

**The Blair County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
The Arc 431 Jackson Ave., Altoona, PA**

Board Members Present: James Stratton, Chris Cohn, John Allender, Dave Hollern, Cassie Grassmyer, Rick Petroski, Commissioner Erb, Donna Gority, Robert Smith and Mike Stubler

Board Members Absent: Steve Martynuska, Cindy Barton and Sue Tomlinson

Others Present: Melissa Gillin, Jamie Henry, Melissa Gordon, Theresa Rudy, Lorrie Hetager, Amber Bott and Amy Marten-Shanafelt

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

Rick Petroski, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made. .

1. Approval of August 2, 2018 Minutes

- *Motion by Donna Gority to accept the August 2, 2018 minutes. Chris Cohn seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

2. Board Operations – Jim Hudack, Executive Director Blair County Dept. Social Services

- Rick reported that the Commissioners approved the renewal of the current Board Members whose terms are expiring but will remain in office for the next year.

3. Mental Health Committee Report - Bob Smith

- A copy of the MH Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.
- Bob Smith gave an overview of the last meeting & asked for a letter of support from ACRP.

Motion by John Allender to provide a letter of support for ACRP to submit a service description application to OMHSAS for a Peer Specialist Support Program for ages 14 and older. Bob Smith seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – John Allender

- A copy of the Developmental Programs Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.
- John Allender gave an overview of the last meeting
- John reported on the new program, Rachel's Challenge, being added to the school, with the focus being on kindness and on people with disabilities.

5. County Reports

Executive Director – Jim Hudack

- The December board meeting will include an Annual Report overview from each of the program representatives.
- Rick asked if anyone had a request or interest in inviting any of the providers to a board meeting to learn more about their services to contact Jim Hudack and he will reach out to the provider(s).

MH/COD –Theresa Rudy

- Theresa reported that the Income & Expense Report is due next Friday.
- Human Services Block Grant letter awarded MH a one-time payment increase of \$40,000
- Administrative Assistant candidates have been interviewed and position will be filled soon.
- Out of the Darkness walk was held in September
- Student Assistant Program (SAP) was recognized by the Dept of Education
- Working on creating a Emergency Behavioral Health (EBH) Team that will be incorporated with the current TIRT Team

Mental Health – Ken Dean

- No report.

Intellectual Disabilities – Melissa Gordon

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Currently monitoring 13 providers and need to finish by December
- Received 16 Community Living waivers and still need an additional 16 waivers
- Working with ODP on a pilot program LEAP (Life Experience Appraisal Process) which consists of reviewing high cost budget requests for other counties

Early Intervention – Kelly Popich

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- PA meets the requirements of the US Dept of Education for the Infant/Toddler EI Program
- Bureau of EI Services goals for this year are: Social Emotional Assessment Tools, Clarify that EI uses the evidence based approach with Coaching & Consultation and Financial Sustainability
- A new EI Service Coordination announcement has been issued & trainings have been taking place across the state
- Changes have been made to the local determination process and verification which include year-end reports, Early Childhood outcome collection process & the Family survey, no self-verification process, and an on-site visit by OCDEL every four years
- EI Quality Enhancement Plan scheduled for review in November
- 3 day Leadership Conference is scheduled for November

6. Ex-Officio Reports

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell

- A MH 1st Aid Training flyer was included with the Agenda packet.
- Please share flyer with Law Enforcement, 1st Responders, etc.

The Arc – Maria Brandt

- No update

ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager

- A young lady that has been supported by Mattern House has been hired by Self Advocates United and is getting many requests for speaking engagements.
- ODP is getting the word out on the fatal 4: Aspiration, Constipation, Dehydration, & Seizures. Focus is to understand complications, symptoms, causes & risk factors, and treatment & prevention.
- On-site visits with Providers will be occurring by SASMG Quality Assessment & Improvement Process with Steve Karns
- Jan Kinney, Storyteller, will be doing a residency at ACEL in October.
- ACEL will be having their annual Halloween Party to benefit Blair United Way

Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amy Marten-Shanafelt/Amber Bott

- The grievance process has changed. Some of the requirements have changed.
- Stepping Up Initiative – there are a lot of incarcerated individuals in Blair County Prison with a mental illness. The Forensic Case Manager has been focusing on these individuals to make sure there is a coordinated plan for them when they are discharged. The plan includes following up with treatment and housing.
- Amy will be working with others to create a Readiness Assessment Plan to see how Blair County measures up to other counties.
- HOPE Drop In will be adding additional day to their meeting schedule. A professor from Mt. Aloysius offered to bring his art students to HOPE to do art projects. HOPE will need to raise a few extra dollars for the art supplies. The professor currently takes students to the Penn Drop In in Johnstown.
- The LHOT & Housing Steering Committee have agreed to merge together as one group to plan strategically.
- Amber reported that there are some problems with the RTFs (Residential Treatment Facilities). Problems with access to an RTF, denials due to child's behaviors, no discharge plans and kids get stuck in the RTF.
- Community Care is looking into training the RTFs on another model to enhance the clinical skills & what is the plan for the kids that get stuck in the RTF with no families or place to go. Also some RTFs are

located far away from the child's family. The family should be part of the treatment plan. Also want to track denials and what are the reasons for the denials and how to address the barriers of the denials.

Open Forum:

Commissioner Erb spoke about the CYF Family Engagement Initiative that will be held on November 15 from 10am-2pm at the Altoona Grand Hotel

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at the Arc, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona

The next Mental Health Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 9:00a.m. at CONTACT Altoona.

The next Developmental Programs Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at SASMG training room, 157 Lakemont Park Blvd.