



SPRING 2022

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WE'RE HIRING!

2022 ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS & MEMBERS

A NEW ADVENTURE

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS OF FAYETTE

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?

ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOTHER OPENS

EEUCC GOLF SCRABBLE



Office Hours
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Mon-Fri

Office Closures
5/30/2022 — Memorial Day
6/20/2022 — Juneteenth
7/4/2022 — Independence Day

Mental Health Awareness Month

On April 21, 2022, the Fayette County Commissions declared May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The Fayette County Commissioners ask citizens to strive to remove the stigma around mental illness and its treatment. They call upon citizens to support those in need by reaching out to them letting them know they are not alone. Please see Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration's Mental Health Awareness month calendar for events and hints to improve overall mental health.

Scan this QR Code to go to
the Mental Health Month
Calendar online at fcbha.org



Pictured: Commissioner Vicites, Commissioner Lohr, Fayette County resident Kevin Billheimer, Christine Rosinski-FCBHA Mental Health Program Specialist and Commissioner Dunn.

We're Hiring!

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration has open positions for Clerk Typist 2 and Caseworker 2. We offer competitive wages, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid leave, retirement plans, paid holidays and so much more.

If interested in applying, follow the steps listed below.

- Log on to www.governmentjobs.com
- Create an account if not previously done.
- Search for the position in Fayette County (Local Government MH/ID) you are interested in.
- Click on the posting you are interested in.
- Hit APPLY in the upper right-hand corner and answer the supplemental questions provided.
- Once completed you will receive a score via email in 10-14 days.
- If you are deemed eligible, you will be added to the candidate list and will receive a phone call to set up an interview.

Any questions, please call 724-430-1370 and ask to speak to someone in Human Resources.

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

FCBHA and HealthChoices 2022 Advisory Boards

FCBHA Advisory Board Meetings

February 16

April 20

May 18

September 21

October 19

November 16



HealthChoices Advisory Board Meetings

March 2

June 1

September 7

November 2

HealthChoices Advisory Board Members

Lance Winterhalter-Chair

Vincent Weaver-Vice Chair

Carol Warman-Secretary

Andrew Boni

Marilyn Calloway

Matthew Crutchman

Melissa Ferris

Dr. Joseph Labuda

Jeffrey Myers

FCBHA Advisory Board Members

Andrew Boni-Chair

Harry Joseph-Vice Chair

Carol Warman-Secretary

Robert Behanna

Karen Blocker

Dr. Paul Hartley

Dr. Joseph Labuda

Dr. Denise Martin

Shannon Muma-Wallace

Jeffrey Myers

Hillary Redman

Commissioner Vicites

The FCBHA Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the County Commissioners and the FCBHA Administrator in developing and planning services to meet the behavioral health needs of the citizens of Fayette County. If you are a community-minded individual, and would like to serve on the FCBHA Advisory Board, go to www.fcbha.org and download an application. Completed applications should be mailed back to our office at 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.



A New Adventure

On 2/22/22 at 2:22 p.m., Joe Wingrove concluded his 15 years of employment with Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration. Joe was hired by FCBHA in February of 2007 as a Supports Coordinator in the Intellectual Disabilities unit. Joe learned and advanced quickly within the unit, as he was soon promoted to Supports Coordination Supervisor in September of 2008. He went on to be promoted once more to a Program Specialist position within the Administrative Entity, in February of 2009. In the Administrative Entity, Joe was responsible for overseeing the qualification process of ODP providers in Fayette County. He also assisted providers during provider monitoring and was a source of support to the county's Life Sharing providers as well.



Joe was an immense support to the staff of FCBHA through his expertise in community resources, policy, process, and system regulations. Joe spent a large portion of his years within the Administrative Entity as the county's intake specialist. Joe assisted hundreds of Fayette County individuals to get connected with ID supports and services they needed to help them live the life of their choosing. His compassion for the people supported by FCBHA was immense and was plain to see for all who have had the pleasure of working with Joe over the years.



Outside of work, Joe has accomplished much and has enjoyed involvement in local organizations. Joe attended graduate school at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Following graduation, he served parishes throughout the area for 28 years. Currently, he is an officer of the Sons of the American Revolution in Greensburg. Joe is a Free Mason and a member of the St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh Scottish Heritage Association. He is also a member of the Bullskin Township Historical Society.

During retirement, Joe plans to garden, cook, read, travel and spend time with his family.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette



Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette (IVCF) are a faith-based organization of churches, congregations and synagogues working together to maintain the older adult in their own homes with dignity and independence. Their target population is those 55 years old and older. IVCF has been providing services for the last 30 years. There are no income guidelines and all services are provided free of charge. IVCF does not receive federal or state funding. To support their mission work and to raise funds to help individuals without sufficient family support, IVCF held an Annual Style Show on January 30, 2022. To learn more about IVCF, please call (724) 438-0709 Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Autism Awareness Month

April is World Autism Month. What is autism? Autism has been defined as a developmental disorder of variable severity. Autism is characterized by difficulty in social interaction and communication and by restricted or repetitive patterns of thought and behavior. There is not one autism but many subtypes, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Below are some autism facts obtained from Autism Speaks website.

