

**McKean County Collaborative Board
Wednesday, January 6, 2010 Minutes**

Attendance:

Ronda Skoken, Department of Human Services Family Group Decision Making; Tammy VanGorder, Department of Human Services Family Group Decision Making; Mimi Smith, Northern Tier Community Action Corporation; Greta Billings, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services; Casey Schillinger, The Guidance Center; Andy Penird, The Guidance Center; Carrie Bowman, Penn State Cooperative Extension; Lee Sizemore, The Guidance Center; Marg Kroh, Adagio Health; Debbie Olson, PA Department of Health; Nancy Chesnut, YWCA Victims Resource Center; Marcia Avey, McKean County RSVP; Cindy Wright, McKean County Birth-3 Early Intervention; Lynne Grimm, Childcare Information Services; Amy Wehler, Life and Independence for Today; Mike Kuleck, Northern Tier Community Action Corporation Head Start; Marcy Boswell, Northern Tier Community Action Corporation Head Start; Lora Cope, American Cancer Society; Jim Keltz, McKean County Assistance Office; Tara Erway, Children and Youth Services; Duane Wolfe, Department of Human Services

Updates/Announcements:

April Kids' Fest

- CARE for Children is planning a Healthy Baby Day to be held in conjunction with a Healthy Kids Day that the YMCA is sponsoring. More information will be forthcoming.

Strengthening Families Program

- The McKean County Strengthening Families Program, for fifth and sixth graders and their parents will begin the week of February 15, 2010. The program, which helps to prevent substance abuse, will be offered in all five school districts in the county with two sites in Bradford (Fretz and St. Bernard's).
- A facilitator training is being held in February, so if members know of someone from the Port Allegany area who would be a good facilitator, please contact Lee Sizemore at 887-5591 or lee@mckeanfamilyresources.net.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Planning

- A committee meeting to plan the activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2010 will be held in the Conference Room at the Children and Youth Building January 13, 2010 from 10:00-12:00.
- Anyone interested in joining this ad-hoc committee to help plan the month's activities is welcome.

Bee-hive Presentations:

Family Group Decision Making

- Ronda Skokin and Tammy VanGorder discussed the Family Group Decision Making program offered through the McKean County Department of Human Services. The program is for families facing crisis or disruption, usually Children and Youth Service or Probation involved families. The family decision making process is led by the family and the supporting agencies and informal supports help the family identify

strengths and address concerns. The family then develops a plan that supports the safety, permanency and well-being of the children involved.

- For more information, contact the McKean County Department of Human Services at 887-3350.

Heating Assistance/LIHEAP

- Jim Keltz from the McKean County Assistance office talked about LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program), which helps low-income families pay their heating bills. Assistance is available in the form of cash grants to help pay for heating bills or crisis grants for emergency heating situations. Both programs have an anticipated closing date of April 2, 2010.
- The income requirements have changed since last year, making fewer families eligible. This year, as an example, a family of four is eligible for the program if they make \$33,075 or less.
- For more information or to apply, contact the local Assistance Office at 362-4671 or visit the COMPASS website at <https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass>.

RSVP Program

- Marcia Avery from the Office of Human Services Area Agency on Aging spoke about RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program). The program provides volunteer opportunities for people age 55+ to serve in a variety of settings throughout their communities.
- To see if a volunteer would be a good fit at your organization, contact Marcia Avery at 887-5683.

New/Old Business:

Annual Plan

- The 2010 Annual Plan created at the annual meeting in November was reviewed and discussed.

Member Comments and Announcements:

H1N1 Clinic

- A Free H1N1 vaccination clinic offered through the PA Department of Health will be held January 8 and 9 at the Coleman Center in Eldred.
- Call 1-877-724-3258 to register.

Recognition

- Thanks to Tony Sowers from the Pitt-Bradford MSW program for the work completed during his internship with the McKean County Collaborative Board.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson, Elk and McKean Counties was one of eleven programs in the US awarded the Federal Foster Care Mentoring Initiative grant. This almost \$500,000 grant will be shared between the three counties with the focus on children involved with CYS for child abuse and neglect and who are living with someone other than their biological parents.
- Contact Heidi Stahlnecker (371-0613) for more information.

United Way Goal

- The United Way of the Bradford Area announced that they were pleased with the progress that the Bradford community has had so far in meeting their community fundraising goal.

Safety Training

- The Guidance Center is offering a safety training for McKean County early childhood home visitors titled “Home Visiting and Safety Precautions: Training in Crisis Prevention”. Topics will include safety precautions to take during home visits, how to de-escalate aggressive behavior and how to utilize Mental Health Crisis Services and the police.
- The training will be January 25, 2010 from 9:30-12:00 at the Hamlin Memorial Library.
- RSVP by January 22, 2010 by contacting Lee Sizemore at 887-5591 or lee@mckeanfamilyresources.net.

Steering Committee:

Next Meeting is at 3:00 on February 3, 2010 at the State Health Center, 84 Boylston Street, Bradford.

Future Collaborative Board Meeting Schedule:

- March 3, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm, Hamlin Memorial Library
- May 5, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm, Hamlin Memorial Library
- July 7, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm, Location to be announced
- September 1, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm, Hamlin Memorial Library
- November 3, 2010, 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Penn Hills Club – Annual Meeting