



# Employee Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

May 31, 2017

**Please welcome the following New Employees to our agency:**

**Merryfield**

Meghan Moye  
Sherry Tingler

**Mental Health**

Melanie Morris  
Stephen DiMarzio  
Ashley Johnson

**Admin**

Lee Nichols

**Life Skills**

Kelsey Tolley

**Friendship**

Rena Burks

**Residential**

Erin Kirby



## **2017 AHCS Relay for Life**

Allegheny Highlands Community Services held a yard sale at the Mental Health Clinic on May 20<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Relay for Life team. Another fundraiser was a proceeds night at Wendy's on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm.

Relay for Life is an opportunity for individuals and the agency as a whole to show support to the American Cancer Association and stay actively involved in community events. We hope that through everyone's continued dedication and hard work we will be able to exceed last year's contribution!

The Relay for Life event will be held at Allegheny High School on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If you are interested in being a part of the team or learning more about this event, please contact Sarah Deffinbaugh at 540-965-2100 ext. 122.

Registration is FREE this year!



**May 2017**

**Above and Beyond Award Winner:**

**Megan Boone**

April was Autism Awareness Month. Individuals at Life Skills made ribbons which were distributed to AHCS employees.



On March 28, 2017, Region I Reach Services provided a training on "Hallucinations and Delusions Occurring in Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The presenters were Dr. Adam Kaul, M.D. and Katherine Howell, MSW. Approximately forty AHCS employees attended the training.



### **CIT**

AHCS completed its first 40 hour CIT training May 1-5, 2017. Ten law enforcement officers from the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office and the Clifton Forge Police Department completed CIT training on how to better interact with individuals who may be in crisis. The completion of this first localized training marks a large step forward for the partnership between Mental Health and Law Enforcement in the Allegheny Highlands. As a result of this success, plans are being coordinated to conduct other CIT trainings within the Highlands.

Angelina Banaag, and Lisa Hicks, AHCS Board member, attended the Allegheny Highlands Early Learning Partnership Luncheon on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at JRTC. Guest speaker was Dr. Amanda Williford, Research Associate Professor at UVA Curry Schools of Education, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning. Topics included “The Brain Science behind Early Childhood Development and Economic Impact”, Developing our next generation; “Productive members of Allegheny Highlands Workforce and Society”; Eliminating the Risk Factors beginning at birth!



### May is Early Intervention Month

In celebration of Early Intervention Month, the infant program purchased or obtained items for baskets which were assembled and given to various groups, including Safe Homes, Allegheny County and Covington City school board offices, local doctor’s offices, teachers and therapists in the local school systems, Dolly Ann and Mountain View Apartments, ACDSS, ACHD, and both the Allegheny Regional and Clifton Forge libraries. Special thanks to Shawna Jefferson, Jenny Ortiz, Kevin, Cheyenne, Jessica, Dean and everyone at the Day Program.



A proclamation signing was held at City Hall on May 18<sup>th</sup> for Early Intervention Month. Several AHCS employees were present at the signing.

### Prevention Services

April has been a busy month as we recognized Alcohol Awareness month. We had two billboards in the community promoting the importance of talking to youth about underage drinking. We also had the privilege of hosting “The Magic of Life” program presented by Michael Gershe at CHS and AHS on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Michael used humor to connect with the students before talking about his personal story, peer pressure, drunk driving and how alcohol can impact a student’s career, family and community. Prevention Services also attended the After Prom parties for both CHS and AHS on April 23 and April 30. During the After Prom events, the agency provided a video entitled “The Truth about Marijuana” and played a marijuana facts game with the students. Both provided the students with information about the dangers of youth marijuana use and how it can negatively impact lives and communities. The newly formed Healthy Youth Coalition had a follow-up meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the DBHDS strategic prevention and heard a presentation from David Willis, Drug Task Force officer with the Virginia State Police. He enlightened our group with information about drug trafficking in our area. Lastly, the agency is excited to announce that we have hired a new Prevention Coordinator, Melanie Morris.



### Allegheny Clubhouse

Clubhouse did many exciting things during the Spring. Thirteen members and staff attended a Salem Red Sox game on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and were recognized over the loud speaker and on the big screen as one of the special guest groups of the day. During education group in May, Officer Chris Fisher talked to Clubhouse about internet safety and provided vital information to our individuals. Many wonderful events are upcoming, including picnics, corn hole tournaments and our weekly walking club!

## Calendar

### June

- 1-15 passenger van training
- 2- Therapeutic Options class
- 9-NAMI meeting
- 13-Mental Health First aid Training
- 15-Payday
- 16- Therapeutic Options class
- 23-NAMI meeting
- 24-Relay for Life
- 28-New Hire Orientation
- 30-Payday

### July

- 4-Independence Day (closed)
- 7-Therapeutic Options class
- 10-32-Hr Medications Class
- 14-NAMI meeting
- 14-Payday
- 21-Therapeutic Options class
- 26-New Hire Orientation
- 28-NAMI meeting
- 31-Payday

### August

- 11 - NAMI meeting
- 11-Therapeutic Options class
- 15-Payday
- 24-25 - ASIST training @ Family Life Center of First Christian Church
- 25 - NAMI meeting
- 25-Therapeutic Options class
- 31-Payday

## From the Executive Director

The warm weather is here, and we are about to conclude another fiscal year. Where has the time gone? I personally want to thank each and every employee of our CSB for a stellar fiscal year. Although it is not the end of June, based upon the projections, it looks as if we are going to end the year in a very positive manner. Your hard work and dedication to the individuals that we serve has certainly paid off and it shows. This fiscal year has been one of various new programs, grants, and lots of progress. This CSB continues to grow and improve the overall continuum of care for the individuals that we serve. I want to thank the leadership team for directing and guiding their program areas. They have essentially worked hard. When you see them, please thank them...On another sidebar, I want to directly thank Felicia Prescott for all that she has done in her role over the past two plus years for not only MH&SA but for the agency. Felicia brought a unique perspective and insight to our clinical work environment which has provided her staff with a new way of thinking and working. Now, Felicia is going to semi-retire and enjoy traveling and she will be missed!