

The ANSWER

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Newsletter

WINTER 2016

TIS THE SEASON!
FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WORKING TOGETHER
CROSS SYSTEMS TRAINING

LICC MEETING

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE
OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS
NANCY THALER VISIT

VETERANS DAY
COMMEMORATION

YOUTH M.O.V.E.
VIDEO SERIES DEBUT

YEAR IN REVIEW
HARRY FRANKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY
WELCOME BOB LESKO
FUNDRAISERS

NEWS AROUND TOWN

ADVOCACY NETWORK
BOARD CHAIRMAN
RECEIVES AWARD

PH/BH INTEGRATION
IN FAYETTE COUNTY

MURPHY'S
MENTAL HEALTH BILL
SIGNED INTO LAW

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

Office Hours
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Office Closures
12/23 & 26/16—Christmas
1/2/17—New Year's Day
1/16/17—Martin Luther King Holiday
2/20/17—President's Day

ARC FAYETTE CHRISTMAS CAROLERS



A **Christmas Carol** is a song or hymn whose lyrics are on the theme of Christmas, and which is traditionally sung on Christmas itself or during the surrounding holiday season. This tradition that started in Europe in the Year 129 and has endured through centuries is now a welcomed and loved tradition here at FCBHA. For the past several years, FCBHA looks forward to a Holiday visit from their favorite Christmas Carolers of Arc Fayette. This year did not disappoint as the carolers and songs were, as always, uplifting and joyful. It is very easy to see how much the group loves singing and entertaining the audience and the FCBHA staff sincerely appreciates all the hard work that is put into the performance. As the holiday season unfolds and we prepare for the new year, we hope you are able to enjoy simple traditions like spending quality time with family and friends. May you sing your Christmas Carols, open gifts under the tree, count your blessings in the happiest of ways, and have a New Year that brings you the happiest of days!

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

Working Together to Transform Fayette County

Approximately once a year, FCBHA organizes a cross-systems training that includes representatives from many of the Fayette County Human Services agencies. This year, the event was held on September 30th at the Hilton Garden Inn. The day was packed with information for individuals who are either new to the systems and/or may have been away for a while. It is a great opportunity to learn about what the individual agencies in Fayette County are responsible for, to network with colleagues, and to ask important questions that may advance the knowledge and understanding of everyone there.

We kindly thank the following individuals and organizations who made that day a huge success:

- * Susan Wilson of FCBHA welcomed the group and made the introductions—www.fcbha.org
- * Tina Pahula presented on Fayette County Early Intervention Services
- * Tammy Knouse presented on Fayette County Community Action Agency www.fccaa.org
- * Laurie Chappell presented on Crime Victims' Center - www.crimevictimscenter.com/
- * Rebecca Plichta presented on Fayette County Children and Youth Services— www.fccys.org
- * Janine King presented on Fayette County Juvenile Probation—www.co.fayette.pa.us/JPO/Pages/default.aspx
- * Melissa Ferris presented on Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission—www.fcdaa.org
- * Joe Wingrove presented on Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities—www.fcbha.org
- * Kim Bowser-Murtha presented on Mental Health Services and HealthChoices—www.fcbha.org



LOCAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (LICC)

The final meeting of 2016 was held on November 1st. Many families turned out to hear about services and supports available through the Early Intervention (EI) program. They met some real-life firemen, climbed on a firetruck, and even got their very own fireman's hat. For more information about LICC meetings or Early Intervention in Fayette County, please call (724) 430-1370 and ask for EI.

Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler Visits



On October 20, 2016, FCBHA was thrilled and honored to have Ms. Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs, visit our office. Ms. Thaler spent the morning meeting with the Supports Coordination Organization discussing the renewed Everyday Lives Initiative and transformation of service delivery for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The conversation included information on the new supports intensity scale, the plan to improve the Individual Service Plan (ISP) to be more of a person-centered document, and changes in rate structures. Ms. Thaler also shared her views on the history of services and her outlook for the future.



The highlight of the morning was the panel of individuals and family members, joined by their support staff, who shared their real-life experiences in the Fayette County support network. Ms. Thaler spent the balance of her morning speaking with the family members and also addressed some questions from the group.

We sincerely thank the Ms. Thaler for her time and also that of the wonderful families who joined us that day:

Top—Sonya Lowry , her direct support professional (DSP), and Chrissy Collier of FCBHA

Second—Candie Nicholson, her Family Living Provider, Holly Ek and Lynn Orawiec

Third—Matthew Kiselich, his DSP, Lynn Orawiec and Carmen Hall

Lower Left—Renee Fike

Below Ms. Thaler is pictured at left center together with some of the families, staff, and staff of FCBHA



FCBHA Celebrates Veterans Day!

On November 10, 2016 the staff gathered beneath the U.S. Flag to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America and the history of Veterans Day. We thanked and honored all who served, many paying the ultimate price for the freedom we enjoy. FCBHA Staff Veterans are from left to right below, Carmen Hall, Aaron Trincia, Ken Dillinger, Dave Rider (in the group), and Chris Homer (not pictured).



2016



Everybody Has a Voice... Everybody Has a Story



On December 13, 2016, a special viewing was held at the State Theatre to acknowledge the creators and actors of the ECCO Award Winning PSAs created by **Fayette County Youth M.O.V.E**

Left: Special thanks to the actors who brought the stories to life!

