

**Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/DS
Developmental Services Status Report
May 2019**

Early Intervention:

The EI Leadership Convention, sponsored by OCDEL (the Office of Child Development and Early Learning), was held April 3rd and 4th, at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Pocono Manor, PA, and attended by EI Coordinator Ellen Erb. Topics included building family/professional partnerships to support social emotional development in young children, inclusion in early childhood classrooms, the provision of social emotional supports to address expulsion in Early Childhood Education, the importance of positive behavior interventions and supports, and creating equitable early childhood programs. Time was allotted for county EI programs to meet with local stakeholders, such as members of the Regional Early Learning Resource Centers, to support ongoing collaboration in efforts to eradicate suspensions/expulsions in pre-school settings.

Developmental Services:

A Reverse Job Fair was held at Stroudsburg High School with eight job seekers. Employers that attended include Allied Services, Advocacy Alliance, Kalahari, Iridium, a home health agency, and Perkins restaurant. State Representative Rosemary Brown personally met each job seeker and took resumes to share with potential employers.

Jim Furioli attended the APSE Employment First event at PaTTAN on May 6th where information was provided on OVR's proposed amendment to the State Plan regarding its order of selection of applicants. OVR is facing financial hurdles as it cannot anticipate federal funding for the next fiscal year. To better meet needs, OVR seeks to create a waiting list which looks at a "mostly significantly disabled" category of applicants before reviewing "significantly disabled" applicants. There are public comment hearings scheduled for May 22nd at all OVR District Offices.

The Employment Coalition recently met to discuss strategies to increase employment for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and autism (ASD). ODP has a statewide employment rate of 16% but the Northeast Region falls behind with 13% employment. Ideas were shared to make improvements to the process for next fiscal year and included strategies to focus on people who desire employment and ensure that they are linked to services as well as having additional Reverse Job Fairs at Career Quest and for the Life Skills students at Carbon County Technical Institute that would be inclusive. The Employment Coalition meeting on August 20th will be a Business Card event. The Coalition would like to create a flyer and business cards so employers have a contact person.

On April 25th, the C-M-P Regional Collaborative hosted its 1st Annual Community Night event at Northampton Community College in Tannersville. Fifteen community and advocacy organizations from Monroe, Pike, and Carbon counties participated. Attendees had the opportunity to mix and mingle with peers, learn ways to volunteer and self-advocate. Delicious food, great music, face painting and magnet making were among the many activities attendees enjoyed. With a range of young adults and seniors, new organizations like IncrediBowlers, and seasoned ones, the mix was a tremendous opportunity for individuals to become involved in their community.

Respectfully,



Kim Chern
Deputy DS Administrator