

Butler County We Belong
Activity Summary 04/01/17-06/30/17

Wow! Butler County We Belong had a very busy Spring and early Summer! Here is what we've been up to:

- April was our planning month. We
 - Collaborated with the Butler Area School District to schedule and plan an employment and transition community of practice
 - Collaborated with Center for Community Resources and the Human Services Division of Butler County to schedule and plan two opportunities for the community to view the Stigma Project's documentary, "What are you thinking?"
 - Collaborated with the Human Services Division of Butler County to consider a community mapping resource and how that resource may benefit this project
 - Collaborated with the Lawrence County Community Action Partnership and Disability Options Network-Transition Program to host a family and youth employment workshop
- In May,
 - On the 19th, held at Community Care Connections, Inc. (CCC) with support by Butler County We Belong, hosted a Transition Information/Aspiring Young Professionals Workshop
 - On the 23rd, in partnership with the National Inclusion Project, hosted Let's All Play, a workshop about supporting all kids in recreation
 - Initiated a web page for Butler County We Belong, housed within the CCC website.
 - Spent a day at Butler Intermediate and Senior High Schools to talk specifically to transitioning students about the employment community of practice event.
- In June,
 - Butler County We Belong was the subject of an article published in the Butler/Cranberry Eagle
 - On the 6th, we hosted You Have to See it To Believe it, a community of practice event about transition and employment
 - On the 13th, we hosted What are you Thinking, the Stigma project's documentary about disability stigma. We followed up the documentary with a panel discussion.
 - On June 16th, the stigma event was the subject of a second article in the Butler/Cranberry Eagle
- Although two members of the Advisory Council are no longer able to participate, we have added several new members
 - Kelsey Berbigler, self-advocate
 - Christine Wyke, FedEx
 - Katie Smith, PEAL Center
 - Suzanne and Nicolette Fenello, parent and self-advocate
 - Kathy McConnell, NAMI PA Butler County
 - Carrie Todd, parent & Community Care Connections, Inc.

Advisory Council Vision for Butler County We Belong

Recall that at our very first Community of Practice event (held 10/27/16), here is what we said we wanted from this project.

- To conduct outreach to schools
- To be educators for all about acceptance
- To share about lifestyles of people not about their abilities
- To be leaders
- To build bridges
- To raise expectations that all folks should be included
- To recognize community leaders and to involve those leaders
- To be forward thinking

And, here is what we said we did not want from this project.

- Here is what we don't want from this project.
- To focus only on being "not" accepted
- To not be just a disability group
- To not be problem focused
- To not be bullied
- To be all talk and no action
- To be told that it will never work
- To not be on our own
- To not over promise
- To be a crutch

Original Grant Goals for Butler County We Belong

Please also recall the stated project goals as written in the original grant proposal.

- To address disability prejudice
 - use the Stigma Project
 - use community of practice (CoP) learning events (3-4 in 18 months)
- Examine strengths and weaknesses of our community
 - identify barriers,
 - create a data base of inclusive opportunities for living, working and playing in our County,
 - introduce Life Course Tool Kit for planning a good life
- Host activities that will bring all people together
 - Such as hosting a viewing of The Family Next Door (2-3 in 18 months)