

FALL 2016

EARLY INTERVENTION
LICC MEETING

DISASTER, CRISIS
& RECOVERY
IN CONNELLSVILLE

YOUTHMOVE
VIDEO SERIES
RECEIVES ECCO AWARDS

INTRODUCING
TCOM

EVERYDAY LIVES
VALUES IN ACTION!

BEING ABLE

10-YEAR EMPLOYEE
SERVICE RECOGNITION

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
CONTINUES

WORKING TOGETHER
TO TRANSFORM FAYETTE COUNTY

DADS MATTER
RETURNS

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

Office Hours
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Office Closures:
10/10/16—Columbus Day
11/11/16—Veterans Day
11/24 & 25/16—Thanksgiving

EARLY INTERVENTION COMES TO LIFE AT THE LOCAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING... THANKS TO ALL THE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED



This season's newsletter starts at the beginning with news on Early Intervention (EI) in Fayette County. For those unfamiliar, EI consists of services and supports for children who may be experiencing developmental delays. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers and others who are involved with the child. Upon determination of a need for Early Intervention, services and supports are provided at no cost to families.

An important component of EI is the Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC), a coalition of professionals who work together with families. The LICC sponsors special events, trainings, and workshops throughout the year for families currently receiving services for their pre-school child. The most recent meeting was held on Friday, September 9, 2016 at FCBHA. Families and providers in attendance had the opportunity to see a presentation by Karen Knight of accessAbilities, Inc. on Early Learning Standards. With a record number of attendees, both the family members and professionals had an opportunity to network and gain important knowledge and understanding of child development. If you would like more information about LICC and/or Early Intervention, please see the [brochure](http://www.fcbha.org/PDF/EI_Services_2016.pdf) at http://www.fcbha.org/PDF/EI_Services_2016.pdf. You can also call (724) 430-1370 and ask for an Early Intervention Supervisor. The next meeting of the LICC will be November 15th from 5:00—7:00 PM.

Disaster, Crisis & Recovery in Connellsville, PA

On August 28th around 8 PM, rain began to fall fast and furious over the mountain above Connellsville and all around the town. Water thundered down with no place to go at the bottom so as to create a torrent of water through streets and homes. The four inches of rain that fell in one hour caused widespread flooding and devastation to homes, roads, businesses, churches, and schools within the community. It all happened so quickly that some were even trapped in buildings or along the road in fear of how horrific their circumstances. But when it finally stopped, there were no deaths and few injuries....a silver lining in a very big, black cloud.

The morning light brought bewilderment, shock, and the realization that so many had lost so much. People walked through their neighborhood in utter amazement of what they saw. But in addition to the change in the landscape, they saw that many were there to help them put the pieces of their lives back together. Help was everywhere! Like so many incidents of adversity, this would bring out the best in local residents and all of Fayette County with many making donations of time, supplies, and money to help the victims of this terrible event

Those affected by the Connellsville Flood of 2016 will likely always remember the many local businesses, churches, friends, family and neighbors who came immediately to help them. Among them was the **Fayette County Disaster-Crisis Outreach Referral Team (DCORT)**. **DCORT** is a team of well-trained individuals that provide emergency mental health services in the aftermath of a disaster or traumatic event in the community. The team works closely with emergency management agencies as needed. They were on hand in Connellsville early after the devastation and helped with the overall effort providing special emphasis on helping anyone who might be distraught and/or feeling overwhelmed by the events taking place.

The direction Connellsville and it's citizens has taken in the face of adversity deserves applause. As they move into the recovery phase, things may have slowed down but there is still much to be done. To those who have experienced loss, the hope is that they are back in their homes living normal lives as soon as possible. At this time, **Monetary and Gift Card donations** would be of most benefit to both the victims and the Red Cross who has established a hotline for them. Please call the Red Cross to register for aid or make donations at (412) 491-4247.

According to Mel Schwartz, LCSW, a crisis is an event or circumstance, which we didn't choose and certainly didn't want. It often involves loss, pain or struggle. We ordinarily avoid this experience at all costs. Yet, the crisis provides a valuable opportunity. It is as if a tornado has swept in and when we open our eyes, everything has changed. The maelstrom placed us well beyond the bounds of the known. We typically find ourselves wanting desperately to get back inside the comfort of the known. But the crisis precludes that option. There is no going back. And that is where the opportunity lies. Whether we choose to freeze in the panic of loss and focus on retreat or whether we settle in, create a new mindscape and inquire as to the potential of the new territory, is ultimately the question. The former presents anxiety and retreat, the latter evokes growth. He suggests that crisis in most forms represent unique opportunity for personal emergence. The gift that the crisis provides is that it moves us decidedly out of our familiar zone. **Crisis is a turning point at which the direction we turn is of our choosing.**



Everybody Has a Voice..

