

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

In-Person Attendance (members who signed-in): Bethany Rietscha (PA Link), Jeff Vaughn (CAPCC), Jodi Russo (Goodwill), Tom Chernisky (Cambria County), Helen Cannonie (Alleghenies Unlimited Care), 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), Jennifer Jones Spratt (Highmark Wholecare), Liza Martinez (Bayada Home Health), Codi Norman (CCPB), Kristen Villarrial (CCBP), Sue Pratt (PA DoH – Office of Health Equity), Michele Zoldey (Alliance Medical Services), Tony Penna (Coaches 4 Kids Foundation), Barb Penna (SeniorLife Johnstown), Antoinette Orlosky (Crossroads), Bethany Blosky (Crossroads), Reghan Turchetta-Wolfe (St Vincent de Paul Food for Families), Chrystal James (Cambria County Suicide Prevention Task Force),

Virtual Attendance (via Zoom Link): Catherine Monk (Nulton Diagnostics), Mary McCoy (Cambria County Prison), Heidi Niebauer (Self Determination Housing of PA), Shemariel Gray (CASA), Chelsey Novak (Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank), Joyce Black (Cambria county Early Intervention coordinator), Maria (Conemaugh Work Program), Cindy O'Connor (Catholica Charities)

Meeting Introduction: The meeting started at 8:35am with a welcome from CCHWC President Bridget Hall.

Minutes Approval: Melody Ray motioned to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Mary McCoy.

Fall 2023 Wellness Planning Event Updates: Planning committee will meet first Wednesday of every month at 9:30am to continue planning the event. The tentative date is Saturday, October 21, and we are (fingers crossed!) hoping to hold this year's event at the Galleria Mall. The planning committee is open to any CCHWC member – please join us as able!

Treasurer's Financial Report: Treasurer's report provided by Mike Alberts; at the end of February 2023, account currently has \$4,261.72. Barb Penna motion to approve Treasurer's report; seconded by Bethany Rietscha.

March Presenter: Chrystal James with the Cambria County Suicide Prevention Task Force. *Information from Chrystal's Presentation, including an overview of the Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Golf Outing, and the Out of the Darkness Walk will be sent with partner announcements.* Thank you for presenting and the importance work you do in the community!

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

- Bethany – PA Link continues to offer various webinars and trainings across the service area. If you would like to be on Bethany’s list to get all updates, please reach out to her.
- Tony – Coaches 4 Kids Foundation has written several grants for playgrounds and walking trails, as well as a girls softball field. Waiting and hoping these get approved!
- Helen – ALUCP is having their “Putt for Purpose” mini golf event; they play throughout the building. **On May 20 from 11am-3pm is the Unlimited Care Community Fair in the parking lot**, for caregivers and consumers to learn about local agencies and organizations that have resources to help them. Contact Helen to register.
- Bethany/Antionette – A new clinic in Northern Cambria is opening in April!
- Liza – Bayada is hosting a job fair at the CC war memorial on March 7; also offering a new program to train home health aids and help pay for them to go to LPN school, offer up to \$18,000 in tuition – there is a local need for nurses and aids!
- Tom – The County is proud to have 9 veteran outreach programs – information is posted on the website. Additionally, the County is hiring for many positions. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Jeana Souders at 814-472-1610.
- Melody – Upcoming training on March 21 in Altoona on Sheraton drive office from 1-4, livestream from national alliance for grieving children for children who have lost a loved one for overdose, email Melody for event info.
- Theresa – just posted 10 summer positions across the region for college kids and various organizations, still have 6 summer grants left for summer positions. Also, March 12-18 is AmeriCorps week across the nation, in celebration of the over 200,000 members, with 85 of them across southwestern PA – thank you for your service!
- Allie – still working on the Millrats game date for the Health Fair
- Amy – hired a new local food systems coordinator, her info will be updated on the website by next week
- Michele – first meeting – represents **Alliance Medical Services** – an MAT program in Richland – they are hiring for case managers – welcome!
- Sue – getting ready for spring, this Friday at Cambria Heights Elementary School there is a health and wellness fair event
- Ethan – **The Learning Lamp is preparing for its signature event, the 14th annual children’s book festival “bedtime stories” encouraging kids to wear pjs and join the fun on April 15 & 16**; will have multiple authors and storytellers at this FREE event – target age is kids 3-12
- Codi Norman – **NEW CCBP Coordinator – welcome!** CCPB currently packing over 500 bags/week, always have volunteers to pack bags every Monday – reach out to Codi for more information.
- Bridget – Penn Highlands is trying to figure out what trainings nonprofits are looking for – brief survey was sent with announcements – please complete 😊
- Jen – Highmark Wholecare continues to do Health Programming in 2023 in Cambria County – if anyone has any events where table vendors are needed, send them my way!
- Chelsey – Next week is National School Breakfast Week so encouraging students to eat breakfast at school!

- Heidi – Works to try to help folks who are trying to help people with housing – don't work directly with clients – there is a landlord series in the spring – PDF to be sent; also hiring remote position with travel, salary starts at 51K; also there is an upcoming conference in Harrisburg and also online – PDF to be sent
- Cindy – Catholic Charities assists with utilities, located in downtown Johnstown and always accepting referrals

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting ended around 9:20am. Jeff Vaughn motioned to close the meeting; Jen Jones Spratt seconded. See you all next month!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 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