

**PERRY COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN**

**2022-2023**

**September 1, 2022**

**Perry County Commissioners:**

**Brian S. Allen, Chair  
Gary R. Eby, Vice-Chair  
Brenda L. Watson, Secretary**

For any questions regarding this plan, please contact:  
Robin Tolan, Cumberland-Perry MH Human Services Program Manager  
(717) 240-6320  
rtolan@ccpa.net [ratolan@cumberlandcountypa.gov (after 9/7/22)]

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APPENDIX A  
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

- A. The County assures that services will be managed and delivered in accordance with the County Human Services Plan submitted herewith.
- B. The County assures, in compliance with Act 153 of 2016, that the County Human Services Plan submitted herewith has been developed based upon the County officials' determination of County need, formulated after an opportunity for public comment in the County.
- C. The County assures that it and its providers will maintain the eligibility records and other records necessary to support the expenditure reports submitted to the Department of Human Services.
- D. The County hereby expressly, and as a condition precedent to the receipt of state and federal funds, assures that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955, as amended; and 16 PA Code, Chapter 49 (relating to contract compliance):
  - 1. The County does not and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, origin, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in providing services or employment, or in its relationship with other providers; or in providing access to services and employment for individuals with disabilities.
  - 2. The County will comply with all regulations promulgated to enforce the statutory provisions against discrimination.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY EXECUTIVE

| SIGNATURE   | PRINT NAME                   | DATE      |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|
|  | Brian S. Allen - Chair       | 8-15-2022 |
|  | Gary R. Eby – Vice Chair     | 8-15-2022 |
|  | Brenda L. Watson - Secretary | 8-15-2022 |

## Appendix B

### INTRODUCTION

This Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) plan is submitted on behalf of the Perry County Board of Commissioners and represents input from the Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH.IDD), Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission (C-P D&A), Perry Human Services, Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank, and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #49. The plan was developed in collaboration with these agencies and the Perry County Family Services Partnership Board.

Perry County is a joinder with Cumberland County for the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services and the Drug and Alcohol Commission. In December 1967, a joint Mental Health & Mental Retardation program was established with the Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties in compliance with the Mental Health & Mental Retardation Act of 1966. The agency now known as Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH.IDD) operates as a department of Cumberland County government and serves residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties in need of those treatment services and rehabilitative supports. Initially, the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission was a part of the MH.IDD program, and in 1980, became a separate agency, continuing with the county joinder arrangement. For these services, coordinated planning is ongoing between the two counties with service providers, consumers, family members, other County Human Services, and Commissioners evaluating current services, need areas, and how best to meet the needs of the residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties. We are committed to ensuring this successful joinder arrangement maintains as it has provided opportunities for residents from both counties that would not have been afforded otherwise. As per the plan directive, narratives and information related to those joinder services are found in the Cumberland County (CC) Human Services Block Grant Plan.

### **PART I: COUNTY PLANNING PROCESS**

*Describe the county planning and leadership team and the process utilized to develop the plan for the expenditure of human services funds by answering each question below.*

- 1. Please identify the critical stakeholder groups, including individuals and their families, consumer groups, providers of human services, and partners from other systems, involved in the county's human services system.*

The Perry County Family Service Partnership Board serves as the focal point for Plan development in Perry County. Established in 1995 under the direction of the Perry County Commissioners in response to the Family Service System Reform (FSSR) initiative, the Partnership Board is a collaboration of family service customers, local government, schools, human service agencies, public health and local community representatives. The Partnership Board believes that our county will be an environment that enhances the well-being of all members of the community. The mission of the Partnership Board is to assist and empower communities to invest in solutions to meet their own needs. Various Community and Human Service agencies and County Commissioners participate in monthly meetings to share information and discuss needs, solutions and outcomes. Board meeting participants include representatives from:

- Adoption services
- Aging services
- Area Churches
- Child & Family services
- Child care services
- Community Ministry services
- Community Partnership agencies
- Commuter & Transportation services
- Council of the Arts
- County Commissioners
- County School Districts
- Domestic Violence services
- Early Education services
- Employment & Vocational services
- Food Bank Ministries
- Home health agencies
- Hospice agencies

## Perry County Human Services Block Grant Plan 2022 – 2023

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- Housing & Homelessness services
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities services
- Law Enforcement
- Legal services
- Literacy council
- Long Term Care services
- Mental Health services
- Parenting Networks
- Physical & Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations
- Physical Health Disabilities services
- Probation office
- Public libraries
- Social services
- State Representatives' office
- State Senators' office
- Substance Use Disorder services
- Veterans services
- Wellness services

Stakeholder input occurs from all of the agencies, organizations, and services mentioned. Most participants are also community members who strive to improve their local communities.

The Perry Health Coalition involves many of the previously mentioned stakeholders and has several initiatives to address community needs in Perry County. A Perry County Community Health Needs Review & Strategic Action Plan update was conducted recently. Dr. Tony Underwood, Dickinson College, shared the results of the Perry County Health Needs Review, conducted by Dr. Underwood and Dr. Dave Sarcone. Compared to five years ago, there has been a continued decline in access to health services in the county. Concerns include declining access to primary care, dental and mental health providers, which are generating poorer health (such as life expectancy). Qualitatively, community residents express concern about the lack of specialty care, urgent care and basic health services. Limited service accessibility drives poorer health outcomes. The Perry County Health Coalition's work moving forward in the new action plan needs to deepen its investment and focus to address these major challenges.

Stakeholder input also occurs through the monthly Cumberland & Perry Mental Health Community Support Program (CSP) meetings as well as Cumberland & Perry Child & Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP). Please see the Cumberland County (CC) plan for more information on the planning processes for our joiner services. Many program committees include stakeholders as well to ensure consumer voice and participation in the planning process.

Perry County Plan of Safe Care (POSC) is required by federal and state law under Act 54 and has now taken the place of the Perry County Integrated Children's meeting. POSC consists of a cross-system committee who meet to provide support for infants that are born affected by substance use or withdraw symptoms that result from prenatal drug exposure or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD). The plan is to improve the safety, early childhood development and well-being of the infant and their caregivers. The plans are individualized and multigenerational with the intention of connecting the infant and family to multidisciplinary resources and supports. The Perry County Plan of Safe Care Team partners to ensure that infants born affected by substances and their caregivers receive needed treatment which begins with early identification through appropriate screening and assessments.

The multidisciplinary teams (MDT) consist of:

- Children & Youth
- Early Intervention
- Drug and Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Maternal Assistance Program – Penn State Health Holy Spirit
- PA State Health Nurse
- Tri-County Community Action

The Cumberland-Perry Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC) includes a cross-section of people from human service agencies, law enforcement entities, educational settings, and the general community. Its mission is to “strengthen Cumberland and Perry Counties’ capacity to prevent substance abuse through innovative prevention efforts.” An emphasis is placed on networking and collaboration in implementing evidence-based prevention strategies. SAPC meets six times per year.

Additional stakeholders are regularly involved in the overall human service planning process as a function of ongoing collaboration. Service needs and system enhancements with regard to human service planning are discussed at the following regular meetings, many of which involve consumers and various community service agencies:

- Perry County Family Partnership Board meetings
- Perry County Health Coalition and Behavioral Health Task Force
- Perry County LINK to Aging & Disability Resources meetings
- Cumberland-Perry Housing Initiative (CPHI) meetings
- Cumberland-Perry Community Partners for Change [formerly Local Housing Options Team (LHOT)] meetings
- Perry Housing Task Force meetings
- Cumberland & Perry Counties’ CASSP Core Teams
- Perry County Plan of Safe Care meetings
- Cumberland-Perry Community Support Program (CSP) meetings
- NAMI PA-Cumberland-Perry Counties’ meetings
- Cumberland & Perry MH Provider and Base Service Unit (BSU) meetings
- Behavioral Health Managed Care committee meetings including Quality Improvement/Utilization Management (QI/UM), Clinical, Reinvestment Planning and Consumer & Family Focus Committee (CFFC) with our behavioral health partners - Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (CABHC) & PerformCare

Information for the Human Services Plan is gathered continuously throughout the year via these collaborative and joint planning processes.

2. *Please describe how these stakeholders were provided with an opportunity for participation in the planning process, including information on outreach and engagement efforts.*

Information is discussed and gathered through the numerous committees and community meetings previously mentioned throughout the year. Many of these are open forums and consumer, family member, and provider involvement is strongly encouraged through notifications via newsletters, emails, listserves, and social media. Many of these meetings are announced at Partnership Board meetings and CSP meetings. Consumer participation is strongly encouraged. In addition, stakeholder input occurs at the community advisory committee meetings that each department holds and through the monthly Mental Health Community Support Program (CSP) meetings. Many program committees include stakeholders as well to ensure consumer voice and participation in the planning process. Public Hearings were also held and Legal Notices issued to make others aware of these opportunities to give input into the planning process. Due to the pandemic, many meetings were held virtually and increased participation was noted. In addition, notifications and documents are posted on various county websites to support wide dissemination of information.

3. *Please list the advisory boards that were involved in the planning process.*

As previously stated, the Perry County Family Service Partnership Board serves in an advisory capacity to numerous participating human service and community agencies within Perry County. The chief role of this collaborative board is to identify community needs and make recommendations on strategies to address those needs as well as serve as a clearinghouse for information and as a collaborative entity for future program planning.

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In addition, each of the impacted human service departments (MH.IDD and D&A) hold regularly scheduled community advisory board committee meetings that are open to the public.

County Commissioner representatives from both counties participate on the Cumberland-Perry MH.IDD Advisory Board. This Advisory Board is comprised of individuals from the community who represent various professional disciplines including religion, social work, education, aging, employment, and medical field including a physician, a nurse, and a neuropsychologist. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is also represented on this advisory board as is a family member of an IDD consumer and a consumer in mental health recovery. Representatives are identified from both counties and are appointed by the Board of Commissioners of their respective county. Various stakeholders including consumers, family members, and providers also attend and participate in the monthly advisory committee meetings which provide consumer voice and participation in the planning process.

The Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties select volunteers representing various community and geographic interests to serve on the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board. There are eight board representatives from Cumberland County and seven representatives from Perry County. The Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board meets every other month. All of these meetings are open to the public. The responsibility of this group of 15 appointed members is to plan and oversee the delivery of public-funded drug and alcohol services in the counties, which includes coordination and collaboration with other county-managed human services.

The Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank has a board of directors which meets regularly to provide oversight of and input to the program. The Food Bank is a stand-alone non-profit organization.

