



# ValueAdded










This is the 119th issue of our VBH-PA information update. These updates will be faxed or emailed to all network providers monthly. Please feel free to share our newsletter with others, and be sure your appropriate clinical and financial staffs receive copies.

Volume 11, Issue 3

March 2009

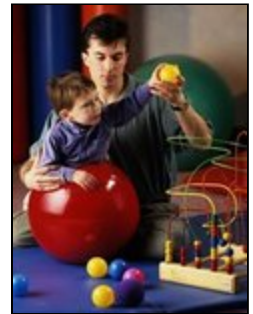
**An information update from Value Behavioral Health of PA, Inc.**

### ***In this Issue:***

-  Recommending FBA in a Child/Adolescent Evaluation
-  Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs
-  Attention BHRS Providers
-  2009 WPIC VideoConference Series for March
-  New Website for Health Information Privacy
-  Reporting 100% Capacity
-  VBH-PA 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Recovery Forum
  - Registration Info
  - Exhibitor Form
  - Recovery Award Nomination Form
-  PAPSRS Annual Conference
-  Heart 2 Heart "Family Perspectives" 2009 Conference

## Recommending the Functional Behavioral Assessment in a Child/Adolescent Evaluation

To enhance the existing standard of care for children and adolescents with behavioral health needs compounded by developmental disorders, such as autistic disorder and other pervasive developmental disorders, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) issued a bulletin outlining how the Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) will be provided. Numerous network Behavioral Specialists Consultants (BSCs) and Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) workers are already trained and prepared to provide this assessment.



Value Behavioral Health of PA is committed to support the provision of FBA for all children having an autism spectrum disorder, as well as others for whom it would be helpful.

Physicians and Licensed Psychologists who conduct evaluations for children are encouraged to recommend FBA whenever appropriate. ***Please specify in your recommendation what BSC (and TSS, if applicable) hours are intended for the FBA.***

Please refer to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services bulletin (OMHSAS-09-01) issued on January 9, 2009. The bulletin describes the FBA in detail and suggests appropriate timeframes required for BHRS staff to complete the assessment.

## Help Us Update Our Distribution List



Would you like to be added to our *ValueAdded* distribution list or know of a co-worker who would? Please provide your email or fax number to **Kim Tzoulis** at [Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOptions.com](mailto:Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOptions.com) or **724-744-6377** and tell her your name and organization's name and how you would like your *ValueAdded* delivered to you. In addition, if you are receiving more copies of our newsletter than you would like, please let her know which addresses and/or fax numbers can be removed.

# Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs (STAP)



Please consider summer plans when completing evaluations for children.

- Evaluations for *summer camp only* will be authorized at two units of the evaluation code.
- If a child is currently receiving BHRS and has a current evaluation that recommends STAP there is no need for either an additional ISPT or a new evaluation specifically recommending STAP.
- STAP providers will maintain a staff ratio that will manage campers with *no additional TSS*. It will, therefore, be a rare occurrence that a TSS will be authorized for attendance at camp.
- Please remember to obtain a letter of support from the county for whose children you plan to provide services. Service descriptions will require approval from VBH-PA and OMHSAS.
- Providers who hold a Provider Type 50 and are considering providing a Summer Therapeutic Activities Program in 2008 will be asked to submit a VBH-PA application for STAP. Applications are located on our website at [www.vbh-pa.com](http://www.vbh-pa.com).

Mail **complete packets** for STAP authorizations to:

#### **Erie County Members ONLY**

VBH-PA  
1601 Sassafrass Street  
Erie, PA 16502  
Attention: Jessica Bingle

#### **All Other Counties**

VBH-PA  
520 Pleasant Valley Road  
Trafford, PA 15085  
Attention: Christina Bowman

If you have any questions about STAP, please email or call:  
[Karla.Barger@valueoptions.com](mailto:Karla.Barger@valueoptions.com) or 724-744-6520.

