

WINTER 2025

ART SHOW

MARCH-DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

LICC HOLIDAY PARTY

CASSP

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

SELF-ADVOCACY BOWLING PARTY

DRESS DOWN DAYS



Upcoming Office Closure Dates

04/18/2025—Good Friday
05/26/2025—Memorial Day

Art Show



In celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration is hosting its first ever Art Show. The display includes hand made art of all varieties from local individuals representing and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. The show is on display until March 31, 2025 at the Uniontown Mall, next to JCPenney, during regular mall hours.



Art therapy is a blended field of therapeutic practice that combines art and psychology, utilizing the creative process, artistic techniques, and external artwork to support individuals to develop self-awareness, explore emotions, and address unresolved conflict or trauma.



March-Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Developmental disabilities encompass many different types of disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, and many more. Injuries sustained prior to the age of 22 are also considered developmental disabilities, such as traumatic brain injury.

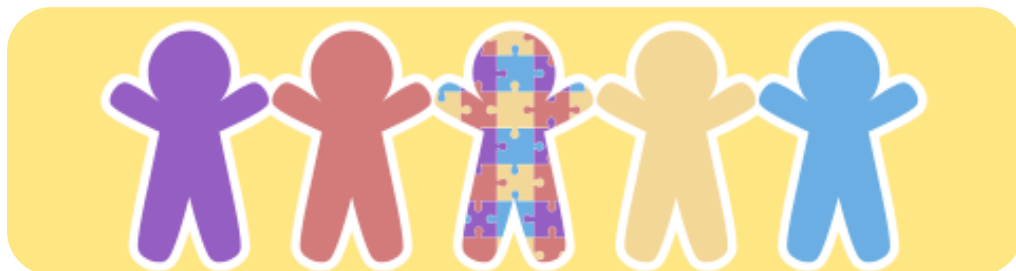
There are many examples of individuals with developmental disabilities who have made vital contributions to society, including:

- Frida Kahlo who had polio – and, according to some sources, spina bifida – was one of the most influential artists of the 20th Century.
- Stephen Hawking, one of the most prolific professors of modern academia, was diagnosed with ALS at age 21, causing him to be paralyzed. He used a voice synthesizer to communicate and a wheelchair that he operated through slight movements of his head and eyes. *The Theory of Everything* was a film made about his life.
- Lesser known is Bernard Carabello, who was misdiagnosed as a child with an intellectual disability but actually had cerebral palsy and spent 18 years of his childhood in the now infamous Willowbrook School. Carabello participated in a groundbreaking documentary which eventually led to the shuttering of the troubled institution. Going on to become a tireless advocate for individuals with disabilities, he founded the Self Advocacy Association of New York State. You can find more about Carabello's journey in the recently released film *The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook* [here](#).

Diverse people with various types of lived experiences weave together to form the fabric of strong communities. While individuals with disabilities, including those with developmental disabilities, bring amazing contributions to their workplaces, families, and communities, there is much work to be done to combat ableist stereotypes and persistent health disparities.

Ableism is the belief that people with disabilities are not capable of the same things that people without disabilities are capable of. Ableism has led to inequities in social determinants of health (such as education and transportation) which has resulted in health disparities and lack of access to appropriate care. While the term “equality” means giving two people the same thing, “equity” is giving each person what they need to be successful. People with disabilities need equity of resources to be successful and thrive, especially as they age.

By Colleen Scott, New York State Office For the Aging Advocacy Specialist



LICC HOLIDAY PARTY

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. The LICC recently hosted a Holiday Party at The Columbian Association in Uniontown, PA for our Early Intervention children and their families on December 11, 2024. Our topics for this meeting were 'Holiday/Wintertime Fire Safety' and a visit from Santa Claus! Tom Maher, former PA State Police Fire Marshal and Erik Friend presented on how to maintain a safe and fire free environment during the holidays and winter months. There were 15 early intervention/community resource providers in attendance that offered educational information and holiday/wintertime craft opportunities for the children. There were 13 families in attendance that enjoyed a holiday meal while they shared their Early Intervention experiences. The children had an opportunity to have a picture taken with Santa and receive a special gift. The next LICC meeting will be held at FCBHA on April 9, 2025 at 5:00pm.

If you would like more information about Early Intervention services or would like to make a referral, call 724-430-1370.



CASSP

Fayette County is offering CASSP services to child, adolescents, and families in the area. CASSP stands for Child & Adolescent Service System Program. CASSP is a system built for children and adolescents ages ranging from birth to 21 years old who have severe emotional difficulties. CASSP ensures there is collaboration between the child and adolescent, their families, and all agencies involved in their lives to provide a system of care approach. CASSP has six key principles the program is based around which included child-centered, family-focused, community-based, multi-system, culturally competent, and least restrictive/intrusive.

