

# CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

## DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUS REPORT

AUGUST 2020

### Early Intervention

During the past month the Early Intervention Department has been collecting providers' protocols for resuming face to face sessions. While tele-intervention remains the preferred method of providing Early Intervention services, face to face sessions may resume with protocols in place and with practices within the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

Referrals continue to increase and are climbing to where they had been prior to the pandemic, which was approximately 60 per month. The department received 55 referrals in the month of July.

### Developmental Services

The Developmental Services (DS) department continues to work closely with Community Participation Supports (CPS) providers to develop and enhance existing preparedness plans. Support Coordinators continue to monitor services to ensure that individual's health and safety needs are being met. Alternative services are offered for individuals who are not yet comfortable returning to the community. Several face to face visits have been requested by families, many of which have been outside and precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of all involved.

Implementation of the LifeCourse Tools has increased. Support Coordinators, individuals, and families are using the Integrated Supports Star to identify natural supports, community resources, and activities during COVID-19. The Regional Collaborative continues to bring social activities to community members. In August, a virtual sing-a-long was hosted. Participants spent the afternoon singing along to their favorite songs. Similar virtual activities will continue throughout the pandemic.

The DS department finds importance in celebrating success. A young man who receives case management services made the decision to graduate high school early in hopes to locate competitive employment. Together, with his Lifesharing Provider and SC, the team set out on an adventure to find him a fulfilling job. Through persistence and professionalism he was offered a job at Dunkin Donuts. His story will be shared with the Office of Developmental Programs in hopes that he is featured in their newsletter. The department will continue to promote employment as an option for all.

**Personnel**

Stephanie Zimmerman was promoted to SC Supervisor in Carbon County, leaving a vacant SC position. Interviews are in process and a candidate will be chosen in the near future. Once the SC position is filled the department will be at full complement.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristy Trautman*

DS Deputy Administrator