

CONCERN CONNECTIONS

A Weekly Publication

Week of July 5, 2022

Together, we connect!

Staff Inspirations - Your Forum to Inspire

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." — Aristotle

Welcome Aboard

- We welcome **Samantha Fidler**, as an Administrative Assistant, in the Outpatient Program, based out of the Mansfield CBHS location.
- We welcome **Elizabeth Walker**, as a Mental Health Worker, in the Family Based Program, based out of the Leighton CBHS location.
- We welcome **Michelle Meyers**, as a Behavioral Health Technician 1, in the IBHS Program, based out of the Bethlehem and Fleetwood CBHS locations.
- We welcome **Calista Alicea**, as an IT Projects Coordinator, in the Corporate office, based out of the Fleetwood office location.
- We welcome **Heather Eisenhauer**, as a Behavioral Health Technician 2, in the IBHS Program, based out of the Lewisburg CBHS location.

July PTOs

STAFF PTO	DATE(S)	SUPERVISOR
Carri Prior	7/15, 7/25	Gordon May
Tracy Cote	7/5, 7/25 – 7/29	Melanie Fritch
Jennifer Peters	7/5, 7/11	Tanya Jones
Melanie Fritch	7/5	Glenn Miller
Suzanne Holmgren	7/5 – 7/7	Carri Prior
Kassie Irwin	7/5 – 7/8	Scott Lubinski
Melissa Newton	7/5	Kassie Irwin
Tanya Jones	7/11 – 7/15	Gordon May
Tricia Reedy Jones	7/11 – 7/15	Gordon May
Mary Szychowski	7/11, 7/15, 7/18, 7/22, 7/25, 7/29	Scott Lubinski
Veronica Cook	7/12, 7/15, 7/25	Shannon Coscia
Shannon Coscia	7/14, 7/15, 7/27 – 7/29	Glenn Miller
Gail Machermer	7/14, 7/15	Kassie Irwin
Sue Fritch	7/15 – 7/22	Melania Fritch
Jeff Fritch	7/18 – 7/22	Scott Lubinski
Tyeshia Clark	7/25, 7/28, 7/29	Kassie Irwin

Agency-Wide Meetings

SLT	Wednesday, 7/6/22	9:00 - 11:30
Behavioral Health	Monday, 7/11/22	11:00 – 1:00
PQI Committee	Thursday, 7/14/22	9:00 – 11:00
SLT	Wednesday, 7/20/22	9:00 – 11:30

Administration News & Updates

Human Resources Happenings

CONCERN Positions Available in SharePoint [\[HERE\]](#)

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Development & Marketing - Raising Dollars & Awareness

It's time to begin planning for the Fall 2022 Bingo. The first committee meeting will be held on July 28th at 2:00 PM via Teams. Please contact either Jane Zettlemoyer or Tricia Reedy Jones if you wish to help plan this upcoming event. Bingo is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022.

We are still looking for information on Youthful Achievements, Graduations, and any other interesting news for the upcoming Summer Matters of CONCERN. Please forward to Jane Zettlemoyer @ jzettlemoyer@concern4kids.org as soon as possible.

Reminder: Please send any events you will be attending for August, client stories, or any information you would like highlighted on social media by Thursday July 7 to Tricia Reedy Jones at treedyjones@concern4kids.org.

Social Services News & Updates

NEW FORM – Foster Parent-Application Packet:

Kinship ChildLine Clearance Check (PA ONLY)

As part of the Towanda Foster Care audit, DHS recommended CONCERN create a form for the emergency ChildLine clearance that the county runs when requesting emergency kin approval. The Children and Youth Services' Caseworker/Supervisor will complete this form when they make a referral for an emergency kinship approval to verify that CYS ran the ChildLine clearance on the identified kinship resource parents. The completed form must be filed in the resource parent file/Binti and a copy of the form goes to the Recruiter/Intake Coordinator.

NEW FORM – Foster Parent-Family Approval Packet:

Sex Offender Search (PA ONLY)

This form was created due to the COA requirement that approval workers perform a search for sex offenders on the Megan's Law Website (<https://www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us/>) and on the U.S. Department of Justice Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website <https://www.nsopw.gov/>. This form is to be completed by the foster parent recruiters/family workers during the time of the foster parent approval process and during annual re-approvals. Workers will search the sites and check the box indicating the correct response "Records were found and are attached" or "No records were found." This should be done for foster parents and other adults living in the home. The completed form must be filed in the foster parents' file on Binti, and a copy of the completed form goes to the Administrative Assistants.

