



MOVING AGENCIES TOWARD EXCELLENCE

MAX ASSOCIATION UPDATE

JANUARY 2021

MEMBER NEWS: Step By Step Welcomes New CEO

Eric Lindey has worked in the field of human services for 30 years. He has worked directly with people with disabilities in residential, vocational, and case management settings. Eric has worked in a management capacity with county government, supports coordination, and provider organizations. He was the founder and CEO of The Hab Group before merging it with a large non-profit provider. He has had the privilege to lead in a variety of settings to include residential and day services, in home, community based, and employment services. For the past eight years he has been the President and CEO of large, multi-disciplinary providers of behavioral health, drug and alcohol and intellectual disability services. He was President/CEO for a parent company of 5 subsidiary disability organizations serving over 6,000 people a year, leading over 1,000 employees and overseeing \$65,000,000 in annual revenues. Most recently, he was the President/CEO of a multi-faceted provider of state-wide programs with budget responsibilities of \$90,000,000 annually and 1,300 employees. Eric was appointed President/CEO of Step By Step, Inc. effective November 16, 2020. He succeeds James Bobeck, who retired after 42 years with the agency. Eric has experience in strategic planning, fundraising and development, grant writing, policy and procedure development, program development, budget development, government audits, employee benefit negotiation and development, leading a board of directors and mergers and acquisitions. Eric is a member of The National Association of QMRP's, American Association of Developmental Disabilities,

and the National Association of Direct Support Professionals. He was formerly the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Alpha House, Inc. Eric is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Eric holds a Masters of Arts from Seton Hall University and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Army Reserve serving an 8-year commitment. He is a past recipient of the Linda Rosen Memorial Award for "Outstanding Direct Care Staff" given by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. In 2017 Eric was named a Wishart Fellow by The Forbes Funds and attended the Carnegie Bosch Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

Eric and his wife Laura, are the proud parents of two daughters; Hannah, a Personal Banker at PNC Bank and Hattie, a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh. They also share their home with Emmy and Ace, brother and sister Havanese pups.

Join MAX in welcoming Eric to his new post at MAX Member Step by Step.



2021 MAX Conference

Nominees for Service Excellence Awards deadline looming. Since it is a virtual conference this year we are asking for video nominations. Click here for the instructions. Deadline January 15, 2021

Theme for 2021: "MAXimizing Your Potential Through Resilience: Moving Forward in Challenging Times"

The conference will be virtual this year, but a lot of fun. It will have a collection of keynote speakers, breakouts and of course the awards ceremony. Save the date (March 24, 2021) now. Since the conference is virtual, we are asking for video submissions. ([CLICK HERE](#) for form). The call for nominations is open until mid-January. Conference registration will open in January 2021.

The committee meets the first Thursday of every month. The next committee meeting will be January 7, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom. All MAX members have an open invitation to join the conference committee. If you are interested, please contact Diane Conway at Dconway@Maxassociation.org to get the meeting link.

MAX COMMITTEE UPDATES

ID/D Committee

MAX has been holding bi-weekly virtual meetings for its ID members. January meeting dates are January 14 and January 28 both at 9:30. Contact Diane Conway at Dconway@maxassociation.org if you would like to participate in these meetings and have not been getting the notices.

All MAX members have an open invitation to join these meetings.

Comment period for amendments to the P/FDS, Consolidated, Community Living and Autism waivers

The Department of Human Services is accepting comments on the proposed amendments to the P/FDS, Consolidated, Community Living and Autism Waivers. These proposed amendments can be accessed through the link below

[CLICK HERE](#)

Behavioral Health Committee

MAX as been holding bi-weekly meetings for its BH members. January meeting dates are January 15 and January 29th both at 9:30 via Zoom. Contact Diane Conway at Dconway@maxassociation.org if you would like to participate in these meetings and have not been getting the notices.

