

**Reconnecting McDowell – Co-Chair Call
October 19, 2016**

Health – John Kennedy

- Teenage Pregnancy group is being formed. John is collecting information about a date to meet with those interested.
- Adult Services – John has been working to loop in Tug River to help support this work
- Youth and Family (a coalition of organizations) is working with Mt. View High Schools to brainstorm an activity that will give students the opportunity to do things that are important to them

Early Childhood Education – Inga Barker reported on behalf of Amanda Fragile

- Pre-K lead teachers, including Headstart teachers, are working to build teacher leadership program on their early teacher team including revisions to the family communication log.
- K-3 teachers held a celebration to celebrate early learning growth and the 3rd year of the implementation of the phonics program.
- All pre-k teachers will participate in trainings on November 4 and November 12. Focus will be on grade level standards, holding effective conversations with families regarding student attendance, and transitions from pre-k to kindergarten.
- Early Childhood Fair will be held in Spring 2017. Brainstorms have begun for a theme for the fair.
- VOYA grant funds have been utilized to purchase books for distribution from family literacy centers, teachers, schools, and organizations that work with families. Three family book fairs were held where parents and children could “shop” for books and take them home free of cost.
- Home visiting project: The 1st cohort of 20 teachers have conducted visits. Cohort 2 comprised of 28 teachers was trained on October 15. The goal is to visit 350 homes this year.
- **Early Learning meeting will be on November 1 at Phoenix Center at 1:30pm.**

K-12 – Inga Barker

- A 2nd alternative certification plan was approved by the West Virginia Department of education. The purpose of this program is to create an alternative means for a qualified person to earn a professional teaching certificate by authorizing participating school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with regionally accredited higher education institutions (Concord University and Marshall University) and a regional education service agency (RESA 1) all under the supervision of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE).
- A College Fair was held on September 19. 30 colleges participated. Plans are underway for a career fair.
- 4th cohort for leadership capacity grant was begun. There are 6 participants this round. The project curriculum for this program is specifically designed to identify and develop new administrators in West Virginia’s high-need school districts, decrease the turnover rate of current school leaders in those districts, and enhance the capacity of current school leaders to positively affect student achievement.