

**^The Blair County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
The Arc Altoona, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona**

Board Members Present: James Stratton, Steve Martynuska, Rick Petroski, Sue Tomlinson, Commissioner Erb, Donna Gority, Chris Cohn, Dave Hollern, & John Allender

Board Members Absent: Robert Smith, Cindy Barton, Cassie Grassmyer and Michael Stubler

Others Present: Melissa Gillin, Jim Hudack, Jamie Henry, Melissa Gordon, Kelly Popich, Theresa Rudy, Maria Brandt, Sara McConnell, Amy Marten-Shanafelt, Helen Schmitt, Ken Dean and Jennifer Kensinger and Lorrie Hetager

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

Rick Petroski, Board Member, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of October 4, 2018 Minutes

The Advisory Board meeting minutes of October 4, 2018 meeting had been emailed prior to today's meeting. *John Allender made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Donna Gority seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

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

- Jim introduced Jen Kensinger as the new Administrative Assistant for Blair County Social Services.
- Self-Introductions were made.
- Jim asked everyone to review the Annual Report that was distributed.
- Jim thanked everyone in the room for their help, support and guidance.

3. Mental Health Committee Report – Chris Cohn

A copy of the meeting minutes were distributed with the agenda packet.

- Theresa asked for the acceptance of the Income & Expense Report for FY 17/18 as approved at the Mental Health Committee Meeting on November 1, 2018.

John Allender made the motion to accept the Income & Expense Report as approved by the Mental Health Committee on November 1, 2018. Susanna Tomlinson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Jim talked about T.I.R.T. (Traumatic Incident Response Team) and DCORT (Disaster Crisis Outreach and Referral Team) being combined into a single unit currently being referred to as Emergency Health Response Team.
- Emergency Behavioral Health Budget was cut by 50% this year.
- John Allender suggested an emergency response presentation being held when there is another county-wide In-Service day for Teaching Professionals.

4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – John Allender

A copy of the meeting minutes was distributed with the agenda packet. There were not any motions made at the meeting to bring to the Advisory Board.

- John reported that Family Services, as a part of their Christmas Initiative, is collecting non-perishable food items December 7, 2018 near the radio station on 6th Avenue.
- Crossroads Inc. is now completely moved into their new building which is located near Mansion Park.

5. County Reports

Executive Director – Jim Hudack

- Jim stated that annually, we serve, including Early Intervention, 17,000 people, which is a duplicated count, but we still serve between 12-13,000 individuals in Blair County which has a population of 123,000.
- Jim included an Administrative Report in the Annual Board Report on page 14.

MH/COD - Theresa Rudy

- Theresa said that the main focus on the last couple of Mental Health Committee meetings were to inform the Committee of client data reporting, budgeting and the income expense process.
- Theresa discussed her portion of the Annual Board Report.

Mental Health – Ken Dean

Ken included a report in the Annual Board Report. Ken reported that he, Jim, Commissioner Erb, and Amy attended a conference in State College on December 3, 2018 in State College entitled, “Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System – Understanding Options and Opportunities.” Additional information is included in the Annual Board Report on page 19.

Ken discussed the STRIKE Team which was developed to streamline referrals of higher level reviews.

Quality Assurance & Housing Coordinator – Melissa Gillin

Missy included a report in the Annual Board Report. Nothing additional to report.

Intellectual Disabilities – Melissa Gordon

A report was included with the Agenda packet. Melissa reported that 2 new Blair County Residential Providers are currently going through the Qualification Process. One is Gabriel’s House and the other is Hartland Human Services. Melissa reported that there is more of a need for residential providers who can handle complex cases such as dually diagnosed.

Melissa reported that Skills of Central PA, Inc. is currently on a residential ban. OPD is looking into possible neglect resulting in 3 deaths and 1 injury over 4 counties in 4 years. Skills have developed a Corrective Action Plan and the ban will be lifted if ODP approves it.

Melissa announced that Skills is breaking ground on their respite home, which is much needed for the community.

Early Intervention – Kelly Popich

A report was included with the Agenda packet.

Kelly discussed the changes in the Local Determination Process.

Kelly discussed her portion of the Annual Board Report beginning on page 32.

6. Ex-Officio Reports

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell

No report

The Arc – Maria Brandt

Nothing new to report.

ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager

- Lori reported that Providers and Steve Karns are busy finishing up with QA & I. Steve has completed 16 on-site reviews.
- The 2018 Dual Diagnosis Conference was held 11/13, 11/14, and 11/15 at the Blair County Convention Center. The focus: Building capacity to support the complex needs of the individuals of the community.
- Lori reported that Providers received technical assistance from ODP from the end of October/beginning of November for documentation and progress notes to help providers meet claim resolutions standards. Providers will have to pay back funds for services if not meeting standards.
- Sandy Corrigan provided training on UTI's and Sepsis.
- Scott Brenneman is spearheading Operation Evergreen. If you know a family who is not able to get a Christmas tree, contact Jamie Henry.
- ACEL raised \$243.00 for United Way during their annual Halloween spaghetti dinner.
- ACEL's Christmas party is scheduled for December 13, 2018.

Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amy Marten-Shanafelt

- Amy discussed her portion of the Annual Board Report beginning on page 47.
- Amy reported that about 25% of population is on Medical Assistance.
- Community HealthChoices is now serving individuals in nursing homes.

Open Forum:

Jim stated that Blair County has a yearly budget of about 70 million dollars.

Rick closed the meeting and wished everyone a great upcoming holiday.

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 11:30a.m. at the Arc, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona

The next Mental Health Committee meetings will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 & March 7, 2019 at 9:00a.m. at CONTACT Altoona.

The next Developmental Programs Committee meetings will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 & March 7, 2019 at 11:30a.m. at SASMG training room, 157 Lakemont Park Blvd.