

Fayette County FRN Community Meeting Thursday January 25, 2024



Working together for children and families

In Attendance: Sue Wood, Lennie Church, Stacy Stump, Stephanie Wilkes, Kassie Gunnoe, JR Davis, Josh Asbury, Melissa Blake, Alice James, Kerstin Sutton, Emma Rexroad, Roxana Hartsog, Heather Green, Amanda Williams, Matt Atwood, Keith Bowling, Marsha Shonk, Marion Tanner, Monica Kern, Belinda Hopkins, Leana Paxson, Nadya Suntay, Julia Fisher, Kristy Comer, Angela Chambers, Amanda Withrow, Natasha Jones, Katie Janney, Carri Strunk, Taralyn Gwinn, Shelby Holt, and Diane Callison.

The meeting of the Fayette County Family Resource Network was held on: Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Fayette County DHHR. The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm. Number present for the meeting was 32.

Welcome and Introductions

- **Previous Meeting Notes:** There were no changes made to the December meeting notes prior to today's meeting

REPORTS:

- **Fayette FRN Director's Report** – Diane Callison, fayettefrn@gmail.com
 - The FRN has filled our last position with Stacy Stump who is our Project Director for the Partnership for Success grant. She will be responsible for maintaining grant requirements, supervision of the other employees under the PFS grant, and will be transitioning to Coordinator for the Fayette Prevention Coalition.
 - In partnership with the Prevention Coalition, we hosted a Too Good for Drugs curriculum training last Wednesday and Thursday. All the FRN staff were trained and we had health educators with NRHA attend the training as well.
 - This past Tuesday, myself and several others attended Tobacco Free Day at the Capitol and brought 8 youth with us. Our youth were able to meet with some of our representatives and discuss the issue of youth tobacco use, specifically vaping.
 - I submitted our 2nd Quarterly Program report to the State FRN office. It was for the months of October, November and December events
 - 30% of activities promote Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention and Intervention
 - 30% of activities promote Child and Family Safety Prevention and Intervention
 - 20% of activities promote Economic and Poverty Prevention and Intervention effort
 - Reported 20 events for October, November and December
 - 10 were categorized as Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention (50%)
 - 6 were categorized as Child and Family Safety Prevention and Intervention (30%)
 - 4 were categorized as Economic and Poverty Prevention and Intervention (20%)
 - Teen Court
 - We hosted a hearing on January 8th where we heard 1 case involving a student vaping at school, we had 28 youth volunteer attend. We also hosted a debate on January 8th.
 - We hosted another hearing on January 22nd where we heard 3 cases involving students vaping at school, we had 32 youth volunteers attend.
 - If you know a youth grade 7th through 12th that would like to volunteer, we are always accepting applications. the online application is here:
<https://forms.gle/ZGgZPeciUjMXBFwE8>
 - The FRN has received a 3rd year for our Basic Needs Fulfillment program. This funding comes from a grant through The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation with the goal to provide Fayette

County residents with basic needs items. These items can include beds, dressers, clothing, and household items. This funding cannot assist with any type of bills or housing assistance. For our 3rd year, we received \$26,000

- Some important process information:
 - The referral form needs to be completed by a direct service provider, not the individual needing the items. This ensures that once the individual has their basic needs met, they have a meaningful connection with someone who can assist them with other needs they may have, including employment or mental health services.
 - Referrals are processed as they are received; members of the FRN Board review all referrals and determine if the referral is approved for funding and they allocate how much funding to use for each referral.
 - Please be specific, only complete referrals will be sent for review.
 - When a referral is approved, I will purchase the items and bring those items to the direct service provider, not the individual.
 - There is a new aspect to our program this year. After an individual receives their items, we ask them to complete a short evaluation form. This evaluation showcases our intended outcomes and completion of this evaluation form have been low in past years. This year, we are offering a \$10 incentive for those who complete the evaluation.
- The referral form is here: <https://forms.gle/R6syBhyt8YKFcmvZ8>
- As always, I send weekly update emails every Monday for the information I receive the week prior. These updates include funding or grant opportunities as well. And if you ever want information included in these updates please let me know or if any events are coming up. Any time sensitive information will be sent through a normal email to the listserv which currently has 254 people.

