

Collaborative Board Minutes
January 15, 2020 EMA Building, Nesquehoning

9:05 AM Meeting called to order by Wayne Nothstein – there were 22 in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes from the November 13 meeting were reviewed by all. Julie Rovinski-Mann made the motion to approve, Donna Trimmel seconded the motion. Motion accepted with no opposed.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

There was no guest speaker scheduled for today – so we moved right into Old Business.

Old Business:

Membership forms were emailed out to everyone – it is a google form that was created to be more efficient with agency information. It will save on manual entry into the system. Each was encouraged to fill it out – it will populate directly into an Excel spreadsheet. It is easy to fill in the information from your agency – scroll down and check each box and return to Amber Breiner. The main reason for doing this is to get a better understanding of what each agency does and who they service. Include all the members in your organization that might be attending future meetings, so everyone is included in information sent out. We will be talking later about the \$15.00 due/donation – once the strategic planning and by-laws have been addressed.

By-Laws:

Jennifer Pantella reviewed/summarized the proposed changes to the 2014 by-laws – see the attached sheet. The goal is to simplify them and add clarity – it was felt the old ones no longer reflect who we are as an organization. Areas that are addressed concern the name, the mission statement, voting requirements, members in good standing, dues/donation, quorum, officer duties and elections. Most member stated they did not receive the 2014 version or the proposed changes to compare to.

Jen also pointed out that we will be electing new officers in odd years and working on the State of the Young child/strategic planning in the even years.

In the old version it is stated scholarships will be given out at the Human Service Priority Brunch – the committee proposes to change the wording to “award” in which members can apply for professional development activities with the understanding that they will return to the group and provide a presentation of knowledge learned through the professional development activity.

Wayne will have both documents sent out for all to review with a reminder that this needs to be done quickly – documents must go out 15 days prior to voting on them. At the next meeting, March 11th, we will discuss the revisions and possibly vote on them.

State of the Young Child Report:

Each agency needs to collect their data/statistics for updating the next report. There is link on our website to the report for each to review and see what kind of information we are looking to collect. This report will be the topic for the Breakfast in April. We are looking for trends within the community and amplifies how our agencies impact the county. This information is also used to help some write for grants or develop new programs. Please contact Amber if you need assistance with this.

Lehigh Carbon Community College has again agreed to help compile the report and create a more professional look for the presentation at the Brunch in April – They are meeting this week to see what information they already collected and what more is needed to make the report all comprehensive.

Strategic Planning Committee:

The group has met but they are waiting on the revisions to the by-laws to be adopted – some things cannot be completed until the by-laws are clarified and adopted.

Human Services Priorities Breakfast:

The event is scheduled for Friday, April 24th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at Whispering Pines on route 903 in Jim Thorpe. The committee will be meeting this Friday, January 17th at 11:00 am at the Drug & Alcohol Office in Lehighton to firm up the plans for the event. Members of the committee include Amber Breiner, Bridget Johnston, Donna Buhosky, Donna Trimmel, Carolee Boyer, Joe Guardiani, Mindy Graver and Wayne Nothstein. Carolee was nominated chair of the committee.

New Business: None at this time

There will be no speaker at the March meeting so we can devote our time to the by-law revisions. We may ask Heather Mullen to expand a bit on the new services provided by The United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

Self-Introduction & Agency reports:

PA Links to Aging and Disability Resources – Julie Rovinski-Mann upcoming events she will send

Right From the Start & SHINE – Evalynn Kuehner reported the agency provides parent education for families of Carbon County with children Pre-natal to Kindergarten entry age. Their current enrollment is 31 parents, 16 families and 24 children. Agency or Self-referrals are accepted. They also received a grant from UWGLV for Kindergarten Readiness – there will be two sessions held in the spring. Each session is a one night a week for six weeks starting on February 20 through March 26th. Another session will run from April 23rd through May 28th. See attached flyer.

Path Stone Head Start – Kim Whitney shared with all open positions at the Head Start Agency in Carbon County. They have (4) Head Start teacher and 1 Pre-K Counts Teacher position open! They are searching for qualified candidates that would like to join our team. If you could please share this information with your clients or communities.

Northeast Counseling Services – Transitions to Wellness – Glenn Salata Office is located on 7th and Bridge Street in Lehighton. The program assists individuals 18 years and older to experience more success and satisfaction within the community. It focusses on 5 Life Domains – Educational/Training, Basic Living Skills, Social /Recreational/ Working Skills and Living/Wellness. The emphasis is on direct skills building and following and individual rehabilitation plan. Transportation is provided to clients and they are accepting referrals.

Behavioral Health Associates – Terry Berger – BHA will be starting a support group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren starting on January 22 at the BHA Conference Room. IT will be a closed group with grandparents attending 10 classes – once per week – another 10-week class will start after that – if they care to sign up again. BHA is a small medical practice with outpatient services that provides medical and mental health care with a staff of three psychiatrists and therapists.

Drug & Alcohol – Carolee Boyer – Social Services closed in Pike County – they were successful at regrouping

Carbon County Assistance Office – Anthony Romano reports Office is busy with LIHEAP applications. Also offer Medical assistance and food stamps (SNAP) programs.

Commissioner Lukasevich addressed the group thanking them for the work they do in the county and feels he is equally passionate about what goes on in the county and feels he will align nicely with this group.

Pocono Development – Gary Wentz has transitioned into his new position, replacing Joe Sebelin, who retired. He introduced his replacement, Samuel Hellen, the Administrator for the Carbon County CareerLink. The Summer Local Internship Program (SLIP) - they submitted a proposal for funding again, and are waiting to hear if the request was approved.

AmeriCorps/United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley – Heather Mullen

Carbon County Community Foundation – Amber will be leaving her position but has continue to work on several projects that she is currently working on with this group.

- The deadline for CCCF 2020 grants in March 20, 2020 – the form is currently not available but should be available by February 1st. There is no funding limit – ranges from \$500.00 to \$3000.00.
- They are also holding a Grant Writing Workshop to build confidence and Skill in writing grants – to be held on February 20th from 12:30 to 4:00 PM at the Orioles Community Building (registration open online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-the-funding-grant-writing-basics-carbon-county-registration-87131387325>)
- 5/5 2020 Nonprofit Forum w/ United Way - SAVE THE DATE (registration/details forthcoming)

Family Promise – Jamie Phelps reports they purchased the building in Nesquehoning for the Homeless Task Force – they are currently working with zoning on the fire escape.

Turn To Us – 72 clients served in 2019 – group is planning several events for 2020.

Carbon County Domestic Relations Office – Bridget is the Director of the Carbon County Domestic Relations Office. We serve children and families in Carbon County (and beyond). Our office maintains about 1800 open support cases annually. We collect over 6 million dollars in support for our families. We use client folders, which includes general information to resources for children and families and if any other agencies would like us to add a flyer about a program that may be beneficial, we would be more than happy to look at it and see if it meets the needs of our families. We also are open to agencies sending us flyers for events to post in the office. My email is bridgetjohnston@pacses.com

The next meeting is March 11, 2020 9:00 at the Emergency Management Building Nesquehoning. If Jim Thorpe School is closed or on a two-hour delay, the meeting will be the next Wednesday, March 18th – same time.

At 10:15 AM - Meeting Adjourned – adjournment motion by Donna Trimmel, seconded by Carolee Boyer.

Contact Secretary Jill Geissinger at jgeissinger@carboncounty.net to pass on Agency news in between meetings or check out the website at <https://cccfoundpa.org/collaborative-board/>