

ROCC Social Justice Minute

Present: Kathy and Tom Heffernan, Vicki Huggins, Kate Kellogg, Al Lowande and Bianca Diaz from WCC

Kathy and Tom updated committee on Medicaid and Chips for the 178 children and their families who qualify for these programs but aren't enrolled. They talked to Linnea Edwards Deputy Director of Social Service, Amy Rowan from Tri County, Tanner Kingery, Laine Smith from Ridgway Secondary School and Carolyn Mathews from Ouray School. The people they talked to, except for Tanner Kingery, were not aware of the number of children who qualify and yet aren't enrolled. We got good feedback from them but are far from solving the problem.

Vicky Huggins updated the group on the Mental Health Conversation follow up. She is on the Community Conversations Committee. The movie Paradox in Paradise was shown in Ridgway. This is a movie about suicides in the Eagle Valley area and what they are doing about it. All ski towns have this problem. There was follow up conversation after the showing with Voyager and CTC.

There will be a mental health resource Fair for the community at Ouray Community Center on March 9.

On March 21 there will be a follow up from the first Mental Health Conversation; we had a few months back. It will be a potluck on March 21 at Space to Create from 6pm to 8 pm. Vicki told us about a program called Ignite. Folks can have 5 minutes to present something they are interested or passionate about. I believe this happens at the Sherbino. Heather Toth talked about OCSAP. (Ouray County Support and Advocacy Project)

Kate Kellogg talked to Ann Britton from Region 10 about Elder Care and Neighbor to Neighbor. Neighbor to Neighbor is more of a support group that does meals and drives folks to appointments. Things like that. Note: I called to get the correct spelling of Ann's last name and was told she had just recently retired from Region 10.

Bianca Diaz gave us ideas about zeroing in on just one idea. Look for obstacles and work to remove them. Questions: Why are kids falling through the cracks on health insurance? What do we need to do? Where do we need to apply pressure? Are there Language barriers? Do deep listening. Bianca will come to are next meeting with a plan for us.

Al Lowande will set up a meeting with Tanner Kingery for some of us to attend and find out more about these children without health insurance.

Our next meeting is March 11, Monday at 4:00 pm at Kathy and Tom's house.

Kathy Heffernan