

The Blair County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.
The Arc, 431 Jackson Ave., Altoona, PA

Board Members Present: James Stratton, Chris Cohn, Steve Martynuska, Rick Petroski, Mike Stubler, Donna Gority and Robert Smith

Board Members Absent: Cindy Barton, Cassie Grassmyer, Dave Hollern, John Allender, Commissioner Erb and Sue Tomlinson

Others Present: Jim Hudack, Melissa Gillin, Theresa Rudy, Lorrie Hetager, Jennifer Kensinger, Nicole Germaux, Melissa Gordon, Jamie Henry, Sara McConnell, Cathy McFee, Taylor Clark and Amy Marten-Shanafelt

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

Rick Petroski welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Rick introduced Taylor Clark who recently started as an intern with Dr. Petroski. Self-Introductions were made.

Special Presentation – Cathy McFee, Regional Vice President for Skills of Central PA, Inc.

New Skills Respite Home

- Newly constructed Skills Respite Home is located at 4000 Beale Avenue, Altoona, PA (near the Allegro).
- The respite home is a 4 bedroom/2 bath house that is totally handicap accessible.
- The home can house 4 individuals, adult or child, who have an ID diagnosis.
- There will be 2 staff per shift. The home will be staffed 24 hours/7 days a week.
- The contractor is to be completed by June 15, 2019. Then the 6400 licensing process will begin.
- The estimated time frame of the respite home opening is August 2019.
- The grand opening is July 30, 2019. Announcements will be made on Facebook.
- A grant was secured for the furnishings.
- The respite home will also have a handicap van.

1. Approval of April 4, 2019 Minutes

- *Motion by Mike Stubler to accept the April 4, 2019 minutes. Steve Martynuska seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*

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

- Jim reminded the attendees that the August 1, 2019 Blair County Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held at Fort Roberdeau, White Oak Hall, 383 Fort Roberdeau Road, Altoona, PA at 11:30 AM.
- Mike Stubler informed the attendees that Dave Hollern, Board Member, is in rehab due to illness. Rick Petroski stated that Dave is at Epworth Manor.

3. Mental Health Committee Report - Theresa Rudy/Chris Cohn

- A copy of the MH Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.
- No action items were presented to the Board.
- Next Mental Health Committee Meeting will be held September 5, 2019 at 9:00 AM at CONTACTAltoona.

4. Developmental Programs Committee Report – No Discussion

- A copy of the Developmental Programs Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Agenda packet.

5. County Reports

Executive Director – Jim Hudack

- Jim reported that the HSBG Annual Plan is not out yet. Once plan is released, Blair County has 60 days to submit the County Plan to the State.

MH/COD –Theresa Rudy

- Theresa stated that she had attended a Spring Conference.
- May is Mental Health Month event was held May 16, 2019.
- Suicide Prevention Task Force will hold their Suicide Prevention Walk September 8, 2019 at Lakemont Park. Registration is from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Theresa is to get information out to attendees.

Mental Health – Ken Dean

- A report was included in the Agenda packet.

Intellectual Disabilities – Melissa Gordon

- A report was included with the Agenda packet.
- Incident Management rules are out for review and comment. Implementation should be July 1, 2019. However, the process in which providers enter the incident into Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) is not going to be updated until January 2, 2020. The categories and documentation will be different.
- Melissa reported that in regards to Community Participation Supports that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) want providers to have individuals integrated in the community by at least 25%. This is to be implemented by July 1, 2019.
- 11 individuals are currently in the Summer Employment Program.

