



## FALL/WINTER 2019

**SUICIDE PREVENTION  
EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT  
INITIATIVE**

**NEW CEO**

**RETIREMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NEW DOC IN TOWN**

**MIRACLE LEAGUE**

**WHAT RECOVERY MEANS  
TO ME**

**VICITES APPOINTED**

**COMMUNITY RECOGNITION  
AWARD**

**PLAY AND LEARN**

**WE'VE GOT SPIRIT**

**FCBHA RECOGNITION**

**IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR**

**SAVE THE DATE**



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

**Office Closures**

12/24/19—Christmas Eve

12/25/19—Christmas Day

1/1/20—New Year's Day

1/20/20—Dr. Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day

## **FCBHA AND GATEWAY SUCCESSFULL INTEGRATION**

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration (FCBHA) has been working diligently on a new initiative with the Department of Human Services (DHS) under the guidance of Pennsylvania's Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). DHS has tasked FCBHA and all Pennsylvania HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (MCO) with the development of Integrated Care Planning (ICP) between Physical Health and Behavioral Health MCOs for shared members.

An ICP is a member-centered health record designed to facilitate communication among members and their care team, which include the member, MCO's, and physical and behavioral health providers. Instead of relying on separate medical and behavioral records, the ICP is a shared plan that combines both aspects of a member's treatment and fully encourages team approaches. This provides the member with an opportunity to develop, negotiate, and navigate their care. In addition, ICP's help build a working relationship between members and their healthcare providers as an all-encompassing approach to their treatment.

FCBHA and Gateway went one step further, taking a very innovative and unique approach to accomplish this task. Not only are we completing ICPs for our shared members, we chose to integrate our staff as well. A Gateway Care manager is now on-site side-by side with FCBHA Care Managers to help with ICP development among their members. With this innovative co-locating of staff we have been able to establish member relationships that address significantly complexed cases, which have included social determinants of health, physical health challenges, and significant behavioral health needs. With efforts from members, providers and the MCO team, members have been able to navigate complex systems, develop supports, increase involvement in treatment, and become more resilient to life's challenges. ICPs are vital to members and all of their care providers. We are excited to continue this work with members and their care teams.



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

# Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business



Fayette County Board of Commissioners proclaimed September 8-14, 2019 as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week in Fayette calling upon the people of Fayette County to learn how they can help because Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business.

Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force is comprised of educational institutions, representatives of behavioral health organizations, military/veterans organizations, and the community at large. It is dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and reducing the pain of those affected by suicide deaths through education, intervention and bereavement services. For information about the Suicide Prevention Task Force, call Gina Donkers at (724) 430-1370. The Task Force meets the 3rd Friday of each month and is open to the public.

Pictured left, Commissioners Dave Lohr and Vince Vicites, Jeff Taylor-Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force member, and former Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink at the reading of the awareness week proclamation.

## HealthChoices Behavioral Health Southwest Zone

### Welcomes new CEO

**Dr. Roxanne Kennedy  
and**

**Bids farewell to**

**Dr. Mark Fuller**

## Family Engagement Initiative (FEI)



In January 2019 Fayette County was accepted into the Family engagement Initiative collaboration between the Courts, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Behavioral Health, families and stakeholders. This initiative was started with the belief that when families make their own choices and identify their needs and strengths, they will ultimately be more successful and healthier. Members strive to build a network of support around youth and families in order to reduce system trauma and allow families to make decisions to help build on successes. Fayette County CYS compiled a policy for implementation that starts with the first call received. It continues with investigating for recommended resources and ongoing services. All partners work together to insure family finding and engagement. Regular meetings are held to update policy and receive feedback to better refine the initiative to be most successful in terms of advocacy and providing opportunities for families to live a happier, healthier life together.

You can't RETIRE from being Great



In August 2019 one of Fayette County's great advocates retired from the Veteran's Affairs. Although she continues to volunteer her time in assisting with the many needs of this population, Ms. Madonna Marie Nicklow (*shown above, center*) has begun her journey to accomplishing personal goals that may have been put on the back burner. Her selfless attitude allowed for others to recognize their value in civilian life, which proves to be challenging for many returning from active duty.

