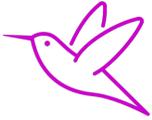


Bucks County Division of Human Services Newsletter

3rd Edition, April 2021



Area Agency on Aging

Kathy Bennett, Director



Join Us for the 38th Annual

Bucks County Senior Games!

The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging and our partners—Bucks County Community College, YMCA of Bucks County and Bucks County Recreation Council—invite you to join in the 2021 Bucks County Senior Games. This year we are staging all live events outdoors and are introducing several interesting virtual challenges.



The 2021 Senior Games are supported by the Bucks County Commissioners and made possible with the help of many people and organizations. We are supported by individuals who generously volunteer their time and expertise and also by local businesses, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities who provide financial and in-kind donations.

Please join us as we offer events such as golf, quoits, pickleball, disc golf, various throwing events, track and field, bocce, darts, chess, and other live events. Among this year's new events are biking, steps competition, and walking the parks. Participate in virtual fun with Tai Chi, chair yoga, a murder mystery game, and more. Invite the young ones in your life to join you in a live intergenerational orienteering adventure.

The Bucks County Senior Games will be held June 7 – 19. Questions may be directed to the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging at 267-880-5700 or aging@buckscounty.org. Or go to www.buckscounty.org and follow the link for the Senior Games.

Be on the lookout for the registration guide in early April. Registrations must be received no later than May 10, 2021. Registration books may be picked up at the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging at 55 East Court Street, 3rd floor, Doylestown, PA 18901. You may instead request one be mailed to you. The Senior Games is an exciting opportunity for friendly competition, for exercising mind and body, and to share goodwill. We look forward to seeing you!

Helpful Resources!

Informational Presentations:

APPRISE Medicare Services, Ombudsman Services, Caregiver Services, Overall Agency Services, and Protective Services

Health and Wellness Classes for Seniors:

Tai Chi, MyLife MyHealth, Walk With Ease, and Chair Yoga

For any of our services or to register for any virtual presentations or classes listed above,



In March, through a Bucks County partnership, the Official Court Reporters of Bucks County, pictured here, collected hundreds of pairs of gloves and mittens for donation to county agencies serving those in need as part of the department's Warm Hands/Warm Hearts project. The gloves were distributed through the County's Children and Youth Social Services Agency and the Area Agency on Aging, represented in the front row from left, by AAA Director Kathy Bennett and CYS Social Work Supervisor Shantelle Gammon. Since the program began in 2020, the Court Reporters have collected and donated more than 700 pairs of gloves and mittens. The annual collections coincided with "Court Reporting and Captioning Week," which occurs in mid-February.

Understanding Long-Term Care Community Options

Navigating the different types of long-term care communities, personal care, assisted living, memory care, and nursing care can be confusing. At the Area Agency on Aging, we support and advocate for residents of long-term care communities. Our team is ready to help you understand this system of care. Please call the Bucks County Ombudsman Program at 267-880-5716 to learn more.

We also recommend "Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home, or Other Long-Term Care Supports," published by Medicare, for guidance.

<https://www.medicare.gov>



Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency



Marjorie McKeone, Director

CYS Adds Location in Lower Bucks!



Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency (CYS), through funding from the Family First Prevention Services Act, is adding a Lower Bucks County office. This office space will serve children and families as well as establish a permanent location for CYC supportive services in the Lower Bucks community. The office, located within the perimeter of the Oxford Valley Mall in Langhorne, is easily accessible and close to public transportation. The CYC “Visit House” will host Family Group Decision Making meetings, meetings between parents and casework staff, visitation for parents and their children prior to their return home from foster care, and provide space for foster parent orientation and training—all in a family-friendly location.

A Great Success Story!

A young man involved with the Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency since he was a child is ready to give back to Bucks County. Due to ongoing issues of parental neglect, the man grew up in a variety of environments including foster care and other out-of-home placements. He is currently involved in the agency’s Independent Living program to prepare for his transition to adulthood and has maintained housing, employment.

Recently, this young man reached out to his CYC case worker and expressed interest in learning more about job opportunities in social services. He said he was not feeling fulfilled in his current job and wanted to utilize his insight into the physical, psychological, and emotional effects the child serving systems have on youth and families. As a result of his initiative and outreach, CYC connected him with a local mental health provider for an overview and discussion of job opportunities and has accepted employment with this provider agency. His resilience and willingness to accept support are cornerstones of his growth as such a promising young man.

The Kiwanis Club of Central Bucks hosted a successful food drive in March for the families we serve at Children and Youth! We also received \$10,000 in Giant Supermarket gift cards from the United Way COVID-19 Recovery Fund!



Welcome to the Hub!



At long last, the Hub – Bucks Human Services Connect is open for business! After many months of planning and collaboration with our partner agencies, this exciting new initiative has hit the ground running. From day one, February 16th, the Hub has been very busy with more calls, e-mails, and walk-in visitors than we had anticipated. In just the first six weeks, the Hub was contacted over 200 times - a great start!

The vision of the Hub is for Bucks County residents, their families, and those who support them to be aware of and have access to human services resources in person and virtually through a person-centered, supportive, integrated experience. One of our goals is to continue to track the Hub outreach and determine how we can better provide knowledge of and facilitate access to supports and services. This initiative is the result of significant efforts from the Human Services team and we are grateful to county leadership for their ongoing support and commitment.

