

Cambria County Health and Welfare Council
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – IN PERSON & VIRTUAL

In-Person Attendance (members who signed-in): Bethany Rietscha (PA Link), Jeff Vaughn (CAPCC), Jodi Russo (Goodwill), Maria Bradley (Conemaugh MARC), Tom Chernisky (Cambria County), Helen Cannonie (Alleghenies Unlimited Care), Dan Hockenberry (Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy), Jessica Nickel (CCDC), Time Grose (Communities in Schools/CCDC), Amy Bunn (1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health), Allie Byers (1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health), Bridget Hall (Penn Highlands Community College), Theresa Wolf (PMSC AmeriCorps), Nicki Sliko (Learning Lamp), Naomi Paluch (Cambria County Drug Coalition), Ethan Merrill (The Learning Lamp), Melody Ray (The Healing Patch), Sarah Kern (Eastern SEALS), Jennifer Jones Spratt (Highmark Wholecare), Denzel Henderson (Compassionate Hearts Personal Care), Kathleen Bickford (UPMC NFP), Liza Martinez (Bayada Home Health), Barb Cotchen (Laurel View Village)

Virtual Attendance (via Zoom Link): Sam Serrano (Pittsburgh Food Bank), Bethany Blosky (Crossroads), Catherine Monk (Nulton Diagnostics), Antoinette Orlosky (Crossroads), Mary McCoy (Cambria County Prison), Heidi Niebauer (Self Determination Housing of PA), Sara Pfeil (Conemaugh Hospital), Jessica Borosky (Crossroads), Shemariel Gray (CASA), Brennen Stiffler (PA CareerLink), Kristen Villarrial (Cambria County Backpack Project),

Meeting Introduction: The meeting started at 8:42am with a welcome from CCHWC President Bridget Hall.

Minutes Approval: Bethany Rietscha motioned to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Mary McCoy.

Second VP Announcement: Nicki Sliko has expressed interest in the open 2nd VP position – she currently works at The Learning Lamp. In order to approve, we need a motion and majority consensus. Helen Cannonie motioned to approve; seconded by Bethany Rietscha. All were in favor – WELCOME TO THE EXECUTIVE TEAM NICKI! 😊

Scholarship Committee Announcement: Bridget noted that each spring the CCHWC puts out a scholarship, and there needs to be a committee to help with review. It shouldn't take much additional time. Nicki Sliko, Helen Cannonie, and Barb Cotchen all expressed interest in being part of the committee.

Wellness Isn't Scary Planning Event: There will be a brief meeting at 9:30am this morning to kick-off the 2023 planning committee and begin shaping what this year's event will look like. Please join us as able!

Treasurer's Financial Report: Treasurer's report provided by Mike Alberts; at the end of January 2023, account currently has \$4191.72. Melody Ray motioned to approve Treasurer's report; seconded by Jeff Vaughn.

February Presenter: Jessica Borosky with Crossroads – *presentation materials sent in February to all CCHWC members.*

Agency/Organization Updates: Each member was able to provide an update on current happenings/events at their organization. The following updates were shared:

- The Learning Lamp (Nicki Sliko): Personal announcement – shifted to prevention program and quality assurance manager – congrats Nicki on this new position!
- The Learning Lamp, Communications and Development (Ethan Merrill): Had multimedia campaign 2 weeks ago – offers free tuition for students seeking college degree through The Learning Lamp “early childhood Alleghenies” – contact Ethan for more information.
- AmeriCorps (Theresa Wolf): Summer opportunities available – high school and college aged students – at schools, wellness agencies, environmental agencies, etc. Accepting applications for small summer grants to host an AmeriCorps member (300 hours) – contact Theresa for more information about opportunities.
- The Healing Patch (Melody Ray): Opening in all children’s rooms in Ebensburg, know of any grieving children in the community, let Melody know to get connected to resources.
- Eastern SEALS (Sarah Kern): Offers speech and audiology services, help people with disabilities. In Johnstown, the office Olympics is March 23 – contact Sarah for email registration for event.
- Cambria County Drug Coalition (Naomi Paluch): First youth advisory committee meeting this weekend youth ages 13-17, let Naomi know if you know of any teen who may be interested, have quarterly meetings. She also does free smoking cessation classes and is looking for places to hold these classes.
- Highmark Wholecare (Jennifer Jones Spratt): Continuing to do Health Programming in 2023 in Cambria County – if anyone has any events where table vendors are needed, send them my way!
- Penn Highlands Community College (Bridget Hall): started spring semester, new classes in March, but already looking to summer enrollment.
- PA LINK (Bethany Rietscha): Multiple webinars upcoming – if you want to be “in the know” about everything that is happening, reach out to Bethany to be part of her county-by-county listservs – lots of great info!!
- Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy (Dan Hockenberry): Began kickoff for the Highmark walks – concentrate on fundraising (Pittsburgh is May 13 and Altoona is June 10).
- Conemaugh MARC (Maria Bradley): Hiring a full-time certified recovery specialist.
- 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health (Allie Byers): In the early stages of planning the Johnstown Millrats baseball stadium health fair for summer – will announce date ASAP.
- Compassionate Hearts Personal Care (Denzel Henderson, CEO): First meeting – welcome! Have been operating since 2019 and glad to join the group.

- CASA Laurel Highlands (Shemariel Gray): CASA is always looking to collaborate with other local organizations. Next volunteer training: February 23 – March 16; reach out if you wish to volunteer.
- Self Determination Housing of PA (Heidi Niebauer): Cambria county is a coverage county – lots of different things to offer folks, help with the 811 waitlist, for individuals to be housed. Currently 1 vacant place in Ebensburg. There are eligibility requirements – Heidi has requirements and looking to build waitlist – reach out for more information.
- Alleghenies Unlimited Care (Helen Cannonie): Multiple positions open – currently hiring Marketing Director and Activities Coordinator. A health fair is being planned for the back parking lot area for May 20 – is open to anyone in the community and all are welcome to attend! See Helen for an informational packet and to register.
- Cambria County Backpack Project (Kristen Villarrial): Numbers are up with food costs/utilities for families being served. Serving over 500 children in 10 school districts. Always in need of plastic bags (can drop off in The Learning Lamp vestibule – it’s always open!) Also continuing to team up with local sports teams to collect food for community at games.
- Communities in Schools (Tim Grose): No major announcements, but connected to the schools so if you need that connection, reach out to him
- Cambria County (Tom Chernisky): Cambria County is always hiring for multiple positions. Also added a plug for the Cambria County airport – trying to create an airport economy here; St. Francis announced that there will be a campus at the airport and an 18-month air school opportunity – exciting!
- CCCDC (Jessica Nickel): Planning a partner day for February 15; if anyone knows anything ... If anyone knows of a dental screening at the school, let her know – this is a need.
- UPMC Nurse Family Partnerships (Kathleen Bickford): Currently enrolling moms and those who are pregnant.
- Bayada Home Health (Liza Martinez): First meeting – welcome! Liza is a RN with Bayada and a transitional care manager. Works with pediatric and adult patients via private duty nursing through waivers – those who need help and support at home. Can help with transition from hospital to home.
- Laurel View Village (Barb Cotchen): Currently hiring for multiple positions, would like to start own CNA program for employees; also noted of a wellness walk in October – more info to come.

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting ended 9:25am. Motion to adjourn by Melody Ray. See you next month!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 8:30am at Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers Community Room (119 Jari Drive, Johnstown). A Zoom link will also be available and sent prior to meeting for those who wish to join virtually.

Minutes Submitted By: Jennifer (Jones) Spratt