REVISED FORM - Foster Parent:

CONCERN Emergency Kinship Referral Form (PA ONLY)

Form needed other sections to include information about child's diagnosis, school, medications, insurance information, placement history, and alternate caregivers

The following changes were made to this form:

Page 1 – Addition of (receive email verification) to:

Has County Completed Emergency Clearances:

Has County Completed Emergency Home Inspection:

Page 2 – Medical Problems was changed to Medical Problems/Diagnosis

Page 3 – Mental Health Issues was changed to Mental Health Issues/Diagnosis

Page 4 – Additional Page with the following listed items:

- Are there any family members that cannot be approved as alternate caregivers?
If so, what are their names:
- Placement History:
- Current Medications:
- Insurance/MA#:

Page 5 – Addition of What school does the child attend? What grade is the child in?
Does the child have an IEP?

Compliance & Quality - News You Can Use

From the Director of Quality Assurance:

FALSE CLAIMS ACT (FCA) -those who knowingly submit, or cause another person or entity to submit false claims for payment of government funds are liable for three times the government's damages plus civil penalties of \$5,500 to \$11,000 per false claim. Knowingly is defined as 1. Has actual knowledge of the falsity of the information in the claim, 2. Acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information in a claim or 3. Acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information in a claim.

Does not require proof of a specific intent to defraud the US Government. Instead, health care providers can be prosecuted for a wide variety of conduct that leads to the submission of fraudulent claims to the government, such as knowingly making false statements, falsifying records, double-billing for items or services, submitting bills for services never performed or items never furnished or otherwise causing false claims to be submitted.

Originally signed by President Lincoln in 1863, the act made it illegal to present or cause to be presented to the Federal Government for payment or approval when the person submitting it knows the claim is false or fraudulent. In 1896, an amendment was added that connected it to the healthcare industry, particularly in billing and coding areas.

PQI stands for Performance and Quality Improvement:

A main focus of PQI activities is to systematically evaluate the quality and outcomes of the service provided in order to identify necessary changes to improve services.
Have a good day!

Cheryl Reeling
Hotline 855-234-3168

Weekly Wellness Tips

At CONCERN we value work-life balance. We hope you are taking time this summer to enjoy life outside of work. We would love to see your vacation photos this month. Please share with wellnesscommittee@concern4kids.org. Please note, we will only show photos on social media that do not include family members or children. Be creative in your submissions. All photos submitted by July 31, 2022 will be entered into a random drawing for CONCERN swag!

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for racial and ethnic minority groups to get access to mental health and substance-use treatment services.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness (52.9 million people in 2020). While People of Color (POC) have rates of mental health disorders similar to Whites, these disorders are more likely to last longer and result in more significant disability for POC. Most mental illness goes untreated, especially in communities of color. Forty-six percent of Whites with any mental illness (AMI) received mental health services in 2015, compared to 30% of Blacks and 27% of Hispanics.

BIPOC Mental Health Facts


Children & Teens

- Black and Hispanic children were about 14% less likely than White youth to receive treatment for their depression. (1)
- Approximately 50% to 75% of youth in the juvenile justice system meet the criteria for a mental health disorder. (9)
- Over 25% of Black youth exposed to violence have proven to be at high risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). (1)
- Approximately 10% of White and Hispanic adolescents engaged in alcohol use, compared to 7.3% for Black adolescents and 4.7% for Asian adolescents. (10)
- In 2018, a study found that the suicide rate of Black children 5 to 12 was nearly twice that of White children of the same age. (6)
- In 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death for Black or African Americans, ages 15 to 24. For Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders ages 15-24, suicide was the leading cause of death. (10)

For more information: follow <https://www.facebook.com/minorityhealth> throughout the month

Around Regions

Northeast Office –Time is running out to purchase your Christmas in July 50/50 Raffle! Contact Sharon Symuleski at ssymuleski@concern4kids.org to get your tickets today!

<p>Christmas in July 50/50 Raffle Proceeds benefit children in care through CONCERN's Northeast Office.</p> <p>Drawing on 7/25/2022</p> <p>Ticket Price - \$1</p> <p> www.concern4kids.org</p> <p>License ID #G-22-002847-R</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>
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