



Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Newsletter

WINTER 2019

CARVE-OUT MANAGED CARE

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD WINNER

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

HONORING CECIL AND DAVID ROSENTHAL

SERVICE TO OTHERS

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



CONTACT Us:
(724) 430-1370
www.FCBHA.org

Office Hours
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Office Closures
4/19/19—Good Friday

FAYETTE COUNTY CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUCCESSS... *HealthChoices Behavioral Health Carve-Out Managed Care Plans*

A brave and bold Fayette County in 1999, took on the financial risk and became a Managed Care Organization (MCO) becoming the first Pennsylvania county certified as a utilization review entity. In other words, the medical assistance MCO for behavioral health care (mental health and substance abuse services) for all Fayette County recipients. The State contracted with for-profit MCOs for management of Medicaid recipients' physical healthcare. This approach is commonly known as a "Carve Out" model. Meaning your physical health insurance plan is separate from your behavioral health care plan. In doing so, Fayette County, as a government entity not seeking profits, has managed successfully and all realized financial gains have been reinvested to enhance existing services and create new evidence based services and supports in our local community.

On October 4, 2018, the County Commissioners' Association of PA (CCAP) came to Fayette County hosting a roundtable discussion with local officials, legislators, senators and key partners. The lead presenter was Charles Curie. Mr. Curie, a former Bush-appointed director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and former deputy secretary at the PA Department of Public Welfare (now the Department of Health & Human Services), will lead the discussion with an overview of the program's 20-year record. Mr. Curie established the innovative Behavioral HealthChoices Program 20 years ago. Behavioral HealthChoices became a nationally acclaimed program for behavioral health managed care. Behavioral HealthChoices has improved access and increased quality to critical services across Pennsylvania, while generating significant savings for taxpayers. Counties, their behavioral health MCOs and community providers now provide a broad array of services for more than 2.9 million Pennsylvanians.

Moderated by Jana Kyle, Executive Director, Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Mr. Curie provided much insight in a PowerPoint that indicates the county model of care has been successful and continues to best serve its citizenry. Lisa Ferris, CEO-Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration was called upon adding gainful insight as to the triumphs and positive outcomes the "Carve-out" county model has witnessed for many individuals accessing the enhanced programs and services afforded by the Plan. Specifically, improved access to care and reduction in inpatient hospitalization for those with serious mental illness. Also Ms. Ferris shared how local management has increased choice in new services available through its reinvestment planning.

At the conclusion of the forum it was evidenced by all parties a "Carve Out" local model was and is in the best interest of all county residents. Whether you are on Medical Assistance or uninsured or have commercial insurance, everyone seeking behavioral health care, treatment and supportive services in Fayette County seen a positive improvement in localized care. Everyone agreed with a "Carve-out" locally managed plan with opportunity to reinvest in services, we are in the best position to continue to address the current Opiate and drug addiction in our community. This population is of the utmost importance and we continue as a county to address this epidemic and hopeful if we are afforded to continue to be the MCO for behavioral health care we will be in a better position to make a positive impact in reducing chemical abuse in our neighborhoods saving lives of our family and friends.

Article continued on page 2

FCBHA MISSION: To enrich lives by providing choice and access to resources that encourage hope, independence and recovery.



continued from front page

What is the importance to Fayette County residents? Your continued support of the local county system of care to remain a Carve-out plan. Please talk to your local politicians, reach out to each other, support Carve-out model which is currently in jeopardy. The physical health for-profit MCOs want to integrate within their health plans...Yes, we are in agreement that integrated physical and behavioral health care is vital to patient success but this does not require a change. In fact, if the State legislators and Governor approve to change as a Carve-in it will ultimately be subcontracted to a for-profit separate entity to manage. Also a Carve-in will jeopardize many innovative programs and jobs locally.

In the next edition of the ANSWER, more information will be provided. And in the Spring, there are plans to host meetings and forums for the public, advocates and citizens to learn more about what is needed to preserve the services currently available and keep the funds locally.

Infant Mental Health Conference

Fayette County Early Intervention Program received a \$2000 grant from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) that was used to conduct training. The Infant Mental Health Conference, held on October 30, 2018 provided training on topics relevant to Early Intervention's mission. Presentations were given on Trauma and How It Affects Children and Families; Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the Magee Women's Hospital Pregnancy Support Group. There were 123 participants including professionals in the Human Services industry specializing in physical and behavioral health such as Nurse Family Partnership, Mental Health Association and Adelphoi Village as well as those in children's services like Children and Youth, Head Start and foster care programs. Completed conference evaluations provided useful feedback for future trainings.

