

The ANSWER

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Newsletter

**AUTUMN
2021**

**SUICIDE IS EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS**

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**COMMUNITY
RECOGNITION AWARD**

RETIREMENTS

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HONORING VETERANS

**2021
SPONSORSHIPS**



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

Office Closures

11/25/2021 — Thanksgiving
11/26/2021 — Day after Thanksgiving
12/23/2021 — Christmas Eve
12/24/2021 — Christmas
12/31/2021 — New Year's

 **Suicide is
Everyone's Business**

In Pennsylvania, one person dies by suicide every 4 hours. According to the 2019 Department of Health statistics, Fayette County had 24 Self Harm (death by Suicide) with the top two age ranges being 30-34 year old followed by 50-54 year old. It is estimated for each documented death by suicide, there are 25 attempted suicides. The Fayette County Suicide Prevention Taskforce provides the community with information and resources on Suicide Awareness and Prevention in hopes of drastically decreasing those statistics.

To raise awareness, the Taskforce recently sponsored a Candle Light Vigil at the Fayette County Courthouse. Additionally, County Commissioners declared September Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month with a proclamation and lit the Clock tower purple during the month.

The Taskforce meets on the Third Friday of each month at 9AM. If you are interested in joining, please contact Gina Donkers at 724-430-1370.



Commissioners Vincent A. Vicites and Scott Dunn, Roxanne Johnson-Taskforce member, Commissioner Dave Lohr at the reading of the Suicide Prevention Proclamation.



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



Community Meetings

Suicide Prevention Taskforce—Meets the 3rd Friday of each month. Meetings are currently virtual. Contact Regina Donkers at (724) 425-2441 for information.

Fayette County Leadership Team (CLT)— Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Family members and youth 14-26 years of age who have experience with a child serving system such as Mental Health, Children and Youth, Juvenile Probation, Education, Developmental Disabilities and/or drug and alcohol. For more information contact a Family Advocate at (724) 430-4907.

Fayette County Family Council—Family members and youth share their experiences about County services with other parents. Provides training and advocacy.
www.facebook.com/groups/216230278935680

Fayette County Human Service Council—Meetings for members occur the 3rd Thursday of every other month beginning in February. The next meeting is scheduled for December 16th and is a holiday party. Membership form and additional information can be found at www.fayettehsc.org.

Partners for Recovery—A community support program to help improve services for those being treated for mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues. Meetings are held the last Monday of each month except May and December. Meetings are at the Oak House Drop-In Center, 100 New Salem Road in Uniontown and are open to everyone.

Fayette County Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)—Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, email FayetteCountyGSA@gmail.com or through Facebook at FayetteCountyGSA. You can also call (724) 430-4893.

Community Recognition Award



Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration's Advisory Board acknowledges an outstanding community leader each year for their over-and-above contributions significantly impacting the lives of people in recovery, children and adults with mental health needs and/or individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Community Recognition Award (CRA) is the Board's way to honor these good deeds and that they do not go unnoticed.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 CRA winner was presented their award in 2021. *(Pictured left, the CRA recipient, Gina D'Auria and her family. Pictured right is Dr. Paul Hartley, Mrs. D'Auria, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners and the CRA nominator-Ms. Kim Kavanshansky.)*

In the nomination, Ms. D'Auria is said to have worked for the children of this community at Children and Youth Services for 28 years, working tirelessly to ensure safety, well-being and permanency for the children and their families. Mrs. D'Auria is said to have gone beyond her job duties to support the mental health of her employees and other providers as well. She volunteers on numerous local Boards and provides incident stress management debriefing to first responders.

Mrs. D'Auria's actions has undoubtedly brought about positive outcomes in many Fayette County lives. We are proud to be associated with someone so caring and dedicated. Congratulations Gina!

