

**May Mental
Health Awareness
Month**

**April
Autism Awareness
Month**

Art Show

ID Carnival

Penn State Fayette

**Carelon Family
Forum**

LICC



Upcoming Office Closure
Date
Labor Day
September 1, 2025

May Mental Health Awareness Month



The Fayette County Commissioners, Dave Lohr, Vincent Vicites Scott Dunn, recently presented the Proclamation for May, 2025, Mental Health Awareness Month to Angela Baker of FCBHA and Maria Jackson.

May was Mental Health Awareness Month. The theme for 2025 was “Turn Awareness into Action” emphasizing ways to improve mental health through advocacy, education, and community support. FCBHA invited the community to take action to help change the conversation around mental health and to actively support those affected by mental health issues. Mental Health, like physical health, is important at every stage in life.

Autism Awareness Month

April is a month dedicated to Autism Awareness, aiming to foster understanding and acceptance for individuals living on the autism spectrum disorder.



The Fayette County Commissioners , Vincent Vicites, Scott Dunn and Dave Lohr, recently presented the April 2025 Proclamation for Autism Awareness Month. Accepting the Proclamation this year was Isabelle Mohar and Sherri Mitchell, FCBHA IDD Deputy Administrator.

10 Facts About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) *

ASD affects about 1 in 68 children in the United States.

ASD is about 4 times more likely in boys than girls.

ASD affects persons of all racial, ethnic & socioeconomic groups.

ASD is a spectrum disorder, every person has different skills, challenges, and needs.

We do not know all of the causes of ASD.

ASD can often be reliably be diagnosed by age 2.

Early identification of ASD helps children get the services they need.

There is no cure for ASD.

The earlier children are diagnosed and receive services, the better their outcome.

Children with ASD can learn and succeed in the classroom and beyond. With the help of their families, providers, doctors and communities, kids with ASD can thrive.

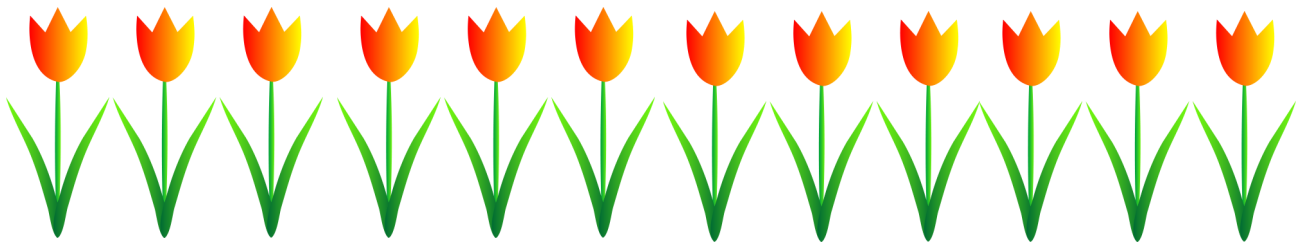
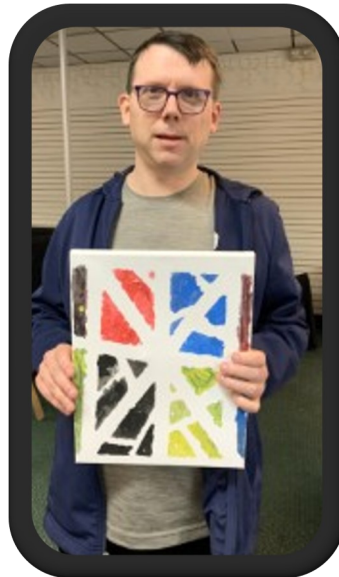
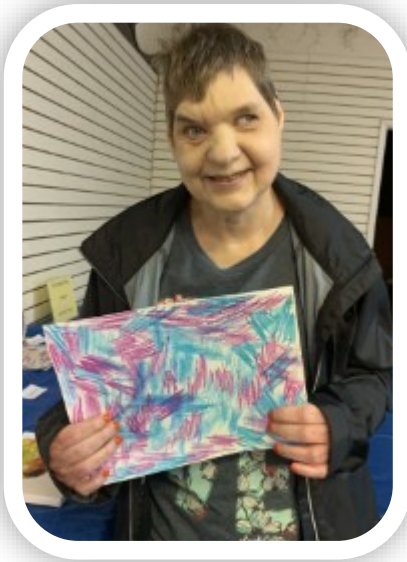


*From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

*Office of Early Childhood Development

ART SHOW

FCBHA recently held an Art Show at the Uniontown Mall. The show ended on March 31st with a luncheon to celebrate all the artists who participated. Pictured below are three of the Artists that participated, from left to right with their artwork are:
Tammy Clark, Michael Shimko and Ariel Frazier.



Spring is far more than just
a changing of seasons; it's
a rebirth of the spirit.

