



MOVING AGENCIES TOWARD EXCELLENCE

MAX ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MAY 2021

MEMBER NEWS



ARC Welcomes new COO

Please join The Arc of Chester County in welcoming Jennifer Strausser as their new Chief Operations Officer.

Jen brings over 30 years of experience in the non-profit sector supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. She grew up in a household dedicated to providing respite care for people with disabilities, opening their hearts and home to those in need. Her parents subsequently adopted her brother, a former recipient of their services and new addition to the family.

Jen's career path formed in her high school years, working as a dietary aid in a residential facility for children with disabilities. After graduation, Jen remained in the field, working as a Direct Support Professional throughout college. She graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Cairn University.

Jen's career spans over 17 years working for providers of IDD services in various positions of direct service, quality management, administration, and operations. In addition, she worked for a Center for Independent Living for seven years in supervisory, management, and compliance roles.

A passion for helping others and lifelong learning has brought Jen to The Arc, where she will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative and operational business functions.

Jen enjoys the outdoors and sitting around a campfire with her family. She currently resides in Lancaster County with her three children and various four-legged creatures.

Please join MAX is congratulating Jen on her new position at Arc of Chester County.

LEASE OPPORTUNITY IN HARLEYSVILLE

MAX member Arc Alliance has an opportunity to share some space in Harleysville. If interested in this great opportunity for reasonably priced space, [CLICK HERE](#).



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 MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

The MAX Annual Meeting will be Wednesday June 9th at 9:30 am. Featured presentation is an overview of remote supports and how they can enhance services. Agenda to be sent separately. Meeting is free, but registration is required. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration link.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

MAX COMMITTEE UPDATES

MAX Conference Committee

So now that the 2021 conference is done, the committee, in addition starting plans for the 2022 conference, has also begun planning a MAX Association family forum. Plans for this forum will be on the agenda for the June meeting. Join us if you want to participate in planning this event.

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month. The next committee meeting will be June 2, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom. All MAX members have an open invitation to join the conference committee. If you are interested, please join us by [CLICKING HERE](#)

ID/D Committee

MAX has been holding bi-weekly virtual meetings for its ID members on Thursday mornings. Mary Citko and Shelley Zaslow from ODP usually join the meeting. Great opportunity to bring your issues of concern to other MAX members and ODP. May and June meeting dates are May 13, May 27, June 10 and June 24. All meetings are 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. The Zoom links are also on the MAX website calendar at www.MaxAssociation.org

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 on Friday mornings. May and June meeting dates are May 14, May 28, June 11 and June 25. All meetings are 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. Zoom links are also on the MAX website calendar at www.MaxAssociation.org

The first part of the agenda is devoted to general issues members bring to the meeting. The second part of the meeting focused on Value Based Purchasing.

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

IBHS Collaborative

The MAX Behavioral Health committee has established a Regional IBHS Collaborative.

The Collaborative is currently addressing the issue of nonbillable items. MAX is conducting a pilot data collection initiative to gather hard numbers on what these nonbillable items are costing providers. More to come on this.

OMHSAS Webinar on IBHS

OMHSAS is holding a webinar on IBHS on May 11 from 1-3pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Updated link to the Behavioral Health HEALTHCHOICES IBHS webpage

[CLICK HERE](#) for the updated link to the Behavioral Health HealthChoices IBHS webpage.

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

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 stakeholders meetings

Provider Stakeholders

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 May 19, 2021 meeting

[CLICK HERE](#) for video of April's OMHSAS Stakeholder meeting

County Stakeholders

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

MAX COMMITTEE UPDATES

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Wolf Administration Announces Grant Opportunities to Provide Employment Support Services for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

Grant opportunities through the PCCD'S eGRANT System:

Funding Announcement Title: [2021 Drug Court and Pretrial Diversion Initiative](#)

Plan Year:2020
Release Date: 4/15/2021
Due Date: 6/15/2021
Concept Papers Required:.....No
Competitive/Noncompetitive:.....Competitive
Amount Announced:\$2,000,000.00

Funding Announcement Title: [2021 County Jail-Based MAT Program](#)

Plan Year:2020
Release Date:4/15/2021
Due Date:6/15/2021
Concept Papers Required:No
Competitive/Noncompetitive:Competitive
Amount Announced:\$2,000,000.00

Funding for prevention, intervention and treatment services for individuals with mental health, substance abuse and/or behavioral health needs

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is pleased to announce the following funding opportunity available to non-profit organizations serving Pennsylvania residents, and their families, with mental health, substance use, and/or behavioral health needs.

The Department of Human Services has posted the following Solicitation RFA 16-21 for support to individuals with lived experience, and their families, by funding organizations that provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services

throughout Pennsylvania and locally in their communities. To achieve this goal, DHS is providing multiple awards of up to \$500,000 for the 2021-22 state fiscal year on eMarketplace.

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 meeting of the PA Mental Health Planning Council is Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 10am-3pm.

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

Advocacy & Policy Committee Advocacy

A tremendous shout out to all the members on the MAX Advocacy and Policy committee. The committee has been busy advocating to address the workforce crisis both in the ID field as well as the BH field. All services BH, ID and autism services are flat funded in the current proposed state budget. MAX is actively advocating to change that. MAX members can assist in this effort by attending the MAX Southeast Legislative Gathering. [CLICK HERE](#) for invitation and registration link.

Additionally, there is funding opportunity through the federal Rescue Act. Currently, no clear plan exists for how PA will release these funds. However, MAX is meeting with federal, state and county officials to advocate these funds will be designated for ID, BH and autism services. These federal funds will be for one time expenditures, but can be helpful in the aftermath of COVID 19.

LEVEL UP for ID/A

MAX is joining PAR and other associations in requesting state representatives and state senators sign on as co-sponsors for the LEVEL UP for ID/A. This would require that DHS look to the system to eliminate redundancies and redirect those dollars back to direct service compensation. MAX is requesting all its members to reach out to their local legislators to urge them to become co-sponsors.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the co-sponsor letter

Federal News

- ▶ President Biden's proposed American Jobs Act ([CLICK HERE](#) for information on the proposed American Jobs Act). This bill would be paid for through increased taxes to individuals making over \$400,000 and increased corporate taxes. This would provide funding for the infrastructure of social services including increasing compensation for frontline professionals.
- ▶ Proposed Amendment to the title XIX Social Security Act (also known as the "HBCS Access Act of 2021) sponsored by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell of Michigan. This Act would work towards eliminating the waiting list for community services in all states for people ID. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

Please join MAX in contacting your federal congressional representatives and senators to support these two initiatives. They would be a game changer for our workforce crisis.

All MAX members are invited to join the Advocacy and Policy Committee. The committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is May 26 at 9:30 via Zoom. 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](#)

COVID-19 Information

Get get your COVID-19 vaccination! To see available vaccination appointments, [CLICK HERE](#). For Chester County, [CLICK HERE](#).

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

PA Department of Health COVID-19 Info

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

ODP continues clinics with partner Rite Aid

MAX has alerted ODP that there is still a need for clinics to continue. There is a "second wave" of frontline DSPs who were reluctant initially to receive the vaccine but are ready now. There also remains a tremendous need to vaccinate in-home paid and unpaid caregivers.

As a result, ODP is continuing the well-received clinics in partnership with providers and Rite-Aid.

A big thank you to ODP and the MAX members who continue to run the clinics.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

THE VBP BLOG

FROM [XtraGlobex Inc.](#)

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 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.

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.