MAX has initiated joint meetings of other Behavioral Health Associations in Pennsylvania. The purpose being to focus on untied advocacy messages. Currently, we are focused on an educational campaign to ensure all legislators have correct information about behavioral health. MAX will disseminate this information to all members as it is developed.

All MAX members have an open invitation to join these meetings.

IBHS

The Behavioral Health committee has established a Regional IBHS Regional Learning Collaborative. This is a collection of stakeholders for the new IBHS services. The Collaborative is composed of MAX members, counties, managed care organizations (Magellan) and OMHSAS licensing. The next meeting of the Collaborative is February 9 at 9:30 via Zoom. Please contact Diane Conway at Dconway@maxassociation.org if you would like to join the collaborative.

All MAX members have an open invitation to join the Collaborative.

Mental Health Awareness Training Grants

The US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration announced the availability of grants for Mental Health Awareness. Applications are due Feb 5, 2021. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details

OMHSAS Stakeholder Meetings

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has started monthly stakeholder meetings for counties, providers and families. MAX attended the first session and send out a summary to members. Here is the list of 2021 OMHSAS provider stake holders meetings

- ▶ Tuesday, 1/19/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 2/16/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 3/16/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 4/20/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Wednesday, 5/19/21 @ 3pm (moved due to Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) meeting on Tuesday, 5/18/21)
- ▶ Tuesday, 6/15/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 7/20/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 8/17/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 9/21/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 10/19/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 11/16/21 @ 3pm
- ▶ Tuesday, 12/21/21 @ 3pm

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the January 19, 2021 meeting

PA Mental Health Planning Council

The PA Mental Health Planning Council is an advisory body to OMHSAS for the future direction of services. It meets quarterly and is open to the public.

The next two meeting of the PA Mental Health Planning Council are: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 10AM-3PM and Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 10AM-3PM.

For more information, including opportunity to comment of revision recommendations to the 2005 "Call for Change" document [CLICK HERE](#)

If you want to apply to become a member of the Planning Council [CLICK HERE](#).

Regional Accountable Health Council

Pennsylvania is establishing Regional Accountable Health Councils (RAHCs), the purpose of which is to serve as a forum for regional strategic planning and coordination of community wide efforts to improve health outcomes across each region of the state. This effort is currently in the planning stage. MAX has been asked to and is serving on that planning committee. Once the structural planning is complete, each region will establish their own RAHC which will include funders and providers of mental health services. More to come

Advocacy & Policy Committee Advocacy

MAX has been busy advocating for the individuals that MAX members serve as well as the paid and unpaid workforce be considered the highest priority for the COVID-19 vaccine. MAX has sent letters to the Governor and PA Secretary of Health Levine and will continue advocating for high priority in the distribution. ODP sent out a memo which I recently shared with the membership. You can reference this by clicking here.

The committee is now focused on:

- ▶ Individual Zoom meetings with newly elected legislators
- ▶ Advocating with the Governor's office on including the ID and BH workforce as the highest priority for the COVID-19 vaccine once approved
- ▶ The next Congressional COVID-19 relief package
- ▶ Looking towards plans for the FY2021-2022 State budget

All MAX members are invited to join the Advocacy and Policy Committee. Please contact Diane Conway at Dconway@Maxassociation.org if you are interested in joining the committee.

XtraGlobex Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Blog

XtraGlobex has established a VBP blog with updated information which is a valuable free resource for providers. [CLICK HERE](#)

THE VBP BLOG

FROM [XtraGlobex Inc.](#)