**Applications, County letters of support and Service Descriptions for STAP are due to VBH-PA by March 15, 2009, attention Karla Barger. These documents are required every year.**

**Providers, please keep in mind the following while completing program descriptions for STAP:**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Summer Therapeutic Activities Program  
Number: 50-96-03  
Issue Date: April 25, 1996  
Effective Date: April 25, 1996

*"Summer therapeutic activities programs are child specific and may be provided for a minimum of three hours and a maximum of six hours per day, at a maximum of five days per week, depending on the treatment needs of the child. A child specific service period is a minimum of two weeks with a maximum of five weeks per calendar year."*

## Attention BHRS Providers

**This correspondence was mailed out to all BHRS providers in January 2009. Let this article serve as a reminder.**

Pursuant to Medical Assistance Bulletin 00-01-01 Reporting Requirements for Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services in the HealthChoices Program, there is a requirement for the initiation of Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) by the 50<sup>th</sup> day following the evaluation recommending BHRS. VBH-PA will continue to monitor all initial requests for BHRS to ensure the timely commencement of services.

Beginning in August 2004 (for services beginning in July 2004), VBH-PA has been, on a monthly basis, choosing a random sample of 20% of the new BHRS referrals per county. VBH-PA has been sending a fax to the providers represented by this sample. VBH-PA requires documentation verifying the date each service began (TSS, MT, BSC) or documentation that an attempt was made to begin services (either a progress note or parent signature).

Beginning in March 2009 (for BHR Services started in February 2009), the response from your agency must be received within **five calendar days of the date of the fax from VBH-PA**. This change is required due to a change in the timeframes required by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). If the delay in the start of services was due to staff unavailability, your agency must submit an explanation for the delay and a plan of correction within **five calendar days of the date of the fax from VBH-PA**. VBH-PA will monitor the plan of correction and will provide this information to OMHSAS as required.

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## 2009 WPIC VideoConference Series



VBH-PA is pleased to announce that our Service Center will once again be a videoconferencing site for the WPIC Office of Education and Regional Programming Videoconference Series. **These programs are free of charge; however, there is a fee for continuing education credits.**

March's videoconferences are: **"The Role of Trauma Informed Care: Responding to the Threat of Youth Violence and Youth Suicide"** on **March 11, 2009**; and **"Borderline Personality Disorder: Assessment and Treatment"** on **March 25, 2009**. The videoconferences are held from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in the **Walnut Room** at VBH-PA's Trafford Service Center.

Attendees requiring continuing education credits will be asked to complete an attendance form and submit it with payment (\$15 for general CEUs; \$30 for ACT 48, CAC, CME, CPRP, NBCC, personal care home administrators, psychologists and social workers) after attending the program.

Please visit the WPIC website at: <http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/oerp> for a complete schedule and registration forms for these programs. You may also visit our website at <http://www.vbh-pa.com> for more information.

# HHS OCR Posts New Website for Health Information Privacy



The Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights has posted its new Web site. The health information privacy (HIP) pages have been extensively revised to improve organization and ease of use for consumers, covered entities, and others seeking reliable advice on the HIPAA Privacy Rule and the Patient Safety Rule. The Web site contains significant new content including:

- **For Consumers Pages (with new information on):**

Medical Records, Employers and Health Information in the Workplace, Personal Representatives, Family Members and Friends, Court Orders and Subpoenas and Notice of Privacy Practices

- **Privacy Rule Home Page -- Rulemaking Timeline**
- **Enforcement Rule Home Page—Rulemaking Timeline**
- **Emergency Preparedness Home Page**
- **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act Page**
- **Special Topics Home Page**
- **Before you File a HIP Complaint**
- **Patient Safety Rule Home Page**
- **Patient Safety Statute Home Page**
- **Patient Safety Enforcement Activities and Results Home Page**

You can reach the new health information privacy Web pages at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/index.html>

## Reporting 100% Capacity

Providers are responsible for immediately notifying VBH-PA when they reach full capacity for any contracted level of care at any service location. Providers in the VBH-PA network must provide face-to-face intervention within one hour for emergencies, within twenty-four hours for urgent situations, and within seven days for routine appointments and specialty referrals.