PRESENTATION:

- **CPS – Kristy Comer**
 - A flyer is attached with the notes regarding Mission West Virginia
 - DHHR/CPS handles kinship foster care and will try to put children with relatives if at all possible
 - They will also strive to keep sibling groups together. If sibling groups cannot be kept together, then CPS will schedule sibling visits
 - Qualifications for fostering in WV include:
 - Have a stable and secure income – while foster care does offer a financial assistance, this money cannot be the only income
 - Have a stable family relationship – you can be single, married, same sex couple, divorced or cohabitating
 - Be physically and mentally healthy
 - Have adequate space in your home (you may rent or own)
 - Have no child OR adult substantiated abuse/neglect finding or criminal convictions
 - We are always looking for donations, specifically for suitcases or luggage for the children. It can be used as long as it is clean.

CPSS Kristy Comer
Fayette County DHHR
1400 Virginia St. Oak Hill WV 25901
Office: 304-465-9613 ext. 52078
Work cell: 304-640-1050
Fax: 304-465-7288

OPEN DISCUSSION / ROUND TABLE:

Name and Organization Contact Information	Updates
Shelby Holt – Fayette FRN fayetteyouthpfs@gmail.com	I'll be traveling to Washington DC next week with the FRN team and am excited that we are bringing 3 youth volunteers with us.
Taralyn Gwinn – Parents as Teachers Taralyn.mihow@gmail.com	We are still looking to hire a home visitor.
Marsha Shonk – United Way 211 mshonk@unitedwayswv.org	211 is offering dollar energy fund applications, we can process these over the phone or email. For more information: visit https://www.dollarenergy.org/program/west-virginia-utility-assistance-program/#:~:text=Call%20211%20for%20information%20on,help%20low%2Dincome%20utility%20customers .
Keith Bowling – AETNA bowlingg@aetna.com	AETNA provides the health insurance for all the foster children within the state, our dashboard shows 6500 foster care children.
Matt Atwood – Catholic Charities matwood@ccwva.org	<p>We serve 11 counties: Mercer, Raleigh, McDowell, Wyoming, Summers, Monroe, Fayette, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Webster, and Pocahontas.</p> <p>A brochure is attached with the notes. For Fayette County, we offer emergency termination assistance for utility bills.</p> <p>In Raleigh County, we are offering a food distribution on February 24th at 9am at St. Francis de sales in Beckley. If anyone would like to set up an information table at the event, please let me know. We are expecting around 100 people</p>
Amanda Williams – Children's Home Society Amanda.williams@childhswv.org	We have a resource room with clothes, hygiene items and baby needs. We also accept donations
Heather Green – Community Connections Heather.green@strongcommunities.org	State PFS Coordinator covering Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties, we are focused on reducing Marijuana, Alcohol and IV drugs for ages 9-20 years old. If anyone is needing resources, evidence-based programming, swag or events to set up a table, please reach out!
Roxana Hartsog – FMRS & Prevent Suicide WV rhartsog@fmrs.org	Covering 11 counties with Prevent Suicide WV, I can offer trainings for teachers/staff, parents or middle and high school students. We can also offer student screenings for suicide ideation.
Alice James – DHHR Alice.d.james@wv.gov	I work with the WV Works and TANIF, we can offer financial assistance to kinship caretakers. Kinship must be blood or step relative. This financial assistance can help during a waiting period for certification or help while a caretaker is waiting for employment or to finish their education. Please reach out if you have questions or know someone who might benefit.
Melissa Blake – DHHR Melissa.r.blake@wv.gov	Applications for LIEAP were mailed to last year recipients. January 26 th is the last day to turn those in. After those applications are processed, LIEAP will be accepting applications for new recipients or those who missed the January deadline. Emergency LIEAP will begin after those applications have been processed.

