

**Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/DS
Developmental Services Status Report
March 2018**

Early Intervention:

The EI Department completed CPR training for all staff on March 12, 2018. Referrals remain high for the EI department with 50 intakes in February. Several community outreach events are happening during this month which include Family Fun Night in Lehighton on 3/22, Head Start in Coaldale on 3/27, and the Fly-In Early screening service at Swiftwater Elementary on 3/15.

2017 Waiting List Initiative Update:

ODP allocated 15 PFDS waiver slots for 2017 graduates. These spots have been filled and the enrollment process is being completed. We recently received 6 PFDS Waiver slots for 2018 graduates. The availability of Waiver slots this early in the year is a new development that has been offered to decrease the gap in services for individuals that graduate in June but do not receive the Waiver until several months after they graduate. We plan to use the 6 slots for individuals that have the highest priority and cannot experience a gap in services from graduation and transition into services to meet their health and safety needs. We are in the process of prioritizing the individuals that will receive these 6 PFDS Waiver slots.

Employment/Transition

The DS Department continues to focus on activities and resources that promote employment. We will be hosting a Communities of Practice training on March 20th at the Carbon County office for individuals transitioning from high school. We hope to attract both students and parents to this event. We also have a Roads to Employment event scheduled for April 9, 2018 at Northampton Community College Monroe campus. There will be a speaker who will talk about how she was successful at employment. The Office of Developmental Programs will present on the LifeCourse which is geared towards supporting individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Autism throughout their lifespan. There will also be a demonstration on how to Dress for Success put on by students. The Roads to Employment event is geared towards students and adults with disabilities seeking employment as well as the family members, and other team members that support them.

State Center Closure:

Carbon-Monroe-Pike had one individual at the Hamburg state center that was successfully placed in a Community Living Arrangement. The individual has transitioned well out of Hamburg Center and ODP is going to use her as a Spotlight this month for Disability Awareness Month. She makes dinner for her mother weekly (as weather permits) at her home. She had not seen her mother for a few years prior to moving into the community due to lack of transportation and poor health on her mother's end. It was a desire for the individual to once again establish contact with her mother and the Provider has worked with the individual to make this happen.

Personnel

The DS Department is currently experiencing several personnel changes. We are interviewing for two Supports Coordinator (SC) positions. One SC left the agency due to relocation and another position had previously been on hold. The position of HCSIS Program Coordinator has been filled by a Supervisor within the department. We are currently interviewing for a new Supervisor to fill the position. This Supervisor will cover both Monroe and Pike counties. We are also interviewing for the Intake Coordinator position with a plan to centralize the DS/Autism intakes under the Developmental Services department.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Chern".

Kim Chern
Deputy Administrator for Developmental Services