



The CONNECTOR

OCTOBER 2024 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 9



Left to Right: Law Enforcement Liaison Ann laughs with a student at ACP's booth. A sign welcomes participants onto Geneva College's campus for the Cokes & Connections event. Images courtesy of [Cokes & Connections \(Fall 2024\)](#) | Flickr

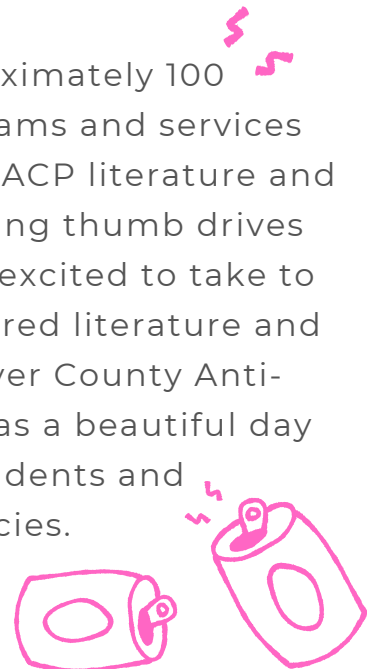
Geneva College Activity Fair: Cokes & Connections

IN THIS ISSUE

- Cokes & Connections
- New Fayette HPP Office
- 40 Years of VOCA
- Team Member Spotlight
- Welcome to the Team
- Law Enforcement Liaison Team
- Healthy Parenting Spotlight
- Birthday Crew
- ACP Open Positions
- Tech Tip: Zoom Backgrounds
- MedTrainer Reminder
- Quote

On September 6th, Law Enforcement Liaison Ann and PAT Parent Educator Shannon attended the “Cokes & Connections” activity fair at Geneva College. The annual event is held for incoming freshmen students and new transfers to get them involved on campus and in their new surrounding community.

Shannon and Ann spoke to approximately 100 students about the various programs and services offered by ACP. They handed out ACP literature and some cool giveaway items including thumb drives and pens that the students were excited to take to start their semester. Ann also shared literature and spoke to students about the Beaver County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. It was a beautiful day to be outside interacting with students and networking with other area agencies.



New Fayette HPP Office

Healthy Parenting Fayette has a brand new location! They now reside in the space right next to ACP's satellite office where the Fayette County medical exams and forensic interviews are conducted. You can find them at 6 Oliver Rd, Suite 121, Uniontown, PA.

If you're ever in Fayette, feel free to stop in and say hello!



40 Years of VOCA

October 12, 2024 marked 40 years since the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was signed into law! VOCA is a crucial source of support for ACP, as it is the primary source of federal grant funding for services for survivors of crime, including child abuse and neglect. Its influence stretches from our CAC to CACs across the nation, empowering survivors to seek out safety and healing.

Click [here](#) to learn more about this historic legislation, its continued impact on services for victims of crime, and the future of VOCA.





Hi, I'm Haley!

- **Position:** *Forensic Interviewer*
- **Team Start Date:** April 2022
- **Office Location:** You can find me at Allegheny County the most often, but I travel to all of our satellite sites as well.
- **What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?:** Trainings.

I enjoy the learning aspect of training opportunities, and I take that knowledge back with me to apply to my role as a forensic interviewer. They give me insight on wording questions to better serve the kids I interview.

- **What are you looking forward to most this year at ACP?:** As we near the end of the year, I love the upcoming holidays and how they impact the atmosphere here at ACP. I especially love Halloween, from decorating to having the foster kids trick or treat through our offices at Mercy Health Center on the 31st. I'm also looking forward to decorating our doors for the winter holiday season.
- **What is your definition of success?:** Feeling satisfied with yourself, your work, and your life as a whole. Overall being happy with who you are and where you are in life.
- **What do you like to do in your spare time?:** Watch movies and TV shows, I'd consider myself a nerd so I love shows like Game of Thrones or anything Marvel related. I also like listening to music and I'm a huge Swiftie but I'll listen to anything from rock to heavy metal. My main creative outlet is cosplay, which is creating costumes and dressing up as characters from those TV shows and movies I watch, I love building my costumes and the feeling of making something with my hands.
- **If you were to write a self-help book, what would the topic be?:** "Embracing Your Own Kind of Weird": Being proud of who you are and what you enjoy no matter niche it may be or what other people may think of it.
- **Favorite go-to Pittsburgh spot:** If I had to pick just one, Kura Revolving Sushi in the South Side, but I like being anywhere that my friends are.
- **Favorite movie and/or book:** Movie: *Scream* Book: *The Hunger Games Trilogy*
- **If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?:** Edinburgh, Scotland

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

Welcome to the Team!

