



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

AUGUST 12, 2009

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, III, Vice Chairman (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Brooke Miller, Personnel; David Feidt, Solicitor's Office; Danielle Vayda, Solicitor's Office; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Sue Cohick, Director of Children & Youth; Sandy Pintarch, Children & Youth; David Mattern, Children & Youth; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Michelle Haack, Commissioners' Office; Jordan Barkus, Commissioners' Office; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; Gino Santamaria, Solid Waste; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Dan Miller

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haste: We'll take up the Meeting Minutes at next week's meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We're at the point in time for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time? (There was none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Sue Cohick, Director of Children & Youth

1. Needs Based Plan and Budget

Ms. Cohick: We're here to present the Needs Based Budget for the Children & Youth Agency for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. I believe we have offered a summary of the budget to the Commissioners for review prior to the meeting.

What you have before you are three documents. One identifies the comparison of our fiscal year budget from the 2008/2009 fiscal year, the 2009/2010 and the 2010/2011 fiscal year doing a comparison of our actual expenditures and revenues. In addition to that you also have in front of you a summary of our special grant funding to include the identification of the County share that is being requested. The third attachment is more of a narrative that describes in detail some of the content of our Needs Based Budget proposal to identify the programs, as well as new positions that we will be requesting. Is there any particular place that you would like to start in relationship to those?

Mr. Hartwick: We've had a discussion. I had a chance to review the policies and practices and a part of the special grants process. I think, based upon the numbers here, it's less than we projected and hopefully if we continue to keep the placements down, in both dependency and delinquency side, we'll not only be able to manage the increase of about \$200,000 in the County costs next year, as we did this year turning that request into actually a reduction in the amount of County share that we spent for children and youth services. I feel confident that the Juvenile Probation Department and our Children & Youth Department are both looking at alternative ways that are more cost effective with better outcomes for kids to be able to place or keep kids connected and ultimately having a much better impact and outcome on the County share of our

budget. We also understand and before Sandy says it to the opposite side if there are recommendations by the Court and JPO for out of home placements that those costs could go up dramatically and we also have to be prepared for that. I just said your disclaimer for you.

Ms. Pintarch: I always have a disclaimer about Federal revenue, which is very much up in the air from year-to-year, because that is generated by the number of placements and additional mandates that we may have placed upon us that may limit some of the funding.

Mr. Haste: So, what is your biggest challenge in the upcoming year?

Ms. Cohick: One of them will be meeting some of the new mandates that have come down from the State to include fostering connections implementation, as well as shared case responsibility implementation. On the narrative you will see that these are two requirements that are coming down to the C&Y agency and will be increasing the demand on our staff. Fostering connections will require our staff to focus on maintaining the child in their existing school environment where they have relationships, regardless of where they are placed. We have identified some additional staff positions to help support that additional requirement of our staff. With a shared case responsibility you will note that we anticipate a substantial increase in our caseloads. These are cases that we will be working collaboratively with our JPO partners on. Cases that typically will have had a JPO placement out of home placement, but not historically been involved with the Children & Youth Agency, and due to new mandates we now will be required to assess those families to determine if they require any supportive services from Children & Youth and whether there are any dependency needs that may have. That is a population that we have not previously focused on. So, we do expect increases there. As the Commissioner said we are diligently working to be sensitive to our out of home placements, focusing on what is the least restrictive environment for these kids to be in, can we maintain them in their homes, how quickly can we get back to their homes and provide the services that are needed there in order to keep that family unified. So, a lot of our focus will be placed on those initiatives.

Mr. Haste: Two more questions. One is have your State payments been delayed because of the budget? If so, what is the impact? The second would be I see we have new and expanded programs for next year. Are there any programs that you have had to cut or cut back on?

Ms. Pintarch: As far as our State funding, we have been guaranteed by the Deputy Secretary that all of our outstanding payments for Fiscal Year 2008/09 will continue to be processed. In fact, we just did receive almost \$800,000 this week in Title IV-E money that was for the period through June 30, 2009. What's being held at this point are our advance payments for 2009/2010, which would be about one-eighth of our total Act 148 payment. I have discussed this with Mike actually rather extensively in the past week and I think he is feeling comfortable with the amount of money that is still outstanding for 2008/2009 that is expected to come through in the next two or three

weeks. We are not facing a current crisis right at this point in time. The County will be able to manage. If 2009/2010 does not get settled in the next few weeks then there will be issues regarding continuing to not receive advanced funds. At this point, we will get our 2008/2009, which is the majority of outstanding funds that are due us.

