



The CONNECTOR

APRIL 2024 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 3

April is

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Month



The month of April provides us with the opportunity to take a moment and reflect on our mission and the goals we share with CACs nationwide: to prevent, stop, and heal child abuse. In the state of Pennsylvania alone, 14,922 children were served by CACs last year. In addition to these children served, Pennsylvania CACs provided preventative services to 39,454 children and 6,614 adults in 2023. We can, and do, make a difference.

There are a several campaigns to keep an eye on this month, including two in Pennsylvania, that provide relevant resources when it comes to speaking out about and spreading awareness of child abuse prevention. PennCAC has launched the Bodies, Boundaries, & Behaviors campaign to empower parents and caregivers to have meaningful conversations with kids about body safety. PA Family Support Alliance is running the Family Digital Wellness campaign that emphasizes the importance of online safety.

Starting April 5th, we extend an invitation to wear the color blue each Friday of the month to show our support and solidarity for what we do. You will also have the opportunity to submit photos to the #WearBlueDay movement to be shared on ACP's website and social media.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Beaver County Office Makeover
- Team Member Spotlight
- Welcome to the Team
- Work Anniversaries
- Team Member Award
- Paying it Forward
- Law Enforcement Liaison Training
- Healthy Parenting Spotlight
- Birthday Crew
- ACP Open Positions
- Tech Tip: Email Header
- Quote

Beaver County Office Makeover

Family Advocates Shelva and Katelyn, and Family Therapeutic Specialist Beck have taken on the project of beautifying the Beaver County Office. Their efforts have helped to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who enter.

What was once an empty hallway now displays a beautiful mountainscape painted across the wall. The forensic interview rooms are in the process of

being repainted as well to introduce some color to the previously white walls. New shelves have been built to increase storage space in the office. The project is still underway, and future details include painted grass along the base of the entryway walls to create a meadow mural.

Stay tuned for details of an Open House of the Beaver County office taking place in April once the renovations are complete.



A mountainscape mural painted on the wall at the end of the hallway.



Beaver County Office Waiting Room



Hi, I'm Julie!

- **Position:** *Parent Educator*, Healthy Parenting Program
- **Team Start Date:** April 2023
- **Office Location:** Remote
- **What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most:** Working with a diverse population of parents and guardians. I've met so many people at different points in their lives and being able to help them facilitate real change for themselves and their families has been incredibly rewarding.

- **What are you looking forward to most this year at ACP:** I'm currently being trained in Group Triple P and I'm looking forward to being able to take lead in conducting positive parenting groups in the community.
- **What is your definition of success?:** Being able to continuously grow and change and learn even when it's uncomfortable. Letting go of self-deprecation and shame-based expectations. I'm continuously striving to be open to new opportunities and different perspectives instead of latching onto traditional ideas of success.
- **What do you like to do in your spare time:** The LGBTQIA+ and Body Acceptance communities are very important to me and I love going to clothing swaps, swim meetups, and all kinds of events that benefit these groups. I also love interior decorating and sourcing unique wares from vintage and antique shops. My partner and I also love hosting movie nights and digging up lesser-known films to watch and discuss with friends.
- **If you were to write a self-help book, what would the topic be:** Embracing chaos as something that can be awe-inspiring as opposed to terrifying. Many of the parents I work with that find success with our program do so because they stop trying to control every little thing in their life. Instead, they figure out how to exist within the chaos and how to let go of the small, arbitrary stressors that ultimately don't matter.
- **Favorite go-to Pittsburgh spot:** Frick Park. I've lived within 5 minutes of it for a decade now and I'm still amazed that this huge forest exists right in the middle of the city. I love to spend hours walking deep into the woods and coming across groups of grazing deer and small streams. I always discover something new.
- **Favorite movie and/or book:** An all-time favorite book is *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. It's impossible for me to choose a favorite movie because I love film so much but a standout for me is *Magnolia* by Paul Thomas Andersen.
- **If you could travel anywhere, where would you go:** The countryside of Japan. There's so much history and it's been left largely untouched or modernized and I think it would be incredible to experience a place with such strong ties to ancient rituals and tradition.

Get to know [Julianna](#) better and reach out!

Welcome to the Team!

Pamela

Parent Educator: Allegheny

Katherine

Parent Educator: Fayette



Work Anniversaries

Lauren

Program Coordinator

16 Years

Jenyne

HP Program Manager

3 Years

Danae

Parent Educator

3 Years

Diane

Registered Nurse

2 Years

Haley

Forensic Interviewer

2 Years

Julianna

Parent Educator

1 Year

Katelyn

Family Advocate

1 Year

Congratulations, Beck!



Congratulations to ACP's Family Therapeutic Specialist, Beck, for being awarded March's Team Member award!

Thank you for going above and beyond to assist the Healthy Parenting Program groups. We are so grateful to have your support toward all of the programs we offer at ACP!

Paying it Forward

Last month we put out a request to pay it forward in honor of our coworker Ed.

Thank you to everyone who shared their acts of kindness with us. Thank you to all those as well who engaged in an act of kindness and chose to keep it private. Together we can make our days brighter through the little things.