Brianna
Family Advocate

We're so happy
you're here!

Law Enforcement Liaison Team

Upcoming Trainings

The Law Enforcement Liaison Team continues their workshop series with their fourth offering in Allegheny County entitled “How to Build a Case-Guide for Investigators.” Though previous workshops have focused on collaboration between CYS and Law Enforcement, this educational topic was designed in conjunction with the District Attorney’s office specifically to be administered to Law Enforcement only. The first session took place on October 4th and the second will be held on October 25th.

Impact

Law Enforcement Liaison Ann and Parent Educator Megan S. continue their visits to police departments in Allegheny County to discuss the services our organization offers. Many departments have expressed interest in our agency and are excited to learn about what we offer and how our programs can be a beneficial resource to families in their community.

In September, following a visit to a department and speaking with their chief, both Megan and Ann received calls from officers on the scene with a family in need. Following those conversations, the officers referred the parent/caregiver to the Healthy Parenting Program and scheduled the children for forensic interviews based on the information they gathered on the scene. Megan worked closely with our Intake Coordinator, who then carried on communication with the local police to schedule this case.

This is just one example of how these conversations with police departments provide crucial insight to Law Enforcement on working together as a multidisciplinary team during such instances of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to act on these cases in a swift manner.

Healthy Parenting Spotlight

Allegheny County

- Parent Educator Megan S. presented at the Magisterial District Judges meeting in Allegheny County about the Healthy Parenting Program. She spoke to a room of 25 judges about how the program can be a resource for the parents and caregivers they see in their court. Megan talked them through the process of who was eligible to refer, how to refer, and how best to manage mandating someone to use our Healthy Parenting Program.
- Groups started up again at Allegheny County Jail, Auberly House of Healing, Passages, and Sojourner House. A Parent Chat also began at Providence Connections.

Beaver County

- Beaver County Triple P Parent Educators continued groups this month at the Beaver County Jail with a full attendance list of mothers.
- Healthy Parenting Program Manager Jenyne presented Triple P curriculum at Fairview Elementary for another parent night following their enthusiasm for the Kindergarten Readiness presentation they received in September.
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) Parent Educators Shannon and Marlana held the first Group Connection for Beaver PAT at the Beaver Library with parents enrolled in the program. The purpose of these group connections is to offer the parents support and insight from each other and our educators in a group setting.
- Parent Educators Megan, Christine, and Greg attended the Fall Kick Off with the Beaver TIP (Truancy Team) where Megan spoke to the audience about the curriculums offered for Beaver County residents through Healthy Parenting. In attendance were Beaver magistrates, school administrators and counselors from Beaver County school districts.

Healthy Parenting Spotlight

Fayette County

— Fayette Triple P staff started a group at Good Works Recovery which was well attended, and they are continuing classes at Fayette County Jail.

— Parent Educator Tristan spoke at the IGNITE graduation at Fayette County Jail. This was the second graduation at this facility and the second graduation in the nation with facilities offering the IGNITE program. IGNITE is a rehabilitative program with access to college courses. This was a very special event. Most Fayette staff attended in support and expressed the sweetness of the occasion.

— September's PAT Group Connection was "A PIECE OF CAKE." Parents learned supports that can be used in everyday activities to promote their child's learning and development. While the parents were learning, their kids enjoyed interacting with each other in the new play area. The event also featured a special guest from the Soroptimist, who shared information on programs they offer to families: "Live your Dream and Dream It Be It."



— PAT Parent Educator LeeAnn worked with one of her families to install "Autistic Child Area" signs on their street. She contacted the German Township supervisors and within two weeks the signs were ordered and put up for the family. There are now two placed on each side of their street, covering both their yard and house area.

The family expressed that the signs helped ease their mind that additional precautions were put in place to create a safer environment for their child.



Birthday Crew!

Tristan

Parent Educator

Alicia

Parent Educator



To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

ACP Open Positions

- [Nurse Practitioner - All Sites](#)
- [PAT Parent Educator - Beaver County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Allegheny County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Fayette County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Westmoreland](#)

Tech Tip: Zoom Background

The Virtual Background feature on Zoom provides you with more privacy on meetings, while also adding professionalism to your look.

To add or select a background, go to “Background and Effects” underneath your Zoom settings. You can also access this window by clicking the arrow next to “Video” from within a Zoom meeting. Here you can choose a background from Zoom’s default selection, or upload your own background from your computer!

Virtual backgrounds