- In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to 2018 data.
- Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.
- Most children were still being diagnosed after age 4, though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2.
- 31% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability (intelligence quotient [IQ] <70), 25% are in the borderline range (IQ 71–85), and 44% have IQ scores in the average to above average range (i.e., IQ >85).
- Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups.
- Minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often.
- Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan.
- There is no medical detection for autism.



To learn more about autism symptoms, screenings and interventions, go to <https://www.autismspeaks.org>



You don't have to be a psychologist or therapist to help a loved one who is experiencing mental illness. There are tools to help you recognize when someone may be in crisis so they can get the professional help they need. Listed below are two methods that may make all the difference in the outcome of someone who needs help with their mental health.

Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Some populations are at increased risk for mental illness and substance abuse, such as teens, first responders, veterans and older adults. This course can equip those in close contact with a strategy to intervene and information on where to turn for help. For more information, email Melissa Brownfield at 370mrb@gmail.com or Michael Keller at mkeller@privateindustrycouncil.com or call (724) 836-2395.

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) is an emergency mental health intervention which allows you to recognize warning signs of suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to the proper help. Early recognition and questioning may cause the person to open up and agree to an evaluation, which can lead to treatment and better outcomes. Contact Alice Coleman (724) 415-7084 for more information.

If someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, don't delay. The Crisis Hotline can help.

Call the 24-Hour Crisis Line: 724-437-1003

or

Text PA to 741741

One Door Closes...Another Opens.

March 4, 2022 marked the end of a chapter for this gentleman. This was the last day of employment at Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration (FCBHA) for Mr. Benjamin Crable. Mr. Crable started his employment at FCBHA on May 5, 2008 as a Caseworker. In his 14 years at the agency, he worked his way up to Supports Coordination Manager. We will miss seeing his smiling face daily. Ben is nothing if not dedicated to serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Fayette County. So much so, his new chapter in life begins as Chief Executive Officer of Laurel House, Inc. an agency that provides residential and community integration services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. Crable was asked, "How do you see the company changing in two years and how do you see you creating that change?" He responded, "Laurel House has always been known for taking good care of the individuals, but I would like to expand to be able to reach more." He plans to accomplish this by making sure current staff are educated on the service systems that govern the industry. He will use relationships built within the county to foster a better quality of life for the individuals. When asked what word best describes him. Mr. Crable replied, "stoic". He considers himself as someone who is calm in the storm, removing personal emotions from decision making and always puts the best interest of the individual first, then the agency. His goals are to continue to keep the individual as the number one priority emphasizing health and safety, comfort and community integration. Also to teach current and future staff skills needed to continue with that mission.

Mr. Crable quoted his three biggest accomplishments as his son Lukas; "Having him has taught me about myself, patience, living in the moment and wanting what's best for someone other than myself." Secondly, the growth he acquired at FCBHA. Without the supervisory and leadership skills gained at FCBHA, he would not be able to help in his current capacity. Thirdly is continuing to get closer on his walk with God. "The closer I get to God, the happier I am and those around me," he stated.

Two CEOs he looks up to are Lisa Ferris from FCBHA and Kathy Morris from Fayette Resources, Inc. Mr. Crable said he learned the most from Ms. Ferris. "She has always had an open door in teaching me things about the job I would not have known I needed for a leadership role. Ms. Morris always puts the individual first and is not afraid to advocate for them."

Mr. Crable concluded his interview by saying, "Although difficult to move on from FCBHA, I really appreciate what I learned and the relationships formed. They helped me grow so I could be in a position to help more people than ever before."



East End United Community Center Golf Scramble

East End United Community Center (EEUCC) held their first ever golf scramble in October 2021 at the Duck Hollow Golf Club. It was such a huge success. This year's Golf Scramble will be on Saturday, May 14, 2022. If you would like to be a sponsor or register a team for this event, email Marilyn Calloway at mcalloway@eeucc.org or Steve Strange at sstrange@eeucc.org. Cost is \$75 per player and includes lunch. Event starts at 10:00 a.m. with registration at 9:00 a.m.

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

24/7 Crisis Hotline
(724) 437-1003



**Fayette County
Behavioral Health
Administration**

(724) 430-1370

Lisa A. Ferris
Administrator/CEO

David W. Rider
Mental Health
Deputy Administrator

Sherri Mitchell
Intellectual Disabilities
Deputy Administrator

www.FCBHA.org



**Fayette County
Board of Commissioners**

Dave Lohr, Chairman
Vincent A. Vicites, First Vice Chairman
Scott Dunn, Second Vice Chairman

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.