May 17, 2023 Community Meeting

Melvin announced that FRN will do door knocking will begin again in June and information will be distributed regarding fatigue and long COVID.

Our guest speakers were Melissa “Missy” Vincent and Jessica “Jessie” Waddell. Missy has worked many years at DHHR but became ombudsman in Dec. 2022. Ombudsman” – referred to as ombuds assists in resolution of conflict. They must be independent, impartial, confidential. Foster care ombudsman was established by legislature although it has been changed through the years. There are 8 throughout West Virginia. Updated in Feb 2023, to expand children that are covered through this program. Not allowed to direct, don’t provide legal advice. They advocate for treatment focusing on foster children and kinship parents, monitor and review legislature. Anyone may contact the ombudsman related to child welfare.

Beth McCreight – looking for landlords in NCWV (or WV), (Mylan/Healthright).

Megan Connelly – Housing coordinator – Housing Authority – going through changes. Megan wanted to announce that anyone that has been issued vouchers or in orientation process are on hold as they have reached capacity. They have not been pulled from the waiting list since December. No time frame as to when it will reopen. Only affects Section 8 vouchers.

Casey Gilbert – working on Day of Action – June 21

Ashby Cayton – Humana sales – attending to find community contacts. Specializes in disabled, 65 and older, vets.

Jodi McQuillen (HAPI) is excited that they now have blood pressure cuffs for moms. which Medicaid doesn’t provide, through preeclampsia foundation. Anyone that has CHIP or Medicaid is eligible.

Healthy Grandfamilies will be holding an end of year picnic on June 13, 4 to 6 at WAVE TEC pool.

Heather Swiger – parents are first teachers, want to hire two home visitation persons, prefer to do home visits rather than virtual.

Cathy Reed – Relay for Life for June 9, Children’s Mental Health Awareness Fair June 3, Disability Rights is looking for board members.