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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2017

Local Organizations Join Forces to Form IMPACT Coalition

LaGrange, Ga. October 11, 2017 – Nine local organizations are joining forces to help improve the delivery of services to the community’s at-risk population.



LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar, District Attorney Pete Skandalakis, community leaders Glenn Dowell, & Robert Tucker, CAFI Executive Director Jennifer Corcione, along with the organizations’ leaders made the announcement before the LaGrange City Council Tuesday night.

The idea of the coalition was started by Community Action for Improvement, or CAFI, Executive Director Jennifer Corcione.

“It boils down to working together and not safe guarding and having a turf war with other agencies. From that organic process- the IMPACT coalition was created,” she said.

“We decided to align our services with other agencies and offer better services together. When you surround yourself with like-minds and kind hearts, it’s easier to move forward and have a bigger impact.”

Corcione adds the collaboration will offer a holistic approach to ameliorating community risk factors.

Chief Dekmar is encouraged by the collaborative efforts and commitment by the organizations involved.

“By finding the right resources for the most vulnerable people in our community, it will pay dividends for the police,” he said.

Wanda Walker with Troup Transformation is excited to work together with all of the organizations.

“We are all working together for the same purpose,” she said.

“There’s a synergy when you work together. We can accomplish more and service more of our community and do it more effectively.”

Mayor Jim Thornton gave his support to the group during the city council meeting.

“There are many people in LaGrange doing great work to reach our at-risk youth, and I am delighted that these organizations are coming together to collaborate and to reach further into the community,” he said.

“I think this is a model of partnership that we need to support and to expand.”

The nine organizations include Troup Transformation, LaGrange Police Department, Greater Achievement Youth Empowerment Academy, Department of Community Supervision, CAFI, Circles of Troup County, The Artisan Group, Communities in Schools, & Discovering Soldiers’ Potential.

Pictured from left to right front row: Jennifer Corcione, Chief Lou Dekmar, District Attorney Pete Skandalakis, Wanda Walker, Robert Tucker. Second row from left to right: Mike Merideth, Willie Mae Callaway. Third Row from left to right: Chris Walker, Glenn Dowell, Sandra Brownlee, Mike Bowen, and Andrew Moody.

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