

New Castle News – December 16, 2019

Human Services Center executive director to retire

Dr. Dennis Nebel, longtime executive director of the Human Services Center, is retiring effective Dec. 31.

Former HSC Clinical Director, Michele Kelly-Thompson, has replaced him. Ms. Thompson has been employed at HSC since July 1, 1987, and will be well suited to serve as HSC's Chief Executive of the future.

Dr. Nebel, a licensed psychologist, began his full-time tenure at HSC in June 1979. A graduate of St. Vincent College, St. Francis College and receiving his Doctorate from Baylor University, Dr. Nebel actually began part-time employment at HSC in the late Fall of 1978, conducting psychological evaluations while concurrently completing his Psychology Internship at the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Center at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Nebel, 68 years of age, is originally from Aliquippa. He was first hired as a staff psychologist in the Child and Family Services Department at HSC in June 1979 following the completion of his internship. In 1982, Dr. Nebel was promoted to HSC Clinical Director and subsequently became HSC's fifth executive director, since its founding in 1963, in June 1992.

Under Dr. Nebel's leadership, HSC has dramatically expanded its services in Lawrence County. As a consequence of this service expansion, came the concomitant and significant growth of the agency's budget and workforce. HSC's employees, approaching 200, include a broad array of administrators, behavioral health clinicians and support staff. A significant difference from the under 20 employees at HSC when he was hired in 1979.

Dr. Nebel's career has also included substantial community service and leadership. His community commitment includes memberships on a large number of community and statewide boards of directors including: President, Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, President, New Castle Lions Club, President, New Castle YMCA Board, Member, Jameson Hospital Board, Member, Lawrence County Historical Society Board, Member, Red Cross Board, Member, Lawrence County Economic Development Board, Chairman, King Beaver District of the Boy Scouts of America, President, Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Symphony at the Scottish Rite Cathedral and Member, Member, Board of Directors, Lawrence County Learning Center.



Dr. Dennis Nebel is retiring as executive director of Human Services Center. He began his career with the organization in 1979.

He also served on the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA), and as Board Member and President of its successor organization, the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA). RCPA represents a large number of behavioral health and rehabilitation providers throughout the Commonwealth and, at approximately 350 organizational members, is one of the largest such organizations in the nation. At the RCPA 2019 Fall Annual Conference in Hershey, Dr. Nebel received the association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Nebel was also the 2012 recipient of the Jack Butz Humanitarian Award here in Lawrence County.

During his career, Dr. Nebel also maintained a private Psychology practice and was an Adjunct Psychology faculty member in the Psychology Department at Westminster College.

As he enters retirement he looks forward to increased time with his wife, family, friends, travel, golf, and continued community service.

He expresses his deepest thanks to the HSC Board of Directors, his HSC colleagues and to all those who serve this community.