

AUTUMN  
2017

## Everyone's Business

**SUICIDE PREVENTION  
FAYETTE COUNTY**

**RECOVERY MONTH**

**LOCAL INTERAGENCY  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES  
ADVOCACY GROUP**

**DISABILITY  
EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS  
MONTH**

**LIFESHARING**

**10-YEAR  
SERVICE AWARDS**

**FCBHA  
STAFF STUFF  
EVENTS & TRAININGS**

**SUMMER SUMMARY**

**CONTACT Us:  
(724) 430-1370  
[www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org)**

**Office Hours  
8:30 AM-4:30 PM**

**Office Closures**  
9/4/17—Labor Day  
10/9/17—Columbus Day  
11/10/17—Veterans Day  
11/23 & 24/17—Thanksgiving



### **Suicide Prevention And Awareness Week September 10th through September 16th**

Pat Mowen and Pam Bailor of the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Taskforce stood with Commissioners Dave Lohr and Vincent A. Vicites for the reading of a Proclamation to encourage all citizens of Fayette County to learn how they can help to curb the very real Suicide epidemic. It is an epidemic that has become the 2nd leading cause of death among 15—24 year olds, and the 10th cause among people of all ages. You have to wonder why? It has been said that people who die by suicide do not want to end their life, they want to end their pain. If that is the case, perhaps if we can learn to recognize the pain, we can encourage people to seek behavioral health services instead of resorting to this tragic option. It is time to recognize and realize that intervention can make all the difference. If you want to make a difference for someone who may be in pain or would like to join in the Awareness effort, please call the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force representative at (724) 430-1370.

If you have lost a friend, loved-one, or acquaintance to suicide and would like to share a story in their memory, Fayette County Suicide Prevention Taskforce encourages you to visit the #FAYETTEEMPTYSHOES or #LOSTSOLESFAYETTE.

Empty Shoe Memorials symbolize the loss of someone who died. Displaying significant items that belonged to the loved one can be powerful.

Empty shoes are especially moving because it is easy to imagine the people who wore and shaped them walking their life's path. Each shoe has a personality; an imprint of the foot that wore it. The only thing missing is the owner, gone before their "time". That void transcends the physical. In numerous ways, the loss impacts heavily on the emotions of those left behind.

Publicly acknowledging the loss of a loved one, and sharing in the grief with others can be an important step in the healing process. It helps us to express our deepest feelings and thoughts as we connect with others for remembrance and solace.

It helps you remember your loved one and the relationship you have with them. When you recall a loved one's life and all the moments and experiences you shared, that person lives on in your memories and stories even though they're no longer physically with you.

The Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force invites you to share your "Empty Shoe" memorial through social media. Take a photo and post it to FaceBook, Twitter or Instagram with either of the following hashtags:

#FAYETTEEMPTYSHOES  
#LOSTSOLESFAYETTE

Please submit your post during National Suicide Prevention Week, September 10-16, 2017.

Additional information about Suicide Prevention can be found at [PAYSPI.org](http://PAYSPI.org) and [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

## EMPTY SHOES



The Lifeline  
is **FREE**,  
confidential, and  
always available.

**HELP**  
a loved one,  
a friend,  
or yourself.

Community crisis centers  
answer Lifeline calls.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

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NATIONAL  
**SUICIDE**  
PREVENTION  
**LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**Learn the  
Warning  
Signs.**

### Suicide Warning Signs

These signs may mean someone is at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

- ❖ Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- ❖ Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- ❖ Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- ❖ Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- ❖ Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- ❖ Sleeping too little or too much.
- ❖ Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- ❖ Withdrawning or feeling isolated.
- ❖ Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- ❖ Talking about being a burden to others.
- ❖ Displaying extreme mood swings.

**Suicide Is Preventable.**

**Call the Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).**

**With Help Comes Hope**

# RECOVERY MONTH IN FAYETTE COUNTY



**SEPTEMBER IS  
ADDICTION  
AWARENESS MONTH  
“LIGHT THE NIGHT  
FOR RECOVERY”**

SEPTEMBER 9TH,  
2017  
5PM TO 9PM  
STOREY SQUARE  
11 E. MAIN ST.  
UNIONTOWN

**HANDS  
LIFTED  
HIGH...  
LIGHTING  
UP THE SKY  
FOR  
RECOVERY!**

**VENDOR  
ATTRACTIIONS!  
CHRISTIAN  
BANDS AND  
CHOIRS!**

We Will Have The Bracelets For Sale During The Course Of The Evening.  
At The Close Of The Evening We Will “Light the Night for Recovery”

**Light Up The Night  
For Recovery**

**RECOVERY STRONG**

To Order 10 or More Bracelets In Advance, Call 724-317-8171.