4. *Please describe how the county intends to use funds to provide services to its residents in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs. (The response must specifically address providing services in the least restrictive setting.)*

The County intends to use allocated funds to provide services to its residents in the least restrictive settings appropriate to individuals' needs. A major value that cuts across all the County-managed human services is an emphasis on building a broad range of community-based treatment and support services that reduce the need for and reliance upon more restrictive (and costly) residential, inpatient, and institutional programs.

For more two decades, a guiding principle in our local human service planning has been to develop networks of care that will allow County residents to access appropriate services while retaining as much self-sufficiency as possible in the community. This approach applies to the recipients of all the human services described in this and the CC plan: consumers of mental health services, citizens with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, persons in recovery from a substance use disorder, youth (including juvenile offenders), individuals who are homeless, older citizens, and individuals with physical disabilities. Specific examples of this programmatic philosophy can be found within each human service area in this and the CC plan. Each program has an array of services available to residents and various processes to determine the most appropriate level of care to meet the consumers' needs.

Our priority is to continue providing community based services that meet those needs. Each program/service develops its own budget and determines expenditures based on the allocation of funds and needs of each program and their consumers. Each department/service reviews available data to determine the budget and anticipated expenditure of the state allocated funds.

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5. *Please list any substantial programmatic and/or funding changes being made as a result of last year's outcomes.*

The priority for funding is to sustain the current infrastructure of community-based services as much as possible. However, if our financial allocations cannot meet the needs of the community, we would determine where budgetary and programmatic cuts would be necessary.

### **PART II: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

*Two (2) public hearings are required for counties participating in the Human Services Block Grant.*

1. *Proof of publication* – Legal Notices were placed in several local newspapers in Cumberland and Perry Counties as well as on the Cumberland and Perry County websites to alert county residents of the Public Hearings for the Human Services Plans. As our counties are a joinder for some services, the public hearing notices were made known to residents of both counties with advertisement in the News Sun, Perry County Times, and Duncannon Record. The Human Service Plan was presented for public hearing and discussion on July 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Perry County Commissioners' Meeting; at the Community Support Program (CSP) Public Hearing on August 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM via ZOOM; during the Perry County Commissioners' Meeting on August 15, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Commissioner's Hearing Room in New Bloomfield, in person and via Web-Ex; and during the Commissioners' Workshop Meeting in Cumberland County on August 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM, in person and via ZOOM. Notification of the public hearings was also distributed via email and listservs, and posted on county websites.
  - a. *Please attach a copy of the actual newspaper advertisement(s) for the public hearing(s).* See below for the public hearing notices.- an actual newspaper copy of the advertisement as printed was not provided despite our request to do so. Only electronic copies were provided as displayed below.
  - b. *When was the ad published?* For the July 11, 2022 hearing, the ads were published on June 29 & 30, 2022.
  - c. *When was the second ad published?* For the August 8, 2022 hearing, the ads were published on August 3 & 4, 2022.
  - d. *When was the third ad published?* For the August 15, 2022 hearing, the ads were published on August 3 & 4, 2022.
  - e. As Cumberland and Perry Counties are a joinder for Mental Health, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Drug & Alcohol Services, an additional hearing was held on August 18, 2022 at the Cumberland County Commissioners' Workshop and information pertaining to that hearing and public testimony is found in the Cumerland County plan.

AFFP  
PUBLIC HEARING

**Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }  
COUNTY OF PERRY }

SS

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 25 W. Main Street, New Bloomfield PA 17068 on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of public input for distribution of the FY 2022-2023 Human Services Development Funds. Requests must comply with the rules and regulations of the funding source. Contact Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk, at 717-582-5110 regarding eligibility requirements.

Curtis Dreibelbis, being duly sworn, says:

That he is Publisher of the The News-Sun, Duncannon Record, Perry County Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

June 29, 2022, June 30, 2022

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Publisher

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 30th day of June 2022.



Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public, ~~Juniata~~ County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

My commission expires: August 28, 2023

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public  
Juniata County  
My commission expires August 28, 2023  
Commission number 1236295  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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PERRY CO COMMISSIONERS  
PO BOX 37  
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING  
NEW BLOOMFIELD , PA 17068

Perry County Human Services Block Grant Plan 2022 – 2023

AFFP  
Legal Notice

**Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA }  
COUNTY OF PERRY }

SS

Curtis Dreibelbis, being duly sworn, says:

That he is Publisher of the The News-Sun, Duncannon Record, Perry County Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:  
August 03, 2022, August 04, 2022

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.  
SIGNED:

*Curtis L. Dreibelbis*

Publisher

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 4th day of August 2022.

*Laurie S. Hower*

Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public, ~~Juniata~~ <sup>Juniata</sup> County,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
My commission expires: August 28, 2023

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CUMB/PERRY MENTAL HEALTH  
1615 RITNER HIGHWAY  
CARLISLE, PA 17013

Legal Notice

2022 AUG 12 A 8 00

The public hearing on the 2022-2023 of the Cumberland/Perry Counties Human Services Plan has been scheduled by the Cumberland/Perry Counties Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Board.

The hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2022. Starting time is 10:00 am. The public is invited to attend and participate in the meeting via Zoom at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) or by calling 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is 972 4622 9104. The meeting link is <https://ccpameet.zoom.us/j/97246229104?pwd=ZnZreJlTbkhwT0M4ekQzYjFhWkhRZz09>.

The hearing will be live streamed, please see the Cumberland County website ([www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net)) for more information.

The Pennsylvania Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966 states that the MH/IDD Board must hold a public hearing and that the date, time, and place of this hearing must be made public knowledge by informing the press, agencies, associations, institutions, and individuals whom are representative of the population served by this bi-county program. This hearing will be so arranged and conducted that anyone so desiring can ask questions, make an oral statement limited to ten (10) minutes, or submit a written statement concerning the Plan and Budget Request. Any verbal testimony must be accompanied by a written statement to be included in the Plan.

Copies of the Mental Health Component of the Human Services Plan Update and Budget Request will be available at the MH/IDD Program Office upon completion.

Dr. Christopher Royer  
Chairperson  
Cumberland/Perry MH/IDD Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public  
Juniata County  
My commission expires August 28, 2023  
Commission number 1236295  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

AFFP  
PUBLIC HEARING

**Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }  
COUNTY OF PERRY }

SS

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building 25 W. Main Street New Bloomfield PA 17068 on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of distribution of the FY 2022-2023 Human Services Development Funds. Please contact Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk at 717-582-5110 for program eligibility or additional information.

Curtis Dreibelbis, being duly sworn, says:

That he is Publisher of the The News-Sun, Duncannon Record, Perry County Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:  
August 03, 2022, August 04, 2022

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Publisher

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 4th day of August 2022.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public, Juniata County,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

My commission expires: August 28, 2023

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Laurie S. Hower, Notary Public  
Juniata County  
My commission expires August 28, 2023  
Commission number 1236295  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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PERRY CO COMMISSIONERS  
PO BOX 37  
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING  
NEW BLOOMFIELD , PA 17068

2. *Please submit a summary and/or sign-in sheet of each public hearing.*

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION  
July 11, 2022**

**Present at the meeting were**

**Commissioners:**

Brian S. Allen - Chairman  
Gary R. Eby – Vice-Chairman  
Brenda L. Watson – Secretary  
William R. Bunt – Solicitor via WebEx  
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk

**Present from the Press:** None

**Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person:** Malinda Anderson, Ed Albright, Tim Bassett, Mary Ann Brownawell, Brandi Clendenin, Lauren Eichelberger, Crystal Failor, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rich Fultz, Roger Miller, Eric Reeser, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Mike Steadele, Rob Troxell, Greg Wirth, and Christina Zook

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on July 11, 2022 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx telephone/video conference in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing was held in the Commissioners Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of public input for distribution of the FY 2022-2023 Human Services Development Funds (HSDF). HSDF affords counties the opportunity to develop services tailored to meet particular needs of individuals that may not be met within the categorical fund structure for low-income adults, older adults, dependent and delinquent children, person experiencing homelessness, and individuals with substance abuse disorders, mental health issues or intellectual disabilities. Four organizations had requested funding through HSDF to include Perry Human Service, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49, Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank, and Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission. Mary Ann Brownawell, Director of Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank, stated that her organization is expecting an increase in need due to inflation. She also said they have more and more new clients each week and are working to try to reach senior citizens that cannot travel to their location for food. Eric Reeser, from DAV Chapter 49, stated that his organization also has seen an increase in need and said the organization is running the military food share. Malinda Anderson asked what the deadline was for organizations to request funding.

**Announcements/Updates:** Commissioner Eby stated that DAV Chapter 49 and Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank are great opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help people in the community.

Commissioner Eby reminded municipalities of two ongoing funding opportunities. He said the HATS Reginal Transportation Plan (RTP) Implementation Program focuses on interconnectivity and safety transportation needs. He said there are funds earmarked for Perry County and projects are needed for consideration. He commented that the deadline for submission is mid-August. Commissioner Eby stated that the other funding opportunity is the Reconnection Communities Pilot (RCP) and the program is focused on transportation infrastructure. He said this funding source for connecting communities will be administered at the national level through competitive grants and is open through October. He stated that information on the funding sources will be available on the County website. Commissioner Watson said that due to the short turnaround for the RTP Implementation Program funds, projects must be ready to go. Commissioner Eby said the RCP program does have provisions for engineering and planning and has a more liberal construction window. He said the projects submitted for RCP

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must be in the \$2 million dollar range and he commented he is working to package projects together to meet the requirement.

**Public Comments:** Malinda Anderson, Bloomfield Borough Council President, stated that the Borough made the decision to close the grandstand at the baseball fields due to structural deficiencies. She commented that the Borough does not have funding necessary to replace it, as the last study they had completed estimated a cost of \$60,000. She said it is one of two remaining wooden grandstands in the County. Ms. Anderson said the Borough needs to focus their funds on other community needs and they are receiving public pushback. She asked the Commissioners about possible funding through the County and stated that they are looking into applying for a 501c3 to get a donation program started for the grandstand. Additionally, Ms. Anderson said the Borough Council is looking into options for recycling for borough residents and she had traveled to Cumberland County to view a program there. She said the County should step up and provide direction on facilitating recycling in the borough and County.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Bloomfield Borough Council Vice President, said he received the grant advisory work group application and they are working on the application to include historical research and obtaining an updated study related to the grandstand. He said based on preliminary research, the Bloomfield grandstand is the oldest in Perry County. Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that they are looking at PHMC for funding as well.

