

BECON 4/19/2024

Dina ran the meeting this morning and introduced our guests: Jessica McLaughlin and Heather Beddes from the St. John's United CARES program. Also, Sheila Wilson brought her daughter Shauna.

Announcements:

Dina and Rene reminded the group that there are still convention registration forms available for those who want to attend the District Convention here in Billings. See attached for information on our keynote speaker.

Shannon J (moi) announced that our next membership drive is going to be May 2, 2024, at the DEN at 5:30pm. Bruce Jensen is our sponsor. We are truly in need of increasing our membership. If every club member could bring one solid person in their life, we could be back to our thriving numbers from our Yellowstone room days. Let's show up and tell others about our amazingness. I believe in you all.

Heather Beddes and Jessica McLaughlin from the St. John's United CARES program came to chat with us about the program today. They perform family services for families in need; they are also a licensed adoption agency. Here are the points from their presentation:

National Partner is Lutheran Services in America. They approached St. John's United in 2020 about joining a family stabilization initiative focused on prevention, racial equity, and reducing the number of families involved in the child welfare system.

The National Center for Innovation and Excellence agreed to participate by training and certifying their team in High Fidelity Wraparound. They have been doing the CARES model in Brevard County, FL for more than 15 years. This is an evidence based practice.

St. John's United is part of a collective that includes three other organizations in WA, AK, SD. Their goals are to expand community based solutions and interventions for families in crisis, reduce the overall number of children entering foster care, and make meaningful and sustainable differences for families who are vulnerable.

CARES stands for: Coordination, Advocacy, Resources, Education, Support.

Their 10 wraparound principles are: Family Voice/Choice, Team Based, Natural Supports, Collaboration, Community Based, Culturally Competent, Individualized, Strengths Based, Unconditional, Outcome-Based.

Their phases of wraparound start with engagement and team participation. Then they work on a plan for the family. They then implement that plan, and eventually transition the family back into the community. Their program typically takes between 4-6 months for a successful experience.

Since the beginning in January 2022, St. Johns has had 181 referrals, 68 families fully enrolled in the wraparound process, 57 families met with the team and engaged in referrals and resources, 44 families have graduated and transitioned from the program, 95% of families report still being together.

Their referral sources include: School District 2, CFSD, Children's clinic, Intermountain Pediatric Specialty Clinic.

Jerry Voto won the cash raffle! Congrats Jerry!