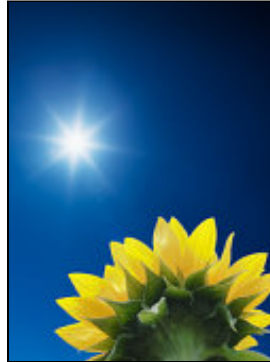


Full capacity is considered the point at which the provider is unable to meet the access standards noted above or is unable to accept referrals for a particular level of care. Notices for full (100%) capacity should contain the reason for reaching capacity, the effective date, and the steps the provider will take to resume functioning at normal capacity.

To report capacity issues, please call our toll-free provider line at **(877) 615-8503** and ask to speak with **Melanie King, Special Projects Provider Field Coordinator**. VBH-PA requests this information as a means to manage and monitor required HealthChoices access standards.

# Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania's 9th Annual Consumer Recovery Forum

To exhibit at this Forum, please complete and return the Exhibitor Reservation Form located on the next page.



## “Realizing Recovery - Giving Hope a Future”

Friday, April 17, 2009

Westmoreland County Community  
College\*

145 Pavilion Lane  
Youngwood, PA 15697

8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Forum registration will be held at the theater in Science Hall.

\*Directions can be found on the WCCC Web site home page at <http://www.wccc.edu>. Click on the Quick Links tab located on the left side of the page.

Keynote by:

**Denny Barger**

**“Recovery—Yours and Others, It is a Matter of the Heart”**

*“The longer I live and the more I recover and help others in their recovery journey, I realize that the heart is at the center of the process. When the heart, the home of our feelings, real being and soul, has recovered, we have arrived at the end of an experience that will be part of us for life.”*

**Join us for Workshops, Exhibitors, Lunch and the Leadership in  
Recovery Awards Ceremony**

### RESERVATIONS:

Please call or email Kim Tzoulis at (724) 744-6377 or

[Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOptions.com](mailto:Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOptions.com) for reservations *on or before Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>*.

There is no charge for the forum, which includes lunch, but reservations are necessary.

**Include in your RSVP any dietary restrictions or necessary accommodations.**

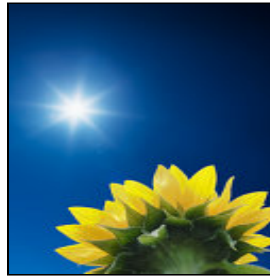
HealthChoices' VBH-PA members living in Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland Counties are invited to attend. Erie, Mercer, Crawford and Venango County HealthChoices' members will have the opportunity to attend other regionally located VBH-PA Forums in 2009.





## VBH-PA Consumer Recovery Forum 2009 Exhibitor Reservation Form

To request exhibit space, please complete and return this form by April 1, 2009.



This year's forum will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College on Friday, April 17, 2009, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme for the forum will be **"Realizing Recovery - Giving Hope a Future"**. You are invited to join us for the entire day, just be sure to indicate if you want a lunch reservation.

Exhibit space is free, but available on a first come, first served basis.

If you and your staff are interested in exhibiting at the 2009 Consumer Recovery Forum, please complete the following and return to: Sue Klaus via fax at [724-744-6363](tel:724-744-6363) by the deadline of: [April 1, 2009](#).

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of staff and title of those who will be attending (please indicate if you want a lunch reservation):

*Lunch reservation  
(please circle):*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / No

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / No

Call Sue at (724) 744-6501 with any questions.

Can you supply a gift basket for a raffle? Yes / No

Will you be providing bags for materials? Yes / No

Exhibit space is free and available on a first come, first served basis. Set-up for exhibitors begins at 7:30 a.m. Registration and exhibits begin at 8:45 a.m. Questions? Call Sue at 724-744-6501.

Thank you for your support.  
We are looking forward to having you join us!



