

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 15th 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

- 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

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 100th 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.

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 3rd 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.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary

Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Contracts

Provider	Service	21/22	22/23	Rate increase	Percent Increase
Libertae, Inc.	3.1 Low Activity 852B (Female)	\$143.00	\$143.00	\$0.00	0%
Libertae, Inc.	3.5 High Adult Activity 823B W/C	\$234.00	\$234.00	\$0.00	0%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	3.5 High Activity 823B	\$205.00	\$353.00	\$148.00	72%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	3.5 High Enhanced Activity 823B	\$270.00	\$272.00	\$2.00	1%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	3.7 WM Activity 823A	\$303.00	\$400.00	\$97.00	32%
Perry Human 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%
Drug & Alcohol Rehab Services	3.5 Clinically Managed Medium Intensity Residential Services (Ado	\$173.00	\$173.00	\$0.00	0%
Drug & Alcohol Rehab Services	3.5 Clinically Managed Medium Intensity Residential Services (Ado	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.00	0%
UHS of PA (Roxbury Treatment Center)	3.5 High Adult Activity 823B	\$241.00	\$254.00	\$13.00	5%
UHS of PA (Roxbury Treatment Center)	3.5 High Enhanced Activity 823B	\$251.00	\$264.00	\$13.00	5%
UHS of PA (Roxbury Treatment Center)	3.7 WM Activity 823A	\$283.00	\$283.00	\$0.00	0%
UHS of PA (Roxbury)	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%
Valley Forge Hospital	3.5 High Adult Activity 823B	\$354.00	\$389.00	\$35.00	10%
Valley Forge Hospital	3.7 Intensive Activity 823C	new	\$450.00		
Valley Forge Hospital	3.7 WM Activity 823A	\$380.00	\$418.00	\$38.00	10%
Valley Forge Hospital	4 (Medically Managed) Adult Activity 834B	\$589.37	\$589.37	\$0.00	0%
Valley Forge Hospital	4 WM (Medically Managed) Activity 834A	\$589.37	\$589.37	\$0.00	0%