

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

MINUTES	JUNE 28, 2021	7:00 P.M.	724 PHILLIPS STREET STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
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	James Donegan, Regional Director for Carbon, Monroe, and Pike Counties Deborah Meyers, Executive Director of Behavioral Services The ReDCo Group		
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Ms. Susan Barradale, Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Ms. Dorothy Eberts, Ms. Nellie Gordon, Ms. Amy Kirkwood Albert, Commissioner Lukasevich, Commissioner Moyer, Ms. Jeannemarie Passaro, Mr. Eugene Pelletreau, and Ms. Elizabeth Torkildsen		
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Dr. Laurene Clossey, Commissioner Guccini, and Ms. Suzanne McCool		
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Jennifer Williams and Beth Bingaman-Lutz		
AGENDA TOPICS			
PRESENTATION	<b>The ReDCo Group</b>		<b>James Donegan</b> , Regional Director and <b>Deborah Meyers</b> , Executive Director of Behavioral Services
<p>The beginning of the presentation provided historical information regarding how ReDCo was established and now currently owned by Pathways. A management agreement with Providence Services began in 2007 and provided technical support to the ReDCo Group's leadership team. Ms. Meyers remarked about the years 2011 and 2015, and then when Providence transitioned to its current brand "Pathways Health and Community Support". Pathways currently operates in 18 states, including the District of Columbia. They have over 6000 employees across the nation and offer a full continuum of services to individuals in all stages of their lives. Pennsylvania provides services to over 4500 clients annually and has operated as a preferred community partner in Northeast &amp; Central PA since 1981. Ms. Meyers mentioned the varying behavioral health services offered in Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties. The Outpatient Program (OP), which offers services to children, adolescents, and adults, was outlined by Mr. Donegan. These included Treatment for Psychiatric Conditions, Psychological Evaluation, Therapy and Counseling, and Medication Management. During the pandemic, services were provided through telehealth but the team is currently transitioning back to in-person. There has been some resistance from clients cutting back on telehealth and having more in-person services, but these challenges are being worked out. Before closing, Mr. Donegan shared what is usually involved in the intake process and provided contact information for each county office: Carbon – (610) 377-8525, Monroe – (570) 420-8070, and Pike – (570) 296-1138.</p>			
ACTION ITEMS			
Minutes	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Commissioner Moyer, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of May 24, 2021 meeting.		
Agency Reports	Ms. Clymer reviewed the HealthChoices and Developmental Services reports. Jennifer Williams reviewed Mental Health. No motion required.		

<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	
<b>County Human Service Plan</b>	Ms. Clymer shared that the agency's departments are finalizing their respective reports that are due by July 8, 2021. The plan will be passed along to partners in Carbon County where they will compile the final version and submit it to the state mid-July.
<b>State Budget Status</b>	The state budget is likely to be approved soon. It is awaiting the Governor's signature. The budget suggests a slight increase to Mental Health and slight decrease to Developmental Services and Early Intervention funding. However, counties may not see any changes because funding may shift at the state level. Ms. Clymer hopes to hear more information on the budget analysis by the end of next week.
<b>C-M-P MH/DS Advisory Board Dinner 2021</b>	The Nomination sub-committee was activated to compile a final list and present to the board in July. The board was reminded the meeting/dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.
<b>Senate Bill 664</b>	The Bill was approved and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Bill 664 allows for a student with a disability who turned 21 years of age and is expected to graduate, to re-enroll for an additional year of schooling due to COVID-19. Ms. Clymer reminded the audience that at the last meeting concerns were shared about how this would affect a student identified as graduating and on the list to receive a waiver but now plans to stay in school for another year. After doing some research at the state and county level, it appears there is not too much concern. Waivers could be held for students who should have graduated but want to stay in school for another year. There seems to be flexibility with shuffling things around to cover individual's needs. This year Developmental Services received nine additional Person/Family Directed Support Waivers (P/FDS). The bill also allows individuals enrolled in special education an extension to attend an additional school year as well.
<b>Crisis Grants</b>	Grant information is currently being distributed to providers and a review committee is being developed to evaluate proposals for Community Residential Rehabilitation and Extended Crisis Services. Ms. Clymer asked the audience that if anyone is interested in joining the review committee to please contact her.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Board Membership</b>	<p>Dr. Dolgopol welcomed Ms. Jeannemarie Passaro to the board. She was introduced as the new board member representing Pike County. Ms. Clymer added she has worked with her over the years and is excited to have her join the board. She commented about Ms. Passaro's advocacy and how she is always trying to make things better in Pike County by coming up with creative ways to impact the community.</p> <p>The Board Member List was distributed for review and board members were asked to provide any updates to Beth Bingaman-Lutz. Dr. Dolgopol asked Ms. Passaro to choose to fill a vacancy of either the Mental Health or Developmental Services Committee and forward her decision to Ms. Clymer.</p>

<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>Legislative News</b>	Senate Bill 324, the Fostering Graduation Success for Vulnerable Students Act, received a unanimous vote by the Senate and is going to the House of Representatives for consideration. Ms. Gordon reviewed the difficulties of being in the foster care system and the barriers that student's face by getting shifted from different home placements and schools. In essence, the bill ensures that students have the supports they need to receive the educational background to graduate and move forward successfully. Everyone was provided an excerpt related to the bill from Senator Pat Brown's newsletter.
<b>Meeting in July</b>	Ms. Clymer asked for feedback from the board about offering the July meeting to be in-person as well as having it available virtually. Everyone was in agreement.
Next Meeting	Monday, July 26, 2021
<b>VISITORS</b>	James Donegan, Deborah Meyers, and Shirley Meryweather
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Motion by Elizabeth Torkildsen, seconded by Commissioner Lukasevich, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<i>Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC</i> 