The films received two **Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach** Awards in the "Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign". This consisted of a Gold in the Overall Communications Campaign Strategy for Children, Youth, and Young Adults and a Bronze in the Audience Category.

Congratulations to the youth authors, actors, advisors, Kellie Gavran and Christine Rosinski-Stone of FCBHA, and project sponsors; Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership and Staunton Farm, Foundation.



Above: Lisa Ferris thanking Principal Mike Rozgony of Laurel Highlands School District who opened the doors to the Middle School welcoming the cast and crew to use the space to create this masterpiece.

Left: A celebration of the time, effort, heart and soul that went into a project that is timeless. To view the videos, go to <http://www.fcbha.org/YMOVE.html>.

30
Years
360 months
10,957 days
262,974 hours
1,577,440 minutes

CONGRATULATIONS!!

In October, the very amazing **Mr. Harry Franks**, FCBHA Chief Financial Officer celebrated his 30th Anniversary with the FCBHA family. They say Loyalty and Honesty are the keys to success....these two words describe Harry most perfectly.

CONGRATULATIONS Harry! You have made the years so incredibly enjoyable.

THANK YOU!

FCBHA Welcomes Bob Lesko, Director of Business Operations

With the announcement earlier this year that **Bob Calisti** plans to retire in February of 2017, the search for a successor began. In October, FCBHA chose **Robert (Bob) Lesko**. Mr. Lesko, a lifelong resident of Strabane, PA has now been learning the ropes for about 6 weeks. With a degree in Economics from Washington and Jefferson College and a background that includes work in Security and Utility Management, Insurance, Manufacturing, Sales, and Demolition, we expect to have a seamless transition of operational responsibilities. Mr. Lesko has two children, Halie and Jesse, his partner Marie, and a dog named Max. He enjoys boating, biking, hunting, and sports...especially Golf! Join us in extending a proper WELCOME to Bob Lesko....**Congratulations and GOOD LUCK to both Bobs!**

THE JOY OF GIVING!

Special Olympics - \$128
March of Dimes - \$127
Miracle League - \$127
St. Vincent DePaul - \$109
Fayette Friends of Animals - \$109
Dr. Shepherd's Wild Animal Orphanage - \$78
Connellsville Flood Victims \$225
Glenn Siple - \$125
Genesis House - \$75
Domestic Violence Services - \$118
Veterans Day - \$136
City Mission - \$110

The staff at FCBHA conducts monthly events to raise funds to benefit local charities, almost \$1500 was raised in 2016.



Advocacy Network Chairman Dustin Murray Wins Award !

Dustin Murray has been an amazing partner in the effort to bring the Advocacy Network to life. But his ambitions reach far beyond what we saw. Recently Dustin won an award in the Adult Category of Art The Universal Language Contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania DHS. His passion is photography and in the winning photo (right), you can see that clearly. Dustin tells us that the change of seasons is what inspires him most and that he entered thinking he had no chance of winning....but WOW !! Just look at this amazing work of Art, both Dustin's and Mother Nature's!



For Dustin, change and seeing the beauty in each change (beginning with Fall, Winter, Spring, then Summer, his favorite seasons in order), may be the key to success.

Congratulations DUSTIN! We look forward to seeing more!

Integrated Care Comes to Fayette County

What is Integrated Care....The SOLUTION for many!

People with mental health and substance abuse disorders are likely to suffer much more than the average person from untreated and/or preventable chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and others. that are aggravated by poor health habits and the complexities of healthcare systems. Fayette County individuals have an amazing opportunity in 2017. A partnership between Gateway Health and FCBHA will put a Licensed Clinical Social Worker on site at FCBHA to aid in the coordination of care between the physical and behavioral health systems. They will engage and educate behavioral health consumers receiving services so they can be more aware and proactive in caring for their health. INTEGRATION is expected to produce the best outcomes for people with multiple healthcare needs. We look forward to seeing outstanding results !

Murphy's Mental Health Bill Signed by President

The *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act* recently passed into law as part of a larger healthcare reform package. This \$130 Billion / year legislation, seen as a game-changer, came about through in-depth investigation and congressional hearings that uncovered fatal disconnects between 112 federal agencies assigned to treat the mentally ill. They discovered a lot of wasted funds on feel-good fads that have done little to treat individuals. Upon signing the legislation, President Obama stated that this "takes steps to insure that mental illness and substance-use disorders are treated fairly by insurance companies". Many of these reforms align with the Obama Administration's work to improve the criminal justice system and also reauthorizes programs for suicide prevention. Other measures include a broadening of grant programs for law enforcement and first responders for training on response to mental health emergencies and extending short-term care allowance for severe mental health episodes. Finally, the legislation includes measures adding billions of dollars in new funding for medical research, other new health care legislation, and coordination among providers and agencies. The impact on HIPAA will be to allow for "compassionate communication" but this is a subject that most expect to require further clarification. The ultimate goal is to move more decision making out of Washington and back into the hands of states and consumers.



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



FCBHA Advisory Board 2017 Meeting Dates

February 15, 2017
April 19, 2017
May 17, 2017
August 20, 2017
October 18, 2017
November 15, 2017

(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

Please check the website for
The most accurate information on
trainings and other events.

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