

2009 Legislative Picnic Summary

The McKean County Collaborative Board hosted a legislative Picnic July 17th, 2009 to facilitate a discussion between human service stakeholders and elected officials concerning budget negotiations. The focus centered on how McKean County could best be insulated against devastating cuts in critical investments for children and families.

Among the group of 38 attendees, many of who were stakeholders in human service; two were youth who completed the McKean County Strengthening Families Program, two McKean County Commissioners were in attendance and a representative of State Senator Joe Scarnati was present.

The deadline to pass a state budget was June 30 and many anticipated negotiations would continue beyond that date. Discussion centered on the following topics:

- What we can do to help elected officials know what programs and services are important to our community.
- The impact that a lack of funds on the day-to-day operations of agencies would have, including the need to cut programming.
- The impact that cutting programs will have on the most vulnerable McKean County citizens.
- What the county and local governments will have to do in order to make up for lost state funding that normally helps cover the costs of mandated programs.
- As discussion about the state budget is being refined, how can agencies best track, plan for and give feedback about the various plans.

Media Coverage

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Saturday, July 18, 2009 — 11



Era photo by Fran De Lancey

The McKean County Collaborative Board's legislative picnic, held Friday in Smethport, was moved from Hamlin Lake Park to the Court of Angels on West Main Street due to inclement weather. Shown from left are Chuck Dillon, field representative for State Sen. Joe Scarnati, R-Brockway; County Commissioner Judy Church; Tina Martin, who is executive director of CARE for Children and also chairs the Collaborative Board; and County Commissioner Al Pingie, who served as part of a panel for an informal discussion about the state budget crisis and its effect on human services in McKean County.