

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

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Dear Partner in Prevention,

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners is proud to support the Amani Center and its proposal to expand child abuse and sexual assault prevention education across our community. This initiative represents a vital step toward building a safer, more informed, and more resilient Columbia County.

The Amani Center has long played a central role in addressing child abuse intervention and forensic services in our region. Through this project, they are taking that work a step further—offering proactive, inclusive, and evidence-based prevention education to individuals, families, and organizations throughout the county.

This effort thoughtfully engages multiple layers of our community, including:

- Parents and caregivers, who are often the first to notice signs of abuse and help create safe home environments.
- Schools, where students, teachers, and administrators benefit from age-appropriate education and trauma-informed training.
- Faith-based leaders, who support youth and families and need tools to respond with care and accountability.
- Youth-serving organizations, which require clear policies, staff training, and culture change to ensure safety.
- The broader community, which plays a key role in shifting norms, reducing stigma, and fostering a culture of prevention.

The Amani Center's approach—grounded in collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and proven strategies—aligns with our commitment to the safety and well-being of Columbia County residents. We believe this initiative will have a meaningful and lasting impact.

We encourage you to give this proposal your full consideration and welcome the opportunity to support prevention-focused solutions like this one.

Sincerely,

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Casey Garrett, Commissioner