**Employee Recognition:** Commissioner Allen acknowledged Dawn Strohecker, MDJ Clerk, for 5 years of County service. Additionally, he presented certificates of service to Greg Wirth, Area Agency on Aging Director, for 5 years of service, and Michael Steadele, Probation Officer, for 10 years of service with the County.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Warrant List(s):** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$669,494.83, and commented that \$21,339.65 were ERAP funds. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2020 SEDA-COG Professional & Administrative Services Agreement. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County Area Agency on Aging service agreement with Lisa Ecker for the "Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program." Commissioner Eby asked if it was the first time the program had been offered and also if there was a cost to the County. Mr. Wirth confirmed that the program is being offered for the first time and there is no cost to the County. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the contract addendum with Cumberland County to extend the vivitrol program at the Perry County Prison through June 30, 2023. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol commission contracts as listed. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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| Provider                         | Service   | 21/22  | 22/23  | Rate increase | Percent Increase |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Daystar                          | 3.1 Low Activity 852B (Male)                      | 143.00 | 159.00 | \$16.00       | 11%              |
| Pennsylvania Counseling Services |   |        |        |               |                  |
|                                  | Case Management - Assessment, GRPA, Coordination  | \$80   | \$84   | \$4           | 5.00%            |
|                                  | 1 Outpatient Activity 861A Individual             | \$80   | \$84   | \$4           | 5.00%            |
|                                  | 1 Outpatient Activity 861A Group                  | \$30   | \$32   | \$2           | 6.67%            |
|                                  | 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Activity 861B Individual | \$80   | \$84   | \$4           | 5.00%            |
|                                  | 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Activity 861B Group      | \$26   | \$28   | \$2           | 7.69%            |

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Rachael Shott, Probation Officer in the Probation Department, effective June 28, 2022. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Graham A. Dicken to the position of Full Time Correctional Office at the Perry County Prison, effective July 12, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion with the understanding that it was backfilling a position. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Matthew M. Ammerman to the position of Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective July 18, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of George Lee Emme to the position of Part Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective July 12, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Rose Eckenrode to the position of Full Time Clerk in the Magisterial District Court effective July 12, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$14.03. Christina Zook, Court Administrator confirmed that this was a backfill due to a retirement. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor’s Report:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Comments from the Press:** None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary

**HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES  
August 8, 2022**

Attendance:

|                  |                    |                   |             |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Chelsea Gerstein | Tracye Johnson     | Mary Medkeff-Rose | Robin Tolan |
| Rebekah Lamb     | Carol Thornton     | Serina Asekomhe   | Latisha B.  |
| Theresa Hornbach | Sheila Derr        | Sheila Derr       | Jeremy S.   |
| Karen Nerat      | Theresa Myers      | Grace Egun        | Sarah S.    |
| Linda Shumaker   | Jenn – NAMI        | Olivia Coons      | Stanley S.  |
| Annie Strite     | Jack Carroll       | Nikki Condon      | Steven T.   |
| Trudy Kessler    | Rebecca Parthemore | Pam Auer          |             |

A public hearing on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Use Disorder Services components of the 2022-2023 Human Services Plan was held on Monday, August 8, 2022 via Zoom. Mrs. Robin Tolan, Senior Human Services Manager, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m to review the draft plan document. A copy of the notice of the public hearing and the newspapers in which the hearing was advertised is included in this plan. The notes from this hearing will be maintained and will be a part of the plan that is submitted to the State.

This plan document is submitted on behalf of the Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties and represents input from Cumberland/Perry MH/IDD Program, the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission and the Cumberland County Aging & Community Services Office.

The document is comprised of five different parts - Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Drug and Alcohol, Homeless Assistance Program and Human Services and Supports/Human Services Development Fund. Mrs. Tolan reviewed the MH component of this draft plan. It was noted that this document includes input from the CSP group, consumers, stakeholder groups, providers of human services, Cumberland/Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services, and the Cumberland County Aging and Community Services. Also, there are ongoing meetings held throughout the year which provide input into this document.

Mrs. Tolan reviewed the various sections of the document which includes: the planning process, current services, and current initiatives. Mrs. Tolan provided a brief review of the goals which include the following:

1. Maintain and monitor current services and supports due to potential budget deficits
2. Alignment with SAMSHA best practice guidelines for Crisis Intervention for Mobile Crisis
3. PULSE Suicide Prevention Initiative in Cumberland and Perry Counties
4. Implementing Elementary Student Assistance (ESAP) in additional elementary school in each county
5. Support county human service agencies to become Trauma Informed throughout the counties.

Mr. Jack Carroll reviewed and provided information regarding Cumberland Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission. The Drug & Alcohol Commission has the lead responsibility for planning and administering a continuum of substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for Cumberland and Perry County residents.

A written testimony from Theresa Myers and Linda Shumaker was presented during the meeting. Mrs. Tolan confirmed that individuals are able to submit written testimony, questions and/or concerns after the close of this public hearing.

The public hearing was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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# Perry County Human Services Block Grant Plan 2022 – 2023

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## COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

August 15, 2022

### Present at the meeting were

#### Commissioners:

Brian S. Allen - Chairman  
Gary R. Eby – Vice-Chairman  
Brenda L. Watson – Secretary  
William R. Bunt – Solicitor  
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk

#### Present from the Press: None

**Present from the Public In Person:** Natalie Barkley, Paul Britcher, Noah Cline, Erin Comp, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Pat Gutheil, Dave Hammar, Brian Keller, Sarah Keller, Cory Matter, Krista Pontius, Jim Scott, Kristie Smith, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Jason Snyder, Sally Tengeres, Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 15, 2022 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person at the Perry County Fairgrounds. The meeting was recorded by the County.

#### Announcements/Updates: None

**Public Comments:** Sarah Keller commented that she was excited for the upcoming Perry County Fair.

Krista Pontius, Agricultural Educator at Greenwood, provided an update on agricultural education in the County. She stated that over 500 students countywide were scheduled to take ag classes in the coming school year. She said last year was a successful year, and out of the 22 State Proficiency Awards, 6 went to Perry County students. Ms. Pontius also mentioned that West Perry was awarded a 3 Star Chapter Designation and Greenwood received a 2 Star Chapter Designation. She stated that students would be headed to the National FFA Convention and said Greenwood's Parliamentary Procedure Team would compete there and Newport's Parliamentary Procedure Team would compete at the Big E in Massachusetts. Ms. Pontius said the annual Farm to Fork Dinner was scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Perry County Fairgrounds and to contact her for tickets. She also said Greenwood is adding another ag educator, Nate Moyer, to their team.

Becky Kaucher, Penn State Extension 4-H Educator, commented that there would be 87 animal exhibitors at the fair and said 82 were youth exhibitors. She stated that the 4-H community clubs would also be participating in the fair. Ms. Kaucher announced that 2022 marks the 100th Birthday of Perry County 4-H. She said the club has had numerous events to celebrate the milestone and a special ice cream, Forever Clover Crunch, was created to commemorate the event. Additionally, Ms. Kaucher stated that there are currently 162 4-H members, 36 leaders, and 15 teen leaders involved with the program. She said face to face resident camp and three fun days happened during the year. She said many events would be occurring on Friday at the fair, to include the Clover Award and Diamond Clover Award winner recognitions and a traditional 4-H candle lighting ceremony and friendship circle to celebrate the 100 years of Perry County 4-H.

Kristie Smith, from the Perry County Conservation District, said a press release regarding recycling would be published in the local newspaper and would focus on the changing climate of recycling. She commented that she has teamed with Perry County Maintenance to collect cardboard and recycle it during the fair. Ms. Smith also stated that aluminum was also being recycled and the proceeds would go back to the fair. She commented on the following upcoming events:

- Shermans Creek Trash Cleanup – September 1, 2022

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- Tire War at the Oliver Township Building, Newport – September 17, 2022
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection – November 19, 2022

Ms. Smith said the Conservation District display was focused on 10,000 acres of preserved farmland.

Sally Tengeres, Conservation District Director, commented that two of the District's no-till drills would be on display during fair week. She said the District's no-till drill program averages about 2,000 acres per year. Ms. Tengeres stated that the newest drill was purchased with County Action Plan funds.

Jason Snyder, Fair Board President, provided an updated on the ongoing water project at the fair.

Jason Finnerty stated that 222 projects are currently being included in the County comprehensive plan and revisions to the plan continue. He commented that 9 municipalities are looking to adopt the comprehensive plan as their own.

Pat Gutheil commented that Jason Finnerty has been to her township meetings and said since the Commissioners have become involved with the comprehensive plan, there has been an uptick in acceptance by the municipalities. She also said that she was happy to hear about the household hazardous waste collection event.

Kristie Smith said that Perry County residents are still able to take electronics to the Dauphin County Recycling Center located at 1625 S. Cameron Street, Harrisburg. She said it is free to take electronics to the location.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Warrant List(s):** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant lists in the total amount of \$326,979.37, excluding a warranty payment to CILS. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission contracts (attached). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the estimate from M3T Corporation for installation of an ADA door system at a cost of \$4,040.80 for the new voter registration building. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal from JW Fuller Construction for the Annex roof replacement project at a cost of \$9,500. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion after review of other quotes. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 Purchase of Service Agreement and In-Home Contract for Children & Youth Services. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Valley Youth House (Purchase of Service) – Levels from \$75.18 - \$487.49/day – New contract
  - Brittany Mae Shetter (In-Home Contract) – Guardian Ad Litem - \$75.00/hr. – New contract
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**Employee Status:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Shelby Anderson to the position of Probation Officer in the Probation Department effective August 22, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$22.48. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Lori Glatz, Clerk in the Magisterial District Court, effective August 12, 2022. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Quinn Howell to the position of Case Aide at the Area Agency on Aging effective August 16, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$17.11. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Hilary Caldwell, Office Manager in the Probation Office, effective August 26, 2022. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the resignation of Jared Charles, Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office, effective August 11, 2022. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Bunt said he received confirmation that the County would be receiving \$152,167.44 from the State to assist with election expenses.

**Public Comments:** Jason Finnerty stated that the County was notified that they needed to reapply for Hazard Mitigation Plan funding and the Commissioners would need to sign off on the application this week.

**Comments from the Press:** None

Commissioner Eby commented on the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Perry County 4-H and shared his previous 4-H experience. He also recognized the Perry County Fair Board for their hard work with the fairground water project. He said that the board should reach out to the Commissioners regarding assistance with grants. Commissioner Eby said five Perry County applications had been submitted for RTP grant funding and he was hoping to have an update in 60 days. Additionally, he said that the Reconnecting Communities grant period continues.

Commissioner Eby encouraged attendees to attend the Human Service Block Grant public hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room. He said mental health professionals will be onsite to answer questions at the meeting. He commented that Perry County has their own special needs for these services and he encouraged attendance at the meeting.

**Recess:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to recess the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the Human Services Block Grant public hearing. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Reconvene:** Commissioner Allen reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 15, 2022. The meeting was conducted in person and virtually in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County and Paul Wyatt (Press).

**Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person:** Louis Bianco, Sue Carbaugh, Jack Carroll, Christie Caswell, Cynthia Howard, Daniesa Lyles, Bill McHenry, Jeannette Nace, Cathy Rudy, Annie Strite, Robin Tolan, Susan Washinger, and Paul Wyatt

**Public Hearing:** Robin Tolan, from the Cumberland Perry Mental Health Office, presented information on the mental health portion of the Human Services Block Grant plan. She stated that the bulk of the block grant funding is allocated for mental health and intellectual/developmental disabilities services. She said the mental health priorities included in the plan were a continuation of past priorities and explained the following priorities: maintenance/monitoring of current services, crisis intervention, suicide prevention initiative, implementation of elementary student assistance, and a trauma informed initiative. Ms. Tolan spoke about the flat funding that mental health services have received over the past 11 years and how the increased need and lack of increased funding is negatively affecting services. She also discussed the staffing shortages being seen in the mental health field. She said maintaining services will be extremely difficult and some services will need to be decreased or eliminated due to lack of funding and the staffing shortage.

Sue Carbaugh, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Early Intervention, discussed the goal of helping individuals achieve an everyday life and the services that are currently available. She highlighted the competitive employment program and spoke about the success of independent living services. Ms. Carbaugh said that an independent living specialist to help support individuals and their families had recently been added to the services provided by IDD. She provided information on the Healthcare Quality Unit. She also talked about the staffing shortages she is seeing in her field and talked about the low wages paid to individuals working in the IDD field. Ms. Carbaugh said that most of the day programs have reopened, but development of new programs has been very slow due to lack of funding and staffing.

Cathy Rudy spoke about her autistic grandson and provided testimony on the lack of services in Perry County. She commented that she just recently was able to get her grandson signed up for OVR and a mental health professional had been to the home to assess her grandson, but no communication since the visit had been received. She expressed her frustration with the process and lack of services available to Perry County residents.

Jack Carroll, Executive Director of Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission, said drug and alcohol services had been flat funded in the State budget, but mentioned that federal funding to help combat the opioid crisis has helped with service access. He said that the priority included in the plan was continuing efforts to address the opioid problem. Mr. Carroll provided statistics on the number of overdoses in Perry County. He said the strategy to address the crisis include: reducing the oversupply of prescription opioids, increase access to Naloxone, and increase access to substance use disorder treatment, to include medication assisted treatment. He also said strong community education and primary prevention efforts in schools is also important to address the problem. Mr. Carroll said the vivitrol program continues in the Perry County Prison and the grant has been extended for another year. He stated that the RASE Project continues to educate individuals on opioid use and provide participants with Naloxone.

Louis Bianco provided testimony regarding the importance of mental health services. He provided information on his personal experiences with a mental illness and said the focus should be on healing the sick and maintaining the healthy. Mr. Bianco expressed frustration with the increased demand in services and the lack of funding to offer the vital services.

Becca Raley, from the Partnership for Better Health, commended the MH/IDD team for their dedication and hard work. She expressed her frustration with the lack of funding for these services and said you cannot do more with less. Ms. Raley said that she was concerned by youth data. She said the Perry County statistics showed that 40% of students felt depressed and 12% of students (grades 10 – 12) reported following through with attempts of suicide. She said mental health services are needed and the Commonwealth needs to revisit funding for these vital services.

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Commissioner Eby commented on the disconnect between youth leaving the school system and entering life after school. He said these youth fall through the cracks and there is no plan for them when they leave school. He provided examples of Perry County residents that are not receiving the needed mental health and IDD services. Commissioner Eby stated that Perry County needs the services and funding that should have come from former institutions closing have not been received by the mental health system. He said he had requested statistics regarding mental health services and commented on being partnered with a 3<sup>rd</sup> class county. Commissioner Eby said he will continue to advocate for these services.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Human Services Block Grant plan. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Allen called out the below HSDF funding allocation that will be included in the Human Services Block Grant plan that will be submitted to the Commonwealth. Commissioner Watson made a motion to allocate the funding as described by Commissioner Allen. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion but commented that he is continually disappointed by the small amount of funding made available. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank - \$10,000 (supplemental food services for seniors, children, individuals, and families within the County who are food insecure)
- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 49 - \$10,000 (Veteran's in Need Program and Transportation Program)
- Perry Human Services - \$20,500 (Adult Services Program – Representative Payee and Homeless Assistance Program)
- Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission - \$9,500 (fund drug and alcohol treatment programs in the County)

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary

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### PUBLIC TESTIMONY PRESENTED AT PUBLIC HEARINGS:

#### Public Hearing held via Zoom at Cumberland and Perry Counties Community Support Program (CSP) meeting August 8, 2022

Good morning, My name is Theresa Myers and I live in Cumberland County. I wanted to share my thoughts on the 2022- 23 Human Service Plan specifically the portion related to mental health. It stood out to me while reading the Plan that in spite of the obstacles of insufficient funding causing long waits and the chronic provider staffing shortages much good is happening in Cumberland County and people are being helped along their recovery journey to a state of better wellbeing.

There were so many successes. Supported Employment has a 71% competitive employment rate which is double the national average for this evidence-based program. Our local suicide prevention task force established in 2016 has continued to broaden its impact year after year and linking itself with more sectors of the community to partner with as in the partnerships established with law enforcement and EMS to offer the QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training. Additionally, these two groups plus others are being offered the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings. For more information visit [https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Crisis-Intervention/Crisis-Intervention-Team-\(CIT\)-Programs](https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Crisis-Intervention/Crisis-Intervention-Team-(CIT)-Programs)

The emphasis on collaboration with working with other agencies is noteworthy. The alliances that were formed - to address the issues with youth who may be struggling/dealing with truancy or other problems at school or experiencing significant emotional and behavioral challenges and collectively working on how to best help these youth and their families return to a healthier place - delighted me.

In spite of the many accomplishments, there still remain so many needs and people have long wait times to get into some services. Here are some of the areas that need to be addressed - the lack of psychiatrists especially for individuals whose insurance is only Medicare; the inadequate supply of affordable housing; and continued long waits for mental health specialty personal care home spaces (residential places for those with physical as well as mental health needs) to list a few. I ask myself what is to be prioritized.

First, more funding is needed to shore up what already exists. These various programs and services cover the areas of treatment, housing, and prevention. The anticipated flat-funding from the state is a travesty and unacceptable. With the to-be-expected increase in costs of operations added to the current runaway inflation means cuts in programs will be necessary unless other funding sources can be found.

Second, once the core services that are in place now are properly funded and operating, I would like new money to be spent on prevention programs directed toward the youth, young adults, and families. We need to stop focusing on the broken leg and start focusing on how to prevent the leg from becoming broken in the first place.

Across the country, there are many innovative mental-health-promoting initiatives occurring but due to “no funding” even the thought of implementing some of these practices in our two counties is a dim distant dream.

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I am hoping for money from the American Rescue Plan to be utilized to help our mental health programs. In spite of all these difficulties, I would like to praise the leadership of the County Mental Health Program and the Cumberland County Commissioners for recognizing the importance and necessity of mental health and fighting for proper/adequate funding.

Kind regards,

Theresa Myers

A person living in recovery with a serious mental illness who is actively a mental health service user

### August 8, 2022 Testimony for Cumberland Perry MH Hearing

My name is Linda Shumaker and I am a geriatric psychiatric nurse who does clinical work and consulting. I have worked in the mental health system in PA for over 30 years both in an academic setting and in community systems. I have also run a statewide nonprofit for older adults with behavioral health issues.

As our state and counties are reviewing the funding for the mental health system it is important to note that although psychiatric problems are medical problems the solutions are not. There are “environmental and social interventions” we need to be investing in – Dr. Thomas Insel, former director the NIMH describes the current mental health system in the United States as a system in a “crisis of care”. Insel explains in a recent article how on October 31, 1963, prior to his assassination, President Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act. That provided funds to create the county mental health system in PA and across the country. Those county systems did not just provide “medical care” but offered a “catchment area” where individuals with mental illness would receive not only therapy and social support, but supports to work with families and assist individuals where they were living to “recover”. The Community Mental Health Act starting in 1963 and continuing through the Johnson administration made life better for individuals with mental illness. They had a “safety net,” they had housing, they had (to quote Insel) “an opportunity to get the kind of care that helped people recover”. This care was more comprehensive and continuous not only for those with serious mental illness, but for those with intellectual disabilities and children as well. Case managers, therapists, the mental health “team” were accountable and the system linear with clear guidelines, emphasis on collaboration and accountability. The system was not fragmented and rigid, as it is currently. The programs that made up the safety net in the 1960’s and 70’s, that made for a continuous system, the “housing and institutional supports”, the supportive structure, are now gone. As I have seen the mental health system lose the funding for community supports it has left individuals with mental illness to be placed in prison, (even an 80 year- old woman with cognitive issues who slapped her husband was incarcerated – where I was told “she at least would be able to get a psychiatric evaluation”). She was then discharged without community supports to the Molly Pitcher Hotel. She had no mental health history nor criminal background. Individuals with substance use issues are left on the street without treatment as 75% do not get served in any system. Finally older adults with neuropsychiatric issues of dementia get caught in the emergency rooms for days when their agitated behaviors lead them to be discharged from facilities and families are unable to

care for them at home. The funding from the Federal government has made in the past a limited commitment to mental health; dollars from the state has been stagnant for several years and at times has been cut.

The problems of Pennsylvania’s mental health systems are complex and effects all aspects of our population – children, teenagers, adults, LGBTQI, women, older adults, individuals with serious mental illness and substance use issues as well as the many individuals who have suffered from the social isolation from the pandemic. We are now at a time that funding for mental health infrastructure needs a large influx to move toward “evidenced-based” community care, whether it be schools, housing, community supports, and care for older individuals struggling to live not only in the community but also in institutions. It is the time that we be thoughtful, and begin a long, difficult conversation with our politicians, our providers and our communities about “leaning in” and moving forward.

August 8, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda K. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

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### August 15, 2022 Testimony at Perry County Commissioners' Meeting during Public Hearing

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Louis Bianco. I am a 39 year lifelong resident of Cumberland County. At age 15, I was diagnosed with a mental illness. This was over 20 years ago.

I was reduced to doing the majority of my school work while locked down within a number of the local psychiatric facilities. I was not expected to graduate. However, with the help and efforts of numerous teachers and psychiatric professionals, I did.

In my young adulthood, I dropped out of college twice, each time due to the exacerbation of the symptoms associated with my specific illness.

Ultimately, I was able to attain my registered nursing license and soon found myself working within the very facilities that I was a patient in all throughout my life. I ascended to the role of charge nurse on child, adult, and geriatric units, while also serving as the lead crisis desolator in our facility (Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute). However, once more, my illness showed itself to be stronger than my progress and I was ultimately forced to resign.

A number of years later, I reinstated myself into our mental health system as a certified peer support specialist at Holy Spirit hospital on a two year grant. I was tasked with creating an evening shift peer specialist position and this position has since been added to the budget of their inpatient facility.

All of this is to say that I have been on both sides of the proverbial glass. I have taken countless medications, some effective, some not, and also suffered through over a dozen ECT treatments as well as multiple inpatient stays. I have sat with people young and old, rich and poor, of every race, religion, and any other designation that one could imagine during the most difficult experiences of their lives.

Mental Health Crises and the fallout that occurs in the time after, is very hard work and requires the ability to adapt and adjust as well as compromise and sacrifice. The choices many are faced with have little to do with what is easiest or most preferable. I have first hand experience in this fallout and still, to this day have not put all of the pieces together that broke decades ago.

However, difficult is not synonymous with impossible.

At this moment, I am unemployed and on disability, despite the continued service I offer to this day. I have developed a number of physical complications, including a neuromuscular disorder, due to years of stress and demanding treatments.

As of now, I sit as the MH chair for the Cumberland/Perry MH.IDD advisory board. I do healthcare assessments monthly with Holy Spirit's intensive outpatient consumers, and will be doing healthcare assessments for their staff as well this month. I have secured part time employment at York College working with their nursing students to increase their mental health competency through simulations. I have spoken at conferences statewide for physical education teachers discussing the need for K-12 curriculums and even sharing the early creations I have designed. I have spoken to future police, lawyers, teachers, and nurses at a number of colleges within PA.

I recently published my third book in three years aimed at getting basic information on mental wellness out to our communities as quickly as possible in hopes of strengthening our community during what can most basically be described as shared trauma and a shared crisis since the onset of the pandemic.

I hope that within this brief period of time I have established enough credibility to stop talking about myself. This is not about any of us as individuals at this moment, healthy or ill.

Our community, our state, and our nation is looking directly at looming crisis, with many areas, including ours, already facing challenges that threaten the well being of our entire populous.

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The demand for mental health care continues to increase across all demographics while the supply continues to dwindle. It is becoming more and more difficult to keep our facilities adequately staff, both because of dissatisfaction with wages, safety concerns, and moral. The same can be said about the educational system. The same can be said about the criminal justice system.

It appears there is not enough intrinsic motivation or incentive for service.

Specific to mental health, the ratio between doctors and consumers is rising at an unprecedented rate. The wait time for many to receive the treatment they require now spans from six months to over a year according to many of the consumers I have assessed, not to mention the continuously disturbing rise in suicides and crisis calls.

Currently, the overall stress of everyday living continues to increase due to job instability, financial hardships, etc. This puts all at risk. The ill, at risk or remaining sick. The healthy at risk of becoming ill. This is why our approach moving forward must be two fold. Not only can we focus on healing the sick. We must also focus on protecting the healthy. If we lose those who are still willing to serve, we will not be able to face what is coming.

Recovery, for the mentally ill, is not guaranteed. It requires accountability, and massive amounts of effort. Even during the lowest times of one's life, the demand is placed primarily on the individual suffering.

In this sense, our community at this moment is no different from any individual. Whether this hearing, or any of the others yield the desired results, service will remain necessary. Those lost will still require sanctuary. Those in pain will still require care. Those at risk will still require safety.

Proactive measures in our community require as much attention as the maintenance of the facilities and programs that currently exist. I am aware that all of our systems are failing, and thus not demanding anything other than time and effort.

If we must think outside of the box, so be it. If we must speak more often or even more loudly, we will.

Yes, the long term solution of our current circumstance require governmental intervention, but what of the short term.

I have been advocating for over ten years and most of you will have never heard of me. The massive amounts of emails I have sent are often met with silence. Celebrities and athletes remain our banner carriers even though their knowledge on such matters is superficial at best.

This is a serious issue that requires serious attention. No longer can we seek that which is fascinating or sensational. It is time to put our psychiatric experts in the same rooms as our other service professionals and government officials.

I believe in our community and the state of Pennsylvania. I am a product, both positively and negatively, of the systems we are now fighting to keep afloat.

We can do this, even if it continues to get worse. At the peaks of my illness, I was told to maintain hope. As a professional, it has been my duty and privilege to encourage those suffering and their families to do the same.

If we are asking our ailing population to foster and nurture hope, I must continue to ask all of you to do the same.

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for the sake of our mentally ill and the mental wellness of all.

Louis Bianco



**Cumberland County Human Services Plan (Block Grant)  
Public Comments Offered by the Partnership for Better Health  
August 15, 2022**

Good evening, my name is Becca Raley and I am the Executive Director at the Partnership for Better Health – a local health foundation that champions and invests in ideas, initiatives and collaborations that improve the health of the people and communities in our region, including Cumberland County. Thank you, Commissioners Allen, Eby, and Watson, for this opportunity to offer comments on the draft Human Services Plan for Perry County. Our organization appreciates each of you for advocating on behalf of the County for MH.IDD services, today and throughout the year.

The Partnership values the persistent efforts of the Cumberland-Perry MH.IDD office in ensuring access to services that support people of all ages with serious mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The agency's leadership has always been open to collaboration in addressing community needs and has been an exceptional partner in local coalitions and partnerships, such as housing, health improvement, resiliency initiatives, and crisis response.

We know that suicide is the second leading cause of death in Pennsylvania for people ages 10 to 34 years old. Suicide deaths have almost tripled in Perry County from 2019 to 2021 (growing from 6 to 15).

The populations of Cumberland and Perry Counties have grown by more than 10 percent since 2010. However, the Cumberland-Perry Mental Health Office has not had a budget increase by the state in over 10 years. Amidst the rise in annual insurance, salary, and related operating expenses, the agency has successfully contained administrative costs to less than 6 percent of its budget. But the demand for services continues to increase, despite fewer financial and staffing resources to meet demand. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of individuals in Cumberland and Perry Counties receiving county mental health services increased by 15 percent.

Counties provide essential community-based mental health services, such as community residential programs, family-based support, outpatient care, and crisis intervention, which are critical to the well-being of our communities, especially for those without adequate insurance coverage. The

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Commonwealth needs to strategically invest funding into county mental health services to support the existing safety net and increase the availability of services, including this block grant and other funding streams such as County Base Services.

The Partnership also commends MH.IDD for its ongoing efforts to address youth mental health. The 2021 PA Youth Survey was recently released, and the findings are sobering. In Perry County, 40.2 % of surveyed high school students in grades 10 to 12 reported feeling depressed in 2021. Further, 12.5% of all surveyed students in grades 10 to 12 reported following through with one or more attempts. In eighth grade, there are further indications of youth mental health concerns. Based on the data, in a given classroom of 25 eighth graders in Perry County, ages 13 and 14:

- 10 students felt so depressed, that during the past 12 months, they were so sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some of their usual activities.
- Seven of the 25 students seriously considered attempting suicide in the prior year.
- Six of the 25 students in the local 8th-grade class planned how they would attempt suicide.
- Five students attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

Fortunately, we have a strong Student Assistance Program, as highlighted in the Human Services Plan, at the elementary and secondary levels, but there is much more to be done for the future of our youth. We stand ready to support the County, MH.IDD, our communities, and school districts to implement interventions to address and prevent mental health issues among our students.

Given community needs at this time, the Commonwealth must allocate more funding to mental health services. The Partnership for Better Health supports the efforts of the MH.IDD office, as presented in the Perry County Human Services Plan for 2022. We urge the Commonwealth to revisit and address its current funding allocations based upon hearings like this one today and the accompanying submission of written statements. Perry County needs more resources to fully address the mental health needs of all residents.

Respectfully,



Becca Raley

Executive Director

**PART III: CROSS-COLLABORATION OF SERVICES**

*For each of the following, please provide a description of how the county administers services collaboratively across categoricals and client populations. In addition, please explain how the county intends to leverage funds to link residents to existing opportunities and/or to generate new opportunities; and provide any updates to the county’s collaborative efforts and any new efforts planned for the coming year.*

Cross-collaboration is clearly evident within Perry County service providers, especially those receiving funds from the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG). The Perry County Family Service Partnership Board is a clear example of the regular collaboration of many agencies in addressing numerous community needs. A list of collaborative partners is found in Part I.

**1. Employment:**

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank works collaboratively around employment opportunities by posting job openings in Perry and Cumberland County, offering Literacy Council information which provides GED and training opportunities, and hosting job recruiters.

Perry Human Services connects service recipients with the Perry County Literacy Council, Join Hands Ministry and Tri-County Community Action for assistance in vocational pursuits.

The Perry County Disabled American Veterans office works closely with Join Hands Ministry, New Bloomfield VFW, Eagle House, Perry County Housing Partnership, County Veterans Service Officers (VSO) and Rabbit Transit to access employment opportunities.

Relevant information around employment opportunities and collaborations within the Mental Health or Intellectual Disabilities Programs is also available in Part III of the Cumberland County (CC) plan as those services are a joinder with Perry County.

**2. Housing:**

Perry Human Services (PHS) provides the Homeless Assistance program (HAP) and collaborates regularly with Perry Housing Partnership, Rental Assistance, Join Hands Ministry and Tri-County Community Action to support individuals with housing needs.

HAP case manager collaborates with a variety of other agencies to coordinate numerous other services for the HAP clients.

These agencies are utilized as needed:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Bread of Life Outreach - BOLO                                       | Perry County Office of Aging                             |
| Domestic Violence Services for C/P Counties                         | Perry County Rental Assistance Office                    |
| Join Hands – Collaborative Ministry                                 | Perry Housing Partnership                                |
| Local landlords   | Perry Link   |
| Local motel managers (Emergency Shelter lodging)                    | Redevelopment and Housing Authority of Cumberland County |
| Perry County Department of Human Services (local assistance office) | Social Security Office                                   |
| Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank                                 | YWCA-Linda House   |

Perry County has a community collaborative board, Perry County Family Services Partnership Board. Through monthly meetings (1st Thursday), this board serves as the vehicle for coordinated planning and networking as the County continues to streamline and integrate services. PHS Executive Director is a member of the Perry County Family Services Partnership Board.

