

**The Blair County Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.  
The Arc 431 Jackson Ave., Altoona, PA**

**Board Members Present:** James Stratton, Chris Cohn, Commissioner Erb, Robert Smith and Mike Stubler

**Board Members Absent:** Steve Martynuska, Cindy Barton, Donna Gority, Rick Petroski, John Allender, Cassie Grassmyer, Dave Hollern and Sue Tomlinson

**Others Present:** Jim Hudack, Melissa Gillin, Jamie Henry, Melissa Gordon, Kelly Popich, Theresa Rudy, Lorrie Hetager, Ken Dean, Chuck Dively, Jennifer Kensinger, Maria Brandt, Nicole Germaux and Amy Marten-Shanafelt

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***MINUTES***

**Welcome and Call to Order**

James Stratton, Secretary, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made. Jim Hudack introduced Social Services, Penn State Student Intern Chuck Dively.

**1. Approval of December 6, 2018 Minutes**

- *Motion by Mike Stubler to accept the December 6, 2018 minutes. Bob Smith seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

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

- Jim announced the Annual Plan will be coming out the beginning of March 2019.
- A Public Hearing will be held to conduct an overview of the Annual Plan and Budget.

**3. Mental Health Committee Report - Bob Smith**

- A copy of the MH Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.
- Bob Smith reported that Chris Cohn was retained as Chairperson for MH Committee for 2019.
- Bob Smith gave an overview of the last meeting.
- Theresa Rudy asked the Board to consider a motion for two letters of support for revised service descriptions for UPMC BH of the Alleghenies.

*Motion by Bob Smith to provide letters of support for UPMC BH of the Alleghenies to submit a revised service description application to DHS/OMHSAS for a Youth and Young Adult Certified Peer Specialist to provide eligible services for individuals 14 and older, as well as, for a revised service description application for BHRS to submit to DHS/OMHSAS. Mike Stubler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

**4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – James Stratton**

- A copy of the Developmental Programs Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.
- James Stratton reported that Ray Snyder of SAM, Inc gave a PowerPoint Presentation.

**5. County Reports**

***Executive Director – Jim Hudack***

- Jim reported, due to a conversation with Helen Schmitt, he learned that DSS only needs to place one annual ad listing dates, times and locations for all future Blair County Social Services Advisory Board and Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Meetings which would save the department money.

***MH/COD – Theresa Rudy***

- 2 Trainings will be held March 27, 2019 at the Hampton Inn: “Operational Stress Control & Strategies for Team Support: Psychological Force Protection for Crisis Responders,” and “Human Trafficking Recognition.”
- Southern Alleghenies EMS (SAEMS) will be hosting *CISM: Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention* April 12-14, 2019.

- May is Mental Health Month. The 2019 event will be held at the Jaffa Shrine on May 16. The subject is "Healing Trauma's Invisible Wounds."
- NAMI's 2019 Conference is April 11 at The Altoona Grand Hotel.

### ***Mental Health – Ken Dean***

- A report was included in the Agenda Packet.
- LGBTQ started a support group for adults in Blair County that began on January 11, 2019.
- The next LGBTQ meeting will be held February 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the LaunchBox in the former Gable's Building. Future meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm.

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

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Melissa reported that provider monitoring is complete.
- SASMG will be working with providers to improve on provider documentation for their services.
- The ID Program will be starting a new Operating Agreement that was approved on March 1, 2019.
- An Internet Safety Training will be hosted by SASMG for Providers on March 19, 2019.

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

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Kelly discussed EI Local Program Determination results. Determination Levels and Areas being assessed were listed in the packet. All, but one area, met requirements.
- Kelly reported the area identified as needs assistance was Program Leadership due to 2 staff who did not meet required pre-service training requirements for 2017-2018.
- A new Quality Enhancement Plan will be developed to address those areas which will include more monitoring of staff training hours to make sure requirements are being met.
- United Way Week of the Young Child event will be held April 6, 2019 from 11am to 2pm at Penn State Altoona.

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

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- "Let's Move" annual event is scheduled May 19, 2019 at the Altoona Curve.
- Through, Inc. in Claysburg has closed their food bank.
- The Second Avenue United Methodist Church in Altoona will be opening a food bank on Friday, February 15, 2019 and will continue to hold it the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from 11am to 3pm.
- Fuel Bank still has funding.

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

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

- A report was included in the Agenda packet.
- No further updates.

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

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Incoming Helpline/Outbound reassurance program Volunteer Training is being held over several dates in April beginning April 1, 2019.
- CONTACT Altoona will hold a volunteer open house on March 14, 2019.
- As of October 1, 2018, CONTACT Altoona no longer serves as the call center for PA 211 Central region, but are continuing to update 211 resources for Blair County.

### ***The Arc – Maria Brandt***

- A benefit Craft Fair and Fundraiser, “Bring On Spring”, will be held March 16, 2019 from 10am-6pm at The Arc.
- Maria reported that Human Trafficking is a growing issue in the area. The Altoona 17<sup>th</sup> Street Sheetz is a pick-up/drop-off location. She encouraged attendees to take a flyer about the *Blue Campaign* which gives hotline numbers to report suspected Trafficking.

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

- Many changes are coming in March 2019.
- 6100’s are with appropriation committee.
- Community Participation Codes going from 50 to 9 and reduced rates.
- ODP sent Provider Self Assessments
- Backing off Managed Care and IDD, but not completely off the radar.
- Kathy Sheffler with ODP will give a presentation on CPS billing on 2/20/19.
- The Blair County Transition Council is hosting an event on March 18, 2019 for Blair County students who are transition age. Sponsors are being sought. \$250-\$1,500 sponsorships are available.
- A training on emergency preparedness will be held on May 15, 2019 from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm with mock simulations. It will be open to all professionals and families.
- Heart Market is today, February 7, 2019 at the Station Mall Medical Center. Vendors will set up for Valentine’s Day. The cost for lunch is \$7.00 and dinner is \$25.00

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

- Amy gave a special presentation in regards to Blair HealthChoices and its benefit to the community of Blair County and the impact that the proposed legislation for physical and behavioral health being integrated back together would have on the organization and the community of Blair County.
- Amy distributed and explained a Behavioral HealthChoices Human Services Integration Model and the Impact of HB 335 hand-out to attendees of the meeting.
- Theresa Rudy contributed to the discussion with details of how Blair HealthChoices evolved over time.
- Theresa suggested developing talking points to share with others in Blair County as to why Behavioral Health, Drug & Alcohol Managed Care funds should not be re-integrated with Physical Health.
- Amy reported that the proposed House Bill suggests that putting Behavior Health and Physical Health back together would save money, as well as, manage care better.
- Any savings accrued by BlairHealth Choices is reinvested back into the Community.
- Amy asked attendees to reach out to Senator Ward and Representatives Schmitt and Gregory to let them know the importance of keeping physical health and behavioral health separate.
- Cost to fold physical and behavioral back together would cost \$600 million dollars.
- Jim Hudack reiterated that talking points will be developed and distributed to Board and Ex-Officio members so that they can help advocate to local government representatives to stop the legislation from passing.
- Maria Brandt suggested simplifying the Integration Model flow chart, as well as, gathering groups of constituents to go the Legislators.
- Commissioner Erb added that this was one of the topics of CCAP meeting and that we should be reaching out to the 3 (three) legislators, who represent us, to let them know how this will affect the community.

### **Open Forum:**

**The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 11:30a.m. at the Arc, 431 Jackson Ave, Altoona**

**The next Mental Health Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 9:00a.m. at CONTACT Altoona.**

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