**Cambria County Health and Welfare Council**  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2022 – IN PERSON**

**Attendance:** Bridget Hall (Penn Highlands Community College), Kristen Villarrial (Cambria County Backpack Project), Abby Gerlach (Cambria County Backpack Project), Mike Alberts (Johnstown Housing Authority), Catherine Monk (Nulton Diagnostic and Treatment Center), Jodi Russo (Goodwill of Southern Alleghenies - YouthBuild program), Jennifer Jones Spratt (Community Engagement for Highmark Wholecare), Dan Hockenberry (Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy), Ethan Merrill (The Learning Lamp), Susan Pratt (PA Dept. of Health), Shemariel Gray (CASA), Bethany Rietscha (PA Link Coordinator), Reghan Turchetta-Wolfe (SVDP Food For Families), Tom Chernisky (Cambria County), Amy Bunn (1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health), Rebecca Dean (Primary Health Network), Helen Cannonie (ALUCP), Brian Woy (ALUCP), Roselyn Brandon (Teen Parenting Program), Karen Sellers (CareerLink), Barb Penna (SeniorLife Johnstown), Tony Penna (Coaches 4 Kids Foundation), Jes Phillipi (Beginnings, Inc.), Paula Eppley-Newman (Beginnings, Inc.), Melody Ray (The Healing Patch), Theresa Wolfe (PMSC AmeriCorps), Jessica Nickel (CCCDC)

**Meeting Introduction:** The meeting started at 8:37am with a welcome from CCHWC President Bridget Hall.

**Announcement:** 2nd VP Katie Mullins got a new job (congrats!) and had to step down from the position…Bridget would like to open it up to everyone to see ***if there is an interest in joining the CCHWC executive committee?*** The main role of the 2nd VP is to back-up the treasurer. It is a 2-year commitment, but this individual would finish the last 1.5 years of the term. The executive committee also meets 1x per month for 30 minutes to plan the monthly meeting agenda. **Please reach out to Bridget with any questions or if you have interest in the position.**

**Financial Report:** Michael Alberts provided the fiscal report. The current account balance is   
$8,084.20. That includes about $5,000 in sponsorships from the October 22 Wellness Event. **We are able to donate almost $3,000 to the Cambria County Suicide Prevention Taskforce!** Dan Hockenberry made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Melody Ray seconded the motion. All present in favor.

**October 22 Wellness Event Results & Feedback:** Those in attendance provided feedback and updates from the event last month. There were about 35 vendors who came and set-up information and resources tables – a great turnout! Vendors were able to network with each other and make new connections ☺ Including vendors, there were about 140 people in attendance. **A sign-up sheet for next year’s planning committee members went around – if you also want to be added to the group, please connect with Jennifer Spratt. We will begin discussing the 2023 Fall Wellness Event in early spring.** A big thank you to EVERYONE who helped support this event in both big and small ways!

