

## Carbon County Interagency and Family Collaborative Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2018

Attendance: Commissioner Wayne Nothstein; Keri Byrne (Co-Chair, Penn State Cooperative Extension); Tanya Heckman (Vice President, Right From the Start); Jill Geissinger (Secretary, Children and Youth Services [jgeissinger@carboncounty.net](mailto:jgeissinger@carboncounty.net)); Cindy Lynd (Treasurer AHEC); Julie Rovinski-Mann (LINK); Melissa Craig (Home Care of Pennsylvania); Donna Buhosky (Bayada Pediatric Nursing Services); Kerri Miller (Lehigh Area School District); Hannah Barton & Jonathan Blackwell-Rodgers (Family Promise); Amber Breiner (Carbon County Community Foundation); Mindy Graver (Penn State Extension); Theresa Hall (State Rep. Doyle Heffley's Office); Bridget Johnson (Domestic Relations); Donna Trimmel (Behavioral Health Associates); Kim Whitney (PATHSTONE/Headstart); MaryLou McGeehan (St. Luke's Gnadon Huetten Campus); Commissioner Tom J. Gerhard; John Paul (CMP Mental Health and Developmental Services); Tammy Rodgers & Amanda Kroening (Domestic Violence Service Center); Melanie Zeigler (PA Department of Health); Bridget Johnston (Domestic Relations); Kerri Miller (Lehigh School District); Dawn Edwards (Self Determination Housing Project);

Excused: Adria Laboy (Aetna Better Health); Kim Minor (Special Kids Network/ELKS); Beth Gambone (CSC/NE Keys); Gaetona Thompson (PATHSTONE/Headstart); Tammy Sue Neff (Victim's Resource Center); Jean Papay (Register of Wills); Garry Wentz (CareerLink); Carolee Boyer (CMP Drug and Alcohol); Jamie Drake (CMP Drug and Alcohol); Kellie Cummings (Carbon County Action Committee); Delia Apollo (Apollo Farms); Scott Wolfe (Aetna)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nothstein at 9:03 AM.

Welcome and agenda presented by Keri Byrne. New attendees: John Paul for Ashley Highland of MHDS and Dawn Edwards of Self Determination Housing Project.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Nothstein.

The board was asked to review the minutes from 3/14/18 and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Melanie Zeigler, second by Donna Trimmel. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read by Cindy Lynd. Old Balance was \$1064.44. The deposits from breakfast totaled \$2097.00. Costs for breakfast \$1486.80. Total in bank \$1674.64. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mindy Graver and second by Melanie Zeigler. Reports attached.

Our Guest Speakers were Lisa-Marie Nicholson and Dr. Scott Strausberger from Behavioral Health Associates (BHA). BHA was founded in 1993 as a non-profit to help the community. Ms. Nicholson started there recently, but formally worked in corrections until moving to PA. The partial school program at BHA is run by Len Ogazalek. There was a need in the community to help children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as the partial program was not benefiting children with this diagnosis or issues pertaining to social issues or lack of social skills. The Intensive Social Skills Training Program (ISST) is geared to help children with social skill or behavioral challenges and promote independence. Counseling is also part of the program. The child must be referred by the school district. Part of the program will be moving to the

new facility at the old Mahoning Valley Elementary School. The dual diagnosis program focuses on intellectual struggles as well as social issues. This has more structured with trained staff to support the student. The ISST Intensive self-management program is for behavioral challenged youth to promote coping skills and also has well trained staff to promote progress. Ms. Nicholson states that the programs have been successful due to the excellent staff, the school districts support, students buy in to the programs and the students' ability to be with others with similar interests and skill levels. Students do not stand out as much and are less anxious due to this. The program is made to adapt and conform to the needs of the students and is a flexible model. The students need a doctor recommendation for ISST.

Dr. Scott Strausberger works in dual diagnosis and the intensive self-management program. He is doctoral graduate and started working in the south. He was born and raised in Kresgeville, PA. He is happy to be working in PA with BHA in these programs. The structured ISST programs help teach coping and managing obsessive compulsive, aggressive and sensory issue behaviors that regular educational programs do not have the ability to. The Dual Diagnostic program is for boys ages 14 to 20. BHA offers a unique ability to consult on these issues with 3 psychiatrists. The program works as a team with the schools, child, parents and often the medication management and ISST team. ISST is working on gearing up for the Extended School Year Program (summer programming).

BHA offers a Schuylkill County location with about 30 students, Packer Ridge for high school students between 80-90, the PRIDE program has 40 students, ISST about 44 students and the elementary school has about 16 students. They employ 220 staff including BHRS and outpatient counseling services. BHA is accepting new patients but they must have insurance. They also have a Healthy You program for kids.

#### Old Business:

There was a brief recap of the Human Services Priority Breakfast. Cindy Findley responded positively about the breakfast to her staff. This was in the Times News. The Breakfast Committee Meeting met today at 8:30 AM prior to this meeting. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Committee for the State of Child and Family will meet on June 5, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Bagel Bunch Restaurant in Lehighton. Anyone who would like to join the committee is welcome. The report is a benefit for the group to assess community needs, to help with grant writing and promote assistance from legislatures to help finance our community needs.

