system, restitution claims, temporary protective orders, intervention on behalf of victim with employers or school personnel to explain absences or behavior changes, and Victim of Crime claims assistance. The Solicitor General's Office's and District Attorney's Office's prosecutors, victim advocates, and investigators meet on an as needed basis.

One of the basic needs of this collaboration is to have more consistent communication with the Solicitor General's Office and this need will be met through the Circuit Domestic Violence Task Force. Long-term goals of this collaboration include streamlining victim assistance within Baldwin County by creating joint support for our groups and victim service opportunities in our State Courts and Superior Courts.

Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, Milledgeville Police Department, Georgia College and State University Police Department

The above listed law enforcement agencies and SAFE Program work closely to ensure the laws of the State of Georgia are upheld and that our community is protected. The Solicitor General's Office has authority over all misdemeanor prosecutions occurring in the County. Some misdemeanor traffic offenses prosecuted by the Milledgeville Police Department will be handled through Municipal Court but may be transferred to State Court. The Solicitor General's Office employs victim advocates specialized in the prosecution of all types of criminal conduct, including battery, assault, theft cases and domestic violence crimes. The sheriff offices and police departments in Baldwin County have a long standing working relationship and collaborate on a daily basis to ensure the adequate and appropriate execution in the prosecution of misdemeanor status cases.

Judicial Alternative of Georgia (JAG)

JAG serves to develop strategies to reduce the incident of recidivism in the local community, develop a partnership with local community programs to meet specific needs of offenders in the areas of substance abuse or mental health counseling, adult literacy, job placement, victim assistance, and other needs identified by the court. All services are provided at no cost to the contracting city or county, or its tax payers.

A critical need of this collaboration is to ensure that victims receive notification of the legal status, location, and/or supervision requirements of the perpetrator. This information can be of critical importance in helping victims make decisions about their personal safety and their lives. This need will continue to be met through the initiation and expansion of Domestic Violence Task Force. Long-term goals of this collaboration include developing victim notification and informational services, including the agency's communications with the victim and with the victim services community.

Circle of Love Center, INC.

The Circle of Love Center and the SAFE Program have been in collaboration for more than 15 years. They offer victims and children of domestic violence emergency shelter and support services. In addition to shelter services they provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal advocacy, emergency client assistance, and training on domestic violence awareness.

Baldwin County Department of Family & Children Services

The Department of Family & Children Services' (DFCS) and the SAFE Program have worked together since 1991. DFCS' services are free and private. They are available regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, income, disability, or sexual orientation. Their services are available even if the victim chooses not to leave the abuser. Several of our DFCS provide crisis intervention and support services to adult victims of domestic violence and their children, 24 hours a day, 7-days a week. Services include emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis and information hotline, safety planning, counseling, case management, child assessments, information and referrals, education for community awareness, and training for law enforcement and other professionals. Additional services that may be offered are legal and court advocacy, transportation, relocation assistance, life skills training, transitional housing, daycare, outreach services, rape crisis intervention, and prevention programs in local schools.

The Bright House

The SAFE Program and The Bright House began working together in 2018. Together we will continue to unite care for victims of sexual battery and domestic violence to reduce trauma experienced by adult, adolescent, and child victims of abuse and their non-offending family members by providing an environment in which they can receive all needed services and by facilitating a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and child abuse.

IV) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

1. The SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office in collaboration with our partners will provide (or make available): 1) education for victims, law enforcement, and the community on the issues of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. And 2) training for law enforcement officers and staff of Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Victim Assistance Program (OJC-VAP) on dating and domestic violence, and stalking.
2. The SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office and the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners will continue to work together ensuring that all 5% and VOCA funds are used to support and maintain services for victims of crime.
3. The SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office and the OJC-VAP will collaborate in the following manner: 1) creating and maintaining protocols for responding to victims of domestic violence and stalking and 2) creating and maintaining training for law enforcement and social service agencies.
4. The SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office and our law enforcement agencies (Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, Milledgeville Police Department and Georgia College & State University Police Department) will work together in the prosecution of misdemeanor cases. Law enforcement agrees to work with the SAFE Program to formalize protocols to develop cross agency coordination and communication. They will work collaboratively throughout the community to ensure that victims of crime are treated with dignity and respect while pursuing safety and confidentiality at all levels. They will ensure that victims are referred to and/or contacted by the SAFE Program in a supportive, confidential manner.
5. The Circle of Love Center, Inc. will work in collaboration with the SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office to provide assistance with Temporary Protective Orders. They also agree to assist to formalize protocols to develop cross agency coordination and communication. The Circle of Love Center will assist in providing training for victims, local law enforcement agencies, and social services.
6. Judicial Alternatives of Georgia agrees to work with the SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office to formalize protocols to develop cross agency coordination and communication. Judicial Alternatives of Georgia will work especially close with the Solicitor General's Office to ensure that victims are aware of their rights and that every necessary caution is taken to ensure that are victims' safe and that their privacy is maintained post-disposition.

7. The Department of Family and Children Services in Baldwin and the SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office will continue to work to promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. They agree to work with the SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office to formalize protocols to develop cross agency coordination and communication. They will work collaboratively throughout the community to ensure that victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are treated with dignity and respect.
8. The SAFE Program of the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office will continue work with The Bright House to provide a collaborative, coordinated community response in an effort to reduce the incidence of child maltreatment and domestic violence through prevention, intervention, and education.

I) TIMELINE

Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022.

VI) COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP

- 1) The collaboration service area is for Baldwin County.
- 2) The partners agree to collaborate, make referrals, assist one another, and generally provide services, education and advocacy for the victims of crime pursuant to the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights.
- 3) We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU.