

**SUMMER
2018**

Fayette County Receives 20th Annual Statewide Family Leadership Award



FAMILY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH**

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS DAY**

**LOCAL INTERAGENCY
COORDINATING COUNCIL
(L.I.C.C.)**

BOARD MEETS BOARD

SUICIDE THE RIPPLE EFFECT

IN REMEMBRANCE

**MIRACLE LEAGUE OF PA'S
LAUREL HIGHLANDS**

KINDNESS ROCKS

**CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE
WEEK**

10 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

**WEDNESDAY WALK
SCHEDULE**

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

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

**Office Closures
7/04/18—Independence Day
9/3/2018—Labor Day**



Pictured above from left: Gary Blau-SAMSHA, Mark Van Bibber-Family Support Partner, Alice Coleman-Facilitator, and Tim Truckenmiller-Coach/Supervisor, Ken Nash-MD UPMC, and Lynn Kovich-OMHSAS Deputy Secretary.

Congratulations High Fidelity Wraparound for taking home the “Family Leadership Award “ at the 20th Children's Interagency Conference sponsored by OMHSAS, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services, PA Systems of Care Partners and PA Child Welfare Resource Center. This award is given to an individual or group currently or formerly involved with a child/youth (age birth-26) who receives mental health and cross-system services. The Conference offered a national perspective on various issues such as changing trends, promising and best practices along with the importance of planning in leadership roles.

Fayette County's High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) team also gave a presentation featuring their program, the County's two Family Advocates and the System of Care Advocacy Specialist. These programs provide the means for positive systems change for families, youth, and provider agencies. The presentation shared the County's journey and vision and the HFW team's dedication to working with families over the past 10 years which led to a system transformation of working together with families as partners.

Mental Health Awareness Month

May 2018

Fayette County Board of Commissioners declared May as Mental Health Awareness Month by signing a proclamation authored by Christian Bliss, Kayla Hamburg, Karlee Hatalowich, Abigail Hice, Brian Koster, Kevin V. Miller and Tim Taylor from Crosskeys Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program in Brownsville. The main purpose of the proclamation, stated below, is to raise awareness and decrease stigma related to mental illness.



In the photo above Fayette County Commissioners are proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Fayette County. Shown from left to right: Commissioner Dave Lohr, Christian Bliss, Kevin V. Miller, Christine Stone, Abigail Hice, Brian Koster, Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites and Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION- MAY 2018

Mental Illness does not discriminate against race, gender, ethnicity, background, culture, country of origin, wealth, or age. Millions of individuals suffer with mental illness worldwide. In addition, many of those struggle with substance abuse as a form of self-medicating

WHEREAS, Mental Illness is a brain disease that is impacted by trauma; and

WHEREAS, greater Trauma Informed Care and Peer Support Services are needed to support and facilitate recovery; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Pennsylvania with one person committing suicide every 5 hours; and

WHEREAS, Mental Illness does not have to be a death sentence; and

WHEREAS, studies show that individuals with mental illness are more likely to be a victim of violent crimes than to commit violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, it is exhausting and challenging to battle symptoms daily; and

WHEREAS, no one should be afraid to ask for help; and

WHEREAS, reach out to your friends and family to help support and encourage you during difficult times, and

WHEREAS, we need to come together, support one another and stop putting each other down; and

THEREFORE, Fayette County Commissioners, Vincent A. Vicites, Dave Lohr and Angela M. Zimmerlink, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. This month, the Fayette County Commissioners, call upon all citizens, public and private agencies and institutions in Fayette County to strive to remove the stigma around Mental Illness and its treatment. We encourage all citizens to seek a better understanding of mental illness and to look for opportunities to help those with mental health issues, support those in need by helping them to know they are not alone and to remain committed to hope and healing.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day May 10, 2018

Fayette County annually recognizes National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Open to the public, this year's celebration of families was held at the East End United Community Center (EEUCC). Under the auspices of FCBHA with contributions by many providers and advocates, the event provided many happy moments, informational resources, musical entertainment, games, which foster healthy relationships and sharing. Please join us in May 2019 an event you won't want to miss. At the end of the day, everyone walked away with a Smile—smiling is good mental health...pass it on!



Pictured above, participants enjoyed many activities and contributions at EEUCC provided by Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, Beacon Health Options, CPP Behavioral Health, Axiom, Mental Health Association of Fayette County, Connellsville Counseling, Adelphoi Village, Crime Victims Center, Family Behavioral Resources, Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, Fayette County Youth M.O.V.E. Head Start of Fayette County, and Intermediate Unit #1.



Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.) Meeting

The Fayette County LICC is comprised of Infant/Toddler and Pre-School (Birth to Kindergarten) providers, representatives from Head Start, the Department of Health, and parents/guardians of children receiving Early Intervention services. 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.

The most recent meeting was hosted by Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration on May 11, 2018 (pictured below). Families and professionals in attendance had the opportunity to engage in a presentation given by Ashley Scudder, Assistance Professor at Chatham University, focused on Trauma and Effects on Child Development. Families and professionals also had the opportunity to network with each other to gain knowledge and understanding of child development. Special thank you to Special Kids Network for co-sponsoring this event.

The next LICC meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2018. For more information, please contact Kerry Smith at (724) 430-1370.



“Board Meets Board”

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month culminated in a celebration of the individuals that receive services via the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, as well as other local service providers, at the 27th Annual Board Meets Board.

Individuals, along with their families, participated in a panel discussion during the event held at the Park Inn, Uniontown, PA. Participants shared stories of their successes and discussed their goals for the future. Panelists included parents and children who have been involved in the Early Intervention who wanted to share how services and supports changed their lives, by expressing the improvements and progress they have witnessed in their children.

Participants of the Fayette County Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group presented a special video that they had helped to develop, to not only raise community awareness of the self-advocacy group, but also to highlight the importance of learning to speak for yourself. The video featured 10 individual stories, as well as highlighting a group of Special Olympics athletes as they competed against a local middle school’s faculty in a fundraising event.

The annual Board Meets Board event is an opportunity for local agency board members, area professionals, as well as local political figures to acknowledge the great things that are happening in Fayette County through the amazing individuals and their stories.



On May 16, 2018 the film “Suicide The Ripple Effect” was shown at the AMC Cinema 6 in Uniontown. It was hard not to show emotions during the viewing of this very personal story. The opportunity to view this film was made possible by the efforts of Fayette County Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of professionals and community members. Their purpose is to spread the message of hope and inclusion, to raise awareness of suicide warning signs and prevention techniques to the community. The Task Force welcomes new members to join and participate in their monthly meetings. For more information contact Gina Donkers at (724) 425-2441 or visit www.FCBHA.org/SP.

24 HOUR CRISIS HOT LINE
(724) 437-1003



Maureen Gibson
July 21, 1954 - May 08, 2018

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration recently experienced the loss of a dedicated co-worker, caring person, and outstanding advocate, Maureen Gibson. Maureen worked in the Intellectual Disabilities field for many years, the last 16, as an FCBHA employee, most recently as a Developmental Program Specialist.

Maureen showed a great deal of respect for individuals and their families, which was evident in the way she fulfilled her duties. As Risk Management/Incident Management Lead, Maureen showed great care to assure all individuals had received the services and supports they need, with the respect and dignity they deserved. Her attention to detail, strong convictions and untouchable knowledge of the system, was an asset, not only to those who worked closely with her, but to the families and providers.

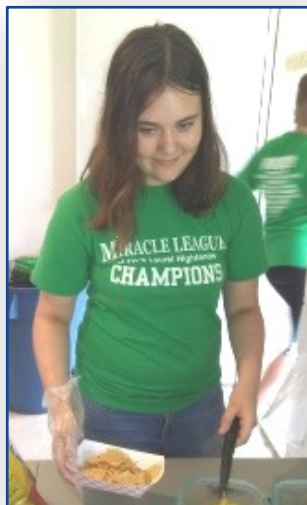
Maureen was a loyal and dedicated mother of three who found joy in reading, shopping, spending time with her family, and participating in activities at her church, St. Mary (Nativity) Roman Catholic Church in Uniontown, PA, where she was a mass lector. Our deepest sympathy to the Gibson family.

The Miracle League of PA Laurel Highlands

What is a Buddy? A Buddy is a person who helps a Miracle League player be successful on the ballfield. Buddies help players bat, run bases and field balls. Buddies ensure players are safe from flying balls, as many of our players are good hitters. They teach players how to catch balls and where to throw them. But Buddies do so much more. They engage players on and off the field, forming bonds of friendship. Players eagerly wait each week for their special Buddy.

This year, we have a number of young people who have stepped up and volunteered as Buddies. These amazing youth connected with players both young and young at heart helping them be successful on the field. Buddies also volunteer in the concession stand and provide refreshments for all players after the games. The season closed with a banquet that included dinner, music, presentation of trophies, certificates and basket raffles.

Players and volunteers are accepted at any time during the season. More information is available at www.mlplh.org. The League currently serves those from Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland and Somerset Counties.



Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Meeting “Kindness Rocks”

Making community connections and lifting others up is the purpose of “The Kindness Rocks Project”. It also happens to be one of the goals of the Fayette County Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group.

When looking for a project that would promote creativity, positivity and community inclusion, it became obvious that “The Kindness Rocks Project” would more than fit the bill.

The project, created by Megan Murphy, a Women’s Empowerment Coach and Meditation Instructor from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, has gained popularity and momentum throughout the entire country. The project challenges individuals and organizations to spread kindness by painting inspiring and uplifting words and images on rocks that are to be placed within the community and shared with friends and family.



The self-advocacy group members were given rocks of varying shapes and sizes to create works of art. Group members were challenged to visit a site within the community and encouraged to place one of their decorated rocks in hopes of brightening the day of those who may find them. Other members chose to decorate a rock to share with a friend or loved one.

A special thanks to Otto Brick Co., located in Uniontown, PA, for graciously donating the rocks



Pennsylvania Corrections Employee Week

This year marks the first year in which Corrections Employees were acknowledged by proclamation from the Office of Governor Tom Wolfe. Corrections Employee Week was declared in Pennsylvania May 6-12, 2018. Many would be interested to know that Pennsylvania’s correctional system is the oldest in the nation, evolving from the Philadelphia Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829. Key points in the proclamation are Pennsylvania has 24 State Correctional Institutions, 11 Community Corrections Centers, 32 Contract Facilities, 63 County Prisons, 15 Federal Facilities to house approximately 95,000 inmates. These facilities are managed and operated by nearly 31,000 trained correctional professionals. Among them are administrators, officers, counselors, educators, treatment specialists, clerical staff, re-entry specialists, social workers, clergy, medical professionals, computer technicians, food service staff, planners and research analysts. These employees are committed to the common goal of safe, secure and humane operation of the Commonwealth’s correctional facilities. They work to reduce future crime through the delivery of programs to change an individual’s criminal behavior in the interest of public safety.

Congratulations for 10 Years of Service



Arc Fayette

Lisa Friend
Rochelle Glover

Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.

Lenora Borucki
Terry McCarty
Jamie Bielecki-Quinn
Charleen Sapp
Barbara Smucker

Crosskeys Human Services, Inc.

Nancy Dale
Mary Walters

Diversified Human Services, Inc.

Patricia Stetsko

Fayette County Behavioral Health

Administration

Devon Cobb
Benjamin Crable
Christopher Ek
Kellie Gavran
Carmen Hall
Laurie Manzella

Fayette Resources, Inc.

Vaughn Evans
Shirlene Grady
Paula May
Laurie McNaughton
Ransom Morris
Tyffanie Springer

Goodwill of SWPA

Pamela Bailey
Michelle Michaux

Laurel House

Katherine Britvich

Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services

Bobbi Jo Fordanich
Dr. Ravindranth Kolli
Christine Szakal

Twin Trees

Krista Keefer

Remaining 2018 Wednesday Walks

- * Jackson Farms Hike-July 11
- * Bear Run Nature Reserve Hike-July 18
- * Airport Walk-July 25



- * Whoa Nellie Hike-August 1
- * Watermark & Book Nook Walk-August 8
- * Laurelville Retreat Center Walk-August 15

Celebration Picnic-August 22

Information will be announced at the walks

The Fayette County Healthy Lifestyles Task Force is sponsoring Wednesday Walks throughout Fayette County. The series is designed to improve the health of Fayette County residents by increasing their level of physical activity. Along with this goal, the series will educate participants on the history of local sites, as well as cultural and environmental importance of these places. Walks begin at 6:30 p.m. Additional information is available at www.stepstohealthierfayettecounty.org.

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

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

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

**Upcoming
FCBHA Advisory Board
2018 Meeting Dates**

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.