Please visit our website FCBHA.org for information on upcoming trainings.

Health Hope and Wholeness-Refugee Resettlement Program

The United States Refugee Act of 1980 passed as an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This amendment updated the definition of a refugee, raised the limit on the number of refugees permitted to enter the United States annually, and gave presidential authority to exceed that number for humanitarian purposes.

With the potential to gain an additional 32,000 refugees in the U.S. , new governmental offices were created to address needs and concerns for this population. Their purpose, to develop and coordinate refugee admissions and resettlement policies and to provide benefits and services to assist in resettlement and community integration for this population. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for the Refugee Resettlement Program that provides quality employment and case management services to refugees that are resettled in Pennsylvania. This program was created to help refugees acclimate to their new home by utilizing existing transportation, housing, employment and other human service programs and resources.

At the 3rd Annual Refugee Health Conference in 2018, Department of Human Services (DHS) Secretary Teresa Miller addressed the experts specializing in refugee health by saying, "The services you provide and the support you give to new Pennsylvanians embodies the values that we seek to spread at DHS — service that is compassionate, addresses the whole person's health and social needs, and puts them on a path towards self-sufficiency and a better life."

All refugees served by the Department of Human Services Refugee Program are permanent legal residents of the U.S. admitted with the approval of the Executive branch of the Federal Government. Refugees are eligible for citizenship five years after arrival.

To learn more about the Refugee Resettlement Program and associated legislation, visit www.dhs.pa.gov.

Article citations:

- * DHS November 29, 2018 news release: Human Services Secretary Discusses Refugee Health at Statewide Refugee Health Conference, "Health, Hope and Wellness"
- * www.ballotpedia.org/Refugee_Act_of_1980
- * www.thoughtco.com/united-states-refugee-act-1980-1952018

And the COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD goes to...



Pictured above (holding award) CRA recipient-Officer Jennifer Field. Also pictured, Commissioner Dave Lohr (left) and Commissioners Vincent Vicites and Angela Zimmerlink (right) at the presentation of Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration's Advisory Board Community Recognition award.

On December 20, 2018 Officer Jennifer Field was presented with Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration's Community Recognition Award (CRA). This award is given yearly to a Fayette County resident having a direct link to a Human Services System of Care. The contributions of CRA recipients have provided significant positive outcomes in the lives of Fayette County residents and/or the systems that help to provide care, resources and support to those residents.

In addition to training required to become an officer of law enforcement, Officer Field has taken over 55 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT training helps those in law enforcement recognize if a person in crisis has a mental illness and how to de-escalate situations to minimize injuries and trauma to the individual, the officer and the public. In the CRA nomination, it was said that Officer Field understands that mental illness is a medical condition that should be diagnosed and treated. Officer Field has acquired over 14 years experience as a police officer and 12 years as a paramedic which demonstrates her passion to "Protect and Serve".

Save the Date Board Meets Board

For more information, contact Kayla Keebler at (724) 430-1370.

March 2019						
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Wednesday, Mar 27th 2019

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH



Pictured left to right, Commissioners Vincent Vicites and David Lohr, Sherri Mitchell-FCBHA Supports Coordination Director, Amber Kilcullen and Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink during the declaration of Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month in Fayette County as listed below.

FAYETTE COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION MARCH 2019

WHEREAS, in 1966, Pennsylvania Legislature enacted the Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Act to provide comprehensive community-based services to all persons regardless of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, community-based programs have dramatically reduced the number of individuals living in state institutions; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County provides developmental disabilities services for over 600 Fayette County residents with intellectual disabilities/autism; and over 300 children eligible for Early Intervention services; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County is committed to the concept of Self Determination, which promotes the right for all individuals to determine how they will live their lives, where and with whom as well as freedom of choice, control, dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, through the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration and various service providers, quality community-based services are available to Fayette County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vincent A. Vicites, Chairman, Dave Lohr, and Angela M. Zimmerlink, Commissioners of Fayette County, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as **“Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”** to be observed with appropriate community programs, ceremonies and activities.

ACHIEVA Establishes New Fund and Community Award in Honor of Cecil and David Rosenthal

Updated January 10, 2019

Following the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue, the family of victims Cecil and David Rosenthal designated ACHIEVA as a recipient of monetary donations made in the two men's memory. Since that time, over \$90,000 has been donated, with contributions coming from more than 670 individual donors from 36 states and three countries.

The Rosenthal brothers were well known in their community of Squirrel Hill. They embraced their community, and their community embraced them back - with open arms and love. To ensure donations made in their memory were protected and used in a manner consistent with the example set by Cecil and David Rosenthal and their community, the ACHIEVA Board of Trustees has created a new Fund in which all existing and future donations received in memory of David and Cecil will be placed.

