

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

The 5th Annual Family Forum, “**Practical Possibilities for Impossible Problems: A Forum for Families with Children in HealthChoices,**” was held on October 7, 2011 at Westmoreland County Community College. VBH-PA staff and the Family Advisory Committee did a great job planning this year’s forum. The event opened with welcoming remarks by Karan Steele, Recovery and Resiliency Specialist. Dr. Mark Fuller, Medical Director, introduced the keynote speakers, sisters Patricia Konjoian and Gina Gallagher, authors of *Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid: A Survival Guide for Ordinary Parents of Special Kids*. The sisters provided the 248 registered individuals a humorous, yet inspirational, look at raising special children in a perfection pre-occupied world.



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Once again, the **Exceptional Parent/Caregiver Awards Ceremony** generated cheers, tears and standing ovations. Exceptional HealthChoices' parents and caregivers whom have demonstrated courage, creativity, strength and resiliency while being actively engaged in their child's treatment were acknowledged with a beautifully designed award to honor their achievements. Audra Dudek, Community Program Manager from OMHSAS, Dr. Mark Fuller and keynote speakers Patricia Konjoian and Gina Gallagher posed with the winners. Thirty-one exhibitors, along with six afternoon breakout sessions, offered additional information and resources for those in attendance.

Thanks to all our exhibitors who donated gift baskets for the end of day raffle. And a big **thank you** to our photographer, Rod Agras, from Mental Health America of Westmoreland County. Great photos, Rod!

Please scroll down to view the winners of the Exceptional Parent/Caregiver Awards.

Special Note: All the photos of the winners signed a consent form to use their photos in this slide presentation.



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Armstrong County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

**Melvin & Jessica
Zeigler**



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Beaver County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

**Gregory and Melissa
Gruber**

(not pictured)



Shirl Lyndes accepting on behalf of winners.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Butler County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

George and Linda Beck

(not pictured)

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Cambria County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Michele Rager



Pictured next to Michele is her son, Ivan.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Fayette County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Albert and Carol

Connelly

(Carol is not pictured)



Pictured next to Albert is his son, Jonathan.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Greene County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Ann Gray



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Indiana County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Bridget Cooper

(Bridget is not pictured)



Amy Flickinger and Corinne Miller accepting on behalf of winner.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Lawrence County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Nettie Bailey



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Washington County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Jeralyn Biancaniello



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania 5th Annual Family Forum

Westmoreland County

Exceptional Parent/Caregiver
Award Winner

Darla James



A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended and helped make this year's event a success for all!!

Karan Steele

Recovery & Resiliency Specialist

Jennifer Blough

Prevention, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Kimberly Tzoulis

Administrative Specialist