Mr. Haste: I saw expanded programs and new programs, but I didn't see anything that talked about if you had to cut back on any programs.

Ms. Cohick: At the present time we have received pretty good support from the State. A lot of our new programs, some of them are grant funded, which the Deputy Secretary has also basically guaranteed that the special grant funding is not going to be part of the DPW cuts that we anticipate. I think we do anticipate our Act 148 funding as presented in the Budget will be cut. At that point, we will need to sit down and really look at what programs we may need to cut back or totally eliminate. As usual we will start with those programs that would be least harmful to kids, which would be unfortunately prevention programs, but that's where we generally need to look at in our budget. We obviously cannot return kids from placement unless we have assurances that they are going to safe environments, so that will not be an area that we really can look at. We will obviously look at some kids could be reduced to lesser placements, so we will be reviewing where kids have been placed, but in general we will have to look at prevention programs, but we are not at that point at this time.

Mr. Haste: Maybe after the budget is passed and you meet with them and we see where the cuts are going to occur we probably should have a workshop so we can talk about that and we all know where that is headed.

Ms. Cohick: I think whatever planning has to be done very carefully and we will be working with Juvenile Probation to determine what hierarchy of services we need to look at to make those decisions.

Mr. Haste: Just make sure all the human services come back at a workshop meeting so we know what is going on.

Mr. Hartwick: Just one step beyond that. We'll certainly do that if we see any additional cuts that have obviously been proposed in the initial Governor's proposed budget, which I think we are basing our current figures off of. Beyond that Mike has had a discussion with each one of the categoricals and he and I talked this morning about if you are in a position with cash flow issues about doing a line of credit. I believe there is a package put together by M&T Bank and the only one that has expressed interest so far with that has been MH, because of their cash flow issues and the amount of pressure that they have in their system. We are still waiting for the response from BDAP related to whether or not those are reimbursable if we do need a line of credit whether or not the amount on that line of credit is reimbursable by the agency, but I'm hoping that Children & Youth, based upon what I have heard from both the Republican side and the Democrat side, sounds like it is going to be an area that's not going to receive significant cuts based upon the negotiations that have happened so far. I hope that

stays that way in the final allocation, but if it is reduced let's come back to the table and make sure we talk to the Commissioners about what we plan on cutting.

SALARY BOARD

A complete set of Salary Board Meeting Minutes are on file in the Commissioners' Office.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Miller: Do you have any questions on the Personnel Packet that you received? (There was none.) I do have to bring some numbers to your attention. First of all #7, a New Hire for MDJ Pianka, her start date will be 8/31/09 instead of 8/17/09. I would also like to request permission to get #2, #9 and #16 approved today.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve Items #2, #9 and #16 of the Personnel Packet; motion carried.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: It is a very small packet this week. I just have one minor budget adjustment that we'll have to make otherwise it can just go to next week for approval unless you have any questions. (There was none.)

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: I don't believe there is anything on the Training Packet that we have to approve.

Mr. Burford: No.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(There was none.)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lighty: The Solicitor's Report is in your packet. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. (There was none.)

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Burford: It saddens me to report that Chad had a loss in his family and I would like to ask that you keep his thoughts with you as he deals with his loss.

Secondly, regrettably we are losing two of our summer interns. They are returning back to school. It has been a real pleasure and a treat to have them here with us, Michelle and Jordan. They have worked in various departments throughout their tour of duty. We appreciate all the work that they have done.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: I would just like to commend the Cultural Diversity Committee for everything they did. I came here early on Friday and walked downtown for dinner and then came back and it was actually a really, really good event. There was a great turnout. Music was good. I stood at the end of the block as everybody was leaving and I heard nothing but good things from people who were there. For those who worked it, organized it and attended thank you very much. It was a great event.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are again at the point in time for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board? (There was none.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz