

**CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUS REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Early Intervention**

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), who oversees Early Intervention in Pennsylvania, continues to provide many virtual trainings and meetings with no immediate plans for in-person gatherings. The department continues to provide services for the most part via teleintervention and they are experiencing an increasing number of families who are requesting face to face sessions. In addition, we are now providing some services in childcare facilities, as more parents are returning to work.

**Developmental Services**

The Developmental Services (DS) Department continues to offer technical assistance and guidance to qualified providers in our region. Throughout the pandemic there have been various waivers to policies and procedures. The Supports Coordination Organization and Administrative Entity have been offering trainings and informational sessions to providers in order to ensure that they are aware of the regulation changes and their potential impact on policies and procedures. The department is also in the process of arranging a training on Autism Spectrum Disorder for both agency staff and our contracted crisis provider.

The Regional Collaborative has partnered with the Mental Health and Developmental Services Awareness Committee to coordinate virtual activities for community members. A virtual sing-a-long is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The committees are also working on coordinating a scavenger hunt in all three counties.

Support Coordinators continue to contact families on a regular basis to ensure that their health and safety needs are being met. Throughout the pandemic we have been challenged to think of creative ways to support an everyday life by tapping into natural resources. We rely on the Charting the LifeCourse Tools to guide conversation to assist with identifying resources that individuals and families might not have been aware of previously. We find that communities are coming together now more than ever as we move through these unprecedented times.

**Personnel**

In the Administrative Entity, the Waiver Coordinator Program Specialist resigned, effective September 18, 2020. The department is in the process of interviewing 6 internal candidates to fill the role. The Supports Coordination Organization is at full complement, as an individual was hired for the Carbon SC position.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristy Trautman*

DS Deputy Administrator

CMP MH/DS