

**The Blair County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
The Arc Altoona, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona**

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

Board Members Absent: Sue Tomlinson, Robert Smith and Cindy Barton

Others Present: Melissa Gillin, Jim Hudack, Jamie Henry, Kelly Popich, Maria Brandt, Sara McConnell, Nicole Germeaux, Amber Bott and Lorrie Hetager

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

Rick Petroski, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made. Rick thanked Susanna for her time served as Chairperson of the Advisory Board.

1. Approval of December 7, 2017 Minutes

The approval of the Advisory Board meeting minutes of December 7, 2017 was deferred until the next Advisory Board meeting due to a copy of the minutes not being included in the Agenda Packet at the February 8, 2018 meeting.

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

- Jim welcomed Cassie Grassmyer as a new Board Member.
- Jim reported staff changes within the Department of Social Services. Jackie Saylor is the new Fiscal Officer and Denise Terdiman, Fiscal Specialist, has resigned. Jim has interviewed several people for the position and has made an offer. The individual has accepted.
- Theresa Rudy and Cathy Crum will be retiring on March 30. An Open House is being held on March 9 at the SASMG Training room from noon – 4pm.

3. Mental Health Committee Report – Chris Cohn

A copy of the meeting minutes was distributed with the agenda packet. Chris reported that the County has elected to become a Stepping Up County. Commissioner Erb gave an overview of the program and how it will benefit Blair County.

4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – John Allender

A copy of the meeting minutes was distributed with the agenda packet. John reported that the Committee has been inviting providers to present at the committee meeting to give an overview of their agency. SASMG presented at the January meeting.

5. County Reports

Executive Director – Jim Hudack

- Kelly Popich and Cassie Grassmyer presented on the intake & referral process for Early Intervention.
- Jim reported on a new committee that is being established as part of the Stepping Up initiative. The Law Enforcement Committee will meet on Wed. February 14.
- NHS is changing their name to Merakey on March 1.
- There was an Active Shooter training at the Courthouse last week.
- T.I.R.T. (Traumatic Incident Response Team) program plan to roll out in March.
- Still working on locating a building for an Emergency Shelter.
- The Affordable Housing Trust Fund committee will be meeting next week.

- Nicole Germeaux gave an overview of the COC (Continuum of Care) and Coordinated Entry for homeless individuals as defined by HUD (Housing and Urban Development). There were 10 individuals qualified as HUD homeless since the new system started on January 24, 2018.

MH/COD – Jim Hudack

- Jim asked for a letter of support from Blair Family Solutions to submit a service description application to provide Blended Case Management (BCM) to the Department of Human Services/Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DHS/OMHSAS). The request was approved at the MH Committee meeting and the Blair HealthChoices Clinical Committee.
A motion was made by Steve Martynuska to provide the letter of support as presented. Chris Cohn seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mental Health – Ken Dean

Ken included a report with the meeting Agenda packet.

Human Services – Cathy Crum

- Cathy included a report with the Agenda packet. Cathy reported that the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) funds that were allocated to Blair Senior Services will now be allocated to Blair Community Action beginning on July 1. Blair Senior Services opted out of administering the HAP funds.
- Blair Community Action will take over administering the FEMA (Emergency Food & Shelter) program funds. Sergio will become the chairperson for FEMA.

Intellectual Disabilities – Jamie Henry

- A report was included with the Agenda packet. Jamie reported that there are now 4 Supports Coordinator's (SCO) in Blair County.
- There are 759 individuals being served and approximately 500 individuals within the County that have not been identified to receive services. 62 individuals are over the Person/Family Directed Supports waiver cap and 10 of the individuals will be moved to the Community Living waiver.

Early Intervention – Kelly Popich

- Kelly attended the Support Coordination Think Tank sessions. Kelly was asked to share what is working and what's not working for support coordination.
- The Week of the Young Child Celebration will be held on April 21 from 10:00am-2:00pm at PSU Adler Gym.

6. Ex-Officio Reports

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell

A report was included with the Agenda packet.

- MH 1st Aid has a new group of 28 instructors.
- Family to Family program is being held at the VA Hospital.
- Ending the Silence program will roll out with the Evidem groups.
- In Our Own Voice has a view new members.
- Peer to Peer group meeting at the Bethany Lutheran Church
- April 19, 2018 NAMI Conference will be held at The Casino and there will be a \$10 fee due to attendees receiving a book gift by the Keynote Speaker.
- Jim offered to purchase the tickets for the NAMI Conference for any Board members that wish to attend.

The Arc – Maria Brandt

- PwD Preparedness Training on April 12 for professionals only at the American Legion in Hollidaysburg.
- Financial & Legal Training regarding guardianships, power of attorney and their rights. It is being combined with the ABLE Act and the Dept of Treasury.
- Parent to Parent night to help educate on Special Education services. Adults & Parents only.

ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager

Lorrie reported new rate changes for providers as of January and reporting requirements have changed.

Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amber Bott

Working on engaging families in treatment as part of the clinical model of BHRS. They met with all of outpatient school providers in Blair County and the common complaint is the lack of engagement with families. Community Cares is going to train outpatient school providers the Clinical Model.

Open Forum:

Nothing

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at the Arc, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona

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

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