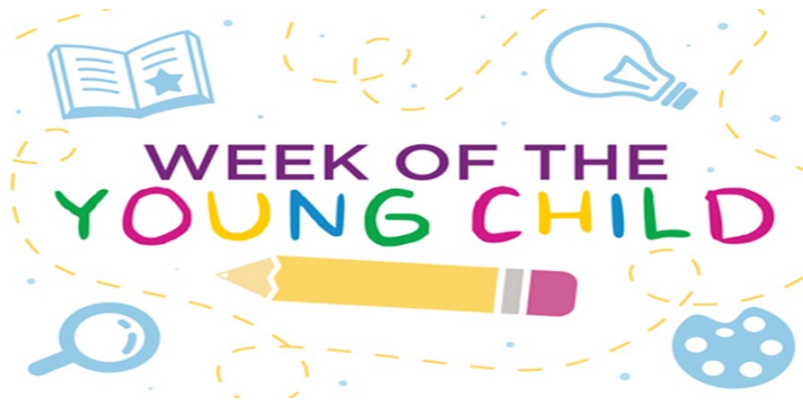
Why make a CASSP referral you may ask? A child or adolescent who needs help, for example a significant decrease in cognitive, physical, behavioral, social, or emotional needs, the member is receiving two or more service agencies, out of home placement, or any pending transfers or discharge from out of home placement. A release of information is needed from the parent/legal guardian for a referral to be made. Once the referral has been made, a CASSP Coordinator will reach out to gather more information to the parent/legal guardian to get the referral process started or assistance in the child or adolescent need.

For more information or to complete a CASSP referral, please reach out to Sadie Huhn or Susan Wilson at (724) 430-1370.

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Available Services:

Outpatient Therapy	Transitional Aged Peer Support
Student Assistance Program	Psychologist
In-School Satellite MH Clinic	Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Telepsychiatry	Blended Case Management (BCM)
Partial Hospitalization Program	Inpatient Hospitalization
Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)	Psychiatrist Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
Family Based Mental Health Services (FBMH)	Crisis Intervention Services
Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	Parent Advisor (PIN)
Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR)	





The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is a yearly celebration that focuses on the needs of young children and their families. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sponsors this celebration and fosters a positive learning environment where young children and their families, along with their teachers bring public attention to the programs and services that support them.

The 2025 Week of the Young Child (WOYC) in Pennsylvania will be from April 5–11. Each day of the 2025 Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is assigned a theme, such as:

- **April 5:** Kick-off Saturday
- **April 7:** Music Monday
- **April 8:** Tasty Tuesday
- **April 9:** Work Together Wednesday
- **April 10:** Artsy Thursday
- **April 11:** Family Friday

Different ways to celebrate are:

- Plan a virtual event
- Share your local proclamation
- Create a dancing playlist
- Plan a tasty Tuesday activity
- Work with other educators to draft a group letter to your elected officials
- Gather your arts and crafts for Artsy Thursday
- Create self-portraits using oil pastels
- Make pizza pinwheels as a snack
- Make a parking lot as a group using materials found in the classroom



The next LICC meeting will be on April 9, 2025, 5-7PM at Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration.

Self-Advocacy Bowling Party



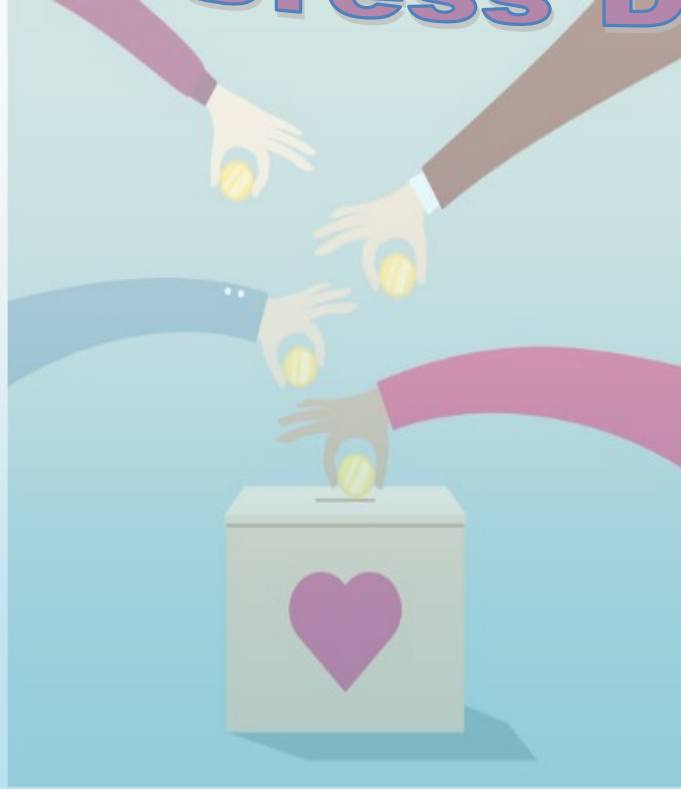
The Self-Advocacy Group held a bowling party on December 16, 2025 at Yough Lanes in Connellsville. There were about 25 people in attendance, with their support staff and family members. They enjoyed pizza and cake while bowling. The group tries to meet every other month. We have held meetings in the past where we collaborated with local agencies like Fayette County Community Action to learn about budgeting and housing supports, nutrition and wellness. We also have held fun parties like bingo parties, bowling and even a gardening activity with various craft projects.



We also collaborated with The Fayette County Crime Victim's Center to host a relationship class over a period of 11 months. Those who attended and completed the course received a certificate.



Dress Down Days



The Staff at FCBHA hold Dress Down Days at various times through out the year. Employees donate a nominal fee and can wear casual clothing to work that day. The monies collected from the Dress Down Days is then donated to various organizations through out Fayette County The first dress Down Day of 2025 was for the benefit the City Mission. Below is a list of other organizations that have received donations in 2024.

Amvets Riders
Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA
Fayette Friends of Animals
Miracle League of PA's Laurel Highlands
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
East End United Community Center
Honey's Helping Hands
Crime Victim's Center of Fayette County

If you change the way you look at things,
the things you look at change.

Wayne Dyer



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.