Testimonies Will Be Given By Men  
Who Have Graduated From The  
Genesis House And By Mothers Who  
Have Lost Loved Ones To Addiction.

For More Information Or To Participate In This Evening, Please Contact  
Genesis House Ministry 724-550-4234. or Rev. Rhonda Sanders 724-317-8171  
(Vendors Welcome! \$20 Per Space To Offset Costs Of Rentals For the evening.)

Please Come Out And Support Genesis House As We Work With  
Community Leaders To Bring AWARENESS TO DRUG ADDICTION And The  
RECOVERY OPTIONS That Are Here In Fayette County.

SPONSORED BY: **GENESIS  
HOUSE**  
New Beginnings

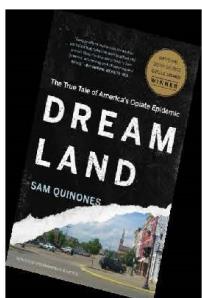
## New Resources Available

SPHS affiliates host support groups for families affected by addiction. They are helpful for people who have experienced the loss or near loss of someone to overdose. Groups are designed to help people cope with grief and identify healthy outlets and supports.



In Monessen they are located at SPHS, 2 Eastgate Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062. In Charleroi they are located at SPHS, 250 Chamber Plaza, Charleroi, PA 15022 or you can call (724) 684-6489 for either location for more information.

There are also groups in Greensburg, Butler, and Waynesburg, PA. For more information on these sites, please call the number above.



By Sam Quinones; Journalist, Author and Veteran reporter on immigration, gangs, drug trafficking and the border.

## Join in a Free, Live Webcast by Author, Sam Quinones

### DREAMLAND: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic

The Live Webcast is **Tuesday, October 10, 2017 from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.**

Butler County Community College streamed to Fayette County (site to be determined).

Speaker Sponsored by:



staunton farm  
foundation



For more information, go to [www.vbh-pa.com](http://www.vbh-pa.com) and/or [www.stauntonfarm.org](http://www.stauntonfarm.org).

**Please Register at:** [www.eventbrite.com/e/dreamland-the-true-tale-of-americas-opiate-epidemic-tickets-36415687301](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/dreamland-the-true-tale-of-americas-opiate-epidemic-tickets-36415687301)

You will be advised of the location of the Fayette County Webcast sometime after registration.

Fayette County Portion Sponsored by: Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration and Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.



## Local Interagency Coordinating Council

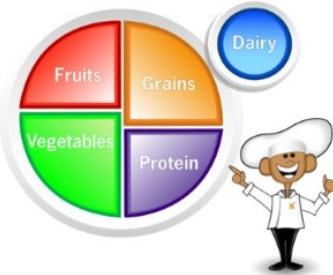
The Fayette County LICC is comprised of Infant/Toddler and Pre-School (Birth to Kindergarten) providers, representatives from Head Start and the Department of Health, and parents of children receiving Early Intervention services. The LICC sponsors special events, training, workshops, etc., throughout the year at no cost to families currently receiving services for their pre-school child.

*Join us for presentations on:*

**CHILDREN'S LITERACY** ~ the importance of reading to your child  
**CHILDREN'S NUTRITION** ~ making healthy choices for your child

*Following the presentations there will be:*

- ◆ An Opportunity to Network with Families
- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ A craft for children to make and take home



We look forward to seeing you on

**Friday, September 8, 2017**

**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Please RSVP to April Orndorff at (724) 430-1370

by Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Location:

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration  
215 Jacob Murphy Lane  
Uniontown, PA 15401



**School Bus Tour**

# New Advocacy Group To Join Advocacy Network

FCBHA is happy to announce the addition of the **Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group** to the Advocacy Network of Fayette County. This group will consist of individuals receiving services and family members. They will help to identify areas where training is needed, link families and individuals with community supports and service providers, and aid in providing a voice in the community. A kick-off event is being planned for November 2, 2017. Please look at the News Page of [www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org) for the most accurate information on trainings and special events.

