

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Kevin Boozel	Mr. Peter Szura
Ms. Jackie Eppler	Ms. Susan Stover
Mr. Shawn Pugh	Ms. Elaine Callihan
Ms. Shirley Warburton	

MH/EI/ID Administrative Office:

Mr. Brandon Savochka	Mr. William Kepple
Ms. Marni Rettig	Ms. Grace Abbruzzese
Ms. Amy Badger-Witenski	

Visitors:

Bette People, Grapevine Center

Call to Order

Ms. Eppler called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Savochka announced that Ms. Badger-Witenski is retiring on February 25, 2022.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Eppler asked the Board for approval of the minutes from the November meeting. Mr. Pugh made a motion to approve, Ms. Stover seconded.

In favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Abstentions	0

Mental Health Report

Ms. Rettig reported the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Psychiatric program for youth ages 9 to 17 will officially start next Monday. This is a collaboration between Butler County Mental Health, Probation, CYS, and MHY Family Services.

We are putting together some proposals for additional forensic money that is available from the state. We have reached out to our forensic service providers in order to determine gaps and needs for additional forensic funding.

Ms. Rettig reported the suicide statistics for 2021; there were 37 completed suicides, 31 men and 6 women. On average we have 22-24 suicides annually. We were anticipating that the numbers

would be higher due to increased mental health needs that are more acute due to the pandemic. We continue to provide QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training. We have had four QPR trainings in the schools in the past couple of months and we are doing QPR trainings at provider agencies.

We are looking at starting a Rural Resiliency program for the farming community in collaboration with Lawrence County.

Ms. Rettig gave an overview of CCRI, (Consolidated Community Reporting Initiative) which is how we report the number of people served with County Dollars to the state.

Ms. Rettig gave an overview of Butler County's initiative for Social Determinants of Health. We have been screening individuals for the past year through Center for Community Resources.

Ms. Rettig also reported the rollout for the National Suicide prevention number: 988, is planned for July 1st.

Early Intervention Report

Ms. Badger-Witenski reported the number of children with active plans is 401 and there are 35 children in tracking.

She also reported the provider community is having difficulty in revalidating their PROMISE numbers. OMAP seems to be backed up and we are seeing the same issue with revalidation for ID in the ODP system. We are working through our system departments; Early Intervention and OCDEL, and ODP to get access and expedite the process.

Intellectual Disabilities Report

We held a Lunch and Learn in January with a psychologist regarding the change of eligibility requirements. Stakeholders present were: County ID staff, our intake team, and our primary supports coordination unit with Center for Community Resources.

We are still working on the project for individuals who have only Block Grant funding, in order to prepare before they need waiver supports and services.

The state is going to hold their everyday lives conference again this year. The conference will be virtual and will be held on the following days: May 17 – Communication and Connections, May 24 and 25 – Collaborative Summit for Supporting Families, June 1 – System Technology, June 8 and 9 – Dual Diagnosis, June 16 – Employment.

We received notification from the state that we got an allocation through the American Rescue Plan. This money would be used to support individuals who have only base funding and are on PUNs (Prioritization of Urgency of Need) emergency status. This would be a capped amount of \$2,000 to support respite services, and homemaker chore. This allocation is open through March of 2024.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Kepple reviewed the fiscal report through December 31, 2021.

New Business

MH/EI/ID Administrator Report

Mr. Savochka reported that in addition to Amy Badger-Witenski's retirement, Cammy Hartman, and Matt Callihan are retiring on February 25th.

Mr. Savochka gave an overview of the Governor's proposed budget for 2022-2023. There is a proposed 12% increase for Mental Health. There are other, smaller increases proposed for Intellectual Disabilities and Early Intervention.

Mr. Savochka spoke about the increase in homelessness in Butler County. We are working with our commissioners and the Housing Authority to create a long term plan for housing.

There has been ongoing workforce concerns with regard to mental health staffing. We are providing money to agencies for retention of existing staff. Every provider has been given rate increases for all levels of care.

Mr. Savochka reported three notable accomplishments which came about over the past two years in the midst of COVID restrictions:

- We are the first county in the state of Pennsylvania to have MST Psych. At any given time this will keep eight to twelve children out of inpatient RTF beds.
- We now have the Mobile Medication program, which is designed to keep adults out of inpatient beds and long term care facilities.
- The Social Determinants of Health program also started. The staff at CCR have made continuous connections to services. The impact this program has made during a time of COVID has been tremendous.

This county has indeed moved forward and the credit goes to the staff at Human Services, MHY, Glade Run, and CCR.

Board Members' Concerns/Comments/Announcements

Ms. Eppler announced the Butler County Disability Summit Special Needs Consortium along with the Institute for Nonprofit Leadership will hold the Disability Summit on May 16, 2022 at Slippery Rock University.

Public Comment for General Items

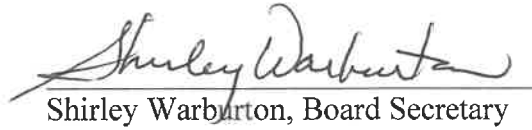
There were no public comments.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORMAT:


Jackie Eppler, Chairperson


Shirley Warburton, Board Secretary

SUBMITTED BY:


Grace B. Abbruzzese

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