The Hub is on the first floor of the Administration Building in Doylestown and is accessible for in-person and virtual supports for individuals in need Monday through Friday from 10am – 4pm. As you know, there is a wide variety of human services resources available in Bucks County, but navigating the system can be overwhelming – often at a time when it is the hardest for an individual in need to make such an effort. There is no wrong door at the Hub and staff will always try to exercise a warm hand-off as they transition a client from the Hub to the appropriate connection to services. The Hub’s Resource Navigator, Katey Marseglia, and support staff from each of the Human Services Division departments will offer a helping hand and guidance to those seeking assistance.

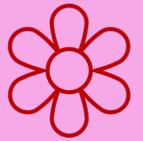
Please tell your friends and family about the Bucks Human Services Connect Hub and check out our news release. We are here to help!

<https://buckscounty.org/news/2021News/2021/02/18/bucks-county-launches-human-services-help-hub>



Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.

Diane Rosati, Executive Director



Medication Take Back Day is Saturday, April 24, 2021!

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 10:00am – 2:00pm! Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. (BCDAC, Inc.), along with law enforcement, agencies, and community coalitions, partner twice a year to host these medication collections throughout Bucks County.



This year’s Take Back event will feature 47 public “Drive Up and Drop In” collection sites throughout the county. Simply pull up to the drop off location, place your unneeded, unused, or expired medications into the box and drive away. In addition to prescription medications, law enforcement officers will be collecting over-the-counter and pet medications. **Vaping** products will be accepted for disposal at all hosting sites and in collection boxes in local police departments. As with all medications, vaping cartridges, pods, and e-cigarettes should be disposed of safely.

The COVID pandemic has impacted us all. Over the past year, we have seen an increase in overdoses throughout Bucks County. Narcan can save lives. We are pleased to announce that three sites – located in Bensalem, Hilltown, and Warwick – will be holding a Narcan Drive-Thru event during Medication Take Back Day on April 24. In addition, for the first time ever, sharps will be collected at these three sites. This means that you will be able to drive up, drop off your unused, unwanted, or expired medications and sharps and receive one unit of Narcan while supplies last. We can all do our part to keep our homes, loved ones, and communities safer.

It is important to follow safe practices with all medications, including storing medications appropriately, taking medications only as prescribed, and locking up and monitoring medications. According to the 2019 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS), 42.9% of Bucks County students responded “took them from a family member living in my home” as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the prescription drugs that they used without a doctor’s prescription.

For more information about Prescription Drug Take Back Day, including site locations, protocols and how to bring sharps for collection at the three sites listed above, please visit www.bcdac.org or contact Donna Foisy at dsfoisy@buckscounty.org or 215-444-2740.



Your feedback regarding the Take Back is important to us!
Please use the link below or scan the QR code.

https://redcap.link/take_back_spring2021





Behavioral Health and Developmental Programs

[Donna Duffy-Bell, Administrator](#)



Bucks County Suicide Prevention Task Force is thrilled to be bringing to Bucks a monthly concert series for suicide prevention! On Zoom and live, the Task Force will be hosting a diverse group of musicians from Bucks County and beyond! The first virtual concert was held March 6th with two award-winning artists from Austin, Texas, who brought an energy of resilience and hope during their performance! For future events please contact Kyle Esposito at v-kesposito@buckscounty.org.

Promoting the Health and Safety of All Our Community Members

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has issued a new Incident Management Bulletin which will become effective July 1, 2021. The goal of this Bulletin is to ensure that when an incident occurs or is suspected or alleged to have occurred, the response to the incident more effectively protects and promotes the health, safety, and rights of the individual. The Bulletin provides instruction on implementing an incident management system that:

- Reflects person-centered practices
- Begins with recognition, reporting, and response
- Promotes prevention of incident recurrence
- Emphasizes agency-wide analysis of incidents to implement processes that promote system-wide changes for quality improvement

BH/DP staff assigned to quality functions in the Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Unit will be responsible for administering ongoing training and technical assistance to the providers that offer ID/A services. Incidents involving allegations of abuse, neglect, death, misuse of funds, and improper/unauthorized use of restraints are investigated by both the service provider and the BH/DP Department. While the vast majority of incidents do not rise to county investigation, the department did complete 49 certified investigations in 2019 and 60 in 2020.

Magellan’s MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment)

Youth Helping Youth Magellan’s MY LIFE program is leading the way nationally and locally for youth involvement in behavioral health, foster care systems, and juvenile justice. Through regular meetings, special events, performances, social media, and local and national presentations, youth share their stories and support each other in their recovery goals. MY LIFE currently meets virtually via Zoom and consists of youth between the ages of 13-23 who have experience with mental health, substance use, juvenile justice and/or foster care-related issues. Youth who have a family member or friend experiencing these challenges are also encouraged to participate. Virtual MY LIFE Pennsylvania meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. To register, send an email to mackevericanm@magellanhealth.com.

You can also become a fan of MY LIFE on Facebook www.facebook.com/MYLIFEyouth This page helps to educate, inform, engage, and build support for MY LIFE programs. Become a fan and learn how young people are ending the stigma of living with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder and are using their experiences, strengths, talents, and voices to improve youth and young adult programs and services throughout the country.

<https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/community/my-life/>

Contact Us

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<http://www.buckscounty.org/government/HumanServices>

