



## Getting Connected to the Community

Fayette Resources and Keystone Human Services recently reported positive results after completion of “Getting Connected to the Community,” a pilot course on Community Participation Service (CPS). This training, offered by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 through the support of ODP, consisted of a three-hour work session that helped teams and individuals plan for meaningful community connections and build community relationships. The interactive course took a person-centered approach, while bringing individuals and families to work together as a team.

As part of the training, participants tracked their activities in a workbook, focusing on the individual and their family as members of the team. The teams identified the individual’s interests, preferences, and gifts. This was used as a starting point for building more community experience. Team members were asked to consider what is meant by “valued social roles and relationships” and used the LifeCourse Framework to help support the person for whom each team provided support.

This CPS training was unique, said Amira LaGray, Service Director at Keystone Human Services. “I felt like I had been given new tools and ideas to move forward...I was given tools to help individuals who have a harder time communicating what their interests are.” The results were positive, according to LaGray. “The family was very involved,” LaGray added. “They know the individual best, so their input was helpful. All the providers were motivated throughout the training and provided great feedback.”

Other staff members also benefitted from the training, according to LaGray. “The thing that shocked me the most was that we had some Keystone staff at the

**CONTINUED**



Mike high-fives a fellow volunteer at Milk & Honey Farms in Harrisburg.



Fayette Resources helps facilitate community integration, such as trips to local museums, farms, and volunteer opportunities.



## Getting Connected to the Community (continued)

training that were not part of the individual's team. I did not think the training was going to be as meaningful for them because they were not involved with the individual. Not true. Not only did they better understand the tools because there was an actual person... but they had ideas for the individual that I do not think we would have come up with on our own."

LaGray offered an example of how this training made an immediate impact. She said that one individual who Keystone experienced difficulty in getting out into the community now volunteers at the Milk & Honey Farms, a nonprofit, privately owned farm providing fresh fruit and vegetables for those at risk for hunger in South Central PA.

Kelly Knarr, Executive Director of Program Development for Fayette Resources concurs. "One of the family members that was at the training made a connection for us at a food pantry and we now have people volunteering there. We also connected with a local nonprofit, pay what you can meals in DuBois. We have people there volunteering weekly. This relationship has grown to both Fayette and the Soul Platter Café posting pictures



**Individuals served by Fayette Resources enjoy a trip to see the production of William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" by The Lion Players of Penn State Fayette, Eberly Campus. They also were invited backstage to see the set and meet producers and actors.**

and recognition on both Facebook accounts. Both of these connections were a direct result of your training and getting people excited about the program!"

For more information on "Getting Connected to the Community," contact Melissa Mecke ([MMecke@pattan.net](mailto:MMecke@pattan.net)).

## Disability Employment Awareness Month

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2019 is "The Right Talent, Right Now."



Pennsylvanians with disabilities have proven to be valuable employees who contribute positively to the bottom line of the companies for which they work. Visit [MyODP's Employment Page](#) for resources, data reports, and more.



## 6100 Regulatory Package Published!

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the long-anticipated 6100 regulatory package has been released for publication. The new regulations help to support individuals with an intellectual disability or autism to live and participate in the life of their community, to achieve greater independence and to have opportunities enjoyed by all citizens of this commonwealth.

Additionally, these regulations strengthen community services and supports to promote person-centered approaches, community integration, personal choice, quality in service delivery, health and safety protections, competitive integrated employment, accountability in the utilization of resources and innovation in services design.

ODP understands it will take extensive work on behalf of providers to meet compliance on new regulations. ODP is implementing a broad training strategy to help all stakeholders develop an understanding of the regulatory changes associated with the 6100 regulatory package, determine impact to the service system, and provide opportunities to incorporate changes into business practices.

The published regulations appear in The Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 49, Number 40, published on Saturday, October 5, 2019. More information is available on [MyODP.org](http://MyODP.org).

Please see [ODP Announcement 19-129](#) for details, guidance, and training regarding the publication and implementation of the 6100 regulations. Also, visit MyODP's [6100 Landing Page](#) for more information and updates.

The following sections of Chapter 6100 take immediate effect:

#### Section Title

- 6100.55 Reserved Capacity
- 6100.226 Documentation of Claims
- 6100.227 Progress Notes
- 6100.481 General Payment Provisions
- 6100.571 Fee Schedule Rates
- 6100.741 Enforcement

All remaining sections of Chapter 6100 as well as all amended sections of Chapters 2380, 2390, 6400 and 6500 take effect 120 calendar days following the publication date.

Please see ODP Announcement 19-129 for additional details, guidance, and training. To request technical assistance or to submit a question, please email [RA-ODP6100REGS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ODP6100REGS@pa.gov).