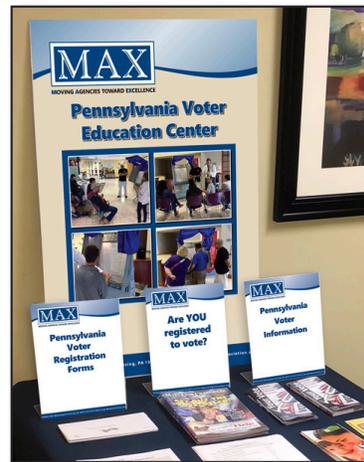
COVID-19 SUPPLIES

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of COVID-19 Supplies

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID-19 INFORMATION

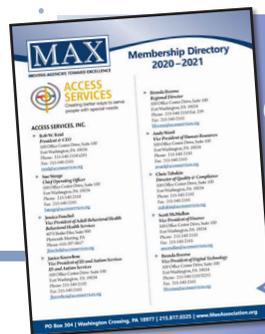
You can access the latest COVID-19 information for Pennsylvania by visiting their website. [CLICK HERE](#)

Voter Education Center Project



In an effort to spread the word about voter registration and education, MAX is urging all MAX members to have a Voter Education Center. This center is designed to provide educational materials about voter registration and the voting process. It can be helpful to individuals receiving services as well as your staff and the general public.

MAX will provide the back board and materials but asks the member to maintain it in a highly visible space. Please contact Diane Conway at Dconway@MaxAssociation.org if you are interested in establishing a MAX Voter Registration and Education at your organization.



Did you know you can get the MAX membership directory for free by visiting the MAX website ([CLICK HERE](#)). This is a handy resource for contact information about other MAX members. Please check to see that the information for your organization is current and correct.

MAX PREFERRED PURCHASING PARTNERS

MAX has arranged exclusive deals with our preferred purchasing partners, so I urge you to take advantage of these deals. Below is information about our preferred partners.

Brown and Brown Insurance

John Ehresman at Jehresman@bbinslv.com | 610-694-1884

Brown and Brown is one of the biggest risk management and insurance services companies specializing in organizational needs in the human services sector. Mention to John you are a MAX member.

Holiday Inn Lansdale

Casey Giblin at casey@holidayinnlansdale.com | 267-646-1005

Holiday Inn provides great accommodations for your next event. MAX has held our annual conference and legislative breakfast there to the delight of everyone. They will also provide overnight rooms for those times when you have emergency evacuations of your residential services. Finally, the Holiday Inn hosts events for the community which MAX members are invited to attend. Just mention to Casey you are a MAX member to get your special event and overnight room rates.

Interstate Fleet Services

Ken "The Pretzel Man" Margraff at Kenm@interstatefleets.com | 610-292-6000

Interstate Fleet Services is a full service fleet management company. They will assist you with purchases, retrofitting, staff training, maintenance, fleet management and much more. They go a step above and pick up and deliver vehicles for service, while providing a loaner – even a wheelchair van. Incredible service at your fingertips. Just mention to Ken you are a MAX member to get your special rates.

Sprint Works

Contact Celes Stumpf for more details at Celes.A.Stumpf@sprint.com | 201-481-2239

This program not only offers special discounted wireless corporate rates to MAX members, but also drills deeper and gives each staff member of a MAX member organization discounts as well. Mention you are a MAX member.

If there are any vendors you use that could potentially become a MAX preferred purchasing partner, please contact Diane Conway at Dconway@MaxAssociation.org.

EXCLUSIVE MAX PURCHASING OFFERINGS

In addition to our Preferred Purchasing Partner Program, MAX also looks to build relationships with other vendors for exclusive deals for MAX members. The two exclusive deals right now on the table for MAX members are from Tempucheck and Unimobisolutions.

- ▶ **Tempucheck:** A touchless temperature and mask wearing monitoring machine. Demonstrations scheduled throughout the month of October – The demonstrations are on October 8, 9 at 9:30 and October 28 at 10am. Contact Diane Conway if you are interested in attending any of the demonstrations. If none of those dates work, MAX can schedule an individual demonstration for your organization at your convenience.
- ▶ **Locayte:** An app that was developed exclusively for MAX members by Umobilesolutions to be able to track the location and communicate easily with your field staff. Demonstration on October 28 at 9:30. Other individual demonstrations can be scheduled at your organization's convenience. Contact Diane Conway to schedule your demonstration of Locayte.