# 2009 Leadership in Recovery Award Application

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (VBH-PA) considers it our privilege to encourage consumer empowerment and recovery. During our 2009 Spring Consumer Forum, VBH-PA will publicly acknowledge **HealthChoices (VBH-PA) consumers in the following counties\*: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland** who have demonstrated courage, creativity, and leadership in their community.

This is not a cash award, but an acknowledgement in the form of a beautifully designed award that will be customized and presented on April 17, 2009 at the Consumer Forum at Westmoreland County Community College in Greensburg. VBH-PA respects and values the efforts of our HealthChoices consumers. The purpose of the **Leadership in Recovery Award** is to acknowledge members who are actively engaged in their recovery and to encourage other members in the recovery process.

Please nominate at least one HealthChoices consumer in your county whom you feel is deserving of this type of recognition. **The deadline is March 17, 2009.**

### Nominee Information (please print or type)

Name	
Address	
Affiliation (MHA, Drop-in Center, Clubhouse, etc.)	
City	
State	
ZIP Code	
Telephone	

### Person Nominating Consumer

Name	
Title and/or Affiliation	
Phone	

### Why do you think this HealthChoices consumer is the best candidate for the recognition?

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Please write as much information as you can because this will be used in the remarks made to announce the person being honored. Our award ceremony is more enjoyable if the remarks include some personal touches or stories that are inspiring to those in the audience. Attach additional pages if you wish. **Return form to Sue Klaus, PE&O Manager, VBH-PA, 520 Pleasant Valley Road, Trafford, PA 15085 or fax to: 724-744-6363.**

\*Erie, Mercer, Crawford and Venango Consumers will have the opportunity to be nominated at other regionally located VBH-PA Forums in 2009.

The purpose of the **Leadership in Recovery Award** is to acknowledge members who are actively engaged in their recovery and to encourage other members in the recovery process.

Please nominate at least one HealthChoices consumer in your county whom you feel is deserving of this type of recognition.

**The deadline is March 17, 2009.**

# PAPSRS 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## "Values to Action"

April 22-24, 2009

**The Penn Stater ▪ Conference Center Hotel  
215 Innovation Boulevard ▪ State College, PA 16803**

PAPSRS welcomes your participation in their annual conference. At this year's conference, the transformation of mental health services throughout the state based on recovery principles and the role of peer support will be highlighted. This year's conference will open with a full day institute focusing on transformation issues with a special guest presenter, Dr. Mary Diamond, OMHSAS Medical Director. In addition, two half-day institutes will also be offered, one on Community Integration as presented by the members of the UPENN Collaborative and a second on CPRP test preparation.

Click on this [link](#) for the complete PAPSRS conference brochure and for registration information.

If you have any questions about the conference please call:  
Jen McLaughlin at 570-286-2052 or  
email at [McLaughlinJ@cgonline.org](mailto:McLaughlinJ@cgonline.org)

Suggestions or ideas for articles that you would like to see published in *ValueAdded* can be faxed to Kim Tzoulis, *ValueAdded* Editor, at (724) 744-6363 or emailed to [Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOperations.com](mailto:Kimberly.Tzoulis@ValueOperations.com)

Articles of general importance to the provider network will be considered for publication.

Value Behavioral Health of PA, Inc.  
520 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Trafford, PA 15085  
Phone:  
(877) 615-8503  
Fax:  
(724) 744-6363

Past issues of *ValueAdded* can be accessed at:  
[VBH-PA - Provider Information Center](#)

## *Heart 2 Heart Parent Support Network, Inc.*

### *"Family Perspectives"*

## **Reconnecting the HEART 2009 Conference**

### **March 5 & 6, 2009**

Venango Campus Clarion University, Oil City, PA  
Conference 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

(Registration starts at 8:00 am)

Fee: \$20.00 for One-Day or \$30 for Two-Day

Lunch is Included.

This event will focus on helping families and professionals understand the inside perspective on Attachment Disorder, Trauma, Foster Care, Autism and other systems of care.

For more information, click on this [link](#).