

WINTER 2023

**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AWARENESS
MONTH CARNIVAL**

**SUPPORTING
ONE ANOTHER**

**FOOD AND CLOTHING
ASSISTANCE**

**COMMUNITY BASED
CARE MANAGEMENT**

L.I.C.C. HOLIDAY PARTY

SEASON OF GIVING

**HEALTH AND HYGIENE
DRIVE**

**WINTER ADVISORIES
AND RESOURCES**

**CRISIS INTERVENTION
CONFERENCE**



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

Upcoming Office Closure Dates

2/19/24—President's Day
3/29/24—Good Friday

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Carnival



March is celebrated each year as Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month. Fayette County historically observed DD Awareness Month by holding its annual Board Meets Board event. The event invited local provider agency board members, staff, local representatives, individuals, and families to celebrate their success stories from the previous year. As with many events and traditions, COVID derailed plans to celebrate the past four years. As we move beyond COVID and the restrictions put in place during the pandemic, FCBHA took a look at previous events and decided to break from tradition.

A carnival will be held in observance of DD Awareness Month on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the old Faith Assembly of God gymnasium located on Morgantown Road in Uniontown, PA. Local intellectual disability provider agencies, county staff, and representatives from local advocacy and recreation organizations/groups will come together to play games, award prizes, enjoy good music, good food, and good company. Individuals and their families who benefit from ID/DD services and supports will be invited to attend, along with those traditionally invited to the Board Meets Board event. Planning is in progress and more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Local provider agencies were also asked to share information on any activities planned during the month of March. All activities will be shared via a calendar that will be distributed to all interested parties for optimal participation.


Supporting One Another

If you or someone you know has been affected by addiction or suicide, **You don't have to go through it alone.**

These two monthly support groups can be a beacon of hope. It can be comforting to be with others that have gone through similar trauma who can share their story while offering a listening ear.

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal."

~ Steve Maraboli



Healing Connections
(A Suicide Support Group)


Thursday, January 25, 2024
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
IHOP, Uniontown

Next Meeting Dates:
(location to be determined)

Thursday, February 15, 2024
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 2024
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

RSVP to:
Regina Donkers
724-425-2441

 **MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**
In Fayette County
Home of the Advocacy Network



FAYETTE COUNTY WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

**WE ARE
STRONGER
TOGETHER**

3rd Thursday of every month

Uniontown YMCA
1 YMCA Ln, Uniontown, PA
15401
6pm - 7:30pm

- Open use of YMCA facility for group attendees after group
- Free YMCA supervised childcare
- Transportation Available



A safe, judgement free social support group for women who have been affected by addiction

light meal provided

Please call or text 724-880-6909 before group if you need childcare or transportation

GET SOCIAL WITH US



CALL / TEXT FOR MORE INFORMATION: 724-880-6909

2024
GROUP DATES

1/18/24	7/18/24
2/15/24	8/15/24
3/21/24	9/19/24
4/18/24	10/17/24
5/16/24	11/21/24
6/20/24	12/19/24





Food and Clothing

As prices for just about everything continue to rise over the last few years, finding area assistance programs and resources can make all the difference in providing necessary staples for individuals and families. There are several organizations located in Fayette County that offer food and/or clothing assistance.

The Fresh Fire Church, located at 171 Connellsville Street in Uniontown holds a food distribution event the second Thursday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday. Distribution begins at noon and runs until all food is distributed. This is a drive-through distribution with no income guidelines or pre-registration required.

This organization also offers a monthly clothing give away through their Norma's Closet program. Norma's Closet, located at 300 Evans Street in Uniontown, provides sizes from infant to adult and includes apparel for women and men. Occasionally, housewares and toys are given out as well. There is an on-site collection box available 24/7 for those who would like to donate items.

The Fresh Fire Church welcomes volunteers to help with their community efforts. Please call (724) 580-7027 for more information on volunteer opportunities or to get dates for their clothing distribution.

East End United Community Center (EEUCC) located at 150 Coolspring Street in Uniontown has several assistance programs.

- * The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal assistance program supported by the United States Department of Agriculture to provide daily, subsidized food service for an estimated 3.3 million children and 120,000 elderly or mentally or physically impaired adults in non-residential, daycare settings.
- * Food Pantry-EEUCC distributes food boxes the first Wednesday of each month to individuals and families facing food insecurity. The pantry provides options for those with varying dietary needs and preferences, including seniors.
- * EEUCC houses a community garden and has a Farm to School program. This program, funded by the Department of Agriculture, teaches students how to grow, prepare, cook and share local food products. It empowers children to become more aware, engaged and informed about their local food system.
- * EEUCC also has a Clothing Closet stocked with a wide array of essential items for every season, offered free of charge to those in need. It provides support for students when going back to school after summer break and to new moms via baby clothes and other essentials.

To get more information on these programs, please call (724) 437-1660 or visit <https://www.eeucc.org/programs>.

Honeys Helping Hand Corp. is a non-profit organization that conducts several food give aways each month at Biererwood Acres, 1 Pershing Terrace in Uniontown. For additional information, visit or message Honeys Helping Hand Corp. on Facebook.

Fayette County Community Action Agency (FCCAA) Food Bank is designated as the warehouse for collection and storage of food for individuals in need of food assistance. The food is distributed through a network of volunteer food pantries, congregate feeding sites and soup kitchens. The Food Bank program includes emergency food assistance, the PA Senior Food Box Program and the Weekend Snack Pack Program for children. Call (724) 580-7001 or email dbork@FCCAA.org for more information.



St. Vincent de Paul offers a comprehensive range of services to support the community.

