

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

July 6, 2026

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

R. Franklin Campbell – Chair
Brenda L. Watson – Vice Chair
William G. Lyons – Secretary
Shannon Hines - Chief Clerk
William R. Bunt - Solicitor

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public: Doug Brubaker, David Council, Mark Evans, Jason Finnerty, Kristie Gantt, Sarah Geesaman, Brenda Iliff, Justin Lee, Taira Little, Darla McNaughton, Annie Oiler, Rich Pluta, Bob Ressler, Mike Rudy, Rita Schaaf, June Smith, Annie Strite, Brian Wilson

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on July 6, 2026 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Watson commented that a parade was held in Landisburg over the weekend. She stated it was an amazing event with a lot of participants and attendees. She also said it demonstrated Landisburg's community spirit.

Commissioner Lyons stated that the Landisburg and Ickesburg Lions Clubs and the Loysville Community Club organized the parade in a short amount of time and noted that it showed American pride.

Commissioner Campbell noted the Landisburg Parade was a great event, but also stated that a tragedy had occurred over the weekend as well. He thanked all first responders for their service.

Human Services Block Grant Hearing: Brian Wilson, from Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD, stated that Act 80 established the block grant in 2013 and Cumberland/Perry joined in 2016. He noted this is annual funding and the Department of Human Services designs the content of the plan. He said because Cumberland and Perry are in a joinder, Perry County's plan does reference Cumberland County's plan. Mr. Wilson stated the block grant plan includes the following parts: mental health, substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities, homeless assistance program, and the human services development fund. Mr. Wilson said the mental health priorities listed in the plan are to maintain current programs, align with SAMHSA's best practice guidelines for crisis walk in center, and to expand services for the forensic population with serious mental illness. He provided information on a soon to be constructed long-term structured residence (LTSR) project and noted that 25% of the population in the Carlisle LTSR were Perry County residents. He said a second public hearing will be held in Cumberland County and stated that the draft plans for Cumberland and Perry counties were both posted online. Commissioner Watson questioned how the 25% statistic was determined and requested the information. Mr. Wilson said information was run from a database. Annie Strite said she would be meeting with the Commissioners to provide utilization information and Commissioner Watson stated that she needed real numbers as nothing had been provided. Mr. Wilson stated that the LTSR that was soon to be built would be a regional facility between Franklin, Fulton, Cumberland, and Perry counties and noted that 8 beds would be reserved for Cumberland/Perry. Commissioner Watson expressed concern that the 8 beds would be utilized by Cumberland County, leaving no room for Perry County residents and said the Commissioner need information on Perry County usage.

Annie Strite, from Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD, provided information on the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) portion of the block grant plan. She said the goal of these services are to provide individuals with the skills necessary for an everyday life. She commented that the IDD Office believes that individuals should be able to receive services in their home community, as well as choice over the services they receive. She stated

that 12,020 individuals are currently registered with the IDD Office and noted that 85% are Cumberland County residents and 15% are Perry County residents. Ms. Strite said that services include supports coordination, residential services, supported employment, job training services, adult development programs, and family support services. She highlighted Project SEARCH and explained that it is an internship program that teaches employment skills. Ms. Strite said since 2017, 44 people have graduated from the program and 75% have gained employment. She stated that individuals with ID and autism are attending post-secondary education programs through the Dream Partnership Program and listed the colleges that participate. She provided information on the Pathways Academy, which assists individuals with living independently. Ms. Strite commented additional services provided through the offices, as well as the teams that provide the services. She said that staffing continues to be a problem in the human services field which means providing services is difficult. Ms. Strite also noted that the lack of affordable housing is also an issue. Commissioner Watson reiterated the need for Perry County information and data on quarterly basis. Commissioner Campbell said great work is done by the office, but he wants to ensure that Perry County residents are receiving services too.

Brenda Iliff, from Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission, stated that Perry County's STAR provider was Perry Human Services, but said there are not a lot of providers in Perry County. She noted that opioid funds will be used for a Perry County dedicated recovery specialist. She said that prevention is a focus of services. Ms. Iliff noted that Perry Human Services has two full time student assistance staff that go into the schools and community to provide prevention services. She said that substance use and gambling issues are being seen more for older adults. She commented that because there are no residential facilities in Perry County, individuals leave the area for treatment. Ms. Iliff stated that substance use treatment is intense at first, but the goal is to get them back into the community and out of the system. She said that a recovery event is being planned for September. She commented that she is thankful that in Perry County there are EMS and Prison programs. She said the priorities include addressing vaping, marijuana, and alcohol, and noted that opioids are not on the list. Ms. Iliff added that gambling will be a secondary focus. She talked about upcoming training and public outreach opportunities.

Doug Brubaker, from Perry Human Services, said his organization has been in the County for many years and serves only Perry County residents. He said the homeless assistance program helps with security deposits and first month's rent. Mr. Brubaker stated that approximately \$18,000 was distributed for those facing homelessness and noted that many times it is families that are being helped.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk, talked about the Human Services Development Fund position of the plan. She stated that a previous hearing was held on June 15th and noted that the fund provides \$50,000 to Perry County organizations that provide human services to Perry County residents. She said that the following funding requests had been received:

1. Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank - supplemental food services for seniors, children, individuals, and families within the County who are food insecure
2. Disabled American Veterans Chapter 49 - Veteran's in Need Program and Transportation Program
3. Perry Human Services - Homeless Assistance and Emergency Shelter programs
4. Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission - drug and alcohol treatment programs for Perry County residents
5. Join Hands Ministry Inc. - financial literacy program

Commissioner Campbell asked for if anyone had questions or comments. Commissioner Lyons thanked everyone for providing information on their services and hard work.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Human Services Block Grant. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the following 2026/2027 Human Services Development Fund allocations:

1. Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank - \$14,000
2. Disabled American Veterans Chapter 49 - \$9,000
3. Perry Human Services - \$3,000
4. Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission - \$12,000
5. Join Hands - \$12,000

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the agreement with Adam Britcher Esquire for legal services for the Prothonotary/ Clerk of Courts Office. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the following contracts for the Perry County Area Agency on Aging:

1. Center for Independent Living Opportunities
2. Traditional Home Care LLC
3. Millerstown Senior Citizens' Center.

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Justin Lee, Perry County Area Agency on Aging Director, provided details on each contract. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt noted that former Chief Clerk, June Smith, was in attendance at the meeting and said he enjoyed working with Ms. Smith. Commissioner Campbell thanked Ms. Smith for her service and said he met her on the pickle ball court.

Post Comments: Coroner Bob Ressler thanked Shannon Hines and the Maintenance for their assistance on Sunday while he dealt with the tragedy event. He said the cooler was not working when he came in to respond to the event and both Shannon and Maintenance assisted which result in the cooler being fixed by the time he returned to the morgue.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to adjourn at 10:13 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary