

NEWS RELEASE July 12, 2011
WESTMORELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2 North Main Street, Suite 101
Greensburg, PA 15601

www.co.westmoreland.pa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Commissioner Ted Kopas
724-830-3102

Westmoreland County Names New Administrator of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

GREENSBURG (July 12) – The Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners today named Austin Breegle as Administrator of the county’s Behavioral Health and Developmental Services program.

Breegle has worked for the agency since 1990, most recently serving as Deputy Administrator for the past 11 years.

“Austin Breegle knows very well the programs and finances of this important office. He is unquestionably the right person for the job from an administrative and management perspective,” said County Commissioner Ted Kopas. “More importantly, Austin knows the families we serve and the daily challenges they face. I am confident that he will be a forceful advocate for them.”

Austin Breegle brings extensive knowledge of the principles and priorities of the office, including fiscal operations, contract management and management information systems. He has served as the county’s representative to federal and state officials, contracted service providers, advocacy groups and consumers.

Among his many professional accomplishments in this specialized field Breegle has served as a manager of the state center downsizing and closure project ensuring continued care for individuals displaced from the Western Center and Torrance. He helped developed the county’s Dual Diagnosis Task Force which identified service gaps and program needs for people with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health diagnoses.

“Austin Breegle has the expertise and the new ideas that if implemented correctly in this time of austerity will help to run his agency faster and smarter for the people he serves. He has my support,” said Commissioner Chuck Anderson.

Breegle began his career with Westmoreland County as a program specialist. He has also worked as a caseworker for Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services and as a residential program coordinator for Twin Trees, Inc.

Breegle holds degrees from both the University of Pittsburgh and Westmoreland County Community College. He lives in Youngwood with his wife, Jennifer, and their children, James, 14, and Samantha, 12.

As administrator, Breegle is responsible for the overall management of the agency which currently serves more than 18,000 people with varying degrees of special needs, offering early intervention, specialized therapies, housing, respite for families and more. Total funding for these services is in excess of \$82 million. In addition, dozens of individuals in Westmoreland County remain on waiting lists for services due to limited state funding.

For more information on Westmoreland County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, visit www.co.westmoreland.pa.us or call 724-830-3617.