ROCKDALE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

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Rockdale County Receives ACCG Excellence Award for Accountability Court Programs

ROCKDALE COUNTY, Ga. – Rockdale County received the 2021 Georgia County Excellence Award from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) at the 2021 County Reconnect Conference that was held in Savannah, Georgia from Nov. 12 through Nov. 15 at the Savannah Convention Center. Rockdale County, along with Baldwin County, Coweta County, Spalding County and Upson County received the award for finding creative and innovative solutions to challenges facing their communities.

Rockdale County received the award for its Accountability Court programs which provide help for nonviolent offenders to change their lives and behaviors. The first Accountability Court program launched in 2007. The programs have a recidivism rate, or rate of people repeating criminal behavior, of just 18%. They also save the county around 27 dollars in everything from court costs to jail expenses for each dollar invested.

Superior Court Judge Nancy Bills, Chairman Oz Nesbitt, and Commissioner Post 2 Doreen Williams were in attendance to receive the award at the event.

“To me, it just recognizes our teamwork with the county, the court system, the Board of Commissioners. We are all working together for the betterment of our community,” Judge Bills said after receiving the accolade in Savannah.

Chairman Nesbitt expressed the importance of the programs and how the recognition highlighted their impact.

“It’s not just sentencing someone some time in prison or some time in jail. It’s also giving them some direction to start their lives over and giving people the second chances that we all deserve,” he said.

“I really appreciate the award from ACCG today, recognizing Rockdale as a county of distinction,” Commissioner Williams noted, “It really is thrilling to me because those accountability courts were [created] to help people regain their lives again.”

For more information, please contact Judge Nancy Bills at nancy.bills@rockdalecountyga.gov.

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