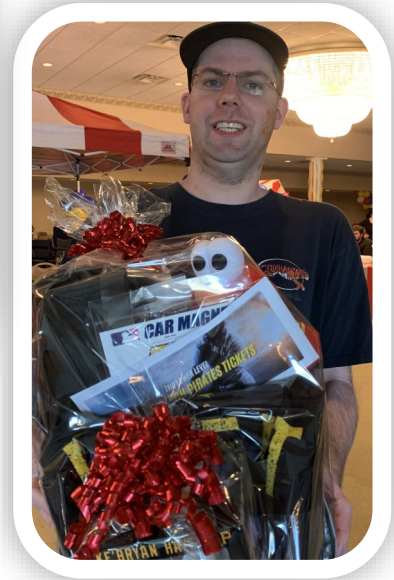
TONI SORENSON



ID CARNIVAL

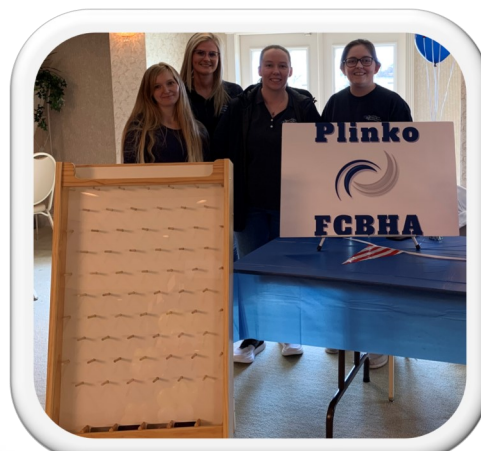


The Intellectual Disabilities Unit at FCBHA recently hosted a Carnival at Lakeside Venues. The event coincides with March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Carnival featured games with prizes, a DJ and Karaoke, a Petting Zoo and food. Over 280 people attended.



~Email from Ben Crable, CEO of Laurel House:

I would just like to let you know that Laurel House, myself, and everyone that I have spoken with absolutely LOVED the carnival. I haven't heard one negative thing about it, and I've spoken with a lot of people. The events on the intellectual disabilities side of things from FCBHA post pandemic have been amazing and have become a regular sense of excitement for everyone who gets to be involved from Laurel House whether it be staff or individuals. Keep up the great work that you and your team are doing.



Penn State Fayette



From left to right,
Kerry Smith, IDD/EI Program Director,
Zalayah Edwards, Penn State Student
Reagan Rudder, Penn State Student,
Sherri Mitchell, IDD Deputy.

FCBHA was happy to host two students from Penn State Fayette in a job shadowing program during their spring semester. Dave Rider, FCBHA Administrator, shared “It was great to have Zalayah and Reagan join our EI team and see some of what we do. In addition to the regular work, they got to see the Art Show. And we were thrilled that they wanted to help with the Carnival. Our community’s future is bright with young professionals like Reagan and Zalayah.”

Carelon Family Forum

Carelon Behavioral Health of PA hosted their annual Family Forum on April 23 in North Huntingdon. This event recognizes outstanding achievement and contributions to the fields of mental health and substance use disorders. Nominations for these awards are received from all eleven counties that Carelon serves in PA. From a field of 63 nominees, a Fayette County resident was chosen to be acknowledged for excellence in the Family/Caregiver category. This award winner, a Great Grandmother who is the primary caregiver for her Great Grandchild, was unable to attend the event in person. Mary Ann Fee, Care Manager from FCBHA, introduced the recipient who participated by phone and thanked Carelon for this recognition.

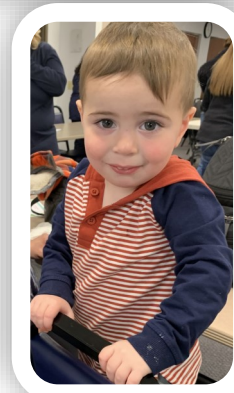


Jennifer Warrick, Mary Ann Fee, Susan Wilson, Michelle DeForrest of FCBHA, staffed an information table at the forum.





The Fayette County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) is comprised of families of children receiving Early Intervention services and various professionals representing the Infant/Toddler and Pre-School (Birth to Kindergarten) community. The LICC recently hosted a Spring meeting at Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration for our Early Intervention families on April 9, 2025. Our topic for this meeting was ‘Tools and Strategies for Coping with Behavioral Challenges’. Charity Ridenour and Amy Erickson from the Intermediate Unit #1 presented on different ways to address negative early interventions children’s behavior in the most positive ways. They also completed a sensory activity with the children. Ann Amatucci, Occupational Therapist from Therapy Connections demonstrated how all behavior can be viewed as communication. The children enjoyed interacting with Ann, and it was a great experience for all. Eight families participated in the meeting, and they enjoyed pizza and other snacks while they shared their Early Intervention experiences. The next LICC meeting was a picnic on June 4, 2025 at Areford Park in Uniontown, PA, with a presentation on Summer Safety. If you would like more information about Early Intervention services, LICC, or would like to make a referral, call 724-430-1370.



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

24/7 Crisis Hotline
(724) 437-1003

National Suicide
Prevention
Lifeline
988



Fayette County
Behavioral Health
Administration

(724) 430-1370

David W. Rider
Administrator/CEO

www.FCBHA.org



Fayette County
Board of Commissioners

Scott Dunn, Chairman
Vincent A. Vicites, Vice-Chairman
Harry Dutch Kaufman, Secretary

FCBHA Fraud and
Abuse Hotline
1-866-275-6467



If you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter by email please subscribe through our website's News and Current Events page.

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.