

Fayette County FRN Community Meeting Thursday August 27, 2026



Working together for children and families

In Attendance: Abbie Newell, Natasha Jones, Brittany Jones, Angel Chornsbay, Cheyenne Craddock, Sophie Taylor, Jacklyn Tull, Christian Tyler, Taylor Stiltner, Joycie Wawiye, Tara Harman, Katie Johnson, Monica Kern, Josh Asbury, Hilary Nicolau, Belinda Hopkins, and Diane Callison

The meeting of the Fayette County Family Resource Network was held on: Thursday, August 27, 2026 at the Fayette DoHS office. The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm. Number present for the meeting was 17.

Welcome and Introductions

- **Previous Meeting Notes:** No changes were made to the July meeting notes prior to today's meeting
- **Financial Report** – During the timeframe of July 23, 2026 to August 26, 2026, the FRN brought in \$61,691.77 in revenue and expensed \$91,149.15. Current balance is \$366,998.14.

REPORTS:

- **Fayette FRN Executive Director's Report** – Diane Callison, fayettefrn@gmail.com
 - Attended the Montgomery Health Fair on August 7th, handing out information for the FRN and the Fayette Prevention Coalition, including drug disposal bags.
 - Attended Thrive Fest, the back to school event hosted by the Youth Action Team under the Fayette Prevention Coalition, handing out information for Teen Court
 - The Fayette FRN received a grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to provide basic needs items. These items can include beds, dressers, clothing, and household items. New to 2026, this program can offer utility assistance for electric, gas, water and sewer. The referral form needs to be completed by a direct service provider, not the individual needing the items. 5 members of the FRN Board review all the referrals. The grant is of \$36,000 and will end December 31, 2026 or when funds run out, <https://forms.gle/R6syBhyt8YKFcmvZ8>
 - We've received 98 referrals, we have fulfilled 83, we've pledged assistance to 3 referrals and 12 have been rejected.
 - 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 291 people.

PRESENTATION: Brittany Jones – Mountaineer Challenge Academy

- A PowerPoint presentation is attached with the notes
- The Mountaineer Challenge Academy is a 22-week residential program available to 16-18 year olds, located in Montgomery at the old WVU Tech Campus. Sessions are January to June, July to December
- The academy is no cost to the participants, allowing students the ability to receive their high school diploma and offering a 2 year post program support
- The 8 Core Components that help the cadets succeed are: Academic Excellence, Job Skills, Responsible Citizenship, Leaders and Followership, Life Coping Skills, Health and Hygiene, Service to the Community and Physical Fitness.

- Cadets who thrive at the Academy are often behind on credits, have attendance challenges, lacking direction or confidence, facing difficulties at home or are ready for a fresh start
- The day is tightly scheduled and cadets often thrive having a routine
- After the Academy, 48% of cadets enter the workforce, 15% go on to a trade or votech school, 17% join the military and 11% attend college
- Enrollment numbers for the class that started in July, there were 103 but enrollment has dropped to 82, the first two weeks of the academy are difficult for adjustment and some cadets leave during those two weeks.
- Core subjects focused on during the academy are Math, English, Science and History. Cadets are tested are the start and end of their time at the academy

Brittany Jones

Admissions Counselor

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OPEN DISCUSSION / ROUND TABLE/SUCCESS STORIES:

Name and Organization Contact Information	Updates
Josh Asbury – Adult Education jmasbury@k12.wv.us	The FIT Night Schedule is available and attached with the notes. Adult Education is free for anyone, anyone looking to get their GED or certifications. Every county has an Adult Education program
Hilary Nicolau – SPOKES Hilary.nicolau@wvsc.org	SPOKES works with TANIF and WV Works individuals on meeting their requirements and gaining knowledge and skills for future employment. Local businesses can also utilize SPOKES for their employees with CPR/First Aid, Microsoft Office certifications, and others.
Katie Johnson – Health Department Katie.johnson@fayettehealth.org	ICEC collects data from all 7 th -12 th graders in the county, if you or your organizations is interested in seeing the data (either county wide or school specific), please reach out to Katie. During the community event in July, the attendees created 2 community wide goals; (1) having a “street rule” curfew among parents, and (2) having a digital curfew.
Tara Harman – Youth Reporting Center Tara.e.harman@wv.gov	The Youth Reporting Center works with juveniles who are involved in the court system, offering programming from truancy to substance use. Referrals come from DoHS, the court system or the probation office.
Joycie Wawye – Star of Hope (formerly BUMFS) jrwawiye@bumfs.org	Burlington United Methodist Family Services has changed their name to Star of Hope Family Services. Offering programs including wrap around, safe at home, foster care service and a facility in Raleigh County.
Christian Tyler – FMRS ctyler@fmrs.org	The Regional Youth Service Center will be starting a Life Skills group in Raleigh County, but the group is open to Fayette youth. Ages 18-25

	will meet the 1 st and 3 rd Friday of the month, learning skills like workplace management, cooking/cleaning, tax prep, etc. An intake will need done at FMRS but that is the only requirement to join the group. Official start date will be announced.
Jacklyn Tull – MountainHeart jtull@mthtwv.org	The CSBG youth and assistance program flyer are attached
Sophie Taylor – Girl Scouts Sophie.taylor@bdgsc.org	October 1 st is the official start date for the new troop year, still offering full financial aid to cover membership costs to any girl who selects financial aid when completing the membership application. Always looking for troop leaders!
Natasha Jones – NRHA Natasha.green@nrhawv.org	NRHA offers a New Beginnings Drug Free Mom and Babies program to help mothers in recovery or struggling with substance use disorder bridge the gaps and ensure proper care. Providing Medication Assisted Treatment. The program requires 4 hours of weekly meetings, behavioral health once a month, random drug screens, and visiting NRHA once a week. Farmacy offers participants \$25 worth of produce each week for 15 weeks along with nutrition education. The current class is closed. After Farmacy ends, Natasha will start a 4 week Hearts Program through WVU to educate participants on self-monitoring blood pressure and how to lower blood pressure through nutrition and physical activity.
Abbie Newell – NRHA Abigail.newell@nrhawv.org	With the upcoming changes on January 1 st , please reach out to NRHA if your clients have questions about their services or changes in health insurance. Kelli Dangerfield is a resource to anyone with health insurance questions or needs, you do not have to be a patient of NRHA. Her information is below: Kelli Dangerfield, Benefits & Outreach Coordinator kelli.dangerfield@nrhawv.org P. 304-465-2265 Individuals can use the NRHA Pharmacy without being a patient of NRHA and often offers lower prescription costs. NRHA does offer a sliding scale for services.

~ THE NEXT FAYETTE COUNTY FRN MEETING ~

Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 11:30am
Knights of Columbus Hall (behind St. Francis Church)
201 Raleigh Avenue, Beckley, WV 25801
Presentation from Dr. Linn Sheik with Parenting & Behavior Support Center

Quarterly Alliance meeting with Raleigh County FRN

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

Submitted – DMC 8/31/2026