

WINTER 2022

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION  
AWARD

L.I.C.C.

VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION

POINT IN TIME

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

WINTER CRYPTOGRAM

FOOD DRIVE

FCBHA GIVES



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

Office Closures  
1/2/23 — New Year's Day  
1/16/23 — Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Day  
2/20/23 — President's Day



## Community Recognition Award



*Pictured from left to right: Sherri Mitchell-FCBHA Intellectual Disabilities Deputy Administrator, Commissioner Vincent Vicites, Jane Ann Bielecki, Commissioner Scott Dunn, David W. Rider-FCBHA Administrator/CEO.*

The Community Recognition Award (CRA) is an acknowledgement from the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Advisory Board. The CRA is presented annually to an individual, community organization, advocacy group, current or former employee or volunteer who has made a difference in the lives of people in recovery, children and adults with mental health needs, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and/or those on the Autism Spectrum. CRA recipients have aided in significant positive outcomes in the lives of Fayette County residents or community systems of care.

The 2021 CRA winner is Ms. Jane Ann Bielecki, former FCBHA Administrative Services Supervisor. Ms. Bielecki was nominated by Ms. Lisa A. Ferris, former FCBHA Administrator/CEO. Ms. Bielecki recently retired from FCBHA after 25 years of employment. In her nomination, Ms. Ferris stated that Jane Ann, a Miracle League of PA Laurel Highlands (MLPLH) board member, has made it possible for youth with disabilities to participate in an organized baseball league. She was instrumental in finding a home field for MLPLH. For many years during her FCBHA employment, Jane Ann improved mental health consumers' holidays by donating and delivering gifts to State Hospitals and local personal care homes. She has on numerous occasions assisted adults with mental illness to locate homes and other community resources so they can live independently and has done much more in her personal mission to improve the lives of all in need. Congratulations Jane Ann on this much deserved award!

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

# Local Interagency Coordinating Council

Fayette County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) held their annual Christmas event at the Uniontown Columbian Association on December 7, 2022. This is one of their favorite events. They had a great turnout. Partners from Early Head Start/Head Start, Choices for Children, Pathways of Southwestern Pa, Intermediate Unit #1 and STARS joined in and provided crafts centered around the theme “The Littlest Reindeer”. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Hartsek’s catering. The stars of the event, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus made their appearance. They stopped at every table and the children were so excited. Children had the opportunity to sit on Santa’s lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. It was a fantastic day with lots of fun and laughter. The next LICC meeting will be held on March 29, 2023 at FCBHA.





# Veteran's Day Recognition

On November 9, 2022 FCBHA honored our Veteran staff members. FCBHA staff and guests, Brian Bensen of the Fayette County Veteran's Affairs office and Commissioner Vincent Vicites, gathered to recognize the contributions of Kenneth Dillinger, Heath Halfhill, Carmen Hall, David W. Rider and Aaron Trincia in the United States military. Each of them were presented a small gift. Afterwards staff were given an opportunity to learn of the resources and great work done by Mr. Bensen and those in his office. He answered many questions and encouraged anyone who knows a veteran that is in need to reach out to him. Mr. Bensen stated this is his life's work and most likely the last job he will have. We definitely felt his passion for helping the veteran population.



*Pictured left to right: Commissioner Vincent Vicites, Ken Dillinger, Aaron Trincia, Carmen Hall, Heath Halfhill and Brian Bensen. David W. Rider was not present during this event.*

## Point-in-time Count



Point-in-time (PIT) count is a federal requirement regulated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to count sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness who are street homeless or sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. Point-in-time count is done every year throughout the country on a single night.

On January 26, 2023, Fayette County Community Action agency staff, a Fayette County Behavioral Health employee, and other volunteers from the community will search throughout Fayette County and ask individuals that are street homeless where they spent the previous night. Volunteers go out in teams, trying to cover as much of the county as possible. If volunteers come across an individual and/or family that has spent the previous night on the street or in a building not meant for habilitation, resources are shared to assist in housing, demographic data is collected for HUD, and a donation of items such as snack bars, hygiene items, and clothing is provided. In each of the past three years, PIT has found between 45-50 people experiencing homelessness in Fayette County. On average each year, 15 of them have had mental illness, 16 have had a physical disability, and 17 of them were children under the age of 18.

