



MOVING AGENCIES TOWARD EXCELLENCE

MAX ASSOCIATION UPDATE FEBRUARY 2021

MEMBER NEWS: Long Time CareLink CEO Eileen Joseph Retires

CareLink Community Support Services announced that Gary Woomer has been appointed Interim CEO of the nonprofit agency. Mr. Woomer, an experienced leader and mental healthcare professional, succeeded Eileen M. Joseph and assumed responsibilities on December 10, 2020. Ms. Joseph retired from CareLink after leading the agency for nearly 40 years.

"Eileen Joseph had been a part of CareLink since 1981 and steered the agency through phenomenal growth," said CareLink Board Chair Scot Stetka. "We appreciate her contributions and wish her well."

Mr. Woomer joined CareLink as a Program Director in 1999, and has since served as a Regional Director, Vice President of Program Operations, and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to his tenure at CareLink, Mr. Woomer was employed at Prime Care, Inc. in West Chester, Pennsylvania.



Eileen M. Joseph



Gary Woomer

Join MAX in wishing Eileen a happy retirement and in welcoming Gary to his new post at MAX Member CareLink

GOVERNOR WOLF ANNOUNCES HIS PROPOSED BUDGET AND DHS HAS BUDGET BRIEFINGS

Governor Wolf announced his proposed FY 21/21 Pennsylvanian State Budget earlier this month via pre-recorded video due to the pandemic. His budget includes an overall 11% increase over last year's budget. The highlights are:

TAXES

- ▶ Reduce personal income taxes to families with income under \$87,000
- ▶ Raise personal income taxes to families with income over \$87,000
- ▶ Reduce taxes to large corporations.
- ▶ Impose a tax on recreational marijuana

EXPENDITURES

- ▶ Flat funding to existing Mental Health services
- ▶ Flat funding to existing ID and Autism Services
- ▶ \$13.9 million to accommodate 100 special education graduates and 700 individuals on the community waiting list.
- ▶ \$1.25 million to move 20 Pennsylvanians from state mental health hospitals

OTHER INITIATIVES

- ▶ Raise minimum wage to \$12/hour with a pathway to \$15/hour in coming years. This will not include anyone in the BH, ID or Autism programs as DHS indicated the average hourly rate for those workforces is above \$12/hour.
- ▶ Invest in children - \$87.2 million dollars be invested into child care base rates and into schools.

Secretary Teresa Miller held a DHS held a budget briefing outlining the proposed DHS FY 21/22 budget plan. [CLICK HERE](#) for the handout from that briefing

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

- ▶ Child Guidance to hold "Strengthening Families" Program. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.
- ▶ Association for Adults with Developmental Disabilities to start Virtual Exercise and Wellness Academy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

MAX COMMITTEE UPDATES

ID/D Committee

MAX has been holding bi-weekly virtual meetings for its ID members. February meeting date is February 18 at 9:30. March Dates are March 4 and 18 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. The Zoom link is also on the MAX website calendar.

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

Behavioral Health Committee

MAX has been holding bi-weekly meetings for its BH members. February meeting date is February 19 at 9:30 via Zoom. March dates are March 5 and 19 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. The Zoom link is also on the MAX website calendar.

MAX has initiated joint meetings of other Behavioral Health Associations in Pennsylvania. The purpose being to focus on unified 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

Provider Stakeholders

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

County Stakeholders

Tuesday, 2/9/21
Tuesday, 3/9/21
Tuesday, 4/13/21
Tuesday, 5/11/21
Tuesday, 6/8/21
Tuesday, 7/13/21
Tuesday, 8/10/21
Tuesday, 9/14/21
Tuesday, 10/12/21
Tuesday, 11/9/21
Tuesday, 12/14/21

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the February 16, 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](#).

MAX COMMITTEE UPDATES

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.

The committee is now focused on:

- ▶ Individual Zoom meetings with newly elected and key legislators
- ▶ The next Congressional COVID-19 relief package
- ▶ Advocating for additional funding for ID, BH and Autism services in the FY2021-2022 State budget
- ▶ Working towards building a Bipartisan Southeast collaborative of MAX legislative champions

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](#)

ODP Establishing Clinics Partnering with Rite Aid

Pennsylvania has entered into a partnership with Rite Aid to accommodate providers and individuals who had not signed up through the CVS and Walgreens federal partnership. ODP has received an phenomenal response from providers to set up vaccination sites at their locations. As a result, 11 new vaccination sites are being established throughout Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Clinics will open shortly for vaccination appointments.

Thanks to the MAX members for their extraordinary response to holding clinics.

Unpaid Caregivers Included in Category 1A Covid Vaccination Group

After much advocacy, unpaid caregivers are included in Category 1A for PA COVID Vaccination Program. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.



MAX is currently updating our Member Directory. You can one 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, and contact us with any revisions.

MAX Social Media



Recently, MAX has engaged Monica Huber to increase our presence on social media. MAX is now on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This has many uses such as spotlighting MAX members, celebrating and promoting MAX member events, and engaging legislators.

Please follow and like us on all those social media platforms.
[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

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.

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 has been extended to February 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-February. Conference registration will open in January 2021.

The committee meets the first Thursday of every month. The next committee meeting will be March 4 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 Website

Did you know that the MAX website has a blog and a community calendar of events? Visit it at www.MaxAssociation.org



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 Umobisolutions 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.