

Fayette/Raleigh County FRN Alliance Meeting

Thursday December 14, 2023



In Attendance: Natasha Jones, Miranda Maddox, Shelby Holt, Karen Collins, Cindy Mann, Steven Hargett, Michael Horton, Debbie Sizemore, Jennifer McKinney, Josh Asbury, Heather Green, Keith Bowling, Jigna Patel, Marion Tanner, Taralyn Gwinn, Carla Molloyhan, Amanda Withrow, Kristina Wandzel, Kristy Comer, Crystal Meddings, Suzanne Wood, Leana Paxson, Chloe Comer, Melissa Blake, Debbie Williams and Diane Callison.

The meeting of the Fayette/Raleigh County Family Resource Network was held on: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at the Fayette County DHHR. The meeting was called to order at 12:21pm. Number present for the meeting was 26.

OPEN DISCUSSION / ROUND TABLE/SUCCESS STORIES:

Name and Organization Contact Information	Updates
Diane Callison – Fayette FRN fayettefrn@gmail.com	The Fayette FRN had many successes this year. A big success was receiving the Partnership for Success grant which allowed us to hire more employees. We also moved to a new office on Main Street in Oak Hill. And we were able to continue some of our known programming like Teen Court and our Basic Needs Fulfillment program.
Amanda Withrow – Drug Free Communities fayettedfc@gmail.com	In November, the Youth Action Team was able to complete a mural on Pinheads in Oak Hill and glad to be part of the FRN team.
Natasha Jones – NRHA Natasha.green@nrhawv.org	NRHA moved into our new location in Oak Hill, if anyone hasn't seen our new building please come and visit us! We have a new program starting in January for Colorectal cancer screening for ages 45-75. We'll send a home kit first and if anything comes back abnormal, patients will receive a free colonoscopy in Summersville and we can offer transportation for these services.
Kristina Wandzel – WV DRS Kristina.d.wandzel@wv.gov	We have 2 locations for JOTCs in Fayette County, first the Historic Fayetteville Visitor Center and Baileys Bubbles and Hot Glass. We are excited to help put people to work in Fayette County!
Sue Wood – Drug Free Communities fayettefpc@gmail.com	What is the Drug Free Communities? - Goals - Community Collaboration in the Fayette Prevention Coalition and to reduce substance use of Alcohol and Tobacco in middle and High school students We had big successes this year, two big ones include having a vaping ordinance at the County level that sets a minimum distance between vape shops and schools/community buildings. We also teamed up with Project AWARE to host a No Vape November campaign where 60+ students created videos on why they stand up to vaping, these videos have received over 18,000 views and was recognized on the state level.

Shelby Holt – Fayette FRN & Camp SOAR fayetteyouthpfs@gmail.com	I was fortunate enough to be the Site Supervisor for Camp SOAR last year and was able to bring this new program to life. We interacted with campers and kept them engaged throughout the summer with new experiences and most campers cried by the end of the camp because they didn't want to stop coming. They made lifelong friends and we look forward to continuing Camp SOAR this year.
Melissa Blake – DHHR Melissa.r.blake@wv.gov	DHHR had many changes this year, including a split of the Bureau. But even with all our changes, we continue to help people every single day. Whether it is with food insecurity, medical bills or electric bills.
Karen Collins – DHHR Karen.n.collins@wv.gov	To echo what Melissa said, DHHR helps people every day in one way or another and we'll continue to help people in 2024.
Michael Horton – DHHR Michael.s.horton@wv.gov	Raleigh County DHHR often serves over 20,000 people each month, every day is a success for DHHR as we continue to help those who most need it.
Steven Hargett – Beckley CTC (Comprehensive Treatment Centers) Steven.hargett@ctcprograms.com	Through the social work program at NRCTC, we were tasked with a project focused on ending poverty. Myself and others collected donations including toys, clothing and other items and we donated those to Head Start, those in recovery and the housing shelter. Our donations were appreciated by all.
Josh Asbury – Adult Education jmasbury@k12.wv.us	We had almost 20 individuals receive their GED through our Adult Education program. One individual specifically had been in an out of prison since she was 17, she worked hard and was able to earn her GED and is with her 3 kids again.
Debbie Sizemore – WVDHHR/BFA Debra.l.sizemore@wv.gov	We provide technical assistance to all the FRNs in the state, I've been involved with FRNs for a long time and am excited to be in this new role.
Kristy Comer – DHHR Kristy.m.comer@wv.gov	We had several graduates from the Family Treatment Court program who were able to be reunified with their children.
Crystal Meddings – DHHR Crystal.d.meddings@wv.gov	CPS is fully staffed as of today and we continued working with Family Treatment Court and the Youth Reporting Center.
Jennifer McKinney – Workforce Development Board jmckinney@r1workforcewv.org	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) scholarships are available for up to \$5,000 for tuition, books, fees, uniforms, etc, to help those go back to school. We also place individuals in temporary jobs who have barriers to employment, we'll pay the employees wages for 26 weeks.
Heather Green – Community Connections Heather.green@strongcommunities.org	Being part of the Coalition for this past year was a great learning experience and being part of the mural and the grant writing for the Fayette Partnership For Success grant were successes.
Debbie Williams – Raleigh County FRN raleighfrn@frontier.com	I'm thankful for everyone who responds to our requests and assists those who need it the most. I'm thankful for Debbie Sizemore and that she is in a new position to help FRNs.
Keith Bowling – AETNA bowlingg@aetna.com	My 1-year anniversary with AETNA is coming up and I want to thank everyone who helped me this past year, everyone is very welcoming and I'm glad to be part of AETNA.
Jigna Patel – AENTA Patelj11@aetna.com	I just had my 1-year anniversary with AETNA and I can say that is this easily the best job I've ever had, I'm grateful to be able to help communities.
Marion Tanner – Read Aloud mgtanner@suddenlink.net	Snuggle and Read just finished our year, we provided 332 fleece blankets and books to all preschoolers in the Fayette County collaborative schools. We were also able to purchase 275 books for

	the Fayette County Toy Fund, Santa will give each child a book as they collect their items.
Taralyn Gwinn – Parents as Teachers Taralyn.mihow@gmail.com	Just this past week we were able to enroll 5 new families and we continue to enhance our office location. Birth to 3 has used our activity room to meet with families and DHHR is looking at using our space as well for visitation. Yesterday I was able to work at the federal prison for their family day where inmates and their families played games and made crafts, it was a great experience and they are looking for more community partners! Contact Erica Jones at ex8jones@bop.gov if you are interested.
Carla Mollohan – UniCare Carla.mollohan@anthem.com	I'm a health promotion consultant and we work towards providing resources for social determinants of health along with healthy topic presentations to the public. We had a gentleman who had no propane and was unable to have it filled because of the size of the tank, so we were able to purchase a larger tank and have it filled. Another person we were able to find them new housing after they were evicted.
Chloe Comer – student at OHHS	My success is that I am the president of the Fayette County 4-H Teen Leader club and I'll be chief at Fayette County 4-H camp this coming summer.

~ THE NEXT FAYETTE COUNTY FRN MEETING ~

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Noon

Fayette County DHHR Office

Presentation: DHHR/CPS

~ THE NEXT RALEIGH COUNTY FRN MEETING ~

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 11am

Via Zoom

Questions, comments, and concerns can be addressed to Diane Callison, Director for the Fayette County FRN at 304-575-1428 or fayettefrn@gmail.com

Submitted – DMC 12/15/2023