

Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Advisory Board

MINUTES	MAY 24, 2021	7:00 P.M.	724 PHILLIPS STREET STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
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A meeting of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Advisory Board was convened on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the MH & DS Administrative Conference Room at 724 Phillips Street, Suite 202, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and via GoToMeeting/conference call.

MEETING CALLED BY	Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Chair & Tina L. Clymer, Administrator
CHAIR	Dr. Samuel Dolgopol
RECORDING SECRETARY	Beth Bingaman-Lutz
PRESENTERS	Susan Ficken, Pediatric Therapy, LLC
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Dr. Laurene Clossey, Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Ms. Dorothy Eberts, Ms. Nellie Gordon, Commissioner Lukasevich, Commissioner Moyer, Mr. Eugene Pelletreau, and Ms. Elizabeth Torkildsen
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Ms. Susan Barradale, Commissioner Guccini, Ms. Amy Kirkwood Albert, and Ms. Suzanne McCool
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kathleen Peterson, Ellen Erb, and Beth Bingaman-Lutz

AGENDA TOPICS

PRESENTATION	How COVID-19 Changed Early Intervention	Susan Ficken Pediatric Therapy, LLC
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Ms. Ficken, Physical Therapist, has been providing Early Intervention (EI) services for almost 30 years. In 2015, she started an agency which includes the following disciplines: Physical and Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Special Instruction. She highlighted the progress and changes in EI over the years. She described how EI services are now provided at home and community in the most natural setting, wherever families feel are meaningful for them. The model currently in use is the coaching model. With this model, caregivers are provided with strategies that they can use every day within their child's daily routines. This concept allows children more opportunities to practice and gain more progress. In-person visits stopped in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In turn, the Office of Child Development recommended providers use a Tele-Intervention approach to provide services. Providers faced some challenges with this new method but rose to the occasion. Most importantly, it allowed services to be uninterrupted and stay consist with families as a support system through a difficult time. Ms. Ficken mentioned some positive influences of using the Tele-Intervention approach and the benefits of having it as a platform for the future. In summary, Ms. Ficken expressed that adversity makes us stronger, better, and she felt it added depth to the EI program.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of April 26, 2021 meeting.
Agency Reports	Ms. Clymer reviewed the HealthChoices, Mental Health, and Developmental Services reports. No motion required.
Financial Report for HealthChoices	Motion by Elizabeth Torkildsen, seconded by Eugene Pelletreau, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of April 30, 2021.
Financial Report for MH, DS, and EI	Motion by Dr. Laurene Clossey, seconded by Eugene Pelletreau, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of April 30, 2021.
Annual Audited Report for HealthChoices	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Dr. Laurene Clossey, and carried unanimously to accept the December 31, 2020 Annual Audited Report for HealthChoices.

OLD BUSINESS	
County Human Service Plan	<p>Ms. Clymer shared the progress toward goals. Drug and Alcohol Commission's planning team will be hosting a recovery simulation as it relates to mental health, drug and alcohol, poverty, and homelessness. It is a collaborate event involving East Stroudsburg University Nursing Students and Monroe County Community College.</p> <p>There has also been some progress with the transportation goal. Carbon County has been working on an assessment. A survey was sent out and results were received. The team is currently working with Larissa L. Kimmel, Carbon-Monroe-Pike Systems of Care Coordinator, to get the results incorporated into this year's plan. Another positive note was guidelines for the FY 2021-22 plan were received, and no significant changes are needed.</p> <p>Everyone was invited to attend the next County Human Service Plan Public Hearing on June 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM. All were reminded that the schedule for 2021, the link, and instructions for joining the meeting was provided previously.</p>
State Budget Status	<p>Ms. Clymer reported the FY 2021-22 budget is scheduled to be completed on time. She discussed the talking points taking place with leaders from the PA Association of County Administrators (PACA) and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). A major reason meetings are being held is an effort to educate state legislators why counties are operating on a surplus of monies. Sending money back to the state this year does not mean monies are not needed for next year. The surplus in monies is mainly due to organizations not being open to the public due to the pandemic. Because organizations are unable to serve the individuals in the traditional way, transportation and building costs are down. Another challenge has been planning the effective utilization of one-time funding due to limitations. In addition, many counties have not been able to use monies that were allocated for construction projects which have been delayed.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	
C-M-P MH/DS Advisory Board Award Nomination Form 2021	<p>Ms. Clymer reminded the audience that the C-M-P MH/DS Advisory Board Award nomination forms are due by June 21, 2021. Distribution of nomination forms and a list of past recipients were mailed to board members.</p>
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG) Opportunity	<p>Funding came from the federal government to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and was then distributed to the states. Pennsylvania received 29.5 million dollars. It was passed along to counties mostly for crisis enhancement. Counties were provided general topics and asked to submit a letter of request. If the letter is satisfactory, the county will be notified on June 28th. The agency submitted four potential projects, they are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing Mobile Crisis to include teams in Carbon and Pike Counties, for a quicker response time. In addition, it will include a co-responder model with the Police. 2. Express Care for Behavioral Health - a type of walk in center that is open 24/7 instead of going to an emergency room. 3. Training and Implementation of Assisted Outpatient Treatment. 4. Expansion of Residential Treatment.
Garret Lee Smith and National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (GLS/NSSP) Mini – Grant	<p>The grant amount is for \$3000 for suicide prevention efforts. The proposal is to have a mitigation training to help people understand how to reduce the likelihood of someone having access to items when they want to take their own life. In addition, the goal is to purchase gun locks to be distributed in the community to take precautions to either minimize or eliminate the risk of suicide.</p>

OTHER	
Senate Bill 664	Commissioner Lukasevich reviewed Senate Bill 664, which was sent to the state house. It includes an amendment modification to the Education Act that extends special education enrollment. A parent of a student with a disability who turns 21 years of age and is expected to graduate, can re-enroll for an additional year of schooling due to COVID-19. Students identified as graduating who plan to stay in school for another year are on the list to receive a waiver. How is this going to impact their eligibility? He remarked that the agency should investigate if advocacy is needed for any modification to ensure continued eligibility to protect families that want to have their child make up for the lost year of education. Ms. Clymer said she would ask her team at the agency but will also discuss with Office Developmental Programs (ODP) to see what they are doing at the state level and help with any advocacy that is necessary. Commissioner Lukasevich mentioned that he has a call scheduled with Robert Conklin, Bureau of Supports for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Northeast Regional Program Manager, to discuss protecting individuals and their eligibility.
Next Meeting	Monday, June 28, 2021
VISITORS	Susan Ficken
ADJOURNMENT	Motion by Commissioner Lukasevich, seconded by Eugene Pelletreau, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.
APPROVED BY	<i>Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC</i> 