

Co-Occurring Disorders Welcoming Committee Newsletter

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Theresa Rudy-Blair County MH/MR
Program Director

Christine Zernick-Altoona Regional Health
Systems Special Services Coordinator/
Blair County Change Agent Coordinator,

Cindy James-Blair County MH
Program Specialist

Lewis Lastort, MSW, LCSW

Andrew Bollinger-Skills of Central PA
Team Leader

Lani Otto-Skills of Central PA,
Employment Training Specialist

Jami Sederes- Child Advocates of Blair
County, Behavioral Support Specialist

April Tennis- Home Nursing Agency,
D & A Counselor

Tracy Dutko MS, LPC- ACRP,
Clinical Director

Amber Myers-ACRP,
BHRS Program Director

John Hooper-Home Nursing Agency,
Case Manager Supervisor

Susan Adams-Home Nursing Agency

Jodi McConahy-HeadStart

Change Agent Committee Meetings

Steering Committee

1/14/10 ~ 1:30

Blair Health Choices

Welcoming Committee

1/15/10 ~ 9:00

ACRP

Children's Committee

2/3/10 ~ 12:00

Access Center

Begin With The End in Mind

1/28/10 ~ 9:00

Access Center

Training Committee

2/11/10 ~ 9:00

Access Center

Training With Dr.'s Minkoff and Cline

2/25/10

9:00-11:00 Change Agent Meeting

11:00-12:00 ~Lunch

12:00-4:00 ~ Case Study

The mission of the Co-occurring Disorders Change Agent Welcoming Committee is to participate in the creation of welcoming and promoting the Co-Occurring Disorders Initiative to all Blair County human service providers and individuals and families with co-occurring disorders.

During the past nine years, the Blair County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Programs have been engaged in a process of system transformation in Blair County. This process has been aligned with several major priorities for system development outlined at the state level, but these processes have been specifically adapted and implemented with unique features within Blair County.

These major initiatives have occurred in the following areas:

- Development of a Strength based, Family Centered Children's System of Care
- Implementation of Comprehensive Continuous Integrated System of Care (CCISC)

Blair County has endorsed and implemented CASSP and the CCISC models, which provide the framework to review the development of a system of care for persons and families with mental health and/or substance use disorders and offers suggestions for improvements to that system. Theresa Rudy, Program Director for Blair County MH states, "I had an opportunity to attend a Mental Illness Substance Abuse (MISA) conference in 1988. Dr. Bert Pepper was the keynote speaker and I recall his opening statement, People with mental illness and substance disorders are more like you and me than anything else." I have always remembered this quote and would just restate "Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders are people first."

In this process, Blair County MH/D&A Program Offices, Blair Health Choices, Blair County Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization, (Community Behavioral Health Network Program), providers, consumers, families, and other stakeholders and systems will be partners that will participate in the continuing implementation of the CCISC model and the children's system of care to accomplish our vision and mission.

Vision: Persons and families with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders have the opportunity to make choices about their lives, to pursue happiness and the achievement of their personal goals with dignity and the respect of others and to be supported by a system of recovery that integrates mental health services, drug and alcohol services and community resources.

Mission: To ensure access to and delivery of a coordinated, effectively managed, comprehensive array of quality mental health and substance use services that are person-focused and person/family centered through the development of a system of care that is welcoming, accessible, integrated, continuous and comprehensive.

HOW CAN I BECOME A CHANGE AGENT?

This group is very powerful because it is a formal piece of the architecture where-maybe for the first time-the voice of front line clinicians, case managers, consumer/family representatives, and MCO program support folks is collectively and equally represented at the system design table.

Change agents are working individually on the front lines to help their managers and supervisors build change in their programs; change agents work collectively to become a "recovery support group" for each other, change agents can provide cross-training, consultation, and linkage in each other's programs; and change agents become a boundary spanning team of front line clinical energy that represents the collective heart and soul of the system, without which management cannot make fully effective decisions about how to anchor quality clinical practice into place.

If you are interested in becoming a change agent please contact Christine Zernick at CZernick@AltoonaRegional.org or she can be reached at 814.381.9897

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