

SPRING 2018

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH**

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM
TRAINING**

IN LIKE A LION-TORNADO 2018

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH OPEN HOUSES

COMMUNITY HEALTHCHOICES

**MIRACLE LEAGUE OF PA
LAUREL HIGHLANDS**

**YOUTH PSYCHIATRIC
REHABILITATION**

L.I.C.C.

FOND MEMORIES

STAFF CHANGES

EVERYDAY LIVES

SELF ADVOCACY

**2018 ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING DATES**



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

Office Hours
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Office Closures
3/30/18—Good Friday
5/28/18—Memorial Day

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH



Pictured above left to right: Commissioner Vincent Vicites, Bruce Fosbrink, Sherri Mitchell, Commissioners Angela Zimmerlink and Dave Lohr at the reading of the 2018 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation as written below:

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 services for over 600 Fayette County residents with intellectual disabilities; 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 2018 as **“Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”** to be observed with appropriate community programs, ceremonies and activities.

Crisis Intervention Team Training

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training is modeled from Memphis law enforcement agencies and officials who recognized the importance of having an additional tool in the box when responding to incidents where human behaviors vary from what is expected or typical. Those officials created a 40-hour training composed of a variety of modules related to behavioral health and shared it with fellow law enforcement officers from various States. Understanding signs of mental illness and when a person may be in crisis allows the officers the ability to de-escalate many situations. Representatives from Fayette County were sent to Memphis for training in 2011. Subsequently, Fayette County composed a CIT model for local law enforcement. Since then, through five separate trainings, over 50 officers and 6 non-officers (911 dispatchers, jail counselors, mental health advocates and FCBHA staff) have completed CIT.

Testimonies

As part of the 2018, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, officers had the opportunity to meet with participants in the Uniontown Crosskeys Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program. Several individuals shared personal experiences they have had with CIT officers. They hope to help others understand the importance of having CIT Officers in the community. Below are their stories:

"I just want to talk to you about my savior. He is an officer called Mark Pasquale (a Crisis Intervention Team Officer). The first time I had to go to Highlands Hospital he was the officer that came to take me. He was wonderful. He talked to me like a normal person and did not treat me like a mental case or handcuff me. He also kept the situation in the house and the people around me calm. It was very scary knowing that I was going to Highlands Hospital but he stayed very calm and he had a way of calming me down. He explained what it was going to be like when I got to the hospital. He also talked to me about his family and mine which helped me a lot. I have been around officers all my life, he is the most caring, and understanding person I have ever met." - Kayla

"It seems to me that when anything happens like school shootings and other shootings it is always blamed on the person's mental illness. Well, I am sure that it contributed to the problem but it seems like that is all the media discusses. Not all people with a mental illness are violent. However, because that is all that is talked about when something bad happens people seem to associate all people with a mental illness as violent. That is the same as when a cop does something wrong or is considered to be a bad cop that does not mean that all cops are bad. I just wish that reports would investigate and inform the public about mental illness at other times rather than just when something bad happens." - Tayla



Pictured above, the Fayette County CIT Graduating Class of 2018.

The officers volunteered for this training which included education on brain injuries, suicide ideology, behavioral health and diagnoses, medication effects, the involuntary commitment processes, forensics and available resources. Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration's Mental Health Program Director Dave Rider spearheaded the implementation of CIT in Fayette County; bringing together educators and providers of human services with those that serve and protect. It is important that we focus on crisis prevention as well as diversion from the criminal justice system whenever possible to increase the probability of treatment and overall safety for all members of the community.

Thanks

A special thanks to Fayette County Adult Probation, Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc. Crosskeys Human Services, Inc., Veterans Affairs, Allegheny County Veterans Court, Mental Health Review Officer, Fayette County Community Action Agency, Highlands and Uniontown Hospitals, Southwestern Pa. Human Services, Inc., Fayette County Specialty Courts, CPP Behavioral Health, Mental Health Association in Fayette County, Goodwill of Southwestern Pa., Rege Lazor, PhD and local law enforcement officers for helping to make CIT training a success.

In Like A Lion!!!



