



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Justin Douglas, CHAIRMAN  
Mike Pries, VICE CHAIRMAN  
George P. Hartwick III, SECRETARY

**CHIEF CLERK/CHIEF OF STAFF**  
ERIC HAGARTY

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
RANDIE YEAGER

**SOLICITOR**  
MATTHEW OWENS

MHADP ADMINISTRATOR  
ANDREA KEPLER

**AGENDA**  
**MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY MH/A/DP BOARD**

*June 16, 2025, 12:00pm*

Welcome and Introductions

I. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

a. Attendance, Frank Magel, Diane Bates- Sier, Lois Gohn, Brady Barley, Tyesha Maxwell,

Tawanna Rose, Dave DeSanto, Mary Beth Greenhalgh, Samantha Orth, Serina Polizzi,

Anthony House

b. Approval of minutes: approved as written.

II. Announcements/Agency Updates

a. No announcements.

b. No updates.

### III. County Updates

- a. Contracting: MHADP expects to know details about the budget by October. For now, contracts are being moved back to the original rate and total for last fiscal year, to avoid promising any finances that may not end up in the budget. Amendments can be made later when the final budget is received. Other counties are in a similar situation. Please make sure providers get their contracts signed and returned to MHADP, so they can be submitted to the commissioners on time.
- b. There will be a Consumer Support Program recovery picnic on City Island, on Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM-1PM. Anyone can attend. They request that people interested RSVP Bruce Greer at [bgreer@cmupa.org](mailto:bgreer@cmupa.org), or Kathy Carr at [kcarr@css-pa.org](mailto:kcarr@css-pa.org)
- c. There was a Save the Date sent out for Aspire's Suicide Prevention conference on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. There will be two town meetings held by Aspire. The first is Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm at Penn State. The second is Tuesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm at the Halifax Ambulance Building in Upper Dauphin.

- e. There is a Save the Date for the Peer Support Recognition event, working with PerformCare and CABHC to recognize peer support staff for their hard work. It will be October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Central Penn Conference Center from 9am-2pm. Lunch is included.
- f. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, CABHC Consumer Family Focus Committee is sponsoring a training on the effects of social media on mental health. Registration is required and will be sent out soon.
- g. NAMI is hosting a walk this Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at City Island.

*IV.* Presentation: Master Leasing Program: Volunteers of America

- a.* Master Leasing is currently serving Luzerne County and now Dauphin. Master leasing is a rental assistance, based supportive housing program for adults suffering from mental illness. VOA holds a lease and sublets it for up to 2 years to individuals and their families. This secures safe affordable housing for vulnerable populations.
- b.* VOA PA leases a unit from landlords. VOA-PA manages relationships between landlord and consumer. Consumers received wraparound supports (case management, budgeting, daily living skills, etc. VOA ensures rent is paid and units are maintained. VOA will not collect rent from most consumers for the first 3 months to encourage them to save money for security deposits.

*c.* Tyesha Maxwell shares slides detailing the program, and she will send those slides to Frank to be distributed to the group, so everyone understands the details of the Master Leasing Program. Kyle Bertone is with MHADP and he screens referrals before sending them to the VOA. They will be serving up to 16 individuals.

*d.* In Luzerne County last fiscal year VOA housed 28 individuals, and 24 are maintaining their apartments on their own and they are working with at least 10 landlords in the community and VOA owns some of their properties. Currently they own a property in Wilkes-Barre of shared living spaces, and there are opportunities to move to more private units after a time. There is a good amount of data proving that shared living with men especially can be successful. They hope to duplicate this system in Dauphin County in the near future. The positive to shared living under the VOA program is that if someone moves out, the other person is not stuck with all of the burden of rent.

*e.* The program is made to work with people with convictions that prohibit them obtaining a lease on their own, it is only an issue when one of the landlords does not want to work with someone convicted of a specific crime. The program works with various types of landlords, but no crime disqualifies an applicant.

V. Next Meeting: Topic: Connections Health Solutions, Emergency Services

a. Will work on trying to get connections to talk about Crisis Walk in Center.

**Next Meeting:** *The Next MH Committee Meeting: Monday August 18th at 12:00 pm*  
*\*\*Committee meets every other month\*\**