With regards to housing, Perry Human Services is the only provider for HAP services in the county.

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Regarding Emergency Shelter, Perry Human Services is the initial financial provider for limited emergency shelter money. When those funds are depleted, PHS works with local assistance office, Join Hands and local churches for additional funds.

Subsidized housing or Rental Assistance continues to have a waiting period of a year or more before the client becomes eligible for this program. For our low-income clients who do not receive subsidies, we continually see a shortage of affordable housing.

With limited permanent emergency shelter facility in the county, providing emergency shelter for individuals or families is extremely difficult. Covering costs of a couple nights at a local motel really does not solve the problem. Many people calling for emergency shelter have no resources, including transportation and money, and no action plan for what happens next. Putting them in a motel which has no access to any resources or case management is a major concern. The need for an emergency shelter in Perry County remains a serious issue.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank works collaboratively making referrals for housing to Perry Housing Partnership, Rental Assistance, and the Homeless Assistance Program at Perry Human Services.

Disabled American Veterans has strong connections with the Perry County Housing Partnership, Perry County Food Bank, Join Hands, New Bloomfield VFW, Eagle House, County VSO, and Rabbit Transit to support individuals with their housing needs.

Tri County Community Action (TCCA) provides family development and parenting education through the Perry County Family Center. TCCA also provides OnTrack and Operation HELP utility assistance through PPL, and works closely with the Perry County Food Bank, Perry County Children & Youth Agency, Join Hands Ministry, County Rental Assistance, Senior Services, and Early Education Centers to support individuals and families in gaining and maintaining self-sufficiency, housing, school-readiness, and employment.

Additional information regarding housing collaborations within the joinder services is available in this section of the CC plan as well as the Supportive Housing chart in the Mental Health section of the CC plan.

## **PART IV: HUMAN SERVICES NARRATIVE**

### **CUMBERLAND PERRY MENTAL HEALTH & INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM**

In December 1967, a joint Mental Health & Mental Retardation program was established with the Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties in compliance with the Mental Health & Mental Retardation Act of 1966. The agency now known as Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH/IDD) operates as a department of Cumberland County government and serves residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties in need of those treatment services and rehabilitative supports. The county joinder agreement remains in effect today.

As a joinder with Cumberland County, please refer to the Cumberland County plan for information in these sections as the Perry County Commissioners are in agreement with the information presented for these joint services in the Cumberland County (CC) MH and IDD plans.

### **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

The Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) assists individuals and families in achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency by stabilizing basic needs for housing through coordination of rental assistance. The emphasis is on prevention and intervention of homelessness.

The goal of HAP is stabilization of housing. HAP assists individuals to:

- maintain an individual in his or her own residence or, in cases where eviction is imminent,
- assist with transition to alternate housing
- move people into more stable, affordable housing
- expedite the movement of people out of shelters and into existing housing.

HAP includes the coordination of supplemental rental assistance and security deposits for eligible clients in Perry County. Perry Human Services (PHS) collaborates with numerous community service agencies in Perry County and the tri-county area. These agencies include emergency shelters, Children and Youth organizations, the County Human Services Office, Social Security Administration, County Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disability (MH/IDD) programs, Join Hands and other social service agencies offering other supportive services. Since clients are referred by agencies and landlords to Perry Human Services, it is important to maintain ongoing communication within this network.

Requests for housing assistance are made to Perry Human Services to avoid duplication in services and to provide more comprehensive planning. Perry Human Services continues to work closely with local agencies to provide a centralized process for emergency assistance to Perry County residents.

The HAP program assists Perry County residents who are experiencing housing problems to assess their current resources and potential for development. For our HAP program, PHS defines "resident" as an individual or family who has been living in the county for a minimum of six months. Assistance to prevent homelessness includes a service plan to develop stability in housing. The plan, goals, support services and client action steps are all developed with the client. The outcome is for client to achieve housing stabilization.

Verification of need occurs at the intake process. Client income eligibility will be at or below 200% of the poverty guidelines. The maximum amount a client may receive within a 24-month period is \$1000 for adult households or \$1500 for families with children. Client financial participation is encouraged, and each client will be individually assessed as to his/her ability to assist with the financial obligations towards security deposit or rent. Any assistance from a public source to assist the client with rent or security deposit will be included. HAP funds will only be used for rent or security deposits. Checks will be disbursed directly to the landlord upon application approval. Repeat clients will be reviewed on an individual basis by the case manager and Executive Director. Approval for partial or maximum assistance will then be at the discretion of the Executive Director. Section 8 and subsidized housing clients may be served if they complete and meet the application requirements and have approval by the Executive

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Director. The intake process includes documentation that shows the landlord's willingness to continue to rent to the client while the HAP application is being processed.

**Bridge Housing:** Not provided with HAP or HSDF Block Grant Funds. Bridge (Transitional) Housing in Perry County is provided by Perry Housing Partnership which utilizes other funding sources for its transitional housing.

### **Case Management:**

- *Please describe the case management services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families at risk or experiencing homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

The HAP Program provides case management for clients. The length of time a client remains in the program will depend on the immediate need as well as client participation in the development and follow-through of a service plan to resolve identified issues which led to the housing problem.

Case Management is provided by Perry Human Services (PHS) to clients seeking help who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Beginning with the intake process, case management provides a series of coordinated activities to assist individuals and families to prevent the reoccurrence of homelessness. The level and extent of case management varies with each client and continues through discharge. Case management also includes follow-up with clients who have been discharged. The case manager attempts a two month follow-up with clients who completed an intake, but were not eligible for a rental assistance grant. For clients receiving a rental assistance grant, the case manager contacts the client's landlord or client for a six month follow-up to assess whether the individual and/or family continues housing stabilization.

PHS Case Manager works with the clients on budgeting. This can occur through individual budgeting sessions or through a group budgeting class. All clients requesting financial help with rent or security deposit are required to attend either individual or group budgeting sessions before being approved for a housing grant. This service has been very beneficial for our clients in providing instruction on financial management, including use of credit cards and budgeting skills.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of case management services? Please provide a brief summary of case management services results.*

As of June 2021, for 2020-2021 fiscal year, 21 intakes have been completed using case management and 16 rental assistance grants have been awarded. A two-month follow-up phone contact was made by a housing case manager to 5 clients who did not qualify for a rental assistance grant. For those 5 clients, 5 reported being in stable housing, whether that means living with family or friends or in their own place.

As of June 2022, for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, 21 intakes have been completed using case management services, and 16 rental assistance grants have been awarded. A two-month follow-up phone contact was made by a housing case manager to all 21 intakes. For those 21 clients, 21 reported being in stable housing, whether that means living with family or friends or in their own place, 3 reported to owing back rent, 3 were living with friends or family, 1 was still looking, and 3 did not answer.

- *Please describe any proposed changes to case management services for FY 22-23.*

For this year, we believe there will be an increase in case management service hours. Our agency has experienced an increase in the need and number of case management hours this past fiscal year. With review of the 21-22 stats, we anticipate that the need will continue to require additional case management hours throughout the 22-23 fiscal year.

### **Rental Assistance:**

- *Please describe the rental assistance services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families experiencing or at risk for homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

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Rental Assistance provides payment for rents and/or security deposits to prevent and/or end homelessness or near homelessness for individuals/families who qualify for grants.

Perry Human Services defines "resident" as an individual or family who has been living in the county for a minimum of six months. The length of time a client will remain in the program will depend on immediate needs and client participation in the development and follow-through of a case plan to resolve identified issues leading to housing problems. The plan, goals, support services and client action steps are developed with the client. The outcome is for the client to achieve housing stabilization.

Requests for rental assistance are made to Perry Human Services to avoid duplication of services and to provide more comprehensive planning. PHS case manager works closely with local agencies to centralize the process for emergency shelter and housing assistance to Perry County residents.

Community service agencies that PHS case manager collaborates with for clients includes but is not limited to Perry County Assistance Office, Rental Assistance Office, Perry Housing Partnership, Social Security Administration, County Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disabilities programs, Join Hands Ministries, and other social service agencies offering supportive services. Since clients are referred by agencies and landlords to Perry Human Services, it is important to maintain ongoing communication within this network.

As previously discussed in the Case Management section, rental assistance clients are required to participate in individual or group budgeting sessions in order to receive a rental assistance grant. Case manager also conducts a two month follow-up contact for rental assistance clients not receiving a grant and a six month follow-up for clients who receive a grant.

Verification of need occurs at the intake process. Client income eligibility will be at or below 200% of the poverty guidelines. The maximum amount a client may receive will be \$1000 for adult households or \$1500 for families with children within a 24 month period. Client financial participation is encouraged and each client will be individually assessed as to his/her ability to assist with the financial obligations towards security deposit or rent. Any assistance from a public source to assist the client with rent or security deposit will be included. Rental Assistance funds will only be used for rent or security deposits. Checks will be disbursed directly to the landlord upon application approval. Repeat clients will be addressed and reviewed on an individual basis by the case manager and Executive Director. Approval for partial or maximum assistance will then be at the discretion of the Executive Director. Section 8 and subsidized housing clients may be served if they complete and meet the application requirements and have approval by the Executive Director. The intake process includes verification of eviction and documentation that shows the landlord's willingness to continue to rent to the client while the HAP application is being processed.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of rental assistance services? Please provide a brief summary of rental assistance services results.*

As of June 1, 2021 for 2020-2021 fiscal year, 21 intakes have been completed using case management and 16 rental assistance grants have been awarded.

As of June 2022, for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, 31 intakes have been completed using case management and 16 rental assistance grants have been awarded.

- *Please describe any proposed changes to rental assistance services for FY 22-23.*

There are no proposed changes for rental assistance services for FY 22-23.

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### Emergency Shelter

- *Please describe the emergency shelter services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families at risk or experiencing homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

PHS Emergency Shelter Program is designed for individuals and families who are homeless and in immediate need of emergency housing. Perry County does not have a permanent emergency shelter. The Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) allows Perry Human Services to cover the cost of a room at a local motel for homeless individuals and families for a limited amount of nights.

Because HAP funds have been reduced significantly over the past several years, ESP funds have also been reduced significantly and are very limited. All clients requesting emergency shelter are screened as to their immediate need and whether other emergency living arrangements are available. Emergency Shelter is limited to no more than seven consecutive days unless exception request approved by DHS.