Ms. Nicklow was employed by the Tax Claim Bureau from September 1986 until she transferred to the Veteran's Affairs in 2000 as the Chief Veteran's Service Officer. She was promoted to Director in 2012 in part because of her popularity, but mainly for her ability to get things done. During a recent interview she shared some of her most memorable moments from her tenure at the Veteran's Affairs. She recalled helping a Veteran connect with the VA Hospital who diagnosed his cancer and another seeking treatment for substance abuse who, with the help of Ms. Nicklow, has been in recovery ever since. She has helped those struggling with health and lifestyle issues for over 3 decades. Making changes great and small to give those in need a hand up; for example, omitting donuts from the coffee bar area to remove the temptation of unhealthy eating. It is showing real concern of what others may be going through and acting on those concerns that allows Madonna to be so successful in helping Fayette County Veterans. FCBHA extends congratulations to Ms. Nicklow on her retirement and wishes her many more fulfilling years in whatever endeavors she chooses.

## New Doc in Town

FCBHA welcomes the new Medical Director, Dr. Eleni Maneta to Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc. New Directions Children and Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program. New Directions is a Pa. Department of Education licensed Private Academic School. They provide educational services in coordination with therapeutic interventions. New Directions offer many services to assist children and adolescents to cope with problems, demonstrate age appropriate behaviors and social skills, become productive in their community, adjust to changes in their lives-becoming well adjusted within their families so they can successfully re-enter traditional public school.



(Pictured kneeling, Dr. Maneta and Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc. CEO-Mike Quinn with other New Directions staff)

# Busy Post Season for the Miracle League of PA's Laurel Highlands

On August 10, 2019, the Miracle League of Pa's Laurel Highlands (MLPLH) played in the Pony League World Series Champion game at Lew Hays Pony Field in Washington, PA.

The players were amazing as they scored run after run. The Pony League teams from around the world assisted the players as they batted, ran the bases and fielded the ball. The team received medals and patches for a game well played and an incredible show of sportsmanship.

On September 6, 2019, Owen Harris and Lyndsa Lewis (*pictured below*) and their families had the opportunity of a lifetime to attend the Second Miracle League All Star Game in Sioux City, Iowa. From the Opening Day to the Closing Ceremonial Dinner they had a wonderful experience. The hosts and announcers were superb. Lyndsa and Owen had a fantastic time playing on a beautiful customized Miracle League field. Owen was thrilled to play on a barrier free field for the first time. Lyndsa enjoyed every minute including her first time flying. Thank you Sioux City!

Next year's All Star game will be in Houston, Texas November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



## What Recovery Means

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recognized September as Recovery Month. The focus of Recovery Month is to bring awareness and understanding of substance use and mental health disorders; celebrating individuals throughout their recovery.

Recovery is a daily challenge for some. Facing these challenges have allowed individuals and their families to gain strength, knowledge and in turn support others who encounter similar challenges. We ask readers to open their minds and hearts to better understand Recovery and the strength it takes to regain and maintain control of one's life.

When asked "What does recovery mean to you?" Milton replied, "Recovery to me is being strong, humorous, respectful, loving, having courage, and being happy."

Milton is the artist who created the illustration (*right*) reflecting diversity and positivity.



# Vicites appointed chairman for State Courts Corrections Committee

Commissioner Vincent Vicites said he joined the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's (CCAP) Courts and Corrections Committee, a state committee focused on studying county-level courts and prison issues, four years ago to be better educated about the courts and prison system. "The fact that we have the oldest prison in Pennsylvania, I wanted to learn as much as I could and see what other counties were doing across the state," Vicites said.

During his time as a member of the committee, Vicites said he learned a lot about prisons, security options for magisterial district judge offices, funding issues, the need for an increased focus on mental illness in prisons and lack of bed space at state hospitals. He said he has been vocal on the committee and engaged in dialogue on various issues.

Vicites said he found out he was chosen to lead the committee in late October by the then CCAP President-Elect Jeff Snyder of Clinton County. "I welcome the leadership role in this state organization," Vicites said. "I welcome the challenge, and I enjoy leading the effort in this area. It's an honor and privilege to be selected."

In a meeting held earlier this week, Vicites said the top issue was ensuring counties across the state have sufficient funding for adult probation departments. Vicites said he brought up the need to establish, through legislation, a court-ordered fee for defendants that would go toward funding security for magisterial district courts rather than having it funded by the taxpayers.

As chairman, Vicites said his duties include presiding over the committee in prioritizing issues of concern to bring the most important of them to the CCAP board as a legislative priority for the upcoming year.

By Mark Hofmann [mhofmann@heraldstandard.com](mailto:mhofmann@heraldstandard.com)



Crosskey's Human Services, Inc. celebrated a huge accomplishment this year, their 45th Anniversary. In 1974, Father F. Higgins began working on his dream to create an agency with a desire to include elderly persons of all religions, races and creeds with a nutrition program as the focal service. He requested help from key persons including Sister James Ann Germuska who was enlisted by Sister Eugene Sisk to work toward the formation of this program. Sister James Ann immediately began making contacts with professionals and the late Commissioner Mr. Fred Lebder who was a strong supporter to bring this dream to fruition.