The title, “Everybody Has a Voice...Everybody has a Story”, was the brainchild of FCBHA staff and members of the Fayette County Chapter of YouthMOVE when they met early in 2015 to begin discussing new projects for the group. They wanted to create something that could help other youth feel better about themselves and in the process, perhaps heal some old wounds. They decided the project would be a video series that would tell each of the five YouthMOVE members’ story... their personal stories of sadness and challenge and how those challenges eventually helped them grow and succeed. The video series was sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania System of Care Initiative and Staunton Farm Foundation to develop Youth voice in Pennsylvania and produced with the guidance and aid of FCBHA Staff Members Kellie Gavran and Christine Rosinski-Stone. It took approximately six to nine months of work and countless hours of editing until the Video Series was released but oh my, what a product it turned out to be.

In spring of 2016, the Fayette County YouthMOVE Video Series was submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for consideration of their annual ECCO (Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach) Award. The ECCO Award is a National Award and we are very honored and pleased to announce that the Fayette County won not ONE but TWO ECCO AWARDS this year. The videos can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fcbha.org/YMOVE.html>.



GOLD in the Strategy Category: Overall Communications Campaign

and



BRONZE in the Audience Category: Children, Youth, and Young Adults

Congratulations to Everyone who worked on this Amazing project!



TCOM...Transformational Collaborative Outcome Management

This is a big topic with big benefits that tie into the CANS (Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths) Assessment Implementation Initiative that has been going on in Fayette County for more than five years. TCOM is a conceptual framework for managing the various complex systems involving human services that involve different perspectives, objectives, and responsibilities. The philosophy, the strategy, and tactics in TCOM are designed to facilitate an effective and integrated approach to addressing the real needs of people. We are pleased to announce that not only will FCBHA staff members attend this years TCOM Conference in November, but that one of our very own was selected to present during the conference as well. Ms. Kellie Gavran, MSed., NCC, LPC, will present a workshop entitled “*A Large Scale County Wide CANS Implementation—Five Yeas Later, Lessons Learned*”. Kellie has worked with families, youth, and children for 30 years in a variety of positions. For the past seven years, she has lead Fayette County in the CANS Implementation as a trainer on the CANS tool, and KidNet, the county’s CANS data repository. This focus and drive not only helps all the children and youth involved in the systems and services through the county, it has landed Fayette County in the world of big data! To be continued!

Congratulations Kellie....!

...Everybody Has a Story

EVERYDAY LIVES ...VALUES IN ACTION !

Since the 1940's, a formal and dedicated advocacy effort has been taking place to support intellectually and physically disabled individuals. With the establishment of community services in 1966 and funding for Family Support Services in the 1970s, it was evident and obvious that the rights of this population to live happy and productive lives was of the utmost importance and greatest priority of our society.



Lynn Orawiec and Lisa Ferris with Jackie Epstein of the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs, Department of Human Services at the 2016 Everyday Lives Conference.



Ruth Patterson, Lisa Ferris, and Hollie Shimatzki holding the Fayette County Square of the Quilt.

The 1980's brought Lifesharing programs, peer support, and self-advocacy and the 1990's brought the Americans with Disabilities Act, Early Intervention Services System Act and the first Everyday Lives campaign. The millennium brought PA Act 62, the Autism Insurance Act, and 2016 brought the Employment First Executive Order to increase competitive, integrated employment among people with disabilities and the ABLE Act so people and their families could maintain tax-exempt savings accounts to be used for disability-related expenses. With all these things in place, we can prepare for a future of employment, community relationships, self-direction, and choice for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and their families. In September, several members of the FCBHA staff attended the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Everyday Lives Conference in Hershey Pennsylvania to learn more about what we can do right here in our back yard to help our fellow Pennsylvanians with ID achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives through flexible, innovative, and person-centered services and supports.

Being ABLE...Long time friend and distinguished Advisory Board Member, Dr. Denise Martin recently shared some thoughts on the ABLE Act. The ABLE Act (H.R. 647/S. 313), introduced in the 113th Congress by Congressman Crenshaw and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), is federal legislation that aims to ease financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities by making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing, and transportation. Dr. Martin and her husband, Jeff have found comfort in knowing that their son Jesse, who has cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities, will have financial resources available to him via this new tax-free savings account for those who became severely disabled prior to age 26. This type of account permits a contribution of \$14,000 per year up to a maximum of \$100,000 that would not impact SSI benefits. Funds can be used specifically for qualifying long-term expenses like education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and retirement. Their hope for the future is that somebody they trust and is responsible, will oversee that funding for Jesse if ever they are unable. [Click here](http://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/10-things-know-about-able-act) for more information about the ABLE Act or go to <http://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/10-things-know-about-able-act>.



Dr. Denise Martin, Mr. Jeff Martin and son, Jesse Martin.

