

# *The ANSWER*

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Newsletter

## SUMMER 2016

MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS MONTH

ADVOCACY NETWORK  
KICKOFF EVENT

CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS DAY

### AROUND TOWN

WEDNESDAY WALKS

A VISIT  
TO MASONTOWN

HANGING OUT  
AT EAST END UNITED  
COMMUNITY CENTER

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING  
AT FCBHA

PENNSYLVANIA  
SYSTEM OF CARE  
LEARNING INSTITUTE

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

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

Office Closures:  
7/4/16-Independence Day  
9/5/16—Labor Day



Pictured above from left to right: Christine Stone, FCBHA; Jennifer Hall and Jeanne Obradovich, Commissioner Dave Lohr, Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink, and Commissioner Vincent Vicites.

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the Fayette County Commissioners declared that May of 2016 would be observed as Mental Health Awareness Month in Fayette County. They joined together to encourage area residents to try and think about behavioral health in more acceptable ways. By doing that we can toss away the old stereotypes such as crazy, unreliable, stupid, a burden, off their rocker, and dangerous. What is more important to understand is that at any given time, human beings can feel psychological distress. It is more important to recognize the importance of intervention and support instead of feeling stigmatized. Stigma causes millions of Americans to avoid seeking the care they need and it is time it was eliminated. Just as we check our physical health on a regular basis, it is a good idea to take a periodic reading of our emotional well-being and treat ourselves and our families to things that fortify it, even if that means seeking a professional to help. It is time to overcome the fear and misunderstanding of mental illness and make sure that those dealing with a mental health issue do not feel alone.

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

# Advocacy Network



Good  
Luck  
ADVOCACY  
NETWORK!

May 2, 2016 was the official kickoff of Advocacy Network located at Mental Health Association in Fayette County. A beautiful celebration was held to introduce the program to the public. Advocacy Network is a host and home to advocacy groups and a source of information for families and/or individuals who need an advocate to help them navigate mental health services in Fayette County. It is a place to find support from others who are going through similar challenges and experiences. At the current time, Partners for Recovery, NAMI, and Youth M.O.V.E. are the anchor support groups that comprise Advocacy Network. For more information or to join, go to [www.mhafayette.org](http://www.mhafayette.org) or call (724) 438-6738 .



Pam Bailor, CEO of Mental Health Association in Fayette County

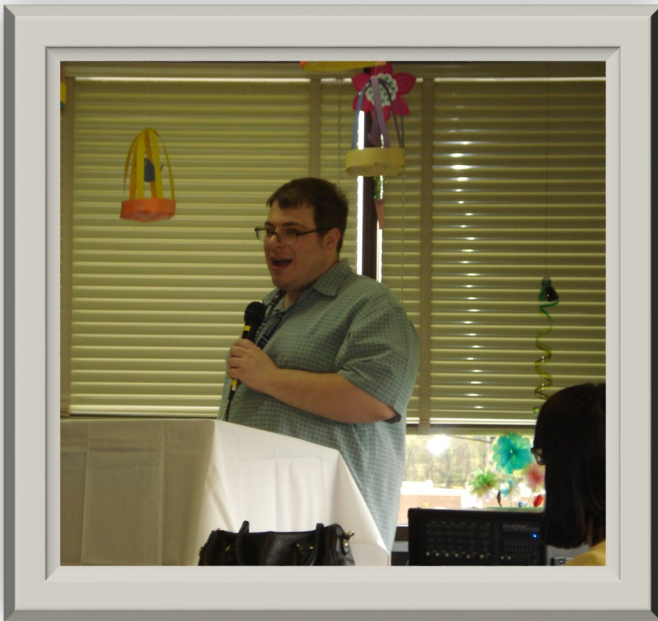


Lisa A. Ferris, CEO of Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration



# Kickoff Celebration!

Below is Dustin Murray, facilitator of Partners for Recovery and new Chairman of Advocacy Network.



Above is Jessica Moody, Parent Advocate of Parent Involved Network at Mental Health Association in Fayette County.

Below: Roxanne Johnson, Family Advocate. Family advocates work with families and professionals to build relationships that achieve more effective and positive outcomes.



Above: Karen Drake of Mental Health Association in Fayette County, Oakhouse Drop-in Center staff member.



Held May 7, 2016 the Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Event brought out many to take part in a fun time, good food, and a wealth of information. There was dancing, singing, crafts, balloons, and an overall great time! We sincerely thank the many agencies who joined us in making the event a huge success. If you would like to participate in next year's event, please call Faith Sible, FCBHA Advocacy Specialist at (724) 430-1370.

**Pictured Above Left:**

Kelly Sampson of  
Highlands Hospital

**Above Right:**

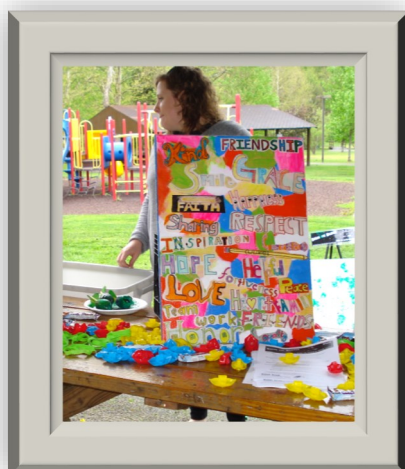
Amanda and Zoe Sible,  
attendees

**Pictured Far Left:**

East End United  
Community Center  
intern Kate Romano

**Pictured Left:**

Christine Stone and  
Regina Donkers, FCBHA  
Program Specialists.