Forty-six years, three facilities and several programs later Sister James Ann is still committed to the Crosskey's program. Crosskeys operates a Community Residential Rehabilitation, Psychiatric Rehabilitation services, Supportive Housing, a Senior Center and more.

*(Pictured left, from left to right, Father Thumma Fathimareddy, Sister James Ann Germuska and Father Timothy Kruthaupt)*



Fayette County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.) recently held a meeting where families and professionals had the opportunity to engage in a presentation given by Intermediate Unit #1. The presentation focused on Transitions in Early Intervention. Information was provided to families about what to expect as their child grows older as this can be a stressful time. Families are encouraged to contact their child's Early Intervention Service Coordinator if they have questions about the transition process.

Nicole Zilli, Parent-to-Parent of PA Southwest Region Coordinator, also provided a brief presentation and shared her family story. Nicole encouraged all families to utilize support services available to them. In Pennsylvania, the Parent-to-Parent model is a one-to-one match between an experienced, mentor parent, called a peer support parent and a parent seeking individualized support from another parent who has experienced a similar journey with his or her child. Other recent L.I.C.C. events include a Play Group held on September 20, 2019 at Uniontown Church of Christ. Attendees were treated to a reading of Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Very Quiet Cricket'. Children also made their very own craft to take home. A special thank you to Early Intervention provider, accessAbilities, for co-sponsoring this event.

The Holiday Luncheon was held December 13, 2019 at the Uniontown Knights of Columbus. Families and their children participated in an interactive story time and created holiday crafts to take home. As in past years, the children were very happy to see the very special guest who attended, Santa Claus!

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

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



The East End United Community Center celebrated the end of summer by hosting a Community Spirit Day event on August 22, 2019. Those that attended were treated to fun activities games, food, prizes, and were offered back-to-school supplies. Several local human service agencies and businesses took part in the festivities as well and had information readily available to pass out.

A big thank you to the East End United Community Center as they continue to make a difference in our community.

Welcome Commissioner Scott Dunn

# Congratulations on 10 Years of Service



The FCBHA Advisory Board would like to congratulate Aaron Trincia and Gloria Faye Glisan (*pictured above*) on achieving 10 years of service. Aaron started with FCBHA on July 27, 2009 after a being employed with Children and Youth Services the preceding 2 years. Faye started with FCBHA on June 29, 2009. The contributions of Faye and Aaron over the years are tributes to the dedication to and advocacy for those we serve.

We hope they continue to support the residents of Fayette County for many more years.

## It's Been a Good Year!

In 2019 FCBHA participated in many activities to bring awareness and raise funds for local organizations. Highlighted below are some of those efforts:

- \* Through employee Dress Down Days, FCBHA raised funds for the East End United Community Center (EEUCC), Fayette Friends of Animals, Honey's Helping Hands, Fayette County Family Advocates, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, Domestic Violence Service of Southwestern Pa., Miracle League of Pa's Laurel Highlands, March of Dimes-Fayette March for Babies and City Mission Living Stones, Inc.
- \* Through many community events FCBHA staff members provided outreach and education to professionals and residents of Fayette County and the surrounding areas. FCBHA representatives were present at the Torrance State Hospital Annual Families, Consumers and Providers Conference, Mental Health Awareness Series presentations, Servolution Health Fair, Communication Night, Munch Mingle and Move, Crosskey's Annual Health Fair, Advocacy Network Spring Health/Wellness Fair, Farmers Market Fun Day for Kids, Childhood Trauma Training, LGBTQA 101, Impact of Mental Illness on Families and Mental Health Recovery, Hoops and Scoops, Veteran's Appreciation Picnic, Transitions in Early Intervention: Parent to Parent, EEUCC Spirit Day, Crisis Intervention Team, Senior Citizens Expo, Beacon Health Options Mental Health Awareness Walk and their annual Family Forum, Kids Fun Fest, Trunk or Treat, Bullying and Depression "More Than Sad" and the "Ripple Effect" video viewings.

In the coming New Year as well, we look forward to making those connections to assist in improving the lives of those we serve. Please send us an email at [info@fcbha.org](mailto:info@fcbha.org) to subscribe to our newsletter.

## SAVE the DATE



**Every Day Lives 2020 Conference**  
**January 7 - January 9, 2020**  
**The Hershey Lodge**



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



**Just a friendly reminder... March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**



**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  
Scott Dunn, Secretary

**FCBHA Fraud and Abuse  
Hotline**

**866-275-6467**



***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.