

**The Blair County Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.  
Fort Roberdeau, 383 Fort Roberdeau Rd, Altoona, PA**

**Board Members Present:** James Stratton, Steve Martynuska, Rick Petroski, Donna Gority, Commissioner Bruce Erb and Cindy Barton

**Board Members Absent:** Cassie Grassmyer, John Allender, Chris Cohn, Robert Smith, Mike Stubler and Sue Tomlinson

**Others Present:** Jim Hudack, Melissa Gillin, Theresa Rudy, Lorrie Hetager, Jennifer Kensinger, Nicole Germaux, Melissa Gordon, Kelly Popich, Carol Hartman, Catie Richards, Steve Wicks, Maria Brant, Lindsay Dempsie, Jackie Saylor, Ken Dean, Cindy James and Sara McConnell

---

*MINUTES*

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Rick Petroski, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Rick introduced Glenn Nelson, Executive Director of Fort Roberdeau. Glenn gave a brief history of Fort Roberdeau. Self-Introductions were made.

**1. Approval of June 6, 2019 Minutes**

- *Motion by Steve Martynuska to accept the June 6, 2019 minutes. Donna Gority seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

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

- Jim stated that he and Rick Petroski are going to be working on nominations for Board of Officers for Blair County Social Services Advisory Board, as well as, listing all re-appointments. Jim asked any attendees to take a Talent Bank Application if they knew someone who may be interested in serving on the Board.
- Jim reported the sad news that Board Member, Dave Hollern, passed away on July 26, 2019. He had served as a Board Member since 2007. Services will be held August 2, 2019.

**3. Mental Health Committee Report**

- No report ~ No meeting in July

**4. Developmental Programs Committee Report**

- No report ~ No meeting in July

**5. County Reports**

*Executive Director – Jim Hudack*

- Jim reported that the HSBG Annual Plan came out mid-June. Blair County Social Services submitted the HSBG Annual Plan to the State the second week of July for approval. 1<sup>st</sup> fund allocation has been received.
- Jim reported the budget has basically remained the same. Intellectual Disabilities (ID) had an increase to Community Living Waivers to 16. Early Intervention (EI) had a slight increase of 3%.
- Jim reported that the County Administrators Association will be actively working on the restoration of the 10%.

*MH/COD – Theresa Rudy*

- No Updates

*Mental Health – Ken Dean*

- A report was included in the Agenda packet.
- Ken talked briefly about the challenges that the Strike Team is facing in regards to Higher Level Reviews.

### ***Intellectual Disabilities – Melissa Gordon***

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Skills' respite home located at Beale Avenue, Altoona had its ribbon cutting on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The respite home should be licensed and operational by September 2019.
- ID program received 16 new Community Living Waivers and individuals needed to be enrolled by June 30.
- New Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Client Assistance Program (CAP) exceptions are currently being requested of Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). The ID program is waiting on ODP approval for those.
- ID was approved by the Commissioners' office. A few providers have reconsidered and now want contracts with the ID program. Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group (SASMG) is working with them to get the needed paperwork.

### ***Early Intervention – Kelly Popich***

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Finalized Provider and Service Coordination EI monitoring – no improvement needed.
- All 2019-2020 EI contracts have been submitted and approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- There has been a 3% rate increase for all state set EI service rates effective July 1, 2019. This does not include Special Instruction Hearing and Special Instruction Vision as these remain locally set rates.
- The Blair County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) has updated their Blair County's Care for Kids and Families Resource Guide. Contact information can be found in the back of the guide to request additional copies. Kelly distributed the guides to attendees of the meeting.

### ***Quality Assurance & Housing Coordinator – Missy Gillin***

- Melissa reported that 14 out of 15 FY 19/20 contracts have been submitted and approved by the Commissioners.
- Blair County has been invited to participate in the Rural Impact County Challenge by NACo.

## **6. Ex-Officio Reports**

### ***NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell***

- Sara reported that Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Classes for Law Enforcement will be in the Fall 2019.
- Peer to Peer attendees will be graduating from their 4 week course.
- Family to Family class will be held at the VA Hospital.
- A Member Advisory Committee Meeting was held in July 2019.

### ***CONTACT Altoona – Nicole Germaux***

- Funding was not received to add texting and a texting component to the Helpline.

### ***The Arc – Maria Brandt***

- Maria announced that the Altoona Area School District (AASD) will be hold a training in September 2019 geared toward getting adolescents' anger under control. Behavioral Health Continuing Education credits will be offered. Training will be held in the AASD High School Auditorium. Maria will know more information in a few days. She will get flyers out in regards to the event.

### ***ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager***

- Lori reported that Quality Assessment and Improvement (AQ&I) self-assessment are due for all providers by 8/31/19.
- Residential Providers going through training on and preparing for the new Health Risk Assessment Tool. Need a minimum of one rater for every 25 people. An RN is required to do clinical reviews and training.
- 6100's are still not approved. May be in the Fall.
- Comments for the new Incident Management Bulletin were due 7/31/2019.
- Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) will be implemented January 2020. Providers who receive payment for companion, in home and community support, respite, homemaker, chore, and participant directed

services (agency with choice) will need to be compliant. System that uses tablet/telephony to capture the following information: type of service provided, the person receiving the service, individual providing the service, date of service, location of service delivery, and time the service begins and ends.

- Skills had their Respite Home ribbon cutting on 7/30/19 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. The Home is beautiful.

*Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amy Marten-Shanafelt*

- No updates.

**Open Forum:**

- Jim handed out Talent Bank Application Forms to those who may know someone who would be interested in serving as a Board Member on the Blair County Social Services Advisory Board.

Rick closed the meeting.

**The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 11:30a.m. at the Arc, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona**

**The next Mental Health Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 9:00a.m. at CONTACT Altoona.**

**The next Developmental Programs Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 11:30a.m. at SASMG training room, 157 Lakemont Park Blvd.**