At their Thrift store, open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, patrons can find quality items at affordable prices. Additionally, their emergency food pantry, operating Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm, ensures immediate assistance to those in need. As a distribution site for the Community Action Food Bank, registered families can collect monthly boxes on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment. The Assistance Center is a pivotal resource providing diverse support, including financial aid for utilities, clothing, and household items post-emergency or disaster. For additional information call (724) 439-9188.

Community Based Care Management

to Address Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. Addressing SDH appropriately is fundamental for improving health and reducing longstanding inequities in health. When your social determinants of health needs are met you are then free to focus on your overall mental health wellness and recovery.

Fayette County's Community Based Care Management (CBCM) Program started in 2021. The CBCM Program serves Fayette County residents with a mental health and/or substance use diagnosis by providing access to resources that address social determinants of health. The goal of this program is to decrease inpatient hospitalization stays and emergency room visits and increase community-based treatment/services. We accomplish this goal through partnerships with community-based organizations, such as Fayette County Community Action Agency and the East End United Community Center. Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT) and St. Vincent De Paul are also instrumental to the CBCM program. The program continues to grow and serve the community.

The program will assist Fayette County residents with the following social determinants of health:

- > Safe and secure housing
- > Employment
- > Utility assistance
- > Clothing
- > Financial strain
- > Child care
- > Food
- > Transportation
- > Physical healthcare

The overall goal of the CBCM program is to ensure wellness in every area of someone's life. Members enrolled in the CBCM program will work with a team to develop a plan to address their needs.

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration is taking referrals for the CBCM Program and also will be at St. Vincent De Paul on Fridays from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Please contact Christine Rosinski-Stone from our office at 724-430-1370 or email christinestone@fcbha.org for information on CBCM or to make a referral.



L.I.C.C. Holiday Party

Birth to 3 Early Intervention hosted their Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) Christmas event on December 14, 2023 at the Uniontown Columbian Association. There were 13 families, that included 17 children, who attended this event. Early Intervention providers and partners provided activities that ranged from making ornaments to experiencing sensory bins. Food was catered by Hartsek's catering.

Santa and Mrs. Claus made their appearance and gave each child a bag of goodies and a book. Everyone was so excited! Thanks to our Early Intervention Team who created such a wonderful event for families!



Season of Giving



FCBHA staff contributed monetary donations to the following agencies in 2023:

East End United Community Center
Mental Health Association
Rolling Thunder
Miracle League of PA's Laurel Highlands
Interfaith Caregivers of Fayette County
Fayette Friends of Animals
Crime Victim's Center of Fayette county
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Laurel Region
United Veteran's Billeting
Salvation Army

"Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Health and Hygiene Drive



The 2024 Community Health & Hygiene Drive is about to begin!

Please join us to honor the late Miss Adrienne Russell. As a staff member of Adelphoi Village, she was an incredible Fayette County Family Advocate who along with her coworkers organized numerous outreach events in the community for our local children. They noticed the youth were choosing items such as deodorant, socks, shampoo/conditioner, band aids, toothpaste, combs, brushes, feminine hygiene products, Q tips, as bingo prizes instead of the fun items such as toys, games, art supplies, play-doh, ear buds, etc. Many children took items home for their siblings and parents as they knew it was a need for the family. This prompted the Family Advocates to organize the Health & Hygiene Drive by asking local businesses to display donation boxes, advertise the drive on behalf of the kids, or provide a monetary donation for purchase of items not received but desperately needed. Adrienne's many successful community projects and the individuals she touched along the way are a testament to her caring, loving, and generous soul. We are honored to carry on her legacy in her memory.

Please look for your donation letter and flyer in the mail in late February. Please help our neighbors in need by collecting Health & Hygiene items and/or providing monetary donations in March and April. If you would like to ensure your agency or business is included, please send an email requesting a donation letter to dshallenberger@mhafayette.org. All items collected will be available to children and adults in need via outreach events in the community as well as local schools.

Mental Health Association In Fayette County, Advocacy Network is a nonprofit 501C(3) and will provide a receipt for any donations.

Winter Advisories and Resources

Winter weather can present many challenges. Dropping temperatures, dangerous road conditions, storms and outages can cause safety concerns in our daily lives. Advanced preparation can make a big difference in how well we deal with changing climates. Tips on dealing with winter weather can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.

Get information on winter storms, emergency preparedness, winter and generator safety and signs/treatment for frostbite and hypothermia.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) article on how to secure your mailbox and maintain your driveway during winter can be found at <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/regionaloffices/district-12/pages/details.aspx?newsid=2485>. In this article you will find, information for residents to aid in securing their mailbox from damage due to heavy snow or snow removal efforts and the do's and don'ts related to clearing snow from your driveway.

Motorists can check road conditions 24/7 at <https://www.511pa.com/> which is free and available as an app on your smartphone. Go to the app store on your smart phone and type 511PA in the search. The icon for the app should look like this.



SAVE THE DATE

**Building Bridges Between Crisis Services
and the Communities They Serve**

April 10-11, 2024

Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Registration opens in February

Crisis Intervention Association
of Pennsylvania

The poster features a light blue background with stylized white clouds at the top. In the center, a woman in a blue dress and a man in a blue shirt are holding a large red square. Below them, the event title is written in bold blue text. The dates and location are listed in a smaller blue font. At the bottom left is the logo for the Crisis Intervention Association of Pennsylvania, which includes a sun-like icon and the organization's name.

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



**Fayette County
Board of Commissioners**

Scott Dunn, Chairman
Vincent A. Vicites, Vice-Chairman
Dave Lohr, 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.
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.