

TO: Members of the MH/EI/ID Advisory Board
FROM: Brandon Savochka, Human Services Director
RE: Thursday, February 16, 2023 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
- X. Public Comment for General Items
- XI. ✓ Adjournment

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

✓ Indicates voting item

**Mental Health/Early Intervention/Intellectual Disabilities Program
Board Minutes
November 17, 2022
Butler County Human Services Conference Room and via Zoom**

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr. Peter Szura	Ms. Cathryn Heakins
Ms. Susan Stover	Dr. Kathy Selvaggi
Mr. Shawn Pugh	Ms. Jackie Eppler

MH/EI/ID Administrative Office:

Mr. Brandon Savochka	Mr. Cory Achezinski
Ms. Marni Rettig	Ms. Grace Abbruzzese
Ms. Sarah Wearing	

Visitors:

Bette Peoples, Grapevine Center

Call to Order

Mr. Szura called the meeting to order at 3:03 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 September meeting as corrected. Ms. Stover made a motion to approve, Ms. Heakins seconded.

In favor:	6
Opposed:	0
Abstentions	0

Mental Health Report

Ms. Rettig gave a report on activities and events that occurred the previous month: The Community Support Program held their Cyber Speaker Jam. The Kevin Hines event was held at Butler County Community College on October 17th.

Ms. Rettig announced that Marcie Friel was hired as our new Mental Health Specialist.

Ms. Rettig reported the CIT-Crisis Intervention Training was being held this week. Sixteen law enforcement officers were participating.

Ms. Rettig also reported that our mental health department gave a presentation to the Commissioners to ask for opioid settlement funding to add staff to our Forensic house. Eighty

percent of the people who use this housing are dual-diagnosed/co-occurring with drug & alcohol issues.

Our mental health department wrote a proposal to OMHSAS requesting some of the ARPA funds for enhancing crisis services to meet the SAMHSA best practice requirements for crisis services. The proposal was submitted to OMHSAS on November 9th

Our office continues to meet with Butler County Schools to reinforce using the Center for Community Resources for SDOH-Social Determinants of Health needs. Ms. Rettig took part in the Seneca Valley Mental Health Roundtable. Ms. Rettig and Hayley Merchant, from CCR, met with the elementary and secondary age school counselors and psychologists to talk about using CCR to meet SDOH needs, and also Prevention, Education, and Outreach presentations that are free to the schools through CCR.

Our SAP Coordinating Council was held in October and the SDOH programs were highlighted at that meeting. We also talked about the MST-Multisystemic Therapy psychiatric program.

Ms. Rettig reported that she, Mr. Savochka, and Amanda Feltenberger met with 211 staff to discuss access to services in Butler County and to support 211 in updating their database to ensure that referrals made through 211 are sending people to the right agencies.

Ms. Rettig announced OMHSAS is going to roll out their Enterprise Case Management system. ECM is a shared database that they would like to move various human services departments into. This past month OMHSAS held listening sessions to gather feedback. We participated twice a week for a total of 8 sessions.

Early Intervention Report

Ms. Wearing announced that CCR is seeking a supports coordinator for Early Intervention as one of their SC's had recently resigned.

Our department was awarded the workforce development grant through OCDEL that Jill McDonald and Ashlee Hershberger from CCR applied for. This will be used for bonuses for Early Intervention supports coordinators for staff retention.

Ms. Wearing reported the total number of children within the Early Intervention program is 529. There are 32 children in tracking, 497 children with active plans, and 58 referrals for the month of October.

Intellectual Disabilities Report

Ms. Wearing announced that we plan to change our name to Developmental Programs. We have been known as Intellectual Disabilities but over the last few years our program has expanded under the state to allow different diagnosis including autism, developmental disabilities, and also medically complex children.

Ms. Wearing reported our third parent support group meeting was held November 16 at Grace Community Church in Butler. Elizabeth A. Gribik spoke about guardianships and powers-of-

attorney. Parent Support Group meetings are alternately held in Butler and in Zelienople. Achieva gave a presentation on special needs trusts at the October 19 meeting in Zelienople.

Ms. Wearing announced our Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday December 1st. We are expecting 210 attendees and there is a waiting list. Everyone is very excited about this event which includes family members. All three Butler County Commissioners will attend. Local community sponsors include: Tanglewood is donating the space, Bill Reichert, the lead singer for the Pittsburgh Doo-Wop Band will perform live, Ron Marowitz of WISR will be our DJ and emcee for the evening, The Butler Junior Women's League will help with food and drinks, the Monroe Hotel is providing the food at cost. Sam's Club is donating cupcakes, decorations will be provided by Jeff Double, ANR provided funds for Five Below gift cards for every participant in our program. Santa will hand out the gift cards and will give candy canes to siblings.

Ms. Wearing announced that the winter newsletter, the Vision, is scheduled to come out in December and she will share it with the Board at the next meeting.

Recently, the Donut Connection hosted a "Donuts and Board Games" activity. Twelve individuals along with family and staff participated in this event.

Ms. Wearing reported the state Office of Developmental Programs came on November 1st for our oversight monitoring.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Achezinski reviewed the fiscal report which was through September 30, 2022.

New Business

MH/EL/ID Administrator Report

Mr. Savochka announced Elaine Callihan resigned from our board. We are thankful for her service.

Mr. Savochka also announced that the Board Breakfast will be held on Friday December 16 at 8:00 a.m. at the Atrium to recognize all of our Human Services advisory board members; Aging, CYS, MHEIID, and Drug & Alcohol. A presentation on Social Determinants of Health will be given at the breakfast.

Mr. Savochka gave an update on housing our homeless population. We are no longer utilizing the Super 8 for emergency shelter for individuals or families. We have five apartments for short-term shelter for families at the YWCA. Individuals would be housed at North Street.

The overnight warming center will open on December 1st. The warming center will be operated by Glade Run and will be open nightly through March 31st.

Mr. Savochka reported that our providers will receive a 6.5% rate increase. He also reported that through HealthChoices we are looking at establishing a scholarship program to help college students get into human services fields, which could include internships and work commitments, similar to the CYS CWEL program. This would take 4-6 years to see the impact.

Mr. Savochka announced that we recently participated a Dodgeball tournament; “Dodging out Homelessness” to raise funds for shelter. There were 13 teams made up of providers and County agency staff.

Board Members’ Concerns/Comments/Announcements

Mr. Szura asked about the progress at Butler Hospital’s adult psychiatric unit. Ms. Rettig said that the unit will be reopened and at full capacity by the end of the following week.

Mr. Szura publicly thanked the generous people who have been donating food, including pies and turkeys, to the Grapevine.

Mr. Szura talked about PACE: Pennsylvania Advocacy for Children’s Education, Legislation to assist children in rural settings that are plagued by suicide. They want to encourage teachers to have personal connections with students.

Mr. Savochka announced that we are looking for additional board members and reviewed the available categories.

Public Comment for General Items

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

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