HAPPY retirement

These beautiful ladies have embarked on a new journey. FCBHA will greatly miss the huge contributions they have made over the years. Mrs. Leslie Parsons (*pictured on the left*) retired from FCBHA after 17 years of service on the ADAPT Team. Ms. Jane Ann Bielecki (*pictured on the right*) retired from FCBHA after 23 years of service. Her most recent position at the agency was Administrative Services Supervisor.



Ms. Connie Summerson (*pictured below*) has been an FCBHA employee for almost 13 years in the Supports Coordination Unit.



Needless to say, they take a wealth of knowledge and experience with them on their next endeavors. Congratulations Leslie, Jane Ann and Connie. You deserve all the best life has to offer.



November 24

Mommy & Me Pumpkin Canvas Duo-5-7p.m.-Appalachian Creativity Center-139 W. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville

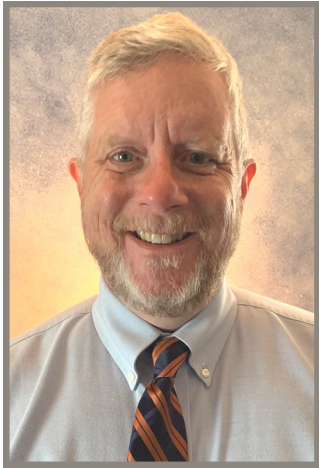
November 25

Free Thanksgiving Meal-11:30a.m.-1:30p.m.-St. John the Baptist Rectory-416 S. Broadway Street, Scottdale

November 26

Youth Mystery Dinner-7p.m.-First Christian Church, 800 New Salem Road, Uniontown

Slapsticks Comedy Club-8-10p.m.-Hilton Garden Inn-555 Synergy Drive, Uniontown



Personnel Announcement

Dave Rider was recently promoted as the Mental Health Deputy Administrator, second in command at FCBHA. Dave is well deserving given his commitment to the vision and mission as well as his wealth of knowledge and expertise. Dave received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, his Master of Arts degree in Systematic Theology/Ethics and a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry from St. Vincent Seminary.

Prior positions held at FCBHA were Mental Health Program Specialist 1, Mental Health Program Specialist 2, Mental Health Program Director and now Deputy. Dave has progressively shared his talents and skills while climbing the ladder to a position suited for him. On a personal note, Dave is married to Mary Ann. They have two sons, Robert and Andrew. They reside in Fayette County and participate in many community activities. Dave has been instrumental in teaching and guiding youth and young adults during his many years as referee for basketball and umpiring baseball countywide. FCBHA and the County of Fayette have a man who is professionally dedicated to promoting access for all citizens in need of supports emphasizing increased independence and improved behavioral health conditions. Congratulations!

Honoring Our Veterans

Ken Dillinger—Corporal U.S. Army, 1979-1987
Heath Halfhill—Sr. Airman/Sergeant U. S. Air Force, 1987-1991
Carmen Hall—Specialist U.S. Army, 1989-1997
Dave Rider—Second Lieutenant U. S. Air Force, 1988-1995
Aaron Trincia—Specialist Army National Guard, 1997-2009



The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.
~Jeff Miller

2021 Sponsorships

This year, FCBHA was pleased to provide sponsorships to the following agencies and causes:

YMCA ~ 2021 Youth Scholarship
Highlands Hospital ~ Regional Center for Autism
East End United Community Center
Fayette County Human Service Council ~ Human Services Appreciation
National Night Out ~ Hoops and Scoops
Catholic War Veterans
PA School for the Blind ~ Chef Joe's Omelet Run



For it is in the giving... that we receive.

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

24/7 Crisis Hotline
(724) 437-1003



**Fayette County
Behavioral Health
Administration**

(724) 430-1370

Lisa A. Ferris
Administrator/CEO

David Rider
Deputy Administrator

www.FCBHA.org



**Fayette County
Board of Commissioners**

Dave Lohr, Chairman
Vincent A. Vicites, First Vice Chairman
Scott Dunn, Second Vice Chairman

**FCBHA Fraud and
Abuse Hotline**
866-275-6467

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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.