

March 2023

Issue 18

Washington County Department of Human Services



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Car Seat Safety & Installation Checks

FIND A SEAT CHECK NEAR YOU!

Car Seat Checks are by appointment only!

Please contact your chosen location for availability.

3/10
1PM-3PM

NORTH HUNTINGDON EMS/RESCUE
11259 CENTER HIGHWAY
NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642
Call Kristen Urso at
412-885-0266 or email
kurso@paaap.org for appointments.

3/23

WASHINGTON BUDD BAER
71 MURLAND AVENUE
WASHINGTON, PA 15301
Call Kristen Urso at
412-885-0266 or email
kurso@paaap.org for appointments.

1PM-3PM

5/11
4PM-6PM

ROSS/WEST VIEW EMS AUTHORITY
5325 PERRYVILLE AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15229
Contact Mark Ford at
mford@rvems.org for appointments.

5/18

LLOYDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
901 JEFFERSON STREET
LATROBE, PA 15650
Contact Jaci Brice at 724-518-6949 or
jbrice@hsnetwork.org for appointments.

10AM-1PM

5/25
1PM-3PM

PETERS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT
245 E MCMURRAY ROAD
MCMURRAY, PA 15317
Call 724-941-4176 for appointments.

Dates to Remember

March 2023

March 1 at 3:00-Department of Human Services Town
Hall Meeting- [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

March 3 at 12-VA Pittsburgh Day of Remembrance-
[Click here to join meeting.](#)

March 28 at 10:00-PATHfinders meeting [Click here
to join the meeting](#)

We are now accepting submissions for the April, May
and June newsletter. Please reach out to Rebecca
Salsbury at Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us
if you are interested in being a guest columnist or if
you know of any upcoming events!

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

VA PITTSBURGH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Invites you to join us for our fourth annual

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

In service and fellowship for loved ones lost to
suicide or substance use related death.

Friday, March 3, 2023 | noon - 12:30 p.m.

A virtual event - join from your home or office.



[Click here to join the event](#)

Shine the Light

on

Mental Health & Suicide Awareness

2023



Presented By Washington County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

Saturday, May 20th, 2023

Registration 11:00 am-12:00pm; Run starts at 12:00pm; Event
12:00-2:00pm

Join us in our efforts to increase awareness & eliminate stigma

Washington Park /Stone Pavilion

Park Road, No 1, Washington, PA 15301

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Additional Activities Include: Depression & Suicide Screening;
speakers, music, refreshments & Prize Raffles

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER

<https://forms.office.com/g/KWF57J2XA7>

Free event/Free t-shirts to those who pre-register (limited supply)

One t-shirt per household

For additional information please contact

Christina at 724-250-4135

Children under the age of 18 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult



Sponsored by The Pennsylvania National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

What's the Buzz at Washington County Department of Human Services?



A promotional graphic for the Washington County Department of Human Services. It features the Washington County logo on the left and the text 'Department of Human Services' on the right. Below this, it asks 'Do you need our HELP?' and lists various services: Food, Housing, Transportation, Childcare, Employment, Education, Mental/Physical Health, and Finance / Legal. It also includes a QR code and the phone number (724) 228-1234. At the bottom, it says 'HELP is as easy as 1234!'.



Meet Brianne Spurlock, Human Services Fiscal Technician

Brianne Spurlock joined the Human Services Department on November 15, 2022 as a Fiscal Technician. Although her family moved around the northeast in her early childhood, they eventually settled in Elizabeth Township. After graduating from Elizabeth Forward High School, Brianne obtained her bachelor's degree from Central Bible College in Springfield, MO. It is here that she met her husband of almost 20 years. Since then, Brianne has relished moving to new and exciting places, spending 5 years in her husband's hometown in the extraordinary Pacific Northwest and 8 years in the "wild west" of Montana, before returning home to Pittsburgh in 2018. Although she has greatly enjoyed the adventures that these places have granted, Brianne counts her most treasured adventures as those her 4 children have provided.

Brianne comes to the Human Services Department after almost 4 years as the co-owner of a small business in Bridgeville, a business that allowed her to not only put her entrepreneurial acumen to work, but also gave her an outlet for her creativity and love of D.I.Y. Prior to that, in Montana, Brianne held the title of Deputy Treasurer in the County Treasurer's Office for over 7 years. Brianne and her family are new to Washington County, but she is excited to live in such a beautifully historic place and join the ranks of those who are working hard for those who reside here.



