

**The Blair County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
The Arc Altoona, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona**

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

Board Members Absent: Commissioner Erb, John Allender, Sue Tomlinson, Robert Smith and Cindy Barton

Others Present: Melissa Gillin, Jim Hudack, Jamie Henry, Melissa Gordon, Kelly Popich, Maria Brandt, Theresa Rudy, Amy Marten-Shanfelt and Lorrie Hetager

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

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

1. Approval of April 5, 2018 Minutes

- *Motion by Mike Stubler to accept the April 5, 2018 minutes. Chris Cohn seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

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

- The August Board meeting will include staff from the Social Services Office and SASMG. A location will be determined.
- A nominating committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

3. Mental Health Committee Report – no report. Meeting was cancelled

4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – Jamie Henry

- A copy of the meeting minutes was distributed with the agenda packet.
- One of the new Supports Coordination organizations presented their services.
- There was a request for a member of the Advisory Board to attend the Provider Committee meeting to explain role of the Board
- Skills has located a site for a respite home. Waiting for clearances. Will be able to house 4 individuals.

5. County Reports

Executive Director – Jim Hudack

- The HSBG Annual Plan was submitted.
- The HSBG budget allocation will remain the same as the past 5 years.
- Not sure if there will be any retained funds this year.
- Direct Care work force is experiencing a shortage in staffing and difficulty in recruiting workers.

MH/COD –Theresa Rudy

- Theresa asked for a letter of support for Blair Family Solutions expansion of the Community and School Based Behavioral Health Team (CSBBH) to add one MH Professional and one Behavioral Health Worker to the current team at the Altoona Area School District Ebner School. It was supported at the Clinical Committee on June 6.

A motion was made by Chris Cohn to provide the letter of support as presented. Dave Hollern seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Theresa asked for a letter of support from Children’s Community Pediatrics to provide telepsychiatry services at UPMC Teleconsult Center located in the Station Mall for individuals up to age 26 that are referred by their pediatrician. It was supported at the Clinical Committee on June 6.

A motion was made by Mike Stubler to provide the letter of support as presented. Steve Martynuska seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Theresa reported that new provider contracts will require Cyber Liability Insurance with a minimum amount of \$5,000,000 coverage. Smaller providers may be eligible for a lesser requirement amount. This may have an impact on some of the smaller providers and renewing contracts.

Mental Health – Ken Dean

- Ken included a report with the meeting Agenda packet.

Intellectual Disabilities – Melissa Gordon

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- ODP (Office of Developmental Programs) granted ID with 2 new grad opportunities. It will allow them to identify at least 2 individuals who could use it before they graduate.
- ODP may also allow the possibility to give away 2 of the PFDS (Personal Family Directed Services) opportunities for 1 Community Living Waiver. If so, ID may consider giving up 4 of the PFDS for 2 Community Living Waivers
- The PFDS has a cap of \$33,000 and the Community Living has a \$33,000 - \$70,000 cap.
- Melissa is also working on a survey with the Blair County ID providers to try to determine what are the current employment issues? How many staff are they in need of? Have they increased wages? What positions are needed? Full time or Part time?

Early Intervention – Kelly Popich

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- EI had a review on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). OCDEL was on site in May. Kelly reported that the QEP has been approved.
- Kelly reported on the question regarding do they need to treat evaluators the same as providers. EI is required to contract with providers as long as they are qualified but are not required to make referrals.
- Kelly received confirmation that evaluation is different.
- There is a new billing practice with providers. Providers now need to include the doctor's NPI number for billing.
- Kelly will be sending out letters with contract renewals giving them the option if they want to continue to contract with EI due to the Cyber Liability Insurance requirement. Some of the EI providers are only a single individual without an IT department.

6. Ex-Officio Reports

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- 2 new education leaders are trained to facilitate NAMI Connection support group
- May extend the NAMI Connection support model throughout the County to try to reach the homeless and incarcerated population along with the HOPE Drop In as well
- The NAMI office is now located at 2900 Beale Ave. next to Center For Independent Living. The Helpline phone number remains the same.
- New phone number is 327-7083.

The Arc – Maria Brandt

- Members from Senator Casey's office were at the Arc. It was a mixed forum with providers, parents, etc. to share what they feel is broken.
- Maria talked about having this forum more often and may be able to fix some of the issues locally.
- Some of the things that came up were: lack of staffing, education, integrated within the community & how it is rolled out, need to start at much younger age, employment
- Crafting for Profit – free to participate. Individuals will be making the crafts and selling them next March at a craft show. They will get to keep the profit of what they sell.

ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager

- Empowering Lives opening a Community Kitchen. Secured 2 employment opportunities for people in the community
- HNA is going through a corporate division (2 non-profit divisions): UPMC Home Care Management Services and UPMC Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies

Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amy Marten-Shanafelt

- HOPE Drop In Amtran Adventurous Race scheduled for June 28
- Missy will email a copy of the Race Registration to the group
- Community HealthChoices Symposium at the Altoona Grand Hotel on June 26
- Symposium curriculum will focus on services for older adults
- Missy will email a copy of the Symposium Registration and Agenda to the group
- BHRS payment structure changes to help with staff retention

Open Forum:

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at American Legion Social Hall, Hollidaysburg

The next Mental Health Committee meetings will be held on Thursday, September 6 & November 1, 2018 at 9:00a.m. at CONTACT Altoona.

The next Developmental Programs Committee meetings will be held on Thursday, September 6 & November 1, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at SASMG training room, 157 Lakemont Park Blvd.