April 2023 MCFRN Community Meeting, 4/19/23

* Shannon did the introduction and opening.
* Two guest speakers from NECCO- Nikki and Ellie, social service company, located in 5 states, offices in all areas in WV except in Berkeley county, specialized foster care, therapeutic services, wrap around services, adoptive services, independent living program once age out, NECCO focuses on reunification, WV highest number per capita for children in foster care, goal-safe and loving home for children for stability, explained the process to become a foster parent, foster services- on call (24/7), own case manager, housing check ($500), biggest need for foster families (older children 6 and older and teenagers), Nikki gave statistics about foster care, ways to support if not interested in being foster parents- word of mouth, help a foster family, invite NECCO to come and talk also answer questions to organizations, agencies and businesses, can donate items.
* Darlene Stuckey-UNICARE, passing out brochures- Ready, Set, Renew (Medicaid update information on DHHR website),
* Tricia Maxwell- Marion Board of Education attendance director, passed out flyers, transitional kindergarten summer program, summer school program K-8, credit recovery for high schoolers, literacy fair 29th 10-2
* Gia- board member, special education director- (will have famous author at the literacy fair)
* Pam Nolan- Early Head start, two sites North Marion and east Fairmont High School,
* Teresa Hart- Valley Health Care, flyers on services for children
* Amy Wilson- HOPE, sexual assault awareness month
* Ashley Hawkins- WV Coalition to end homelessness, coordinated entry line (risk for homelessness or at risk for homelessness), drives around to meet clients where they are to help link them to services, brings with her items to help clients (feminine hygiene products, grooming products, laundry products) can be donated to Ashley to help provide items for clients and items will be given free to clients.
* Suri- North Central Community Action -VITA (Tax program), 12 counties and always training people to help with program (stays open until October 18th), located in Taylor County, wveitc.com.
* Diamond Brown- DSF Stop, Marion, Mon, Harrison County, focuses on reaching out to minorities with COVID information, focus is shifting on health and wellness, partners with Mon Health (telehealth), able to help direct people where to go for insurance if they don’t have insurance, Juneteenth announcement coming up soon.
* Teresa Nickels- Housing Authorities manager, helps people buy houses, Fair Housing Month- second outreach fair housing grants, section 8 and rental assistance (does not count fostering income),
* Sydney Stansberry- WV Caring- golf fundraiser May 13th, Camp Caring for ages 6-14 camp for kids’ bereavement camp,
* Wendy Knicler- The Health Plan, resources in the community
* Amber Eddy and Chrissy Dawson- HAPI, Right from the Start, case management services, help connect pregnant women and infants with resource, fatherhood program, Baby and Me at the Meadowbrook Mall turned out good.
* Stephanie Marshall, WIC, and Sarah Moore- income guidelines just went up, passed out brochures, did rebrand of all WIC items, starting pop up clinics (Fairmont Walmart parking lot next Monday), with Doddridge partners mom’s day, WIC will follow foster children.
* Melvin spoke about COVID-19 still existing and will continue to do door knocking.
* Jan, update on Community Baby Shower- now have 19 moms.
* Sherry Radcliffe- afterschool Reset (rising stars, take two educational center) 1st Sunday of every month to feed the homelessness @bus garage, wanting to get tents, backpacks, blankets, wood anything to help the homeless, collect pull backpacks and suitcases for foster kids to carry their stuff in.
* Phil and Kathy Reed- Save the Date-Saturday in Shinnston
* Melissa Vincent-ombudsman office, complaints about child welfare system. Speaker for next month (May)
* Richard- Legal Aid, still going to different schools, WV Department of Education to continue program for going to school to help.
* Ashley Ash- FAST program with Legal Aid-issues that effects the child’s education