

Carbon County Interagency and Family Collaborative Board Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2018

Attendance: Commissioner Wayne Nothstein; Keri Byrne (Penn State Extension, Co-Chair); Jill Geissinger (Secretary, Children and Youth Services jgeissinger@carboncounty.net); Cindy Lynd (Treasurer AHEC); Garry Wentz (CareerLink); Tammy Sue Neff (Victim's Resource Center); Donna Buhosky (Bayada Pediatric Nursing Services); Donna Trimmel (Behavioral Health Associates); Theresa Hall (State Rep. Doyle Heffley's Office); Amanda Kroening (Domestic Violence Service Center); Melanie Zeigler (PA Department of Health); Dawn Edwards (Self Determination Housing Project); Stephanie Sosnoski (Educational Opportunity Centers); Len Ogozalek (Behavioral Health Associates); Rachel Strucko (SHINE); Delia Apollo (Apollo Farms); Lori Epler (Apollo Farms); Jean Papay (Register of Wills/Orphan's Court); Kim Whitney (PATHSTONER); Kerri Quick (St. Luke's); Dave Reinbold (CCTI); Greg Bott (Non-profit Solution); Sue Zeigler (Carbon County Aging); Melanie Zeigler (PA Department of Health); Susan Parise (At Home Quality Care); John Card (MHDS); Tom Gerhard (Commissioner)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nothstein at 9:00 AM.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Nothstein

Welcome and agenda presented by Keri Byrne.

The board was asked to review the minutes from 9/13/18 and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Donna Trimmel, second by Melanie Ziegler. Motion carried.

New attendees: Greg Bott (Nonprofit Solutions, LLC) and Lori Epler (Apollo Farms)

Treasurer's report was read by Cindy Lynd. Current Balance was \$1674.64. There is no change in the balance. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Tammy Sue Neff and second by Melanie Ziegler. Motion carried. Report attached.

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Solonski from Educational Opportunities Center. Education Opportunity Center is a nonprofit that assists with low income learners to obtain post-secondary education. This program has been in existence since 1980 but few have heard of it. We work with community partners to assist mostly (2/3 of participants) low income to provide them free services. Our goal is promote each adult learner with future success in his/her careers and pursuit of a higher quality of life. We cover 12 counties and have 7 full time staff and about 6 part time staff. We also assist PA work study students. Our program has 2 branches, ETS (Educational Talent Search) and educational awareness. We can work with adults learners on financial aid application, literacy, career counseling, resume writing, debt discussions, tutoring for placement testing or entrance exams and can customize a workshop for the needs of the community or Agency. We work with ONET and Dept. of Labor and Industry. Our last fiscal year (9/1 to 8/31), we worked with over 1000 students in the ETS program. They promote visiting employers and college visits and offer a summer scholarship boot camp. Stephanie focuses on educational awareness with adult learners and can assist with job shadowing and finding professional mentors. Stephanie covers Carbon, Schuylkill and Lower Luzerne Counties. They are a part of the TRIO

program and partner with some colleges, such as LCCC to offer student support. Handouts attached, website: www.eocinc.org. Link to quarterly newsletter: <https://eocinc.org/forms>

News from United Way: Greg Bott reported that the LV Chapter pulled out of Carbon and their fiscal years are different so they are adjusting to this issue. There is a distribution of funding meeting upcoming (Commissioner Nothstein and Greg Bott sit on this board) and once recommendations for the distribution are made, money should be dispensed to Agency's rather quickly after that. Workplace campaigns are available. All money raised in Carbon will stay and fund Carbon County Agency's or projects. Applications for funding can be found on the UW website. Some organizations that received funds are SHINE and Family Promise. Please promote fundraising events by the United Way.

(9:19) Old Business:

Committee for the State of Child and Family will continue to meet and collect data for the report due 2020. We are looking at a more user friendly format and are planning a committee meeting early next year.

The Human Service Priorities Breakfast for 2019 is scheduled for April 26, 2019 at Whispering Pines. The topic was voted on by the board to be Mental Health with focus on opioid crisis. The scholarship will go to an Agency that applies relating to this topic and should be about \$500. It was suggested that a speaker from the Department of Agriculture could speak about addiction or a doctor from NE Counseling regarding mental health services.

Strategic Planning held a meeting and they are discussing a needs assessment. The chair of the committee, Amber Breiner was not present. There was discussion that there is so much data out there, that an assessment is not necessary. There was concern that the data collected is not showing the effectiveness of the programming created from this board. Vital signs have data available as well. The website was not provided. There was a suggestion to trend the data from this board's creation to show successes and gaps. If anyone knows anyone that can do these things, please join the strategic planning committee. Next meeting not scheduled.

Nominations Committee presented that Jill Geissinger has served two years as Secretary. There was a motion to re-elect Jill Geissinger for the position for another 2 year term by Tammy Sue Neff. Second by Melanie Zeigler. No opposed. Motion carried. Kerri Byrne announced that she would need to resign as co-chair in June.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

SHINE Report- There are 9 centers fully operating. They are serving Thanksgiving meals to families tonight as the impending weather made them reschedule for Thursday. SHINE is planning a new center in Weatherly for grades K-4 and one at the middle school in Shenandoah. They are expected to have

hard funding for all Palmerton sites for the next 4-6 years due to constant tension around budget funding delays. Tamaqua Area School District adopted the Social-Emotional curriculum from the program into the daytime school curriculum and that is working out well. Recent funding received: \$25,000 from AT&T and 400,000 from the state. This program is assisting at risk children with educational need and promoting success in future STEM careers.

Right from the Start- no report

Penn State Extension Kids Zone car seat check at Lehighon Ambulance Association, November 19, from 10 AM-2 PM.

AHEC has a diabetes prevention class upcoming, see flyer attached. Offering community Health Worker training in the Spring, see flyer attached.

CareerLink-There has been changes made to the civil service site. Don't forget to tell your job seekers that they can apply on pa.gov for these jobs.

St. Luke's Miner's Adopt a School Program- reach out and read started and offers books to children 0-5. They offered an opioid presentation from HERSA and planning grants from the Advisory board.

Department of Health offers flu vaccine to uninsured or under insured county residents. Call 570-325-6106.

Apollo Farms is working with Lehighon Area School District for at risk youth. They have a Christmas with the ponies program, flyer attached.

Domestic Violence Service Center is open 24/7 for any issues and the hotline available for assistance. The DVSC attorneys can now assist with PFA filings. They have funding for a taxi service to get battered adults and children to the shelters.

Bayada Pediatric Nursing offers nursing support to special needs children.

Self Determination Housing offers housing to those who qualify. Call 211 if homeless for an intake.

Rep. Doyle Heffley is supporting legislation for opioid addiction (HB 2727) to have victims of overdose go straight to rehabilitation. He is working with Blue Guardian and law enforcement on this issue.

Action Committee provided needs assessment survey's to all board members to complete and return.

Carbon County Agency on Aging is working with the community on Medicaid D and Advantage Plan enrollment. They are offering monetary assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren, please call for more information. They are pursuing a grant on Alzheimer's education relating to research on music and memories.

Mental Health and Developmental Services is now open for Targeted Case Management referrals (TCM) and is able to offer mental health first aid training to your Agency staff. Contact our office for more information.

PATHSTONE is now enrolling for educational programming for low income children. They are meeting with grandparents tonight for a meeting on gaps and needs related to the programming.

Nonprofit Solutions is offering grant writing for Agency's, see flyer attached.

Commissioner's Office –Be safe in the weather tomorrow.

Children and Youth Services are seeking local foster homes for local children in need.

Weather policy follows Jim Thorpe School District, if delayed or closed, the meeting will be the next Wednesday at 9 AM.

Next meeting is 9:00 AM on 1/9/19 at the Pyramid, 230 Ochre St Lehighton.

Speaker- Susan Parise from At Home Quality Care. Agency does live in home care on waivers.

Alternate speaker-Northeast Counseling, Donna Hoppi

Motion for adjournment made by Tammy Sue Neff and Second by Stephanie Solonski at 10:11 AM.