BEi and Barber National Institute—New Affiliation

BEi entered into an affiliation agreement with the Barber National Institute on January 1, 2018. BEi management and an ad hoc committee of the BEi board have been meeting to discuss the affiliation process over the last several months.

Clients and families will see no disruption in services as they currently exist at BEi. Changes in services that have been implemented over the last several months have been due to new regulations under the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act.

The goal of the affiliation is to allow for more opportunities and services for individuals being served by BEI in Warren and Forest Counties. Prior to the affiliation becoming official, informational meetings were conducted with not only BEi staff but also a community meeting for parents and providers.

Barber National Institute President – CEO John Barber said, “We have two strong organizations we are putting together. And I believe it will benefit both organizations and individuals that both of us serve”.

44 N. State Street, N. Warren, PA 16365 / phone: 814.723.8431 / fax: 814.723.1882 / email: Bollinger@beiwarren.com
2017 Bob Klebacha Award

This is the first year of the Bob Klebacha Award at Bollinger Enterprises, Inc. It was named in tribute to Bob Klebacha the former Executive Director at BEi for 38 years. The employee honored for this Award should exemplify the following attributes: team player, positive work attitude, community involvement, strong work ethic, willingness to help others in a way that is related to the BEI mission. This award is given to only one individual per year and their picture and name will be displayed in the entrance to the Bollinger Building (see below). The award for 2017 was given to Sue Zimmerman and she was presented this award at the December Board meeting by Dr. William Clark, BEi’s current Executive Director. Pictured is Sue with former BEi Director Bob Klebacha.

4th Quarter Outstanding Employee for 2017

Alberta “Susie” Zimmerman
BEi 4th Quarter Outstanding Employee for 2017

Sue began working at BEi on 10/06/92 and has worked for over 25 Years in the Pre-Vocational Program and recently in the Art Program. Sue is an outstanding employee and hard worker who possesses all the attributes that have made her a valuable commodity of BEi for many years. She is also a very caring and passionate individual who has had a positive influence in the lives of all of her co-workers and is always willing to go that extra mile to help them with their daily needs. She is truly an exemplary role model and selfless individual who lives to make others happy. Sue has worked in the community, volunteers with her church, knits oven pads and donates money she makes to others and is very artistic.
When ATF is not busy volunteering, individuals enjoy a variety of activities in our community. Over this past summer, ATF had a great time participating in the Warren Rocks group on Facebook. Individuals painted rocks, and would go for walks at our local parks and hide them. Sometimes ATF would be delighted to find other peoples painted rocks. In September, individuals had a wonderful visit at Double Rainbow Farms. They met all the horses, and picked apples. Some other highlights of our community activities have been taking tours of the Warren County Courthouse where they met with Judge Skerda and Judge Hammond. ATF also took a tour of the Clarendon Fire Department, where they were able to suit up in gear, and meet the brave men and women that volunteer to serve our community. Whether they are volunteering or visiting a local business, being a part of our community is important to BEi.
New BEi Board Members

Erik Leamon began as Supervisor of Special Education of the Warren County School District on July 1, 2013. He has worked for the Warren County School District since August 2008. Leamon has eighteen years of experience in public and post-secondary education previously served as a teacher, special education project facilitator, adjunct professor, assistant principal, and principal. He understands the tremendous responsibility of his current position and the impact it has on the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community. He takes this obligation very seriously and will perform this job with energy, determination, and commitment. Leamon holds a Bachelor of Special Education from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Master of Elementary and Secondary School Administration from the University of Phoenix. He served on the Northwest Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE) for seven (7) years, and served as the President of PAMLE at the state level for two of those seven years. Leamon lives with his wife, Catrina, daughter, Bailey, son Alexander, and son Nathaniel in Youngsville.

Bob Will has been involved in the provision of services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and other disabling conditions for over 45 years. He is currently employed as Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at the Barber National Institute. He has served as a direct support professional, clinical project manager, director of adult services and director of residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities in community settings. Bob has been appointed to various statewide committees and work groups focusing on service delivery standards for persons with disabilities, reimbursement systems, regulations and public policy development for the community based services and supports system. Mr. Will is a past Board Chair of PAR, Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities and is the current Board Chair for William Penn Human Services, Inc.

John J. Barber is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Barber National Institute, where he oversees programs annually serving more than 5,370 children and adults with autism, intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges throughout Pennsylvania. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Villanova University Law School, Mr. Barber was engaged in the private practice of law for twenty years. He assumed leadership of the Barber National Institute in 2000 following the death of his aunt, Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, who founded the organization in 1952. Mr. Barber has been an advocate for persons with disabilities throughout his life and has served this population in numerous capacities. He is a member of the board of directors of PAR, a statewide providers advocacy organization, and was appointed trustee of the board of Polk State Center, a state facility for persons with intellectual disabilities. He is a member of the Erie County MH/MR Agency Directors Committee and has lectured on various topics related to the legal rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families.
Dear Friends of BEi:

As we pause and look back at 2017, BEi has many accomplishments to consider.
On November 15, 2017, BEi celebrated 45 years of service to Warren-Forest County by providing ser-
vices to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the December board meeting, time was
taken to recognize some accomplishments over the last several years: individuals who worked at BEi for
40 more years: Julia Cutshall and James Farnsworth, outstanding employee of the 4th Quarter and the Bob
Klebacha awardee Sue Zimmerman, and Building 44 was renamed the Bollinger Building and Building 48
was named the Klebacha Building. The 45th Anniversary Committee is meeting to plan the April 20th
Open House along with some summer events.

BEi is honored to welcome several new board members from the Warren Community: Eric Leamon, Kelly
Johnson, and Sandy Wilks. Joining the BEi board from the Barber National Institute will be John Barber
and Bob Will. The BEi management team, employees and board members look forward to insights these
new board members will bring to the meetings.

At the start of the 2017 school year, BEi’s Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) was expanded not
only to include the four attendance areas in Warren County School District but also Tidioute Community
Charter School, East/West Forest Area Schools, and Clarion-Limestone Area Schools. Brian Freebor-
ough (PETS Coordinator) and Stephanie Nelson (Job Coach) are working to provide quality instruction in
the classroom and find job shadowing and work-based learning experiences for students in the Warren-
Forest Community.

Cleaning services had been expanded at BEi into the Warren Community. In the past, BEi has cleaned
Targeted Pet Treats, Allegheny National Forest offices, and Jefferson DeFrees Center. In November, BEi
started cleaning for the Warren County Courthouse. As part of this activity, the number of individuals in
small group employment and supportive employment has increased. BEi is currently in discussions with
several local businesses to continue to expand services.

I am proud to state that at the December board meeting time was taken by the management team and
board to honor some of BEi’s outstanding employees. If you stop by to visit BEi, you will notice an
award wall as you enter the building where these individual are pictured for their accomplishments.
Thanks for your support for a successful year.

Sincerely,

William A. Clark, D.Ed.
Executive Director
Mission
To Enrich the Lives of People with Disabilities

- Bringing opportunities to people with disabilities for independence at work, at home and at play!
- Enhancing self-worth and enjoyment in life!
- Involving the community to make it happen!

Check out our website at www.beiwarren.com