

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

**Early Intervention:**

The Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordinators (SCs) continue to cover a large number of cases with the increased need in our area for EI services. The department is currently fully staffed with a second SC in Pike County and a new full-time clerical person in Monroe to assist with duties such as mailings, recordkeeping, and tracking of information for the SCs.

The Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC), in partnership with the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), now offers supports for early learning programs and assists families' with access to quality early learning programs. In addition, these resource centers assist families to find the best child care for their child's needs, connect families to services such as *Child Care Works* which helps pay for child care, and shares information and supports for early learning programs, like *PA Pre-K Counts*. Carbon, Monroe, and Pike Counties fall within Region 12 – *Community Services for Children*, with a main office in Scranton and a local office in Stroudsburg. For more information you can visit their website at [www.raiseyourstar.org](http://www.raiseyourstar.org) or call 1-877-472-5437.

**Developmental Services:**

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has developed a training on the four major health issues impacting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities at a greater rate and severity than those of the general population. These health issues are commonly called "The Fatal Four" and include: Aspiration, Constipation, Dehydration and Epileptic Seizures. The training reviews the causes, symptoms, risk factors and treatments. The DS Department is coordinating with the Area Agency on Aging to provide a training for our DS staff on the Fatal Four so that they can be knowledgeable and proactive when serving the individuals that are affected.

Jim Furioli facilitated a business card exchange co-sponsored by the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce which drew a local factory seeking to hire individuals with disabilities as well as two resorts, Camelback and Pocono Manor, and State Representative Maureen-Madden. Representatives from Northampton Community College, the Times Shamrock newspaper, a CPR training company, and other DS providers also attended. There were discussions on competitive integrated employment as well as small group employment. A PowerPoint on the Employment Coalition was presented. Burnley was kind enough to host the event.

ODP's Provider Quality Assurance and Improvement (QA&I) process is winding down the self-assessment stage and moving towards the onsite review phase where our QA&I team will be reviewing six providers between late September and December. The onsite review will focus on quality assessment and improvement as it relates to the participants' experience with services and supports.

**Personnel**

The DS Department is currently fully staffed with 5 Supports Coordinators (SCs) in Carbon County, 3 in Pike County and 13 in Monroe County. We welcome new SCs, Yvonne Stoffey (Carbon) and Alan Freeman (Monroe).

Respectfully,



Kim Chern  
Deputy DS Administrator