Early Intervention – Kelly Popich

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

Quality Assurance & Housing Coordinator – Missy Gillin

- Blair Community Action is hosting a Lunch & Learn on Wed., June 19th at the Altoona Grand Hotel. Registration at 11:30am. RSVP by June 7. It will be an overview of the services provided & the process of the coordinated entry system for the homeless.
- United Way Family Resource Center is holding the Stuff the Bus campaign beginning June 17 thru August 1. They are collecting school supplies for preschool – 12
- Angel Feet Ministry which is a Shoe Bank, reported that they have provided over 5,100 pairs of sneakers within the past 6 yrs. The Juniata United Methodist Church houses the program and provides 1 pair of sneakers, socks and a book every 6 months to eligible children. They have served over 2,100 children. Always accepting donations of new sneakers or money to purchase sneakers.
- PA Career Link is moving to the upper floor of the Altoona Library.
- Mountain Lion Back Pack Program fundraising event will be held on Saturday, August 24, at PNG Field. It is the Wheels for Meals, Car, Motorcycle & Truck Show. The program provides an average of 1,000 elementary students from the Altoona Area School District with meals for the weekend during the school year. They are accepting donations of items for the raffle at the event & also looking for Vendors, Sponsors and those who may be interested in registering a vehicle for the Car Show.
- Altoona Housing Authority and Blair County CYF will be hosting the Building Strong Families event on Wednesday, June 26, at Fairview Hills Development on 1st Street, Altoona from 11:30am – 2:30pm. A picnic lunch will be provided.

6. Ex-Officio Reports

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Sara McConnell

- Sara reported that NAMI Blair County PA 2019 Conference was held April 11, 2019 with 135 individuals attending, as well as, 20 Agencies were represented.
- Mental Health First Aid is active again.
- A Youth Mental Health First Aid Class is being held June 20, 2019 at the Johnstown YMCA.
- Peer to Peer Classes will be held on site at Evergreen Manor and HOPE Drop-In. The Peer to Peer Classes have downsized from a 10 week program to an 8 week program.

CONTACT Altoona – Nicole Germaux

- Nicole reported that CONTACT Altoona has three new volunteers.
- The exterior of the CONTACT Altoona Building has been updated.
- CONTACT Altoona has a new Administrative Assistant.
- Nicole reported that CONTACT Altoona received a grant from the United Way for the next fiscal year for 211 to update resources and services. A part-time position will be filled by the end of June/beginning of July.
- Also, a grant was submitted to add texting and a texting component to the Helpline so that people can text instead.

The Arc – Maria Brandt

- No updates.

ID Providers – Lorrie Hetager

- Lori reported that Representative Schmitt toured the ACEL facility. He wrote a letter of support to Stan Saylor, House Appropriations Committee Chairman for DSP wage increase.
- Providers of Community Participation Supports finished getting service requests to Support Coordinators. Procedure codes went from 54 to 15.
- New Incident Management Bulletin. New requirements, categories, and certified investigations. Listening sessions in June. Comment period until July.
- Draft Residential 6400 Regulations came out.
- Still waiting for the 6100 Regulations. Targeted for late July/August.

Blair HealthChoices/Community Cares – Amy Marten-Shanafelt

- Amy reported that Secretary Miller visited Blair HealthChoices earlier in the week. Secretary Miller is making her rounds with Behavioral Health Managed Care Companies.
- Amy reported that Secretary Miller was an advocate for the “Carve-In and eliminating the “Carve-Out”, but she has toned it down significantly.
- Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) Regulations, which are replacing Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS), are to be finalized by October 2019.
- Blair HealthChoices worked with a BHRS associate to establish a case rate to provide services. The case rate was approved. Two providers, Alternative Community Resource Program and Blair Family Solutions, are going to pilot the program. If a child needs Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS), depending on the hours needed, the Provider will be paid on a weekly rate.
- A Reinvestment Plan has been approved to purchase a building for the HOPE Drop-In Center. Approximately, \$270,000 are available to purchase and renovate the building. If any money is left, it would be used for start-up.
- Amtran Adventurous Race is scheduled for June 28, 2019. Amy to resend registration information.

Open Forum:

- Jim reported, in regards to the “Carve Out”, two bills will be dead and not coming out, but a concern is that Representative Grove, York County, may try to slide in a line or two in the physical code.
- Also, the Government is considering a Pilot or a Study in regard to blending this in.
- Jim reported that the HSBG Annual Plan has still not been released.
- HSBG Annual Plan 2nd Public Hearing is June 19, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona.
- Jim asked attendees to submit a list of calendar events along with their program updates for future Advisory Board meetings so that master list can be created to be distributed with the Agenda Packet.
- Jim asked Taylor Clark, Intern, to speak a little bit about her future plans.

Rick closed the meeting.

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 1, 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.