

TO: Members of the MH/EI/ID Advisory Board
FROM: Brandon Savochka, Human Services Director
RE: Thursday, February 15, 2024 Board Meeting
LOCATION: Carmine A. Scotece Conference Room #132, 1st Floor
Butler Co. Government Center Annex and via Zoom
TIME: 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Welcome
- II. Public Comment for Agenda Items
- III. ✓ Approval of Minutes
- IV. Mental Health Report
- V. Early Intervention Report
- VI. Intellectual Disabilities Report
- VII. Fiscal Report
- VIII. New Business
A. MH/EI/ID Administrator Report
- IX. Board Members Concerns/Comments/Announcements
✓ A. Board Reappointment
- X. Public Comment for General Items
- XI. ✓ Adjournment

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024,
at 3:00 p.m.

✓ Indicates voting item

**Mental Health/Early Intervention/Intellectual Disabilities Program
Board Minutes
September 21, 2023
Butler County Human Services Conference Room and via Zoom**

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr. Peter Szura

Ms. Shirley Warburton

MH/EI/ID Administrative Office:

Ms. Marni Rettig

Ms. Amy Cirelli

Ms. Sarah Wearing

Ms. Grace Abbruzzese

Mr. Cory Achezinski

Visitors:

Ms. Ashlee Hershberger, Center for Community Resources

Ms. Bette Peoples, Grapevine Center

Call to Order

Mr. Szura called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Szura asked the Board for approval of the minutes from the July meeting. Ms. Warburton made a motion to approve, Mr. Szura seconded.

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|-------------|----|
| In favor: | 2* |
| Opposed: | 0 |
| Abstentions | 0 |

*Due to the lack of a quorum, additional votes will be obtained on all business presented at this meeting.

Mental Health Report

Ms. Rettig introduced Amy Cirelli who is one of our Mental Health Specialists. Ms. Cirelli is a co-chair on the Butler Suicide Coalition. September is suicide prevention awareness month.

Ms. Cirelli gave a presentation for the Board on the activities that are being held to promote suicide prevention. Activities include a display with prevention resources in the Lobby of the Government Center, the Suicide Awareness Rally, QPR suicide prevention trainings held in several locations in the county, a screening of the documentary “My Ascension” about a suicide survivor, a speaker panel at the SUCCOP theater at BC3, and a game night at ‘Your Parents Basement’ on Main Street in Butler, PA.

Ms. Rettig gave a summary of improvements that were made at the LTSR. The outdoor space was expanded to include a basketball area, picnic tables and a patio. Both patients and staff will use this space.

The October CIT-Crisis Intervention Training class is full. Eighteen members of law enforcement and one crisis worker will attend.

Ms. Rettig reported that she wrote two proposals for additional forensic money that is available from the state. The first proposal is to keep the same allocation we initially received for our forensic house in order to continue the staffing pattern in that house. The second proposal is for the jail program to free up County money to be used in other programs. Ms. Rettig gave an overview of our programs that are funded by County dollars.

Early Intervention Report

Ms. Wearing reported the Early Intervention numbers for July and August.

In July there was a total of 505 kids; 42 of those were in tracking and 463 were active. There were 51 referrals.

In August the total number of children was 495; 38 were in tracking and 457 active. There were 51 referrals.

Ms. Wearing reported Jill McDonald has been looking into a grant project for a Rapid Response Team (RRT) for children in Early Intervention who are on the cusp of being suspended or expelled from childcare. The RRT's respond within 48 hours to any childcare center that requests supports for themselves or a specific child. A minimum of two team members meet with the center's administration or anyone who made the request. A plan is developed outlining the strengths and requested supports. Then the Rapid Response Team leader is assigned to ensure follow-up activities and provide coaching. This is to prevent children from being suspended or expelled from childcare. The priority of the team is to secure the child's placement within the school and provide assistance and supports to the center's administration and teachers.

Intellectual Disabilities Report

Ms. Wearing provided copies of the Fall newsletter; The Vision for the Board. She gave an overview of events and activities including: the September 7 trip to the Pittsburgh zoo, October 18 Halloween party, and a magician balloon artist at the YWCA on November 15. The Christmas party is scheduled for December 5 and will be held at the Vagabond Center.

Ms. Wearing reported that parent support group meetings have started up again. The September 13 meeting featured a PA State Police officer who spoke about internet safety.

Ms. Wearing announced our first Self-Advocacy Group will be held on September 27th

She reported an open house event was held at Legacy Fitness on September 12 to promote the upcoming Legacy Warriors classes. These classes are for any individual in the community with intellectual disabilities. Classes will run for 4 weeks in October and the 5th week will be a celebration for Halloween.

Ms. Wearing announced our ID Department created an expansion position as the program is growing due to the increased eligibility requirements. We have hired someone and she is expected to start in mid-October.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Achezinski reviewed the fiscal report which was through August 31, 2023.

New Business

MH/EI/ID Administrator Report

Ms. Rettig gave the Administrator Report in Mr. Savochka’s absence. She reported the State Budget has been approved but we still have not received final details on how this will impact our allocation.

Ms. Rettig gave an update on the past fiscal year. Each year the county is able to carryover up to 5% of the block grant state funds to the next fiscal year. Typically, the county utilizes this 5% as a buffer from year to year in case there are unexpected expenses. This year was the first year in the past seven years that we are under the 5% carryover. This shows on how tight the overall funding is starting to get and the need for additional funding in the upcoming years if we are going to continue to provide the current services that we offer.

Ms. Rettig reported CCAP continues to work on a plan for complex cases for youth and transition age youth. Mr. Savochka is a part of the statewide team that is working on a solution with the goal of having a plan developed by January 2024. They are looking at how to braid funding for services, current services, potential new services, and how to eliminate barriers.

Ms. Rettig announced that the Warming Center at Glade Run will be operational again this winter. It will open on October 30, 2023. Glade Run is hosting a golf tournament on September 29 to raise funds for the warming center.

Board Members’ Concerns/Comments/Announcements

2024 Meeting Dates

Mr. Szura asked the Board for approval of the 2024 meeting dates as presented. Ms. Warburton made a motion to approve, Mr. Szura seconded.

In favor: 2*
Opposed: 0
Abstentions 0

Board Reappointment

Mr. Szura asked the Board for approval of the re-appointment of Mr. Shawn Pugh for another three-year term on the Board. Ms. Warburton made a motion to approve, Mr. Szura seconded.

In favor: 2*
Opposed: 0
Abstentions 0

Public Comment for General Items

Ms. Peoples announced that their Remembrance Rally/Celebration of Life will be held on October 11th in the Carousel Shelter at Alameda Park.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

*Additional votes were obtained on all business presented at this meeting.

APPROVED AS TO FORMAT:

Pete Szura, Chairperson

Susan Stover, Board Secretary

SUBMITTED BY:

Grace B. Abbruzzese

cc: Mr. Richard Latsko, OMHSAS
Ms. Michele O'Toole, Western Regional Program Manager
Advisory Board Members