On the evening of February 15, 2018 the Uniontown and Connellsville area experienced an extreme weather event. A State of Emergency was issued for the Uniontown Area due to a verified EF1 tornado touch down in the City of Uniontown, North Union Township location. Bringing winds over 100 miles per hour, this storm caused power outages and property damage across the area. The Connellsville area suffered significant flooding resulting from the same storm. This is the second time flooding in Connellsville was severe enough to issue a State of Emergency. A tornado touch down is extremely rare for Uniontown and has not been recorded in February since 1950. Volunteer disaster relief began and is anticipated to last some time as the damage caused was extensive; especially the Gallatin Avenue area.

The East End United Community Center set up a temporary emergency shelter for those affected by the storm. The Red Cross, Fayette Emergency Management System, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration and many other organizations and volunteers provided disaster relief, supplies and aid to community members affected. Those efforts and supports will continue as long as there is need.

Area stakeholders were invited by Greg Crossley, Chairperson of V.O.A.D. (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) to meet and exchange information, needs, resources and ideas on how best to assist victims. V.O.A.D. is a partnership working together to provide assistance in the disaster recovery process. As a result of that meeting, a two-day Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) was set up at Fayette County Community Action Agency for affected community members to gain information and resources to help them replace lost items and documents as well as mentally deal with the trauma experienced in disaster situations. Many human service agencies were represented.

Educational Opportunities

March 12, 2018 — Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.) Meeting-Coping With Stress

March 14, 2018 — AHEDD Employment Counseling/ABLE Act Training

Contact April for details at [\(AprilOrndorff@FCBHA.org\)](mailto:AprilOrndorff@FCBHA.org)
(724) 430-1370

March 22, 2018—Training-Self Determination

April 12, 2018—Training-Wellness Overview

May 22, 2018—Training-Safety: Tips for Summer

Contact Lynn for details at [\(LynnOrawiec@FCBHA.org\)](mailto:LynnOrawiec@FCBHA.org)
(724) 430-1370

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

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

March Open Houses

Laurel House, Inc., - March 20, 2018
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

197 W. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. 15401
(724) 437-1129

Fayette Resources - March 23, 2018
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

1300 Connellsville Road, Lemont Furnace, Pa. 15456
(724) 437-6461

The Arc of Fayette - March 28, 2018
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

80 Old New Salem Road, Uniontown, Pa. 15401
(724) 438-9042



WHAT IS CHC?

COMMUNITY HEALTHCHOICES (CHC) is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for dually eligible individuals and individuals with physical disabilities — serving more people in communities, giving them the opportunity to work, spend more time with their families, and experience an overall better quality of life. When implemented, CHC will improve services for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

CHC is being developed to: (1) enhance access to and improve coordination of medical care and; (2) create a person-driven, long-term support system in which people have choice, control, and access to a full array of quality services that provide independence, health, and quality of life. LTSS help eligible individuals to perform daily activities in their home such as bathing, dressing, preparing meals, and administering medications.

Who will enroll in CHC?

Individuals will be enrolled in CHC if they are 21 years old or over and are:

- Receiving both Medicare and Medicaid; OR
- Receiving LTSS in the Attendant Care, Independence, COMMCARE, or Aging waivers; OR
- Receiving services in the OBRA waiver *AND* determined nursing facility clinically eligible; OR
- Receiving care in a nursing home paid for by Medicaid.
- An Act 150 participant who is dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

Individuals are **NOT** eligible for CHC if they are:

- Receiving LTSS in the OBRA waiver and are NOT nursing facility clinically eligible; OR
- An Act 150 program participant, who is not dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid; OR
- A person with an intellectual or developmental disability who is receiving services through the Department of Human Services' Office of Developmental Programs; OR
- A resident in a state-operated nursing facility, including the state veterans' homes.

Individuals who already participate in a Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program can remain in their LIFE program and will not be moved into CHC unless they specifically ask to change. Anyone who is enrolled in CHC who would prefer to participate in a LIFE program and qualifies to participate in LIFE will be free to do so.

What does CHC cover?

CHC covers the same physical health benefits that are part of the Medicaid Adult Benefit Package today. If you are eligible for LTSS, you can also get all services now available in waivers offered by the Office of Long-Term Living. With one exception, CHC will replace these waiver programs.