Individuals with income are expected to pay as much of the cost as possible. Those who are without resources are assisted in acquiring increased financial stability. PHS may work with these individuals with the long range goal of permanent housing and a stable environment. Emergency shelter clients may be referred to the Perry Housing Partnership for Transitional Housing and/or other shelters outside the county.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of emergency shelter services? Please provide a brief summary of emergency shelter services results.*

For 2020-2021 through June 1, 2021, 4 emergency screenings have been completed, 0 nights of shelter given. The COVID pandemic and eviction moratorium that was in place had impacted the number of housing grants given for year 2020-2021.

For 2021-2022, as of June 2022, 4 emergency screenings were completed, via phone or telehealth, and 43 nights of shelter were given. A total of 11 people were given nights of emergency shelter at a local motel. Most persons calling about emergency shelter were assisted in brain-storming other housing options with family/friends and/or given shelter numbers outside Perry County. Several were referred to Perry Housing Partnership for transitional housing.

- *Please describe any proposed changes to emergency shelter services for FY 22-23.*

There are no changes proposed for 2022-2023.

**Other Housing Supports:** No Other Housing Supports are provided through HAP or HSDF Block Grant funds.

There is limited Transitional Housing available which is provided through Perry Housing Partnership. HAP and/or HSDF Block Grant Funds are not used in this program.

### HMIS

- *Please describe the current status of the county's implementation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Does every Homeless Assistance provider enter data into HMIS?*

Perry Human Services (PHS) HAP case manager has been trained in HMIS, but the agency is not currently using HMIS as part of its data collection. PHS continues to utilize this agency's own data collection system.

### **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES**

The **Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission** (the Commission) has lead responsibility for planning and administering a continuum of substance use disorder prevention, intervention, and treatment services for Cumberland and Perry County residents. As a result of a longstanding joinder agreement between the Boards of County Commissioners in Cumberland County and Perry County, the Commission operates as a department of Cumberland County government and as one part of a broad system of county human services. The Commission serves as the Single County Authority (SCA) for Cumberland and Perry Counties in fulfillment of state contracts and regulations.

As a joinder with Cumberland County, please refer to the Cumberland County (CC) plan for information in this section as the Perry County Commissioners are in agreement with the information presented for these joint services in the Cumberland County Substance Use Disorder plan.

### **HUMAN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS/HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND**

*For each of these categories (Adult Services, Aging Services, Children and Youth Services, Generic Services and Specialized Services), please use the fields and dropdowns to describe how the county intends to utilize HSDF funds on allowable expenditures.*

#### **Adult Services:**

##### ***Program Name:* Perry Human Services (PHS) Adult Services**

*Description of Services:* PHS Adult Services Program utilizes HSDF funds for Case Management for the homeless assistance program that assists individuals/families in achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency by stabilizing basic needs for housing through coordination of rental assistance. Case Management assists individuals in identifying areas of need and then developing and implementing service plans to meet those needs. Service planning and case management services are a series of coordinated staff activities. These services are designed to determine with client input what services are needed and to coordinate the provision of these services. Case Management can include a wide range of activities. An initial step always includes a thorough exploration of the service needs of the individual and discussions with the client of the available and acceptable service options. Once the extent of need is determined, a service plan is prepared in cooperation with and in agreement with the client. What follows is the involvement of the case manager to assure the prompt arrangement of services using those providers acceptable to the client, and then continue to network with all providers serving the client. This often requires personal advocacy for the client to ensure the satisfactory delivery of service and monitoring the continuity and continued appropriateness of the services. As with all PHS services a follow-up is conducted whenever possible to ensure client satisfaction and to offer additional services as needed.

*Service Category:* Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

##### ***Program Name:* Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Transportation Program serving Perry County Veterans 18 – 59**

*Description of Services:* HSDF provides funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing transportation for adult Veterans in need of free Transportation to their medical, mental, and dental appointments throughout Perry County, PA. as well as free transportation for adult Veterans to pick up needed food (50-lbs) from Perry County's Military Food Share program, at the New Bloomfield VFW, the last Thursday of every month. Additionally, we make stops to and from these appointments to allow our adult Veterans to go to bank, grocery stores, etc. to meet their basic needs, not met through other sources.

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Our numbers have reached 58 adult veterans transported in 2021-2022. We are striving to improve our services thru Rabbit Transit so DAV Chapter 49 can continue delivering premium service to our Veterans. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed this process down last year, but DAV is working to make improvements again.

In order to provide these free services, we maintain a current fleet of 5 vans to transport our Veterans. Using 4 volunteer drivers, we currently transport Veterans to and from their appointments scheduled between 8am-12pm, Monday thru Friday. We are recruiting more volunteers to drive so we can develop a plan to expand appointment hours to 8am – 3 or 4pm Monday thru Friday in future years. The current issue remains the limited number of drivers and only volunteer drivers who drive in the AM only. With the increase of vehicles and drivers, we will expand our hours and most likely increase our numbers to at least 100 adult Veterans a year. This will also increase our expenses with the Insurance we pay for drivers and vehicles, maintenance costs, repair costs, and fuel costs for additional vehicles.

*Planned Expenditures:* \$15,000.00. (Using \$14,889.44 in donations, raffle, and interest from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022, we were able to provide uninterrupted services to our Veterans with free transportation.) Due to COVID-19, donations and transportation were greatly reduced from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. Expenses for insurance on vehicles and drivers, maintenance and repair costs, and fuel costs totaled \$11,293.29 from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. We also, delivered 125 meals for Military Food Share from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.

*Service Category:* Transportation (Passenger) – Activities which enable individuals to travel to and from community facilities to receive social and medical service, or otherwise promote independent living. The service is provided only if there are no other appropriate resources.

*Program Name:* **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Veterans in Need (VIN) Program 18- 59**

*Description of Services:* Request HSDF funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing financial assistance to adult Veterans and their families not able to utilize other services available. Each client is screened based on their income versus expenses and screened to determine eligibility. We use a VIN application form submitted through Perry County Veteran Service Officer with all bills attached. We have at least 4 VIN committee members review and approve or disapprove request. We then pay bills directly to billing agency and not to individuals. Financial emergencies and hardships we pay as related to financial emergencies due to sudden unemployment without compensation, accidents, car repairs, unable to pay utilities, out of oil in winter and no funds, out of food, house burnt down, etc. We refer them to other Perry County agencies such as Food Bank, social services, housing partnership, Join Hands, American Legions or Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc. We exhaust other avenues and then we review request for assistance. We do not use funding for hardships resulting from unfavorable actions such as substance abuse, DUI, court costs, etc.

We continued 2 programs in 2020 at Christmas time. We identify Veterans and/or their families in need and present them up to \$600 cash at our DAV Christmas party the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Dec at the New Bloomfield VFW. This year we presented 0 Veteran families with this program, due to COVID-19. We also gave Veterans in 2 Perry County Nursing Homes blankets, socks, and sweats.

We also get requests for wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc. or donations of these items. We give these donated medical items to Veteran Organizations and refer Senior Veterans and families to these agencies for assistance. We also use various other agencies such as Veteran Service Officer, PA Veteran Foundation (PVF), Veteran Organizations such as American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, etc., PA Wounded Warrior Program, Marine Corp League, DMVA FTIG, Emergency Temporary Relief (ETA), Join Hands and other agencies to assist with large amounts of financial aid required.

We partner with several Perry County agencies such as Perry County Housing Partnership, the Eagle House, Office of Aging, Food Bank, Social Services, Counseling, Join Hands, American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.

## Perry County Human Services Block Grant Plan 2022 – 2023

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*Planned Expenditures:* \$15,000. (HSDP gave us a grant of \$10,000 for 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 towards Veterans in Need and Transportation. All \$10,000.00 have been depleted as of 22 May 2022. We helped 5 Veterans in Need with 18 bills, and depleted our HSDF of \$10,000.00 from 1 July 2021– 22 May 2022. We helped a total of 5 Veterans in amount of @ \$11,651.14 between 1 July 2021 –22 May 2022. We paid for mortgages, rent, groceries, utilities, car payment, electric bills, furnace repair, day care costs, water etc. This year under our Santa Warren program, we paid out \$0. The \$10,000.00 from HSDF helped us to continue taking care of 5 Veterans (18 bills) and their families in need.

*Service Category:* Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

### **Aging Services:**

*Program Name:* **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Veterans in Need (VIN) Program 60+**

*Description of Services:* Request HSDF funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing financial assistance to Senior Veterans and their families not able to utilize other services available. Each client is screened based on their income vice expenses and screened to determine eligibility. We use a VIN application form submitted through Perry County Veteran Service Officer with all bills attached. We have a Chair, Terri Lynn, with at least 4 VIN committee members review and approve or disapprove request. We then pay bills directly to billing agency and not to individuals. Financial emergencies and hardships we pay as related to financial emergencies due to sudden unemployment without compensation, accidents, car repairs, unable to pay utilities, out of oil in winter, out of food, etc. (We also refer them to other Perry County agencies if we cannot assist or to supplement what we can give.) We exhaust other avenues and then we review request for assistance. We have trained other Veteran Organizations to start their own Veterans in Need program and submit requests thru James Scott.

We continue 2 programs in 2020 at Christmas time. We identify Veterans and/or their families in need and present them up to \$600 cash at our DAV Christmas party the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Dec at the New Bloomfield VFW. We Also gave blankets, sweats, and socks for Veterans in 2 Nursing Homes in Perry County. We continue to look for ways to serve our Veterans in Perry County.

We also get requests for wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc. or donations of these items. We store these donated or purchased medical items or equipment and loan to Senior Veterans and families to assist. We also use various other agencies such as Veteran Service Officer, PA Veteran Foundation (PVF), Veteran Organizations such as American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), AMVETS, etc., PA Wounded Warrior Program, Marine Corp League, DMVA FTIG, Emergency Temporary Relief (ETA), and other agencies to assist with larger amounts of financial assistance required.

We partner with several Perry County agencies such as Perry County Housing Partnership, the Eagle House, Office of Aging, Food Bank, Social Services, Counseling, Helping Hands, American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.

*Planned Expenditures:* \$15,000. (HSDP gave us a grant of \$10,000 for 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 towards Veterans in Need and Transportation. All \$10,000.00 have been depleted as of 22 May 2022. We helped 5 Veterans in Need with 18 bills, and depleted our HSDF of \$10,000.00 from 1 July 2021– 22 May 2022. We helped a total of 5 Veterans in amount of @ \$11,651.14 between 1 July 2021 –22 May 2022. We paid for mortgages, rent, groceries, utilities, car payment, electric bills, furnace repair, day care costs, water etc. This year under our Santa Warren program, we paid out \$0. The \$10,000.00 from HSDF helped us to continue taking care of 5 Veterans (18 bills) and their families in need.