The "Cecil and David Rosenthal Memorial Fund" will be used to support community engagement activities pursued by people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. "It's comforting to know that the memory of my brothers will live on through the Memorial Fund, helping people with intellectual or developmental disabilities find and keep good jobs in their community and pursue meaningful activities that are important to them," said Michele Rosenthal, sister of Cecil and David Rosenthal. Future fundraising efforts by ACHIEVA will help to maintain and grow the Fund so that the legacy of Cecil and David will live on through the financial help provided to other people with disabilities.

The fund will also be used to honor future recipients of the newly created "Cecil and David Rosenthal Community Award" with a \$1,000 gift. ACHIEVA presented the inaugural award at its "Awards of Excellence" ceremony on December 11th at the Sheraton, Station Square. Both Cecil and David Rosenthal's sisters, Michele and Diane Rosenthal, accepted the award on behalf of their brothers. Annually, the award will be given to a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who - by virtue of how they live their life - has become an integral part of their community. "For Cecil and David, being part of the community was not something they needed to think about. It was their life and that was the way they lived it," said Diane Rosenthal.

From left: ACHIEVA Board Chair Mary D. Richter; Michelle Rosenthal; Chris Brown (David and Cecil's former roommate); Diane Rosenthal, and ACHIEVA President and CEO Steve Suroviec at the Awards of Excellence. Michele and Diane accepted the inaugural Cecil and David Rosenthal Community Award on behalf of their brothers.



*Article citing: www.ACHIEVA.info/Rosenthal

Service to Others

Throughout 2018 and beyond, Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration staff have participated in many events, trainings and celebrations at the office and at various locations around the county. (Pictured pages 6 and 7) Community and inclusion is very important to us and to those we serve. This is apparent when attending or viewing pictures of past events. FCBHA would like to Thank everyone who is committed to serving others as we all benefit from these human connections. There is no greater gift than the knowledge that you have made a difference in someone's life for the better; be it for an afternoon or for many years. It does not take a lifetime, a fortune, an act of God or other major contribution. Time, compassion and a desire to leave those in a better way than you found them is all that's required. Anyone and everyone can do something positive for another individual or group. The need is great; but the resources are endless.

PAY IT FORWARD AND IT WILL COME BACK.



Board Meets Board



**L.I.C.C.
Resource Fair**



**East End United
Community Center
Board of Directors**

Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy



Holiday Celebrations

Fayette County Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group celebrated the end to its first successful year with a Holiday dinner complete with musical entertainment. The group enjoyed a visit and photo opportunity with Santa and danced the evening away to music by DJ Matt the Cat. Participants came out dressed in their ugliest Christmas sweaters; Haleigh Sommers, won the prize by an overwhelming round of applause.

The celebration was held in place of the group's regular meeting, as a thank you to those who dedicate themselves to helping the group succeed. This event provided an opportunity for families and providers to connect and new participants to learn about Fayette County's Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group.

This event was made possible by the support of Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration and the Advocacy Network.

FCBHA would like to thank those who attended or participated in helping to make this event and events like these a success.



Fayette County L.I.C.C. (Local Interagency Coordinating Council) held their Holiday Luncheon on December 19, 2018. Children gathered around Special Instructor Dana Melroy to participate in an interactive story time. Families shared special moments creating holiday crafts which they took home. Everyone anxiously awaited a visit from our special guest, Santa Claus. Each child had the opportunity to sit with Santa Claus and tell him their wish list. They also had their photo taken with Santa to remember this festive event. Over 100 family members, staff, and providers participated in celebrating the holiday season together. Below are some pictures that captured the spirit of the holidays clearly on display that afternoon.

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

For more information on future L.I.C.C. events, please contact Kerry Smith, FCBHA Early Intervention Supervisor and L.I.C.C. Co-Chair at (724) 430-1370.



Please visit our website FCBHA.org for information on upcoming events.

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**Fayette County
Behavioral Health
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Lisa A. Ferris
Chief Executive Officer

www.FCBHA.org



**Fayette County
Board of Commissioners**

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

Please check the
FCBHA website regularly
for the most updated
information on
Events and Trainings

[http://www.fcbha.org/
Current.html](http://www.fcbha.org/Current.html)

TRAINING

3/21/2019	Youth Mental Health First Aid
4/10/2019	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome & Maternal Depression
<u>Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU) Trainings</u>	
3/12/2019	Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
4/11/2019	Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED)

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