

## AUTUMN 2022

SENIOR EXPO

SUICIDE AWARENESS

KEEPING MEDICAL  
ASSISTANCE BENEFITS ACTIVE

SIGN UP FOR DHS TEXT  
ALERTS

CHANGES TO HEALTHCHOICES  
PHYSICAL HEALTH PLANS

L.I.C.C.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

SELF-ADVOCACY



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

Office Closures  
11/11/22 — Veteran's Day  
11/24/22 — Thanksgiving  
11/25/22 — Day after Thanksgiving  
12/23/22 — Christmas Eve  
12/26/22 — Christmas Day

## Senior Expo

Rep. Ryan Warner (R-Fayette/Westmoreland) and Sen. Pat Stefano (R-Fayette/Westmoreland/Somerset) hosted a senior expo for local senior citizens and their families on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This free event was held from 10 a.m. to noon at Penn State Fayette, the Eberly Campus. Rep. Warner and Sen. Stefano have hosted this expo for the past several years. This year's expo was well attended with well over 300 seniors present. The expo provided one-stop shopping for information, services and programs available to senior citizens. Exhibitors from government agencies and nonprofit organizations were on hand to distribute information and answer questions. Throughout the day, refreshments, free health screening and door prizes were available. Fayette County Behavior Health Administration was one of the exhibitors that provided promo items and assisted seniors with questions they had regarding behavioral health services.



# Suicide Awareness

September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month! The Fayette County Commissioners acknowledged September 3-10, 2022 as Suicide Prevention week by reading a proclamation that encourages all citizens to learn how they can help. The Fayette County Courthouse clocktower was illuminated purple to show support and raise awareness.

During September and beyond, FCBHA conducted a t-shirt sale with positive messages for suicide prevention and awareness. "Prevent Suicide Tie Out" day was on September 9, 2022. The Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force requested our community and agencies to wear tie dye clothing and share photos of them to the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force Facebook page.

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) trainings were offered via Zoom for free on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. QPR gives tools for early detection of a potential suicide risk so that help can be sought.

On September 22, 2022 the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force held a candlelight vigil at the Fayette County Courthouse to remember those who were lost to suicide and to increase community awareness of this preventable occurrence.

To purchase a t-shirt please visit <https://stores.inksoft.com/fayettebehavioralhealth>. If you would like information about the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force and their monthly meetings, call (724) 430-1370 and ask for Gina Donkers.



*Pictured above, FCBHA staff on Tie-Out Day 2022*





*Pictured above Commissioner Vicites, members of the Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force and community members at the September 22, 2022 Candlelight vigil.*



### **Keeping your Medical Assistance Benefits Active**

The automatic reapplication process is coming to an end. If you are not sure if you have received a renewal, or want to check your case, you may contact your County Assistance office at the number below. You may also call the Statewide Customer Service Center (CSC) toll free at 1-877-395-8930. Call this number if you have questions about physical and behavioral health benefit renewals, eligibility, ACCESS/EBT cards or billing. You can also make changes online for Medical Assistance, Cash Assistance, SNAP, LIHEAP (energy assistance), or other Department of Human Services programs by logging into your COMPASS account at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome/>

You can also use the myCOMPASS PA mobile app. Individuals who prefer to send their paper documents can still mail them in to the address in their renewal paperwork. If you need to contact your local county assistance office in Fayette County call 1-877-832-7545.

### **Medicaid Recipients to Sign-Up For DHS Text Alerts**

Medicaid recipients can now receive text messages from the Department of Human Services with updates and alerts about their benefits.

This is the easiest way to receive in-the-moment news and specific reminders about renewing benefits. With the eventual unwinding of the public health emergency, this opportunity will help recipients maintain their benefits for your services. To opt-in for text messages from DHS, please direct recipients to <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Text-Messaging.aspx>

### **Changes to HealthChoices Physical Health Plans**

Changes to HealthChoices physical health plans took effect on September 1, 2022. Physical plans cover medications, including those for mental illness. It's important for consumers to actively choose a plan to avoid being auto-assigned a plan that may not include their current providers in its network. Aetna and United HealthCare will no longer serve Fayette County.

Effective September 1, 2022 the physical health managed care organization plans are: AmeriHealth Caritas PA, Geisinger, Health Partners, Highmark Wholecare (formerly Gateway), and UPMC.

# Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.)

## Get Involved with the L.I.C.C.

Do you have concerns regarding a young child's development or are unsure of what to expect? Early Intervention services are available to address these concerns.

Early Intervention (EI) in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental delays or disabilities. EI services can include information about how children develop, parent or caregiver education, family supports, developmental and instructional therapies that assist in child development. EI builds upon the natural learning that occurs in the first few years. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers and others who are involved with the child.

- **Physical Development:** the ability to move, see, and hear
- **Language / Speech Development:** the ability to talk, understand, and express needs
- **Social and Emotional Development:** the ability to relate to others
- **Self-help / Adaptive Development:** the ability to eat, dress, and take care of oneself
- **Cognitive Development:** the ability to think and learn

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. Previous meeting topics and events have included: Self-Care, Knowing What to Expect at Transition, Healthy Toddler Snacks, Playground Safety, Tips for Parenting a Young Child, and Resource Fairs.

Please join us at upcoming L.I.C.C. events scheduled for December 7, 2022, March 29, 2023, and June 21, 2023. For more information call (724) 430-1370 and ask for Kerry Smith.

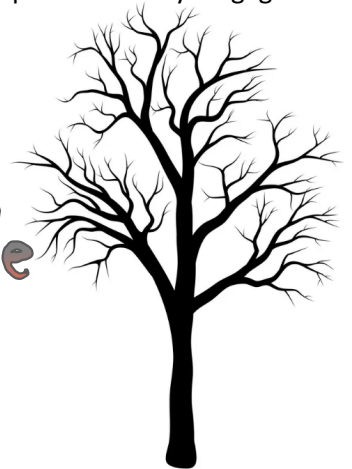
## Trunk or Treat

Fayette County's Human Service Council will hold their 6th Annual Trunk or Treat celebration on October 26, 2022 just before the Halloween Parade. Free treats will be provided to children ages 2-12 (while supplies last). Trunk or Treat will take place at the Uniontown Fire Department at 84 N. Beeson Avenue. This yearly event is well received by the public and participating agencies look forward to it as well. The friendly decorating contest and opportunity to provide guests with resource information keeps community engagement high.

Come join the fun and vote for your favorite.



## Halloween Parade



# Community Impact Award



*Nicole accepting her award at the 2022  
EEUCC Gala held on September 17, 2022.*

East End United Community Center's (EEUCC) Community Impact Award is given each year to an individual or agency that positively impacts EEUCC and the community as a whole. This year's winner, Nicole Barak, was instrumental in bringing Community Based Care Management to EEUCC. This program helps residents who face insecurities such as food, employment and housing to find services.

Nicole began her career at Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc. as a therapist. She joined Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration as a Supports Coordinator for persons with Intellectual Disabilities. She was promoted to Supervisor and served in that role for eight years. Since then she has pivoted her focus to mental health administration for FCBHA and is now the Director of Mental Health Programs. She also currently serves as Chair for the Fayette County Human Service Council.

Congratulations Nicole on receiving the 2022 EEUCC Impact Award!

## Self Advocacy

The Fayette County Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Group is preparing for their upcoming Halloween Bowling Party at Yough Lanes in Connellsville, PA. The event, to be held on October 18, 2022, has received a great response from local self-advocates. All available spots have been reserved. The event, funded by the local Advocacy Network through the Mental Health Association of Fayette County, will provide an opportunity for 40 self-advocates to bowl and will provide pizza and treats to celebrate the Halloween season.

The group has been meeting every other month since early 2018, with time off during the COVID pandemic, when virtual events were then held via Zoom. The group has met to assist local self-advocates in learning important skills such as health living/eating, budgeting, knowing and understanding your rights, setting boundaries, and preventing victimization. The group has also tried to provide fun opportunities for socialization including hosting bingo parties, arts and craft events, such as Paint & Snack, and even a Christmas party with Santa and dancing.

If you are interested in attending future events/meetings or have an idea for a future event topic, please contact Amy Wasko at 724-430-1370 to be added to the group's mailing list.



**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

David W. Rider  
Mental Health  
Deputy Administrator

Sherri Mitchell  
Intellectual Disabilities  
Deputy Administrator

[www.FCBHA.org](http://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](http://www.fcbha.org) or  
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.