

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

Early Intervention:

Pennsylvania House Bill 200 was unanimously passed by the House in mid-June and presently in the PA Senate for review. The bill includes infants whose mothers have screened positively for post-partum depression eligible for Early Intervention assessment and enrollment in the at-risk Tracking Program. It has been reported that one in seven women can experience depression during the year following their child's birth. According to State Representative Jack Rader, the legislation also has the added benefit of connecting mothers with depression to mental health care.

The Early Intervention Service Coordinators (SCs) continue to cover a large number of cases with the increased need in our area for Early Intervention services. The average caseload for an SC is 66. The department has been approved for an expansion position of Service Coordinator in the Pike county office. The second SC in the Pike office will allow for more manageable caseloads and as a result the SCs will be able to provide more quality time to the individuals and families that they serve. The EI department has also moved from a part-time clerical to a full-time clerical position to assist with duties such as mailings, recordkeeping, and tracking of information for the Service Coordinators. The addition of a full-time clerical will free up time for SCs to complete more billable activities.

Developmental Services:

The DS department will hold a Communities of Practice event on July 17th for SCs, individuals, families and direct support staff on creating a vision for a full life. Dr. Ann Turnbull is the keynote speaker sharing her story on raising a son with multiple disabilities and how he was able to experience a meaningful life. There will be a panel of individuals and families sharing their success in developing a full life as well as a presenter from the Office of Developmental Programs that will be reviewing the LifeCourse Tools with the attendees. Our staff and approximately 30 other individuals, as well as the PA Family Network will be attending at Northampton County Community College Monroe Campus.

The Office of Developmental Program's (ODP) Quality Assurance and Improvement (QA&I) process has begun for the Administrative Entity, Supports Coordination Organization and provider agencies. QA&I activities will begin with the completion of an annual self-assessment by each entity which must be submitted by August 31, 2018. The self-assessment is an evaluation of an entity's performance on the provision of services and supports to individuals based on key quality metrics and implementation of the "*Everyday Lives: Values in Action*" recommendations. The self-assessment also provides a snapshot of the entity's performance prior to the on-site review and will be used to inform and build quality improvement activities for the remainder of the QA&I cycle.

Personnel

More personnel changes have taken place this month: DS Monroe has two new SCs, Marylee Alcorn and Deborah Daniels-Peacock which leaves one SC opening in the Monroe office due to an SC leaving the agency. Carbon County is now fully staffed with the transfer of Amy Heffner from the MH Department to DS SC.

Respectfully,



Kim Chern
Deputy DS Administrator