## Finding Success Through Housing Support Services

Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining services were established to assist individuals with tenancy in their own homes, whether rented, leased, or owned. Since the waiver renewals in July 2017, this service has been available to those receiving services in the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support, and Community Living waivers. Through the service, individuals have learned about finalizing leases, budgets, utilities, and how/when to talk with a landlord regarding issues.

Person Directed Supports, Inc. (PDS) of East Petersburg has achieved success in utilizing this service and shared some recent success stories. Since April 2019, the organization has placed 10 individuals, and assisted another to resolve issues with a landlord.

Ken Gibat, junior CEO of PDS, says that the organization has eagerly embraced the service. "I have an interest in real estate and I saw it as an opportunity to venture into a new service."

Among those served are the individuals pictured. Cody was in need of emergency placement, as he resided in a personal care facility and was given an eviction notice in late September. PDS was able to utilize a private property management company with whom they had a relationship, and through the organization's help, Cody moved into an apartment on October 1st. Ryan was told he had two weeks to find a new place to live, as his residence was being sold. He received a new apartment close to his employment and his family. Malva learned skills needed to interact with her property manager and neighbors. Troy secured a place to live through PDS. He now has a housemate and is working in the community.

PDS is currently working with Glenn of York, Pa. Staff says his mobility has recently declined and he was given



Clockwise from top left: Cody, Malva, Troy, Ryan.

the choice of living on his own or living in a residential group home. Glenn is choosing to live on his own. PDS housing is assisting Glenn to find a suitable apartment that is first floor and convenient to areas that have a bus route and medical care. He is estimated to move into his own apartment by December of 2019.



## Housing Support (continued)

Karen Gutierrez, Program Manager/Housing Coordinator at PDS, plays a large role in facilitating housing contracts for people PDS serves. “We are truly excited to watch this service grow,” Gutierrez shared. “Working with these individuals and seeing their faces when they reach their goals of their own home is priceless.” PDS provides services in Lancaster, York, Lehigh, and Northampton counties.

[Provider qualifications to offer this service](#) include knowledge of, and ability to access, several programs and community resources such as housing vouchers and housing services, fair housing, homeownership programs, Olmstead requirements, Prepared Renters Program (PREP) training, and general waiver provider requirements.



At right, Glenn is hoping to find a first-floor apartment with the help of Person Directed Supports Inc. through Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining services.



## CMS approves ID/A Waiver Amendments

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the amendments to the ID/A waivers were approved by CMS on September 24, 2019. As communicated in [ODP Announcement 19-102](#), the ID/A waiver amendments were submitted to CMS on July 19, 2019. Since that time, ODP has been engaged in ongoing discussions with CMS.

One substantive change was made as follows to allow indirect activities to be rendered on behalf of an individual as part of the Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining Service in all ID/A waivers based on those

discussions: Housing Transition services are direct and indirect services provided to participants. Indirect activities that cannot be billed include driving to appointments, completing service notes and progress notes, and exploring resources and developing relationships that are not specific to a participant’s needs as these activities are included in the rate.

Please read [ODP Announcement 19-130: Now Available: Amendments to the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS Waivers Approved by CMS](#) for more information.

If your organization is hosting webinars that anyone can attend, please send information to:

RA-PWODP\_OUTREACH@pa.gov



## Carbon-Monroe-Pike Hosts Employment Events



### ISAC Recommendation 3: Increase Employment

Carbon-Monroe-Pike Developmental Services will host an informal business card exchange Tuesday, Nov. 12, inviting business representatives to meet individuals seeking employment. The event will take place from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Burnley Workshop, 4219 Manor Drive, Stroudsburg.

The event is co-sponsored by Carbon-Monroe-Pike Employment Coalition and modeled after a similar event which took place in the spring. Students and adults, all of whom receive job coaching, present information about themselves, their interests, and skills.

Prior to the exchange, the individuals practice communication skills and create resume boards to display. At the spring event, a reverse job fair, employers sought individuals to discuss employment opportunities, rather than the individuals seeking employers. Having multiple candidates and recruiters in one place saves time and money for both employers and potential employees. Local employers attended the spring event, as well as representatives from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Human Resources Center, CMP Mental Health/Developmental Services, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 and Representative Rosemary Brown.

## Nancy Thaler Receives Compass Award

The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) presented Nancy Thaler, Special Assistant to the Secretary of DHS and former Deputy Secretary of ODP, with the 2019 Robert M. Gettings Compass Award. This award is presented “to individuals who, while working in the private sector, have made a significant contribution to the development of publicly funded state service systems for people with developmental disabilities through research, the design of new service models, training, technical assistance, and consultation.” In her current position, Nancy Thaler works to expand and develop services for children with complex medical needs to they can live at home with family and/or in their communities.



