



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Mental Health Center/LME

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Public Invited to Community Connections System of Care Meeting

FAYETTEVILLE – The public is invited to the 10th annual Community Connections event on May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the John D. Fuller Recreation and Athletic Center at 6627 Old Bunce Rd. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

The purpose of Community Connections is to gather children, adults, faith-based groups, mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals and any interested individuals together to discuss ways to improve support networks for children, youth and their families dealing with mental health, legal, substance abuse or developmental disability issues.

This year's Community Connections theme is "Call to Action." The event will feature Dr. Sharon Cooper, an expert on child maltreatment, and Jerry Tello, a motivational expert on strengthening families and promoting fatherhood. The break-out sessions for the event include advocating for trauma-exposed children and adolescents; Intensive Alternative Family Treatment (IAFT); Understanding Teenage Social Circles; Prevent Now: Child Sexual Abuse and the Impact on Our Community; Early Warning Signs: Timely Response; Youth Violence Continuum; Juvenile Justice; and Engaging Community Voices for Healthy Children.

The Cumberland County Mental Health Center, Cumberland County Communicare; Southern Regional Area Health Education Center and the Cumberland County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council are sponsoring Community Connections.

"The System of Care we are developing is a community collaborative to address all of your needs for your children and how to make things child and family-focused," said System of Care Coordinator Sharon Glover. "This is one of the best-kept secrets in Cumberland County."

An estimated 500 people attended Community Connections last year. To register, or for more information, call Sharon Glover at 910-222-6377 or email sglover@mail.ccmentalhealth.org.

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