This event was sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania System of Care and Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania





Pictured Left:

Axiom Family Counseling

Amanda Huey

Jess Burnsworth

Jennifer Romeo

Axiom Counseling Staff Member

[www.axiomfamilycounseling.com](http://www.axiomfamilycounseling.com)

Pictured Right:

Fayette County Head Start

Gina Bowen

Joyce Bendishaw

Seated: Sarah Remington

<http://www.privateindustrycouncil.com/early-childhood/head-start-of-fayette-co>



Pictured Left:

East End

United Community Center

Matt Crutchman

and

Kate Romano

<http://www.eeucc.org/>



## **Fayette County Wednesday Walks Resume:**

The walk series is coordinated by the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force to aid in improving the health of Fayette County residents and educate participants on the history of local sites by exploring their cultural and environmental importance. Join the Fun!

June 15th—Jacob's Creek Watershed Hike

July 20th—Indian Creek park Trail Hike

June 22nd— Made in F. C. Walk—Fairchance

July 27th—East End—Hallowed Tales Walk

June 29th—Hopwood Pearl of the Pike

August 3rd—Brownsville Southside Cemeteries

July 6th—Jumonville Fit Trail Hike

August 10th—Uniontown History Walk

July 13th—Meadow Run Stroll

August 17th—Celebration Picnic

## **FCBHA Visits Masontown Elementary School**



Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration staff is out and about in the community just about every day promoting awareness of the value good mental health. Our message is delivered up close and personally. So far this spring, we have visited elementary, middle, and high schools for special events, participated in health fairs such as the Value Behavioral Health Adult Recovery Forum and Crosskeys Health Fair. You may have seen us at the Senior Games at Laurel Highlands High School and we have many more engagements to attend before the summer ends. Pictured above is Christine Cramer, County Care Manager on a visit to Masontown Elementary School for their Art and Music Festival. We love visiting our neighbors.

**If your school or organization would like us to attend or speak at a special event you're planning, call us at (724) 430-1425.**



## **Hanging Out at East End United Community Center**

There is always something fun happening at EEUCC. They have a variety of programs and activities going on at any given time including:

### **21st Century After School Program**

For Kindergartners through 6th graders at EEUCC and the Central Greene School District to help students with core academic subjects such as reading and math. The program offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs in addition to literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

### **A.C.E.S.**

(Accountability, Connecting, Educating & Sharing)

Designed to empower the kids to be ACCOUNTABLE for their actions, CONNECT with their community, take responsibility for their EDUCATION, and to SHARE with one another. They also use STARS (Safe, Trustworthy, Acceptance, Respect and Share) to encourage the kids that attend programs at EEUCC to make sound decisions and show respect for not just their peers but also themselves.

### **Little Legends Day Care**

Caters to Infants and toddlers (15 months-3 years old) and Pre-school through Kindergarten aged children. There are full and part-time care options, is in-network with CCIS, and are Keystone Stars rated. The daycare staff encourage the healthy intellectual and psychological growth. They also offer WEEKEND CARE!!

### **Summer Enrichment Program**

The summer program serves school-aged children with a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) focus on academic enrichment, physical activities, and further development of social skills. They recently implemented a Media Smart Curriculum for the kids to teach them about social media safety and cyber-bullying.

### **The Silver Generation**

The Silver Generation is a social group for older adults to mingle with others their age. They meet every Wednesday in the Community Room at EEUCC from 10am until 12pm. Refreshments are provided, fun times are encouraged.

### **Our Caring Corner**

Our Caring Corner has Social Workers available for you to talk to whether you want more information about becoming a Mental Health Advocate, have questions about mental illness, or if you just need someone to talk to.

Under the direction of Matt Crutchman, EEUCC has a wonderfully positive impact on the community. If you would like to volunteer, please visit the website for more information.

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



Show Above: The lobby of East End United Community Center and an amazing volunteer cooking some delicious food for the Soul Food Lunch Fundraiser held in February.

### **Active Shooter Training**

A very provocative and helpful training was conducted to fortify the ability of FCBHA staff to respond appropriately in the event of an active shooter episode at work or at any place /time around town. The training was delivered by two highly skilled and seasoned police officers, one a State Police Officer and the other an area Chief of Police. It was a very thought-provoking training where reactions and responses were explored in addition to the various mindsets of individuals who would commit these types of actions (which are, unfortunately, occurring more frequently.) The overwhelming response of the staff at FCBHA afterwards was that they feel much better prepared to help themselves and others in an active shooter situation.



Shown above from left to right are: Jane Ann Bielecki, FCBHA; Jim Lauria, Chief of Police; Pat Morrison, FCBHA; and Bob Copechal, State Police Officer.

For information about this type of training, visit their website at:

[www.patriot-training.com](http://www.patriot-training.com)

## **System of Care Learning Institute**

FCBHA staff together with Family Advocates and members of the local chapter of Youth M.O.V.E. will not only attend but present at the Pennsylvania System of Care Learning Institute to be held at State College from June 20—22, 2016. Liz Kaylor of Youth M.O.V.E. will share her very touching story of being a suicide survivor. We commend her for her strength, honesty, and desire to help others who may experience suicidal thoughts. Nate Torbich will share his story of triumph in the face of having a parent who didn't want to be a parent. Roxanne Johnson will present the positive things the System of Care has brought to Fayette County and the progress being made here to help children, youth and families have a bigger VOICE.

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



**Fayette County  
Board of Commissioners**

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

**FCBHA Advisory Board  
2016 Meeting Dates**

September 21, 2016  
November 16, 2016

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

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

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



**Videoconferences  
Trainings And Events**

**June 18, 2016  
Family Fun Fest**

There are currently no  
Videoconferences scheduled,  
please check the website for  
updated information.

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