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*Service Category:* Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

*Program Name:* **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Transportation Program serving Perry County Veterans 60+**

*Description of Services:* HSDF provides funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing transportation, including the majority of disabled Senior Veterans, in need of free Transportation to their medical, mental, and dental appointments throughout state of PA. As well as free transportation for Veterans, which are primarily disabled, home-bound Senior Veterans, to have food (50-lbs) from Perry County's Military Food Share program, on the last Thursday of every month delivered to their homes. We also make stops to and from their appointments to allow our Senior Veterans to go to bank, grocery stores, etc. to meet their basic needs, not met through other sources.

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, our numbers have dropped to 100 Senior Veterans transported a year. Once Perry County is beginning to resume our normal services. We are striving to improve our services and transition process with Rabbit Transit so DAV Chapter 49 can continue delivering premium service to our Senior Veterans.

In order to provide these free services, we maintain a current fleet of 5 vehicles, ranging from 2013 – 2018, to transport our Senior Veterans. Using 4 volunteer drivers, we currently transport Veterans to and from their appointments scheduled between 8-11am, Monday thru Friday. We are recruiting more volunteers to drive, so we can develop a plan to expand appointment hours to 8am – 3 or 4pm Monday thru Friday. The current issue is limited number of volunteer drivers who drive in am only. With a future increase of vehicles and drivers, we will expand our hours and exponentially increase our numbers to at least 50 Perry County Veterans a month. This will also increase our expenses with the Insurance we pay for drivers and vehicles, maintenance costs, repair costs, and fuel costs for additional vehicles. From 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 we have spent \$11,293.29 on expenses to keep our transportation operating. During this time period, we delivered 125 Veterans meals, 100 Senior Veterans were taken to medical appointments.

*Service Category:* Transportation (Passenger) - Activities which enable individuals to travel to and from community facilities to receive social and medical service, or otherwise promote independent living.

*Planned Expenditures:* \$15,000.00. (Using \$14,889.44 in donations, raffle, and interest from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022, we were able to provide uninterrupted services to our Veterans with free transportation. Due to COVID-19 donations and transportation were greatly reduced from 1 Jul 2021 – 30 June 2022. Expenses for insurance on vehicles and drivers, maintenance and repair costs, and fuel costs totaled \$11,293.29 from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. We also, delivered 125 meals for Military Food Share from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.

### **Specialized Services:**

HSDF funds are utilized to provide specialized services through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank and Perry Human Services.

*Program Name:* **Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank**

*Description of Services:* Located at 300 A South Carlisle St, New Bloomfield 17068, this emergency food pantry offers to help supplement the food budget of qualified Perry County households that fall under the Federal poverty guidelines. Our mission remains unchanged. We are dedicated to providing supplemental food for seniors, children, individuals and families within the county who are food insecure. The HSDF grant is essential in helping us meet the food needs of our community.

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The mission of the Food Bank remains dedication to providing supplemental food for seniors, children, individuals, and families within the County who are food insecure. HSDF allows for case management services for families through these funds. The Emergency Food Assistance Program is operated in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. The total household income is based on 150% of poverty and applies to household size, understanding they must be at, or below, the income level to be eligible for program benefits. Significant increase in the need has been noted as the caseload has risen dramatically over the years. From July 2021 through June 2022, services have been provided for 916 unduplicated households, many twice per month. The total impact with Perry County is as follows:

7,612 Households

17,074 Individuals

4,251 ages 0-17

7,415 ages 18-59

5,408 age 60+

### *Program Name:* **Representative Payee Service**

*Description of Services:* Provided by Perry Human Services Adult Service Program, this Representative Payee Service is provided to individuals who cannot effectively manage their own financial obligations. Reasons for this need may include mental and physical disadvantages as well as lack of skill and education. Perry Human Services addresses this need through case management. This includes developing a workable budget and budget counseling, agency networking to provide all available services, applications for financial assistance where needed and establishing and managing bank accounts. The service provides accountability to the Social Security Administration and the Perry County Board of Assistance for the use of these monies. Case Management includes re-determination to ensure revenues and services continue without interruption. Types of clients receiving Representative Payee Services include adults with IDD living independently and those individuals unable to financially manage their households resulting in a debtor situation. Many of our Representative Payee clients have been with PHS for many years and been able to maintain living in the community with this support.

### **Interagency Coordination:** .

HSDF is not utilized for interagency coordination.

## Perry County Human Services Block Grant Plan 2022 – 2023

### APPENDIX C-1 : BLOCK GRANT COUNTIES HUMAN SERVICES PROPOSED BUDGET AND INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED

| County:  | 1.                              | 2.                                   | 3.  | 4.                              | 5.                | 6.                            |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Perry</b>   | ESTIMATED<br>INDIVIDUALS SERVED | HSBG ALLOCATION<br>(STATE & FEDERAL) | HSBG PLANNED<br>EXPENDITURES<br>(STATE & FEDERAL) | NON-BLOCK GRANT<br>EXPENDITURES | COUNTY MATCH      | OTHER PLANNED<br>EXPENDITURES |
| <b>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - Cumberland &amp; Perry</b>             |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| ACT and CTT  | 12                              |                                      | \$ 49,120   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Administrative Management  | 1,430                           |                                      | \$ 826,642  |                                 | \$ 74,913         |                               |
| Administrator's Office   |                                 |                                      | \$ 485,303  |                                 | \$ 53,922         | \$ 200,323                    |
| Adult Developmental Training                                       |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Children's Evidence-Based Practices                                |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Children's Psychosocial Rehabilitation                             |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Community Employment   | 69                              |                                      | \$ 158,031  |                                 | \$ 17,559         |                               |
| Community Residential Services                                     | 112                             |                                      | \$ 2,818,583                                      |                                 | \$ 306,404        | \$ 2,765,686                  |
| Community Services   | 2,141                           |                                      | \$ 1,103,301                                      |                                 | \$ 122,590        | \$ 60,814                     |
| Consumer-Driven Services   | 92                              |                                      | \$ 152,716  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Emergency Services   | 952                             |                                      | \$ 55,665   |                                 | \$ 6,185          |                               |
| Facility Based Vocational Rehabilitation                           |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Family Based Mental Health Services                                |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Family Support Services  | 91                              |                                      | \$ 99,485   |                                 | \$ 11,054         |                               |
| Housing Support Services   | 122                             |                                      | \$ 756,886  |                                 | \$ 51,996         |                               |
| Mental Health Crisis Intervention                                  | 3,114                           |                                      | \$ 1,973,130                                      |                                 |                   |                               |
| Other  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Outpatient   | 13                              |                                      | \$ 184,271  |                                 | \$ 18,544         |                               |
| Partial Hospitalization  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Peer Support Services  | 19                              |                                      | \$ 48,825   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitalization                              |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Psychiatric Rehabilitation   | 38                              |                                      | \$ 302,112  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Social Rehabilitation Services                                     | 213                             |                                      | \$ 600,692  |                                 | \$ 56,077         |                               |
| Targeted Case Management   | 88                              |                                      | \$ 631,877  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Transitional and Community Integration                             | 130                             |                                      | \$ 155,998  |                                 |                   |                               |
| <b>TOTAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>                                | <b>8,636</b>                    | <b>\$ 10,402,637</b>                 | <b>\$ 10,402,637</b>                              | <b>\$ -</b>                     | <b>\$ 719,244</b> | <b>\$ 3,026,823</b>           |
| <b>INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SERVICES - Cumberland &amp; Perry</b> |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Administrator's Office   |                                 |                                      | \$ 825,174  |                                 | \$ 91,686         | \$ 642,523                    |
| Case Management  | 1,012                           |                                      | \$ 229,500  |                                 | \$ 25,500         |                               |
| Community-Based Services   | 150                             |                                      | \$ 938,823  |                                 | \$ 91,730         |                               |
| Community Residential Services                                     | 6                               |                                      | \$ 889,651  |                                 | \$ 1,639          |                               |
| Other  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| <b>TOTAL INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SERVICES</b>                    | <b>1,168</b>                    | <b>\$ 2,883,148</b>                  | <b>\$ 2,883,148</b>                               | <b>\$ -</b>                     | <b>\$ 210,555</b> | <b>\$ 642,523</b>             |

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|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
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| <b>HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES</b>                             |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Bridge Housing  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Case Management   | 100                             |                                      | \$ 25,000   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Rental Assistance   | 30                              |                                      | \$ 21,437   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Emergency Shelter   | 10                              |                                      | \$ 500  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Innovative Supportive Housing Services                          |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Administration  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| <b>TOTAL HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES</b>                       | <b>140</b>                      | <b>\$ 46,937</b>                     | <b>\$ 46,937</b>                                  |                                 | <b>\$ -</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>                   |
| <b>SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES - Cumberland &amp; Perry</b> |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Case/Care Management  | 10                              |                                      | \$ 29,426   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Inpatient Hospital  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Inpatient Non-Hospital  | 71                              |                                      | \$ 259,061  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Medication Assisted Therapy                                     | 14                              |                                      | \$ 91,000   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Other Intervention  | 15                              |                                      | \$ 7,000  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient                                 | 25                              |                                      | \$ 9,500  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Partial Hospitalization   |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Prevention  | 30                              |                                      | \$ 30,000   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Recovery Support Services                                       | 20                              |                                      | \$ 57,148   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Administration  |                                 |                                      | \$ 24,000   |                                 |                   |                               |
| <b>TOTAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES</b>                    | <b>185</b>                      | <b>\$ 497,635</b>                    | <b>\$ 507,135</b>                                 |                                 | <b>\$ -</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>                   |
| <b>HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>                          |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Adult Services  | 161                             |                                      | \$ 9,000  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Aging Services  | 5                               |                                      | \$ 5,000  |                                 |                   |                               |
| Children and Youth Services                                     |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Generic Services  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Specialized Services  | 500                             |                                      | \$ 26,500   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Interagency Coordination  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| Administration  |                                 |                                      |   |                                 |                   |                               |
| <b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>                    | <b>666</b>                      | <b>\$ 50,000</b>                     | <b>\$ 40,500</b>                                  |                                 | <b>\$ -</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>                   |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>  | <b>10,795</b>                   | <b>\$ 13,880,357</b>                 | <b>\$ 13,880,357</b>                              |                                 | <b>\$ 929,799</b> | <b>\$ 3,669,346</b>           |