Information provided by

Heidi Buckley, Development Director

PathWays is a non-profit, human services organization dedicated to providing life-long fulfillment to children and adults across Southwestern Pennsylvania. Starting in 1964 as United Cerebral Palsy, PathWays has grown and evolved over the last 50 years to help provide a more fulfilling life for thousands of individuals, children, and families.

PathWays offers a varied range of services to carry out our mission of lifelong fulfillment. Our children's services include our Early Intervention Program and Rainbow's End daycare services. For children with complex medical needs, we also offer a specialized pediatric care center called Your Child's Place which provides daycare services to children with complex medical needs under the supervision of a compassionate and expert nursing staff.

For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we offer adult services including 2 ATF facilities, supported living services and residential homes. Our Adult Training facilities facilitate thoughtful, empowering experiences for adults with IDD and Autism, emphasizing individualized teaching and training for daily living, communication, vocational skills, physical exercise, computer skills, and more. In our Residential Program, individuals can live independently, develop personal goals and skills, and take part in community activities while building lasting friendships.

PathWays also manages the Agency with Choice Program wherein parents and individuals choose who directs and provides care. Agency With Choice encourages individuals and their advocates to be directly involved with the planning, scheduling, hiring, and management of their own care.





PathWays prides itself in engaging with larger networks of advocacy and awareness. We currently host “Partners in Advocacy” which meets monthly in Washington, PA and is made up primarily of individuals with IDD and Autism who attend PathWays Adult Services. They meet to discuss topics such as their rights, the ADA, and improving accessibility in public places. PathWays also has a Parent and Family Advisory Committee which is open to parents who are involved with programs at PathWays or in the general community. The Parent and Family group is currently planning a Touch-A-Truck event for the Washington community on May 13th.

Our range of programs is tailored to the individualized needs of children, adults, and their families across 6 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about PathWays, accessing our programs, and aiding our mission to provide lifelong fulfillment, visit

www.yourpathways.org.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Guest Columnist Information provided by

Sheila Fullerton

Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Director

Washington County BHDS

March was first recognized as Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. He recognized March as Developmental Disabilities month to raise cognizance in the community of those with developmental disabilities and the abilities that they possess. DD is made up of a collection of diagnoses that result in an impairment in language, learning, mobility, or behavior areas. These impairments begin to present themselves through the developmental period, effecting the day-to-day functioning of an individual and continue throughout their lifespan.

Developmental disabilities include Intellectual Disabilities and Autism as well as a few other diagnoses. According to the CDC an Intellectual Disability “is a term used when there are limits to a person’s ability to learn at an expected level and function in daily life”. Intellectual Disabilities is primarily diagnosed prior to age 22.

In Washington County, we serve over 675 individuals who are diagnosed with an intellectual disability and/or Autism. When an individual is determined to meet eligibility requirements, individuals initially come in as a “Base” individual. A Supports Coordinator who will work with the individual will locate, coordinate, and monitor natural supports. When an individual is determined to need additional services a waitlist form is completed, and they are then placed on the waitlist for waivers. Waivers are intended to support individuals with an Intellectual Disability, Autism, or Developmental Disability to live independently in their homes and communities. Waivers that may be available are the Person/Family Directed Support (PFDS), Community Living, and Consolidated. Each waiver has a specific budget that would provide services to an individual.

Washington County provides a variety of services that are available to those who meet eligibility requirements and are enrolled in a Waiver. In Washington County we have a total of 77 qualified providers from across the state, who serve our individuals.



Sheila Fullerton, Intellectual Disabilities
and Autism Director (Center)



Services available in Washington County include but are not limited to Residential Services, Community Participation Support, Employment Services as well as many other options.

Residential Services includes three types of supports: Supported Living, Life Sharing and Residential Habilitation.

Supported Living is when an individual lives in their own apartment and would receive up to 30 hours a week of support from a provider.

Life Sharing is when an individual would live with a host family in the family's home, that is managed by a provider.

Residential Habilitation is provided in a community setting and/or in a licensed, unlicensed provider owned, rented, or leased locations.

Community Participation Supports are opportunities for support in the community settings to develop skills, broaden interest, and become potential for employment.

Employment services are meant to support the individual through the process of becoming competitively employed in the community. We offer **Supported Employment, Advanced Supported Employment and Small Group Employment**. All three services are designed to help individuals at different levels. There are also many other services that can be provided to those individuals who hold a waiver, including self-directed services.

To determine if an individual meets eligibility requirements please reach out to 724-228-6832.