Nancy Thaler

## Information, Events, and Resources



**MFP FUNDS:** The Wolf Administration announced that

it has received \$20 million in federal funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue the Money Follows the Person grant: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/pennsylvania-expanding-community-based-services-for-seniors-veterans-people-with-disabilities/>



**TECHNOLOGY:** On October 24, ODP will host the second

of two day-long technology innovation conferences for disability service providers showcasing advancements and opportunities in service delivery for people with disabilities. The ODP Technology Innovation Conference will take place at Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 1st Ave, King of Prussia. Registration takes place 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Register at <https://columbus.regfox.com/technology-innovation-conference>.



## 5 FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

By Geisinger Wellness

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Each year about 6,000 babies are born with the condition. Most people with Down syndrome have mild to moderate impairments throughout life.

1. The most common type of Down syndrome is called Trisomy 21. About 95 percent of people with Down syndrome have an extra copy of chromosome 21, for a total of 47 chromosomes. This type of Down syndrome is called Trisomy 21.
2. Thanks to early diagnosis and advances in treatment, the life expectancy of people with Down syndrome has increased significantly.
3. Down syndrome may be diagnosed before the baby is born. During pregnancy, a noninvasive blood screening test can determine if you are more or less likely to have a baby with Down syndrome.
4. Some people with Down syndrome may have other health issues. Babies born with Down syndrome often face other birth defects.
5. No one knows what causes Down syndrome. Researchers are unsure why Down syndrome occurs or all the factors which increase the risk. However, one factor is the mother's age.

## Adult Changing Station Bill Awaits Action in PA House

[House Bill 117](#) would allow people caring for loved ones with disabilities to more easily and conveniently change them in public. It would amend the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in uniform construction code, providing for changing stations in places of public accommodation.

The bill is sponsored by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny County, District 42).

## Information, Events, and Resources



### AUTISM CARES ACT:

On Sept. 20, The

[President signed H.R.](#)

[Bill 1058 \(Public Law No: 116-60\)](#) - Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act of 2019 and has been signed into law. The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder; enhances programs relating to autism across the lifespan; and requires officials from the Departments of Labor, Justice, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development to produce reports to Congress on the health and well-being of individuals with autism.



### FAMILY SUPPORT:

PA Family Network is offering statewide training sessions

now through April 2020. Topics include: Creating a Vision for a Good Life, Safety in Your Community, Healthy Relationships and Sexuality, and a Vision for Life After High School. [Learn more.](#)



## State Autism Training Event Emphasizes ‘Interact’

—Contributed by Alexander Gawn, Outreach & Training Coordinator

The 12th Annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference took place Sept. 5th and 6th at the Lancaster Marriott. Over the course of two days, professionals from across the commonwealth had the opportunity to hear from experts in the field.

The 2019 conference presented a new location and theme. Held at the Lancaster Convention Center (Lancaster, PA), this year’s conference boasted the title #PATCInteract2019.

The “Interact” theme offered an opportunity for one-on-one meetings with subject matter experts at a mentoring breakfast, as well as an interactive poster session with providers, and a networking event featuring live music by guitarist Zayne Harshaw.

Those unable to attend PATC could access live streams from the event via Facebook live interviews conducted by PA ASERT. This new interactive online feature was well received, as thousands were able to view the online interviews.

At right, Steve Frock sold his autobiography, “My Life with Autism.”



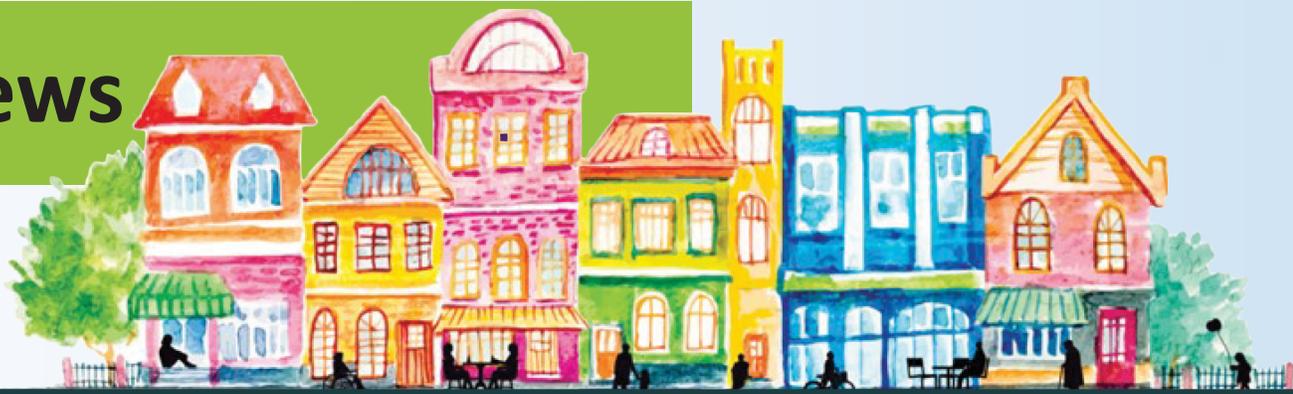
**New!  
Conference  
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<https://www.myodp.org/course/index.php?category->