The OBRA waiver will continue to exist for those 18-20 year olds who qualify for Medicaid LTSS and for those who have a severe developmental physical disability and need an Intermediate Care Facility/ Other Related Conditions (ICF/ORC) level of care.

Behavioral health services are not a part of CHC. The CHC MCO must coordinate care with their members' HealthChoices Behavioral Health MCOs.

CHC MCOs have the same responsibility for coordination of members' Medicare coverage.

Will individuals have a choice of CHC MCOs?

YES. Each CHC participant may choose his or her MCO. The MCOs are AmeriHealth Caritas, PA Health & Wellness, and UPMC Community HealthChoices.



The Miracle League of Pa's Laurel Highlands



The Miracle League of Pa's Laurel Highlands/Champions (MLPLH) is a baseball league for individuals with special needs. Associated with two of the best baseball programs, The Miracle League and Pony League, the MLPLH is able to offer the finest sport's program to individuals ages three and up with a variety of needs, whether it be an intellectual or physical disability.

The league currently serves those from Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland and Somerset Counties. The MLPLH has now found a home in North Union Township's Eberly Park in Oliver, Pa. Games start April 8, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. for ages 9 and under and at 2:00p.m. for ages 10 and up. Games are scheduled for April 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, May 6th, 20th, June 3rd, 10th, and 24th.

To register, contact Christine Eckert at weallplayball@hotmail.com or (724) 317-2586.

We accept players at any time during the season. Go to www.mlph.org for additional information.

Youth Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Crosskeys Human Services offers a new and exciting pilot program and the first of its kind in the State of Pennsylvania. The Youth Psychiatric Rehabilitation is geared toward young people, ages 14 – 26, and is designed to help them learn skills in the areas of living, learning, working, and socialization. Individuals develop goals and objectives and the Practitioners track their progress. Group sessions are designed to encourage participation and focus on building skills through role playing and discussions.

Contact Bernadette Behary for more information at (724) 785-6500.

www.crosskeyshumanservicesinc.org/mental-health-programs.html

L.I.C.C. Presentations

The Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.) will offer a presentation on Stress Management at their quarterly meeting on March 12, 2018 from 11:00a.m. -1:00 p.m. Presenters include Dr. Jo Jankoski; Penn State Fayette Professor and Jillian Clegg from Special Kids Network. Craft activities will be available for children. Lunch is provided to all. L.I.C.C. sponsors special events, trainings, and workshops at no cost to families currently receiving services for their child. Upcoming events include a presentation "Trauma Effects on Child Development" on May 11, 2018 and a Mom's Shower on May 23, 2018 at the Uniontown Hospital.

To RSVP or obtain additional information please call April Orndoff at (724) 430-1370.

Fond Memories

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration appreciates the service of Mr. Joseph Ambrose Sr. who was a long time member of the Advisory Board. Sadly Mr. Ambrose passed away Fall of 2017. He frequently expressed his fondness for being a part of the Board. He rarely missed a meeting as he saw them as opportunities to learn, teach and fellowship. His positivity and kindness were more than qualities. They were a source of strength and inspiration. Mr. Ambrose will truly be missed by the FCBHA staff, Advisory Board, and countless members of the community. It's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember.



A limb has fallen from the family tree. I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me." Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remembering all, how I truly was blessed. Go on with your life, don't worry about the falls. I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again.

-Unknown Author

Farewell Friend

After 10 years of dedicated service, Mrs. Theresa Levanduski has embarked on her journey of post employment activities. Theresa began her employment with FCBHA on February 25, 2008 as the Executive Assistant for our Chief Executive Officer Lisa A. Ferris where she remained until her retirement January 29, 2018. Theresa worked along side our CEO providing administrative support and streamlining interagency communication, outreach and documentation whenever possible. The working dynamics between the two ladies was apparent from the onset.