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

* Amy Bunn – 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health – continue to accept referrals for pregnant women with Medical Assistance
* Sue Pratt – PA Dept. of Health – ongoing education about the COVID vaccine, are also encouraging flu vaccine, and increasing awareness about Narcan
* Helen Cannonie – ALUCP – hiring for key positions like program specialists, care workers, residential workers … give Helen a call if you are interested or know someone who is. Also, Helen is making a list of anyone in the area who may be interested in volunteering to shovel out community members for the winter – so many individuals are handicapped or elderly and need additional assistance this winter. Also, the all-inclusive activities program occurs 1x a month – the next event is the Thanksgiving dinner. For all additional information, check out the alucp.org website.
* Jodi Russo – Goodwill’s big focus is the GED program – if you know of anyone, send them to Jodi/Goodwill; also, if anyone has a criminal background and needs employment OR employers who are interested in learning more about second chance opportunities (additional funding to benefit your business) – contact to Jodi.
* Karen Sellers – Cambria County CareerLink – looking for employees and employers, have great workshops to attend – check out their website
* Chelsey Novak – Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank – no new announcements
* Tim Grose – Communities in Schools – welcoming new positions in Cambria county schools, 2 positions open in Johnstown School District
* Jessica Nickel – CCCDC – no new announcements; reminder about Pre-K program, if kids need Pre-K, call her
* Brian – CIS work with Tim
* Paulette – past president pf the CCHWC, currently Executive Director at Beginnings, but will be retiring soon. Wanted to come and introduce Jessica
* Jessica – nice to meet everyone, new at Beginnings and looking forward to working with this group
* Roselyn Brandon – Johnstown School District, Teen Parenting Program – no new updates
* Tony Penna – Coaches for Kids Foundation – moving along well on new field, in process of building community garden and playground; the soccer/football field is complete, working with the State for girls’ softball, also writing grants and working with State for new funding … the goal of the community garden is to donate food for Cambria County Backpack Project
* Barb Penna – SeniorLife Johnstown – SeniorLife is celebrating 16 years! Current enrollment is 251 members – always looking for folks who want to stay out of nursing home and want to live independently. Individuals can stay with PCP if willing to work with SeniorLife. If anyone knows of any seniors living at home, who needs meals or chore visits or bathing, or dressing companion visits, etc. please reach out to Barb.
* Dan Hockenberry – Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy – this Saturday is the Murder Mystery Fundraising Dinner Party – great news – it’s SOLD OUT! There is a lot of great sponsors and a silent auction. Also, taking nominations for holiday blessing where some funds will go.
* Bethany Rietscha – PA Link Coordinator (oversees 6 counties) – restarting collaborative meetings that happened prior to COVID – first meeting is November 21 (**meeting was cancelled)** and now is rescheduled for January 16, 2023 – will be virtual. Contact Bethany to be added to the meeting invite.
* Ethan Merrill – Learning Lamp – last week was a childcare event at the Johnstown airport, hosted for employers; speakers were Stephanie Oliviera (Sheetz) and Andrea Heberlein (Early Learning Investment Commission) – was a cry of help for local leaders around issues in childcare shortage. Also, last month wrapped up the pizza fundraiser, raised over $6,000; are getting set for cookie/candy sale for holiday season
* Brian Woy – ALUCP – The annual Thanksgiving Luncheon is Wednesday November 16th; there is also an event on December 8 as part of a Veterans lunch at Richland Firehall – it’s a free luncheon through the Salvation Army; looking for speakers for January luncheon
* Tom Chernisky – Cambria County Commissioner – Budget hearings are complete for 2023 and will vote in December; reminder that Cambria County is always hiring; there was a press conference in November for land banks, Act 152 allows municipalities to help with transfer of mortgage, $15 goes into the land bank … land back helps citizens to get land with redevelopment authority – they buy property with less fees, trying to grow Johnstown airport economy (example test drones), partnership with St Francis around mechanic jobs
* Melody Ray – The Healing Patch - November is children’s grief awareness month (the specific day is November 17th) wear blue to recognize children’s grief, send picture to the Healing Patch FB messenger … Saturday the 19th in Altoona a big fundraiser from 2-10pm, basket raffles, etc. and all proceeds back to The Healing Patch
* Reghan Turchetta-Wolfe – St Vincent de Paul – no new updates
* Theresa Wolf – PMSC AmeriCorps – working hard to build community wellness partnerships, lots working in schools and environmental. Working to increase members. Interested in an AmeriCorps ($2-10K) – would love to talk more – please reach out
* Kristen Villarial – CCPB – the local need is growing, 3 new partner schools, looking for a SECOND warehouse space in the Ebensburg area to serve outlying area – biggest barrier is getting bins to schools
* Abby Gerlach – CCPB Coordinator – also have a Star Wars night at Johnstown Tomahawks game on November 19 – promoting backpack project and handing out flyers, encourage Star Wars fanatics to attend – limited edition Tomahawks light saber for fundraiser
* Jennifer Jones Spratt – Highmark Wholecare – Wrapping up the Wholecare Mobile Tour and will begin planning for 2023 Tour – if you have any events where you think our WMT would be good to attend, please reach out!
* Bridget Hall – Penn Highlands Community College – Registration for spring semester is open, Bridget can help anyone who may be interested
* Mike Alberts – Johnstown Housing Authority – Wellness Wednesdays are in full swing with the 1889 Center and Cambria County Drug Coalition; schedule is on the website, if interested to attend, connect with Allie Byers or Natalie Kauffman
* Catherine Monk – Nulton Diagnostics – no updates
* Jamie Lamer – Veterans Leadership Program – highlight the stand down Johnstown event on November 12, excited to have it as first time hosting this event, still have lots of room for providers, mainly a resource fair – contact Jamie, providing lunch, also looking for an organization to do flu or covid shots … for housing, also having housing grant per diem units available, temporary housing up to 90 days, also have employment, legal, case management support, etc.
* Rebecca Dean – Primary Health Network – no updates, but Ebensburg office does offer health screenings, regardless of insurance and payment
* Shemariel Grey – CASA – organization is growing, swearing in 6 new volunteers this Friday, always continuing to look for new volunteers over 18 for kids in the child welfare council.

**Adjournment:** Before adjourning, Bridget noted that on the table at the side of the room, there is information for agencies. If you see old information (pre-pandemic) from your organization, please throw it away. You can also bring new information to be put on the table.

At 9:30am Motion to Adjourn by Barb Penna. Bethany Rietscha seconded the motion. See you next month!

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 8:30am at Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers Community Room (119 Jari Drive, Johnstown). **It will be our holiday party!**

**Minutes Submitted By**: Jennifer (Jones) Spratt