#### New Business:

The Human Service Priorities Breakfast for 2019 is scheduled for April 26, 2019 at Whispering Pines. A topic has not been decided. There was some discussion about a recap of the progress in Carbon County or an update on health care needs as this is the 10<sup>th</sup> breakfast held by the group.

#### Announcements:

LINK is sponsoring an event at Genetti's conference center about living with dual diagnosis in the aging population and with elder care. They are sponsoring an aging event at Whispering Pines on 6/20/18

where from 10AM to 12 PM the attorney general's office will speak about frauds and scams. Please contact Julie for more information at [ccaging14@ptd.net](mailto:ccaging14@ptd.net).

Department of Health had no news.

St. Luke's is having an educational program for those new to Medicare on 5/16/18. They will have a babysitter class for students grades 6 to 8, 7/20/18. On 6/7/18, they are holding a diabetes prevention class which is open to the public. Please see attached flyers.

Domestic Violence Service Center is open 24/7 for any issues. They offer educational outreach to Agencies for staff or clientele. Please contact Tammy Rodgers at [TRodgers@dvscl.org](mailto:TRodgers@dvscl.org) for more information.

Bayada Pediatric Nursing had no news.

PATHSTONE/Headstart classes for 17-18 end on 5/18/18. They are accepting enrollments for next school year at all locations.

Carbon County Community Foundation can be contacted for funding information. There is an event on 5/24/18 from 9 AM to 1 PM called Meet the Funders in Scranton held by the American Funding Partners and NCAC and NEPA.

Self Determination Housing is attending an event at Kalahari resort that will host over 500 housing programs from 6/27 to 6/29. Information can be obtained at PHFA.org. (<https://www.phfa.org/mahc/>)

Home Care of Pennsylvania is offering estimates to work on fixing homes to assist the elderly and disabled homeowners.

Family Promise of Carbon County is getting a new director, Jonathan Blackwell-Rodgers. They have a waiting list right now for homeless families but do have an immediate opening for a family of 2. Contact them for more information at [fpccdiretor@gmail.com](mailto:fpccdiretor@gmail.com).

Rep. Doyle Heffley is sponsoring a seminar on the spotted lantern fly on 5/16/18 at 6:30 PM at the Lehigh office, 110 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Lehigh. The Senior Expo will be 9/6/18 at the Franklin Township Fire Co. The Drug and Alcohol Prevention Expo will be held at Jim Thorpe High School on 10/25/18. Carbon County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Website now has a section for Non-Profit Organizations. Please check to see your name on the list. A celebration of community members who have participated in the past 50 years of elections is tentatively scheduled for 8/1/18.

Weatherly School District is holding an event for its 6 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students featuring a recovering addict who has an amazing story to share. The district is promoting prevention with all students.

JPO is seeking community service projects from non-profit organizations. Please contact the director, Jim Dodson, for more details.

Domestic Relations has no news to share.

Penn State Extension assisted hosting the Community Safety Day at Mauch Chunk Lake this past Saturday. There were about 700 people who participated in the event and lots of Agencies and about 160 volunteers. This will be held next year, the first Saturday in May. Kids Zone is hosting a car seat safety check on Monday at the Palmerton Ambulance. A state trooper will be on hand to assist with proper installation of car seats. We offer a nutrition education program for all and are available to speak to your group. The Strong Women program continues as well. We also offer at ServSafe Food Safety Certification program and brochures are available.

AHEC had no news to report.

MHDS is an Agency that offers the first step for mental health or developmental services. If a community member does not have insurance and needs help, a caseworker from the Agency can meet with the person and assist them get services needed. The county can pay for initial services when needed. AN ASM is in office and a TCM is more in the home with the client. They also offer Mental Health First Aid Training to community member, please contact Ashley Highland for more information at [ahighland@cmpmhds.org](mailto:ahighland@cmpmhds.org).

Carbon County Agency on Aging is wrapping up the 2018 Senior Games. The banquet is tomorrow at Dean Anthony's. Only 3 points difference between the North and the South teams. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the games and we are 1 of about 10 counties in PA that hold the games and one of the most active. High School kids have volunteered at the events. This is also supported by the Times News and Channel 13. The Agency will soon offer Farmer's Market Voucher's for low income seniors in the county. \$5.00 vouchers can be used at Sernak's and Graver's markets.

Right from the Start continues to serve 21 families in Carbon County and is always taking referrals for children ages 0-5. We have 2 home visitors that use a parent's as teacher curriculum. Families also join us for 2 group connections each month. The supervisor and parent educators attended a one day Parents as Teachers Regional meeting in Breiningsville, the focus was reflective supervision.

Commissioner's Office has openings for high school students for the bridge summer program and the program needs to hire a supervisor for the 10 week program, \$12 an hour 5 days a week. There are also a few openings for secretarial work for new graduates through the PCWDB. Applications are available through the Commissioner's office.

Children and Youth Services are serving over 40 families ongoing. We investigate abuse and neglect and are seeking local foster homes for local children in need.

Apollo Farms is having *Yoga with Ponies* event on May 12 from 10 AM-12PM. The participation fee covers Yoga, a light lunch, wine tasting and a portion of the proceeds go to Turn to Us.

Next meeting is 9:00 AM on 9/12/18 at the Pyramid, 230 Ochre St Lehighton.

Motion for adjournment made by Donna Trimmel and Second by Sue Zeigler at 10:15 AM.