If you or someone you know needs housing assistances please contact Fayette County Community Action at 724-437-6050 or City Mission at 724-439-0201.

# Our New Administrator

On November 17, 2022, long-standing employee, David W. Rider was announced as the new Administrator/CEO of Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration (FCBHA). Dave is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the St. Vincent Seminary. He has been with the FCBHA agency for over 22 years. He started his FCBHA employment on June 7, 2000 as a Mental Health Program Specialist 1. He was promoted to Mental Health Program Specialist 2 on January 2, 2006. His next promotion was to Mental Health Program Director overseeing county funded mental health programs and services for Fayette County. He started in that role on March 3, 2008. On November 1, 2021 Dave was promoted to Mental Health Deputy Administrator and remained as such until November of 2022 when he was appointed to Administrator by the Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Dave has proven himself a competent and compassionate leader. He is extremely involved in the improvement of the lives of Fayette County residents and has formed many valuable partnerships with service providers, community resource agencies, government and law enforcement officials.

In his limited free time, Dave enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons as well as his extended family. He is a member of the Fayette County Human Service Council and active in his church. In the past he refereed and umpired for baseball and basketball youth teams across the county and has served on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Positively shaping the next generation is important to Dave as aiding in the success of our most vulnerable is paramount and the worthiest of causes.

In true FCBHA fashion, Dave is aligned with the mission to enrich lives by providing choice and access to resources that encourage hope, independence and recovery.

Congratulations Dave. You are wished the very best in your new role.



## Winter Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
5	13	20	4	6	17	10	25	18	23	8	1	24	19	12	7	11	15	26	9	16	22	3	14	21	2

**Directions:** Decode the winter quote. At the top is a key that lists all letters A through Z. Each of the letters has a number below it. To solve, fill in the blank lines with the letter that matches the number below the line.

8 18 19 4 19 6 26 26 18 26

1 18 8 6 26 19 12 3 ,

18 9 13 6 5 16 9 18 17 18 6 26

6 22 6 15 21 9 25 18 19 10

18 9 9 12 16 20 25 6 26 .



# Food Drive



FCBHA staff member Michelle Purnell heard of Froggy Radio 94.9 Franksgiving 2022 on her way to work. It was a few days prior to the event so she immediately sprang into action, getting approval to reach out to staff for food contributions that would benefit Fayette County residents. She took on this task with vigor and due to her efforts, FCBHA was able to contribute two large boxes of food which was delivered on November 19, 2022 to the Uniontown Mall site that Frogman Frank designated for collection. It is because of the generosity and compassion of staff such as Michelle, FCBHA continues to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Well done Michelle!



## FCBHA Gives

**True charity is the desire to be useful to others with no thought of recompense.**

**-Emanuel Swedenborg**

Throughout the year, FCBHA goes above and beyond to support our community and raise awareness on human services issues that Fayette County residents face. We do that by supporting agencies and causes that align with our values and mission to enrich lives by providing choice and access to resources that encourage hope, independence and recovery. It is our vision that every individual we support have the opportunity for growth, recovery and meaningful participation in their community, have access to culturally competent services and supports of their choice, and enjoy a quality of life that includes family members and friends.

Through sponsorships, event tickets, dress down day donations and food drive collections, here is a list of agencies and/or events that have benefited from the FCBHA agency and its staff members in 2022:

City Mission

St. Vincent DePaul

Fayette Friends of Animals

Domestic Violence of SWPA

Honeys Helping Hands

Miracle League of PA Laurel Highlands

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

East End United Community Center

Fayette County Community Action Agency

Uniontown Area YMCA

PA State Police Troop B Camp Cadet & Fayette County Crime Stoppers

Newspapers In Education

United Veterans Billeting of Fayette County

Fayette County Food Bank through Froggy Radio 94.9 Franksgiving

Fayette County Salvation Army Food Pantry



**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  
Administrator/CEO

[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**

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***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.