

Cambria County Health and Welfare Council
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – IN PERSON & VIRTUAL

In-Person Attendance (members who signed-in): Bethany Rietscha (PA Link), Jeff Vaughn (CAPCC), Maria Bradley (Conemaugh, MARC), Tom Chernisky (Cambria County), Jessica Nickel (CCCDC), Brian Goughnour (Communities in Schools/CCCDC), Amy Bunn (1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health), Mike Alberts (Johnstown Housing Authority), Bridget Hall (Penn Highlands Community College), Kristen Villarrial (Cambria County Backpack Project), Chelsey Novak (Pittsburgh Food Bank), Theresa Wolf (PMSC AmeriCorps), Nicki Sliko (Learning Lamp), Ethan Merrill (The Learning Lamp), Dave Baer (AmeriHealth Caritas), Jodi Russo (Career Link), Melody Ray (Healing Patch), Allie Byers (1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health), Barb Penna (SeniorLife Johnstown), Tony Penna (Coaches 4 Kids), Angela Leventry (Johnstown Housing Authority), Jaden Bennett (Johnstown Housing Authority), Codi Norman (Cambria County Backpack Project)

Virtual Attendance (via Zoom Link): Sam Serrano (Pittsburgh Food Bank), Catherine Monk (Nulton Diagnostics), Dan Hockenberry (Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy), Mary McCoy (Cambria County Prison), Rebecca Dean (Primary Health Network), Heidi Niebauer (SDHP)

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

Minutes Approval: April minutes unavailable due to sudden position elimination of several Community Engagement positions within Highmark including Secretary, Jennifer Jones Spratt. (Thank you for understanding)

Executive Team Updates:

- Executive Board Secretary position open. Please email Bridget if you would like to be considered for the Secretary.
- Trick or Treat Yourself to Wellness Event Update:
 - Save the Date: October 21
 - Location: Galleria Mall

Treasurer's Financial Report: Treasurer's report provided by Mike Alberts; account currently has \$4,261.72. Chelsey Novak motioned to approved Treasurer's report and seconded by Barb Penna.

- **CCHWC Memberships will be due in June of 2023.** Updates should be emailed soon. **If you have any questions about your membership status, reach out to Mike.**

Guest Speaker: Maria Bradley with Conemaugh MARC (Maternal Addiction Resource Center) provided an overview of the agency and resources they provide. Referrals are accepted from

anyone; clients don't have to be a Conemaugh patient. Serving Cambria, Bedford and Somerset counties. MARC serves pregnant and post-partum women with current substance abuse or history of substance abuse. MARC is a voluntary program that works to assist with needs including housing, car seats, cribs, and more. Reach out to Maria if your agency might like training on the program.

- Contact info: mabradle@conemaugh.org

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

- Learning Lamp (Ethan Merrill): Book Festival went well. Thanks to those who participated. Still a need for aids and substitute teachers. View opportunities here: <https://thelearninglamp.workbrightats.com/jobs/>
- AmeriHealth (Dave Baer): Rolled out mobile wellness unit including exam room and mobile dental chair.
- Coaches 4 Kids (Tony Penna): Building a pavilion at ballfield!
- Community Action ([CAPCC](#)) (Jeff Vaughn): Jeff is retiring effective May 26. We wish him well and thankful for his support to this community! Best Wishes, Jeff!
- PA LINK (Bethany Rietscha): Shared upcoming trainings.
 - May 10th Master Plan on Aging and Disabilities from 9am to 10:30am
 - June 13th LGBTQ+ Seniors 1pm to 3pm at American Red Cross Building in Johnstown, PA
 - June 19th Hording 1pm to 3:30pm also at the American Red Cross Building.
- AmeriCorps (Theresa Wolf): Thru May 22 accepting Host sites for August – August or August to June positions. Reach out to Theresa if your agency is interested in hosting an AmeriCorps worker for only \$11,000. AmeriCorps workers can assist with outreach, bridging gaps, and more!
- Cambria County (Tom Chernisky): Thanked for sharing info on positions at Duman Lake; they were able to hire 3 part-time workers.
 - Airport is doing well. Hosting an Aviation Summit, the last two days in May. <https://aerium.org/summit-overview>
 - New opportunity for high schools to teach 6 different aviation courses.
- Center for Population Health (Allie Byers & Amy Bunn): Save the date for July 14 for the Health and Wellness/Social Services night at the Millrats game.
 - May 17: Walk Works begins on Wednesdays in Downtown Johnstown at noon, meet at the Library.
 - Continue to accept referrals for pregnant women with Medical Assistance.
- Healing Patch (Melody Ray): Volunteer Open House held on 5/3/23. <https://www.facebook.com/healingpatchchildrensgriefprogram/>
- Communities in Schools (Brian Goughnour): Building a community garden.
- CCCDC (Jessica Nickel): Open enrollment for Pre-K in Conemaugh Valley, Ferndale, Northern Cambria, Mount Aloysius Learning Center.

- Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank (Chelsea Novak): Planning sites for summer food.
- PA Career LINK (Jodi Russo): Shared May calendar of events.
- Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy (Dan Hockenberry): Highmark Walk on May 13; still looking for walkers and sponsors. Additional walk in Altoona on June 10th.
- Self-Determination Housing Project (Heidi Niebauer): Conference on May 9 & 10 in Harrisburg and Virtual.
<https://www.inglis.org/programs-and-services/inglis-community-services/self-determination-housing-of-pennsylvania-sdhp/sdhp-conference-housing-as-a-human-right>
- Cambria County Backpack Project (Kristen Villarrial): Working on final stages of becoming a 501c3.
- Johnstown Housing Authority (Mike Alberts & Jaden Bennett): Increase self-sufficiency of families/accepting interest form for On the Rise program.
 - Still no definitive answer on repairs possible at Prospect, however things are looking more positive.

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting ended 9:20am. Motion to adjourn by Melody Ray. Tony Penna seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 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: Bridget Hall