Senior Clinical Consultant for the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP) Amy Alford and BSASP Clinical Director Stacy Nonnemacher get ready to present and network at the 2019 Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference.



Musician Zayne Harshaw performs before the break-out session, “It Took A Village,” presented by his parents Gwen and Gene Harshaw. Zayne is a member of the band Blue Spectrum. Learn more at [bluespectrumband.com](http://bluespectrumband.com).



## New Appointment of Note

Lisa Tesler has been appointed Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDC) following the retirement of Mr. Graham Mullholland in May.



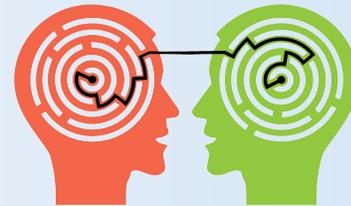
**Lisa Tesler**

Ms. Tesler is a graduate of Lafayette College, Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking (C2P2) through Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities through the University of Delaware, and the Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador training through the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development. From 2005 to present, Lisa's professional affiliation with Vision for Equality has involved providing resources and trainings for self-advocates and families as well as policy coordination.

Most recently, Ms. Tesler has been the Director of the PA Family Network, a statewide initiative within Pennsylvania's Community of Practice for Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan.

## Available: Employment First Oversight Commission Annual Report

As part of his commitment to help people with disabilities find competitive jobs in the community, Governor Tom Wolf announced [the inaugural Employment First Oversight Commission annual report](#). The report outlines goals and recommendations for the commonwealth to continue prioritizing competitive integrated employment for Pennsylvanians with disabilities.



## October is Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Month

When a speech generating device's battery runs out or is put in a place for "safe keeping,"

It takes away someone's access to communication!



AAC, like speech generating devices, is about people communicating through devices, not devices communicating for people. Keep speech generating devices charged and in a spot where the person who uses it can access it at all times!

For any questions on the Communication Corner, please contact the Special Populations Unit at [RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov)



## Summary of ODP Communications Issued September 2019, With Links



1. ODP 19-114: [Registration Contact Information for Public Hearings Regarding the Closure of Polk and White Haven Centers](#)
2. [2019 Lifesharing Conference Call For Presenters and Announcement](#)
3. ODP 19-115: [e-CIS Business Partner Access - Registration Open](#)
4. [Community Health Choices Fall Provider Session Registration](#)
5. [ODP 2019 Technology Innovation Conference](#)
6. ODP 19-117: [Open for Public Comment: Proposed Amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver \(AAW\)](#)
7. ODP 19-116: [Health Risk Screening Tool Training October 2019](#)
8. [ODP Newsletter September 2019](#)
9. ODP 19-119: Now Available-- [ODP Comprehensive Employment Report – 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2018-2019](#)
10. ODP 19-118: [Proposed Agency with Choice Bulletin Available for Public Comment](#)
11. ODP 19-112 [Reissued: ISP Residential Staffing Ratio Face-To-Face Training Sessions Available](#)
12. ODP 19-120: [Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) Training Registration and ODP Technical Guidance](#)
13. ODP 19-122: [PA Family Network Offers Statewide Training Sessions](#)
14. ODP 19-121: [SpeCTRUM 2.0 Training Deadline Extended](#)
15. Provider Distribution 9-13-2019 [CHC \(Community Health Choices\) Fact Sheets August 2019](#)
16. ODP 19-123: [Update to the Quality Assessment and Improvement Process: Claim and Service Documentation Review](#)
17. ODP 19-124: Now Available-- [Registration for Initial Certified Investigator Peer Review Course](#)
18. ODP 19-125: [Office of Developmental Programs' Virtual Training Offerings October 2019](#)
19. [Pre-Employment Transition Services \(PETS\) Six-Part Webinar Series](#)
20. ODP 19-126: [Adult Autism Waiver Amendment Webinar Recording Now Available on MyODP](#)
21. [2019 Lifesharing Conference - October 21 and 22, 2019](#) - Kalahari Resorts and Conventions - Registration closes today, 9/30/19