A co-worker shared one of their perfectly peeled, deliciously tasty, Kiwi fruits with me!

2 of our staff members made 10 care package bookbags to hand out to local people that are experiencing homelessness.

An employee, whose hands have the wonderful gift of "culinary art" provided me with not one, but two, homemade meals for lunch! They were absolutely delicious!

Law Enforcement Liaison Training

Our ACP Law Enforcement Liaisons are providing training in many of our counties to law enforcement officers and caseworkers. The goal of these training courses is to promote cooperation between law enforcement and CPS workers, while also improving outcomes for child abuse case investigations. The trainings began as 3-hour workshops in Allegheny County, offering several dates and times for participants to register.

The first workshop of the series focuses on basic child abuse investigations and encourages participants to interact about issues that they face in dealing with other agencies while they investigate cases. Segments provide training on

CPS laws, expectations of the district attorney's office, the need for medical exams, acronyms for CPS, and an overview of ACP child advocacy center. Workshop two focuses on minimal facts interviewing, forensic interviews, and provides interactive activities for participants. Workshop three focuses on a thorough training on medical findings (physical & sexual abuse), as well as interactive activities for all participants.



Our ACP Law Enforcement Liaisons at a Pirate Game.

We are thankful to so many ACP staff who have helped and supported us in these trainings!! With special thanks to Brittany for presenting the MFI and FI information, Karen M. for presenting the medical finding information, and Beck for coordinating handouts and giveaways!

Healthy Parenting Spotlight

Wellness Fair

On March 20th, Parent Educators Christine & Greg attended the Health & Wellness Fair at Provident Charter School in Beaver County. There were several networking opportunities with partners that ACP does not regularly get a chance to interact with. The fair also provided an opportunity to connect with caseworkers we support.

Christine & Greg also graduated our first group at the Beaver County Jail!

Head Start

Parent Educator Tristan attended Head Start's registration event held in Fayette County. He spoke with many parents about the Healthy Parenting Program. He also spoke with partners about the Dads Matter program. It has been a long-time goal of Tristan's to support Dads Matter with the Healthy Parenting Program.

Allegheny Crew

Our Allegheny Crew graduated their second men's group at Passages, their fifth group with Allegheny County Jail Collaborative (ACJC), their second group at Auberle House of Healing, and the first group at Light of Life. These groups are support to our existing partners and have been very successful! Thank you to Danae, Angel, Julie, and Megan for your amazing efforts with groups! Megan S. will be starting support with Hilltop Family Center this month, a long-time goal achieved!

Thank you to all of our PEs for supporting our individual clients and our Intake Coordinators! The third quarter has been busy!



Birthday Crew!

Jenyne

Healthy Parenting Program
Manager

Gregory

Parent Educator: Beaver Co.

Diane

Registered Nurse

Megan

Parent Educator: Allegheny

Jaden

Accounting Specialist

To plant a
garden is to
believe in
tomorrow.

- Audrey Hepburn

ACP Open Positions

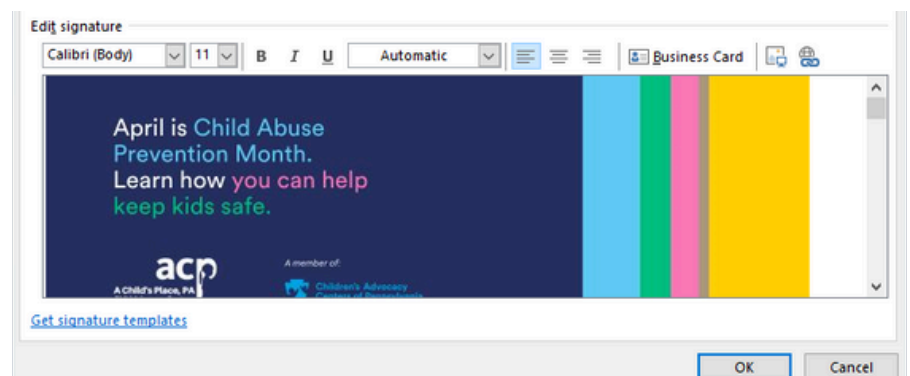
- [Parent Educator: Allegheny](#)
- [Parent Educator: Fayette](#)
- [Parent Educator: Westmoreland](#)
- [Intake Coordinator: Allegheny](#)
- [Forensic Interviewer: Allegheny](#)

Tech Tip: Email Header

Creating an Email Header in Outlook is very similar to setting up a signature:

- Open a new email
- Click the “Signature” tab underneath the top “Message” banner
- Click “Signatures...” then “New” to name your new signature
- Type in your desired header or click the icon to the right of “Business Card” to upload an image
 - To adjust the size of an image, right-click on the image and click “Picture...” for adjustment options
- To format your new header as a header, write future emails underneath it, instead of above as you would a business card.

Note: If you already have an email signature and wish to include a header as well, it will need to be added onto that same signature in the editor window. Emails should then be written between the header and signature to maintain this format.



Click [here](#) to download a free header in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month!