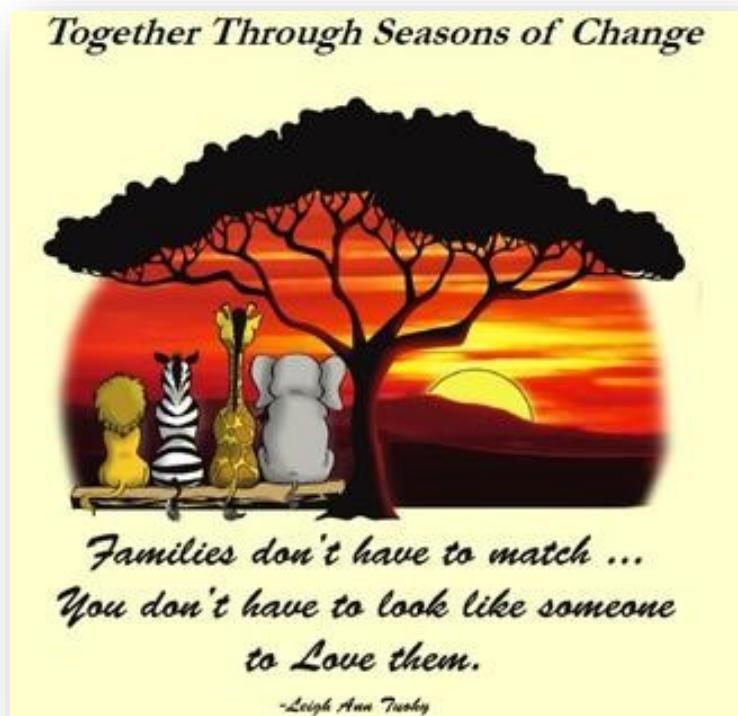
## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate. Everyone can support National Disability Employment Awareness Month. For ideas on how you can support NDEAM, visit [www.dol.gov/nream](http://www.dol.gov/nream). Everyone can play an important part in fostering a more inclusive workforce, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities — every day of every month.

In Fayette County, we are pleased to have Arc of Fayette, Fayette Resources, Goodwill of Southwestern, PA, Life'sWork, and Transition Employment Consultants who help people with disabilities find gainful employment and a more joyful and fulfilling life.

## About LifeSharing

Lifesharing, also known as "Family Living" (55 Pa Code §6500), officially began in Pennsylvania in 1982 with a family in Berks County who wanted to support their friend in their own home. To reflect the diversity of relationships in these living arrangements, "Family Living" became best known as Lifesharing to better describe the life-styles and choices of the people being supported. Lifesharing thru Family Living means living with and sharing life experiences with supportive persons who form a caring household. Lifesharing is recognized as being both a close personal relationship and a place to live. Lifesharing offers an individual with a disability the opportunity to live with a family or individual who will support his/her desires and needs for an everyday life. Individuals supported in Lifesharing include children and adults with a wide variety of needs and challenges. Lifesharing is having a place to call home and a family to go home to. If you would like to consider sharing your life and home with someone amazing, please call (724) 430-1370 and ask for Joe Wingrove.



# Staff Stuff

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### 10-Year Service Award Recipients

#### ARC Fayette

Michael Dinan  
Shirley Whyte

#### Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.

Lindsey Bennett  
Jared Gregor  
Thelma Layhue  
Melodi Steiner  
Kenneth Stone  
Andriea Swentko

#### Crosskeys Human Services, Inc.

Nena Simmons

#### Diversified Human Services, Inc.

Carole Ann Baker  
John Fiorillo  
Melissa Lewis

#### FCBHA

Angela Baker  
Nicole Barak  
Theresa Battaglini  
Nicole Fijalkovic  
Christine Rosinski-Stone  
Kerry Smith  
Joe Wingrove

#### Fayette Resources, Inc.

Monique Brown  
Kenneth Burton  
Brian Gray II  
Tammy Howell

#### Goodwill of Southwestern PA

Gary Darnell  
Alan Hassick  
Sherman Hollis  
Keith Morris  
Albert Zelmore

#### SPHS

Valerie Braddee-Brown  
Teresa Mehalik  
David Woodward

## 10-Year Service Awards

Each year, FCBHA and its Advisory Board recognize each worker who has completed 10 years of service either at FCBHA or one of our provider partners. It is well known that work in the field of Human Services takes a lot of heart and strength. We applaud those who come to work each day to help individuals who face some of life's most difficult challenges, and Congratulate you on your 10th Anniversary! **Your work makes all the difference in someone's life!**

## People are Coming ...

FCBHA is happy to welcome Ms. April Orndorff to the staff as an Administrative Secretary. She is a lifelong resident of Fayette County who grew up in Bullskin Township and now resides in Mill Run.



