

Fayette County FRN Community Meeting Thursday July 23, 2026



Working together for children and families

In Attendance: Brenda Workman, Leslie Roberts, Cheyenne Craddock, Kassie Gunnoe, Hilary Nicolau, JoLee Hanshaw, Amanda Williams, Carri Strunk, Joycie Wawiye, Natasha Jones, Alexis Smith, Christian Tyler, Taylor Stiltner, Katie Johnson, Monica Kern, Tara Harman, Kelsey Judy, Jamie Hanshew, Sophie Taylor, Lauren Wilhere, Abbie Newell, Celia Laverty, Belinda Hopkins, Keith Bowling, Matt Atwood, Martha Estep, Erica Byrd, and Diane Callison

The meeting of the Fayette County Family Resource Network was held on: Thursday, July 23, 2026 at the Fayette FRN office. The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. Number present for the meeting was 27.

Welcome and Introductions

- **Previous Meeting Notes:** No changes were made to the June meeting notes prior to today's meeting
- **Financial Report** – During the timeframe of July 1, 2026 to July 22, 2026, the FRN brought in \$451,107.22 in revenue and expensed \$59,331.09. Current balance is \$398,301.13.

REPORTS:

- **Fayette FRN Executive Director's Report** – Diane Callison, fayettefrn@gmail.com
 - Roles and responsibilities:
 - **Executive Director of the FRN** – managing the day to day operations, maintaining network communication, supervising staff, hosting monthly meetings, and financial oversight for over \$400,000 across 24 program categories
 - **President of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** – a board that advising the County Commission on county owned recreation including the Fayette County Park and Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building
 - **Board member of Southeastern AHEC Advisory Board (Area Health Education Centers)** - advocates for quality primary and preventative health care delivery to rural and underserved populations. Working to improve the distribution of health care professionals where they are needed the most.
 - **Board member of MountainHeart Community Services** – Mission: working together with individuals, families, and communities to provide resources for a better life.
 - **Board member of Fayette County Community Corrections Board** – develop, establish and maintain a community-based correction program for Fayette County.
 - **Secretary for Fayette Prevention Coalition** – a group of individuals focused on addressing issues caused by the drug epidemic
 - **Secretary and Treasurer for 4-H Leaders Association** – offering positive youth development for 9-21 year old, motto is learn by doing.
 - New Hire with the Fayette FRN
 - Levi Leshner started with the FRN on Monday July 20th, filling the role of Mental Health Educator for Midland Trail and Meadow Bridge, focusing on 6, 7, 8 and 9th grades.
 - Upcoming meeting schedule
 - We are still looking for presenters for the upcoming 2026-2027 FRN Year, a schedule is attached with the notes.

- 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 90 referrals, we have fulfilled 77, we've pledged assistance to 3 referrals, 1 is pending review from the Board of Directors and 9 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: Brenda Workman from Brenda Workman Speaks – Plant Based Cooking Academy

- Brenda started her plant-based journey after receiving news of high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Her doctor encouraged her to research and learn about plant-based nutrition. Brenda lost 60 pounds and was able to come off both medications for high cholesterol and high blood pressure.
- Brenda has her certification in Plant-Based Nutrition from Cornell University and became a Food For Life Instructor through the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.
- The presentation Brenda shared shows pictures of her offering community cooking classes and demonstrations to a variety of groups including; southern highlands, home base inc, principals meetings, student parent nights, headstarts, churches, libraries and community centers.
- A flyer is attached with the notes for the Annual Wellness Weekend WV at Canaan Valley Resort.
- A flyer is attached with the notes for the Plant-Based Cooking Academy, a 6 week training for organizations and programs to offer to their clients. The next cohort will begin in August
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/brendaworkmanspeaks>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/brendaworkmanspeaks>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@brendaworkmancooksplants>
- Website - <https://www.brendaworkmanspeaks.com/>



Brenda Workman Speaks, LLC.
 Empowerment Speaker
 Plant-based Enthusiast
 Food for Life Instructor
 304-920-1640 (Cell)
brenda@brendaworkmanspeaks.com

OPEN DISCUSSION / ROUND TABLE/SUCCESS STORIES:

Name and Organization Contact Information	Updates
Belinda Hopkins – AWAY Bhopkins.awaywv@gmail.com	AWAY, formerly known as the Women’s Resource Center, offers assistance for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking victims. Covering 4 counties; Fayette, Raleigh, Summers and Nicholas. Raleigh County has a crisis shelter for women and children.
Leslie Roberts – WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund Leslie.roberts@wvlegislature.gov	Outreach Coordinator for the WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund. Covering out of pocket expenses for victims of a crime. Two requirements are that the crime has to be in WV and that there is a law enforcement report. The office is based out of Charleston but covers the whole state.
Cheyenne Craddock – New River Health Cheyenne.craddock@nrhawv.org	Excited for the school year to start. Discussed some questions about Thrive Fest. Diane and Carri shared information about the resources and vendors that will be at the event. A flyer for Thrive Fest is attached with the notes.
Natasha Jones – NRHA Natasha.green@nrhawv.org	Bonnies Bus event at Lester Square in Raleigh County has been rescheduled to August 25 th .
Carri Strunk – NRHA Carri.strunk@nrhawv.org	Carri is trained to teach Catch My Breath Peer to Peer, looking for a group of at least 12 high school students to become trainers and teach Catch My Breath to younger grades. Leader of the 4H Teen Leader club, looking to recruit new 8 th grade and up students starting on October 1 st .
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. Offering a step down program for juveniles leaving Gene Spadaro Juvenile Center. The new School Based Probation Officer has been hired. 8 students caught up on credit recovery during the summer and 3 students last year graduated from high school with the support of the YRC.
Hilary Nicolau – SPOKES Hilary.nicolau@wvesc.org	SPOKES works with TANIF and WV Works individuals on meeting their requirements and gaining knowledge and skills for future employment. Adult Education is free for anyone, anyone looking to get their GED or certifications. Every county has an Adult Education program
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. Hosting a community event tomorrow, July 24 th at 1pm at the Fayette County Park. The event will have a data walk component but looking to have 4-5 community wide goals to achieve. Preston County is offering a Botvin Life Skills training on August 3 rd to August 5 th in Sutton. A flyer is attached with the notes.

Sophie Taylor – Girl Scouts Sophie.taylor@bdgsc.org	Two flyers are attached with more information regarding girl scouts. Offering full financial aid to cover membership costs to any girl who selects financial aid when completing the membership application. A troop leader in Fayette County is stepping down, Girl Scouts will be looking to fill this role. More details to come regarding the ages of girls and their typical meeting location/time.
Martha Estep – Adult Family Care Martha.k.estep@wv.gov	Recruiting providers for Adult Family Care, operates similar to foster care but with adults over the age of 18. Providers are paid for opening their homes to adults and a flyer is attached with the notes. The school clothing voucher is open through DoHS, encourage your clients to go in person to the DoHS to complete the application. Old applications are being rejected.
Keith Bowling – AETNA BowlingG@aetna.com	If anyone has questions about changes to Medicaid please let me know. Also, with school starting and sports physicals, I encourage people to incorporate sports physicals into a well child visit. We have incentives for Well Child visits and we will pay for the Well Child. Not the Sports Physical. Well Child is much more in depth.

~ THE NEXT FAYETTE COUNTY FRN MEETING ~
Thursday, August 27, 2026 at Noon
Fayette DoHS Office (1400 Virginia Street, Oak Hill WV)
Presentation from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy

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 7/23/2026