	A Foster/Adoption Care Connection group is starting on February 8th. It will be every Thursday from 6pm-7:30pm. Child care is free and provided on site. In addition to the support group, I will have an abundance of information on services that can help the families. A flyer is attached with the notes.
Josh Asbury – Adult Education jmasbury@k12.wv.us	We are working toward boosting enrollment at our Montgomery site, located on the 4 th floor of the Bridge Valley campus. They are open Monday-Thursday from 8am-4pm. Our instructor is retiring in May and we'll be looking for a replacement. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know!
Kassie Gunnoe – Oak Hill High School Kassie.sayre@k12.wv.us	Our student lead mental health committee is hosting a bingo night in partnership with the Fayette Prevention Coalition. This event will be for parents and students to come have fun and learn information regarding prevention. Our committee spoke to the BOE at their last meeting about providing a workshop to other schools in other counties on how to start a mental health committee.
Stephanie Wilkes – Seed Sower swilkes@seedsowerinc.org	Our facility opened in May and I became the director in September. We currently have 9 ladies and 4 babies, with one more baby due next month.
Stacy Stump – Fayette FRN fayettepfs@gmail.com	I met with Young Life, a faith based mentoring program who strive to meet kids where they are. Focused on middle and high school students, they are looking to build a program here in Fayette and are looking to connect with local organizations.
Lennie Church – Mountain Heart Community Services Deborah.l.church@wv.gov	We help with childcare and are always looking for in home providers. A flyer is attached with the notes.
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 can offer resources and information on how parents can talk with their children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. We can offer drug disposal bags and medicine lock boxes to grand families or any other audience who may need them, please reach out!
Natasha Jones – NRHA Natasha.green@nrhawv.org	We have a new program 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.
Katie Janney – Rainelle Medical Center kjanney@rmchealth.org	I am new with Rainelle Medical Center and am looking forward to working and connecting with you all.
Carri Strunk – NRHA Carri.strunk@nrhawv.org	I cover 6 counties; Braxton, Fayette, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Webster and Greenbrier. I am looking to make connections in those counties.
Belinda Hopkins – AWAY Bhopkins.awaywv@gmail.com	AWAY covers Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas and Summers. I cover Fayette as the Domestic Violence Victim Advocate. Our services are free and confidential. On February 1 st we'll be in Charleston

	<p>advocating for sexual assault awareness and on February 27th we'll be advocating domestic violence awareness.</p> <p>We are still looking to hire a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate if anyone knows anyone who is qualified and interested.</p>
<p>Leana Paxson – Fayette FRN Fayettehealthpfs2@gmail.com</p>	<p>I'll be implementing Too Good for Drugs at Ansted Elementary and Midland Trail Middle/High. I'll be traveling to Washington DC next week with the FRN team</p>
<p>Nadya Suntay – NRHA Nadya.suntay@nrhawv.org</p>	<p>I'll be implementing Too Good for Drugs at New River Intermediate.</p>
<p>Julia Fisher – NRHA Julia.fisher@nrhawv.org</p>	<p>I'm the new health educator at NRHA covering Oak Hill High School, Independence High School and Nicholas County High School. I'm looking to make connections in those schools and looking for training/programs to offer to those schools.</p>
<p>Angela Chambers – FMRS achambers@fmrs.org</p>	<p>We are offering Sublocade as part of our MAT program.</p>
<p>Amanda Withrow – Drug Free Communities fayettedfc@gmail.com</p>	<p>I'll be traveling to Washington DC next week with the FRN team</p>

~ THE NEXT FAYETTE COUNTY FRN MEETING ~
Thursday, February 22, 2024 at Noon
Fayette County DHHR
Presentation from Melissa Lilly with Healthy Grandfamilies

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 1/26/2024