April has a diverse background that includes a degree from WCCC in Administrative Management and Secretarial Studies, she ran a small business for several years, she recently completed a degree in Elementary Education at California University, and for the past 6 years, has been a substitute teacher in the Connellsville Area School District. April has a son (Derek) and Daughter (Alyssa) who are both in college and a husband of 26 years, Rob. She describes them as a BASEBALL family as they have all played either baseball or softball throughout their lives.

April loves perennials and baking cakes for special occasions (like weddings!). **Welcome April and GOOD LUCK !!!**

## ...and Going



We will be saying goodbye to one of our friends soon. Lester Visnosky, FCBHA Building Superintendent, has announced he is retiring on October 13th. He says it is time to "Catch up on his TO DO list" (most of us can relate to that!). Some of the things on that list include things around the house and traveling more. He isn't exactly sure where to

or when, but is passively shopping for a mobile home in his spare time. He has a son in Texas that he might just drop in on in the near future and Disney and Lake Erie are on the list too. His face lit up when he talked about his four grandchildren and the likelihood he will be spending more time with them and he hopes to help more at his church when he can. Lester said his wife of 46 years, Debbie, retired last year and more than anything, he is looking forward to spending more time with her. **We could not be happier for you Lester ... ENJOY!**

**WE WILL MISS YOU!  
HAVE A WONDERFUL RETIREMENT!**

# Is Summer Really Over?

## Yes it is, but what a great Summer it was!

Like every year, FCBHA was out in the Community, helping the citizens of Fayette County. Here are a few of the places we visited:

- ⇒ July 26th—Kerry Smith visited the Pennsylvania Health Law Project on Medical Assistance for children
- ⇒ July 26th—Gina Donkers visited SCI Fayette to talk about Suicide Prevention
- ⇒ July 28th—Gina Donkers visited Good Works Life Recovery House to talk about Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- ⇒ August 7th—Kelley Gavran and Devon Cobb attended the Point Marion Community Health Fair
- ⇒ August 16th—Joe Wingrove visited IU#1 to talk about Waiver Changes: Expanded Eligibility Categories
- ⇒ August 16th—Nicole Barak visited Grant Street Park for a Community Building Event for Children and Families
- ⇒ August 19th—Gina Donkers took a variety of information to the Veterans Picnic sponsored by Fayette County
- ⇒ We are one lucky bunch....we are given the opportunity to make life better for some and amazing for many. So We Do!

FCBHA  
Staff is

*"Nine tenths  
of education  
is  
encouragement."  
"*

THANKFUL



For the ongoing supportive training and education we are provided and the opportunity to interact with and enlighten the Community.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world” (Nelson Mandela)**

If you change the way  
you look at things,  
the things you look at  
change.

~Wayne Dyer

@SOCIALRECIPES

**FCBHA Advisory Board  
2017 Meeting Dates**

September 20, 2017  
October 18, 2017  
November 15, 2017

(open to the public)  
**5:30 PM**

215 Jacob Murphy Lane  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
724-430-1370

<http://www.fcbha.org/Advisory.html>

**Fayette County  
Behavioral Health  
Administration**

(724) 430-1370

Lisa A. Ferris  
Chief Executive Officer

[www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org)



**Fayette County  
Board of Commissioners**

Vincent A. Vicites, Chairman  
Dave Lohr, Vice-Chairman  
Angela M. Zimmerlink, Secretary



9/14/17—HCQU Training—Mobility

Please visit [www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org)  
For the most accurate and  
Complete Information on  
Trainings and Events.  
Thank You!

<http://www.fcbha.org/Current.html>

**The ANSWER** is a publication of the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration.  
Comments, questions or suggestions may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor at [www.fcbha.org](http://www.fcbha.org) or  
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.