During her exit interview Theresa expressed how she feels about retirement by saying, "I have worked very hard in my life both physically and emotionally having entered the workforce at 13. There is and has always been within my cast of characters, an innate desire for efficiency with both time and space that has led me to achieve more than I ever imagined I could. I am proud to have been able to be the right hand of several very important and beautiful people throughout my career and they will always remain, in my new life, as cherished as they were when we worked side-by-side. We learned a lot together. Having traversed some rough roads along the way, I can only describe this time with a sense of freedom I have never felt before. Our years of hard work have provided us an opportunity to *stop* and smell the roses...what a liberating feeling that is."

Best of Luck to you Theresa in all your future endeavors!

Seasons change, people change. Yet it seems like yesterday- Expose'



Welcome Aboard

FCBHA welcomes the newest members of our staff.

Jennifer Farquhar-Early Intervention Service Coordinator
Heath Halfhill-Building Superintendent
Shanae Hodge-Supports Coordinator

Michelle Purnell-Mental Health Administrative Secretary
Jon Selko-Supports Coordinator
Jennifer Warrick-HealthChoices Care Manager



Everyday Lives 2018 Conference was held on January 9-11, 2018. Provided by the Office of Developmental Programs, the conference is designed around what is important to people with disabilities and their families who are striving for an everyday life. It is a celebration of values that people with disabilities have a right to an everyday life; a life that is no different than that of all other citizens.

Pictured on right Lynn Oraweic-Administrative Entity and Lisa Ferris-Chief Executive Officer of Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration with Rachael Darker and Janie Cook.



For more information on Everyday Lives, visit:

www.everydaylives.org or www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=8884

Self Advocacy

Understanding your rights and having the skills and abilities to speak up when you need, and want to be heard, is a luxury that many take for granted. However, many individuals diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability or an Autism Spectrum Disorder can sometimes struggle with communication and learning barriers, which can make speaking out difficult.

Having a space in which individuals and families can come together to address topics that are important to them, and to have the opportunity to learn and build advocacy skills, while allowing them to do so in a way that will address the needs of those participating, is crucial. That is why the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration initiated the development of the Fayette County Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group.

The Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group, recently approved as the newest member of the Advocacy Network in Fayette County, will join others like it, as a resource for those searching for guidance and support in navigating the service systems within Fayette County. Other current members include the Fayette County Family Council, Fayette Youth M.O.V.E., National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Parent Involved Network, and Partners for Recovery.

FCBHA hosted a Self-Advocacy Kick-off event on November 2, 2017 at the North Union VFW, where participants enjoyed music and dancing, a basket raffle, refreshments, and had the opportunity to learn more about the provider agencies in the area. Representatives from the Self-Advocacy group, as well as from provider agencies such as, Twin Trees, Inc., Arc, Fayette, Transitional Employment Consultants, and many others, attended to share information regarding the services that their agencies provide. The event was held to establish awareness of the new Self-Advocacy group within the community and to grow attendance at future Self-Advocacy events.

The group's first meeting was held January 18, 2018 at the FCBHA office. Participants worked together to define advocacy, and discussed ways to build advocacy skills, such as learning where to find information needed to make decisions, determining the people in their lives that they trust to help them make good choices when necessary, and taking the time to understand who they are as a person and what is important to them as individuals.

Participants also participated in a photo project that will be displayed at the upcoming Board Meets Board during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Individuals decorated a poster board with drawings and stickers that helped to express some of the things they like and are important to them. They wrote information about themselves on the poster board that they wanted to share with the Board Meets Board attendees that will view their projects. Each individual that participated also had their photo taken, so that their photo could be added to their poster board as well.

Self-Advocacy meetings will be held every other month at the FCBHA office, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The group will be watching a short first aid demonstration and will be discussing healthcare rights and responsibilities. If you are interested in attending a future Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group meeting, feel free to contact April Orndorff at 724-430-1370 to be added to the mailing list.

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



Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration

(724) 430-1370

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

Spring Observances:

March-Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

May-Mental Health Awareness Month

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

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

FCBHA Advisory Board 2018 Meeting Dates

April 18, 2018

May 16, 2018

September 19, 2018

October 17, 2018

November 28, 2018

(open to the public)

5:30 PM

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

[http://www.fcbha.org/
Advisory.html](http://www.fcbha.org/Advisory.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 or Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.