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Delco celebrates 20 years of behavioral health leadership
Individuals honored, keynote Speaker Tonier Cain shares a message of recovery

In recognition of the 20 years of behavioral health leadership and the partnership demonstrated by the Delaware County HealthChoices program, more than 280 individuals joined Delaware County Council, the Delaware County Department of Human Services and Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (Magellan) for an awards program and anniversary celebration at noon on Wednesday, June 7. The event was held at the Drexelbrook Catering & Events Center located at 4700 Drexelbrook Drive in Drexel Hill.

In 1997, in response to the state-wide adoption of a managed care model of service, Delaware County established a unique publically funded partnership with Magellan to operate the behavioral health managed care HealthChoices Program with a vision of increasing access to services, improving quality of care, and containing costs for the county.

Over the past two decades, Delaware County Council, the Department of Human Services and Magellan have remained committed to improving and expanding the HealthChoices program by collaborating with multiple stakeholder groups and service delivery systems to identify needs and coordinate a comprehensive array of services and programs that focus on the needs of residents. Along with providing mental health inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services, which are offered 24-hours, 7-days a week through crisis services, the HealthChoices program provides substance abuse treatment, detoxification, and rehabilitation services for residents who are struggling with addiction.

“Since its inception, the Delaware County HealthChoices program has evolved in response to the needs and priorities of our residents,” said councilman Dave White, Council’s liaison to the Department of Human Services that oversees mental health programs. “This has included the expansion of services for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug and/alcohol addiction which helps us in our fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic. Through the expansion of treatment plans, our residents have a better chance of overcoming addiction, and as a result, we are hearing more and more stories of recovery,” said White.

Through the partnership with Magellan, the program has made considerable progress over the years in improving access to services for residents along with the quality of those services, and the fiscal management of the program. In 2016, more than \$130 million dollars in behavioral health services were provided to residents through the HealthChoices Program.

Anne McCabe, who leads Magellan's public markets said, "We greatly appreciate the collaboration and support from the Delaware County Council, the Delaware County Department of Human Services, providers and other local stakeholders. Our team is committed to quality customer service and care, and to helping our members lead healthy, vibrant lives."

In addition to recognizing 20 years of partnership, the June 7 event recognized individuals who have demonstrated dedication, leadership and commitment to behavioral health services. Additionally, guests heard from keynote speaker Tonier Cain, who shared a message of hope through her powerful story of recovery and redemption.

Cain was the subject of the 2010 documentary "Healing Neen," where she reflected on her childhood in Annapolis and how the cycle of child abuse resulted in her addiction to drugs. In 2014, she wrote a book about overcoming trauma and addiction.

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania works closely with its partners - Bucks, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties; individuals; providers and local communities. Magellan focuses on innovative solutions to help to increase access to care, improve service use rates, expand the continuum of services in alignment with evidence-based models, and maximize clinical appropriateness and quality services. For more information, visit www.MagellanofPA.com.

About Magellan Health: Magellan Health, Inc. is a leader in managing the fastest growing, most complex areas of health, including special populations, complete pharmacy benefits and other specialty areas of healthcare. Magellan supports innovative ways of accessing better health through technology, while remaining focused on the critical personal relationships that are necessary to achieve a healthy, vibrant life. Magellan's customers include health plans and other managed care organizations, employers, labor unions, various military and governmental agencies and third-party administrators. For more information, visit MagellanHealth.com.

About Delaware County Department of Human Services: The Department of Human Services was established in 1978 under the County of Delaware Home Rule Charter as an organization responsible for the delivery of coordinated human services and for establishing an administrative structure encompassing services to children, youth, adults, and families with special needs. The Department of Human Services is comprised of the following offices: Office of Behavioral Health (Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Adult and Family Services), Office of Intellectual Disabilities, Office of Children and Youth Services, Office of Early Intervention, and Child Care Information Services. For more information, visit www.delcohsa.org.

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