



Summer 2025

Community Recognition Award

Suicide
Prevention
Proclamation

NIE

Hoops & Scoops

Mental Health Awareness
Month

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Recognition

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Upcoming Office Closure Dates:
Columbus Day—Oct. 13th
Veteran's Day—November 11th
Thanksgiving—November 27th
Day after Thanksgiving—
November 28th

Community Recognition Award



Presenting the Community Recognition Award for 2024 are from L-R:
Commissioner Scott Dunn, 2024 Award Recipient-Nikki Trump,
Advisory Board Member-Dr. Denise Martin, Commissioner Vince Vicites,
Commissioner Harry Dutch Kaufman

Each year, The Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Advisory Board presents the Community Recognition Award to honor an individual or organization whose leadership and service have made a meaningful difference in the lives of county residents. This award recognizes outstanding contributions that support people in recovery, persons with mental health needs, and those with intellectual disabilities or autism.

Advisory Board member Dr. Denise Martin nominated 2024 Community Recognition Award winner Nikki Trump. Ms. Trump is the CEO of Family Ties, a Home and Community supports provider. Her organization provides intellectual and physical disability services to help individuals develop skills to live independently and make connections in the community. Ms. Trump is a former student of Dr. Denise Martin.

September is Suicide Prevention Month



The Fayette County Commissioners recently presented the Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Month for September 2025. Attending the presentation from L-R Commissioner Scott Dunn, Amy Swanson-Crime Victim's Center, Bob Lubik-Specialty Courts, Commissioner Vince Vicites, Commissioner Harry Dutch Kaufman, Regina Donkers-FCBHA Behavioral Health Program Specialist.



Newspapers in Education

Newspapers in Education (NIE) is a joint effort program between newspapers and schools to promote the use of newspapers as an educational resource in the classroom. Using the newspaper helps teachers bring real-world applications to the subjects that they teach. Area businesses, civic organizations, and private donors, provide sponsorship dollars towards NIE programs so that teachers may use the newspaper as a dynamic and informative teaching tool.*

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration has partnered with the Herald Standard since 2013 as a proud sponsor of the Newspapers in Education program.

*NIE website

UNION TOWN HOOPS AND SCOOPS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025



Hoops and Scoops is a national event held each year on the first Tuesday in August. This event is organized by local non-profits and FCBHA is a sponsor. Hoops and Scoops is an event that brings together first responders, residents, and area agencies to share in a fun free throw competition, ice cream and to provide information on resources available in the community.



Mental Health Awareness Month Summer Kick-Off Event

May is nationally recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Each year FCBHA sponsors events and trainings to educate the community and provide access to resources. This year's Mental Health Awareness Month Summer Kick-Off Event was held on May 22nd at Yough River Park in Connellsville. A great turn out of providers were on hand to distribute information for consumers. FCBHA provided refreshments for those in attendance. Balloon animals, fresh popcorn and a DJ rounded out the entertainment.



Special Needs Prom

The Special Needs Prom was recently hosted at the Connellsville Township Firehall, with this year's theme, *Wicked*, setting the stage for a magical evening. Guests enjoyed dinner, refreshments, and a festive cookie table, while volunteers generously offered free hair styling, makeup, nail services, and jewelry for the ladies.

Music from a lively DJ kept the dance floor full, and attendees captured memories with both a professional photographer and a photo booth. The night was filled with fun, celebration, and joy for those who attended.





FCBHA EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

FCBHA recently recognized employees who reach 10 year and 20 year employment anniversaries. Employees with 10 years of service received a plaque and a gift card. Employees with 20 years of service received a clock and a gift card. David W. Rider, Administrator/CEO of FCBHA presented each employee with their award.



Brandi Denny– 20 years



Ken Dillinger-20 years



Debra Pace-20 years



**Samantha McCarney-Michael
10 years**



**Michelle DeForrest
10 years**



**Regina Berish
10 years**

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Harry Franks III, Fiscal Officer at FCBHA recently retired after over 38 years of service. Family, friends and co-workers joined together at a dinner honoring Harry for his commitment and dedication to FCBHA. Everyone at FCBHA is wishing Harry a happy retirement with his wife, Kathleen, his Daughters and his Grandchildren.

*Often when you think you are
at the end of something,
you are at the beginning of
something else.*

Fred Rogers

Back to School Safety Reminders

As the new school year has recently began, it is important for families, students and community members to keep safety top of mind. With more children walking, biking, and riding buses, extra care helps ensure everyone arrives at school and home safely.

Road Safety: Drivers should reduce speed in school zones and remain alert for children crossing the street. Always stop for school buses when lights are flashing, and avoid distractions while driving near schools.

Walking and Biking: Students should use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible. Bicyclists are encouraged to wear helmets and bright clothing to stay visible. Remind children to look both ways before crossing and to follow the directions of crossing guards.

Bus Safety: Children should wait at a safe distance from the curb, board one at a time, and remain seated during the ride. When exiting, they should always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see them.

At School: Families can also support safety by reviewing Emergency procedures, encouraging safe play, and Reminding students to speak up if they see unsafe behavior.

By working together, we can help create a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

Let's make this new school year both successful and safe!



**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

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The ANSWER is a publication of the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration.
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