NEW REGULATIONS—An announcement from the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs...on June 18, 2016 the Department of Human Services published amendments to 24 chapters of licensing, intellectual disability, mental health, county programs, and state center regulations to replace inappropriate and outdated terminology with modernized language. More appropriate terms such as "Intellectual Disability" and "Integration" will replace the R-word, MR, and Normalization. This rulemaking was requested by and is very important to self-advocacy and advocacy communities, families, providers, and local government to aid in eliminating offensive and archaic rhetoric. To review the regulatory amendments contained in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, [Click Here](http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol46/46-25/1054.html), or go to <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol46/46-25/1054.html>

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Advisory Board Says Thank You!

Every year, employees celebrating their 10th continuous year of service with Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, or one of its provider partners, are honored for their hard work and dedication to the field of human services. We recognize these employees and thank them with the knowledge that this work is neither easy nor ordinary, but work that takes a lot of heart, strength and compassion.

Workers in the field of social services help people overcome some of life's most difficult challenges and help them cope more effectively which can often be stressful for the workers themselves. Therefore we take this opportunity to celebrate their commitment to our mission and dedication to those we serve.

This year Staff Members from the following agencies are being recognized:

Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.

Nicole Benvin, Betty Bonivich, Anita Bobyak, Kathleen Reckart, Lisa Lemansky, and Krista Nicol.

Crosskeys Human Services, Inc.

Bernadette Behary

FCBHA

Holly Demao Ek, Jamie Legarsky, Dale Lemon, Hollie Shimatzki, Amy Wasko

Fayette Resources, Inc.

Maria Cavanagh, Carol Craggette, Ashley Cunningham, Jacqueline Fox, Beverly Guynn, Paul Holland.

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Scott Bombach, Kathleen Leydig, Thomas Yekel

Laurel House, Inc.

Tamara Garlick, Sandra Wesolowski

Mental Health Association in Fayette County

Tina Patterson



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

AWARD

On any given day, we find ourselves surrounded by some of the most amazing and talented people as we walk through life. The ones who touch our hearts the most seem to be the ones that help us in some way or make us smile. The FCBHA Advisory Board gives everyone in our community an opportunity to recognize someone who goes above and beyond the norm to bring love, peace, and joy to everyone they touch. You can nominate that amazing person (or organization) for the 2016 Community Recognition Award. This 21st Annual award will be given to an outstanding community leader who has made a difference in the lives of people in recovery, children and/or adults with mental health needs, individuals with intellectual disabilities, or their community well-being.

General criteria as follows:

- ◆ Nominee should be a Fayette County resident
- ◆ Nominee can be an individual, community organization, organized advocacy group, current or former employee or consumer
- ◆ The nominee should have a direct linkage to the system of care in some form of collaboration
- ◆ The reason for the nomination should be associated with significant positive outcomes in the lives of Fayette County residents and/or community system of care

Nominations forms must be submitted by December 9, 2016 and marked "Community Recognition Nomination". They can be found on our website at <http://www.fcbha.org/Community.html>. The Human Resource Committee of the FCBHA Advisory Board will evaluate the nominations and the final selection will be announced and presented at a future Board Meeting.

If you would like to nominate someone and need assistance in completing the process, please call (724) 430-1425. You can also visit our website to view a historic list of distinguished recipients.

DON'T HESITATE...
NOMINATE!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM **RETURNS THIS FALL**

For more information about participating in this program, please call Jennifer Deichert at (724) 438-0111.

Classes start in October.

WORKING TOGETHER

TO TRANSFORM FAYETTE COUNTY

A free cross-systems training sponsored by the FCBHA and the Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership was held on September 30th, 2016 from 9:00 AM until approximately 4:00 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn. Presenters from FCBHA, Fayette County Children and Youth Services, Drug and Alcohol Commission, Crime Victims Center, Community Action Agency, and the Juvenile Probation Office were on hand to share a plethora of helpful information to attendees from local human service agencies, mental and physical healthcare providers, religious and/or community agencies. Presenters shared a snapshot of what their agency does within the county and introduced their Point of Contact ... the person in their organization that you can call whenever you have a need or question about services or supports. To register for a future training, please call (724) 430-1370 and ask for Michele Sherbondy.



ANNOUNCING...THE RETURN OF THE **DADS MATTER PROJECT!**

The Private Industry Council (PIC) in Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland Counties announced in July that it was bringing back the **DADS MATTER PROJECT**. It is a responsible fatherhood program designed to support Dads in resolving barriers that impact their ability to be actively involved with their children. The hope and goal is to increase Dad and child well-being, economic stability and mobility, and reduce recidivism among Dads in the justice system. PIC hopes to serve 1,000 or more Dads over the next 5 years. The program will provide supportive services such as substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, domestic violence services, and increase retention through the use of stipends, incentives, certificates, and recognition of progress. For more information about this amazing project, please call (724) 836-2600.

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

**FCBHA Advisory Board
2016 Meeting Dates**

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**

**12/7/16
Adolescent Borderline
Personality Disorders**

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)

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.