



**DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WORKSHOP MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**

**10:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

Mike Pries, Vice Chairman (ABSENT--  
Working with EMA on Flood-Related Issues)

**STAFF PRESENT**

J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Jim Zugay, Recorder of Deeds; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Peter Vriens, Director of Human Services; Brad Winnick, Chief Public Defender; Sue Cohick, Director of Children & Youth; Sandy Pintarch, Children & Youth; Mavis Nimoh, Director of Drug & Alcohol; Steve Chiavetta, Director of Registration & Elections; Jack Wright, Human Services Director's Office; Elizabeth Nichols, Prison; Greg Kline, EMA; Abby Gabner, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Sherry Clouser, Gabrielle Barton, Andrea Freet, Brandi Rohde, Brooke Crowell, Martin Adams, Heather Crook, Steven Seitchik, Cheryl Floy, Jonathan Branch and Matt 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 have a number of meeting minutes that we'll take up at next week's meeting.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Haste: We are at the point in time in the meeting 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. Dauphin County Commissioners**

#### **1. Proclamation – Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month**

Mr. Hartwick: It gives me great honor today to recognize some trained and dedicated professionals who have joined us this morning; as well as, a group of motivated student advisory committee that has really taken a big bit out of the issue of addiction here in Dauphin County. A peer to peer effort in a way that has really transcended our ability to understand more about how to reach our young people within our community and with our recovery system oriented system of care getting ready to launch in Dauphin County, the ability for us to gain and access services through providers rather than going through a really argues process of finding out if you are eligible for medical assistance, to where the assessment is done at the hospital. We have really streamlined our operation in such a way that is going to become a model for the rest of the State. I think Mavis Nimoh, our Director of Drug & Alcohol, should take a great deal of pride in being able to serve more people, being able to figure out ways to utilize those dollars directly for recovery and being able to be much more proactive even with limited dollars and raising the issue of addiction and awareness particularly with our young people.

Today we are here to discuss those issues, but to also, as a Board of Commissioners, proclaim September 2011 as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

(Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation.)

*Office of County Commissioner*

## Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

### Proclamation

*We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, take great pride and pleasure in proclaiming September 2011 as "Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month" in Dauphin County;*

*Whereas, drug and alcohol addiction is a condition affecting millions of Americans, whether it is a personal addiction or the addiction of a friend or family member;*

*Whereas, assessing the need for addiction treatment is a crucial first step in helping people realize that recovery is possible and treatment is effective, and remains a priority of Dauphin County's Drug and Alcohol Services Department;*

*Whereas, at times, the barriers to accessing treatment programs that can help heal lives and families are a significant problem for those with substance use disorders; therefore, we must work together as a community to identify treatment programs which are affordable and individualized;*

*Whereas, celebrating individuals in recovery and saluting the health care providers who have helped them obtain treatment educates our community about the benefits of treatment and affirms that such providers deserve adequate compensation for their services;*

*Therefore, we join with counties throughout the Commonwealth and across the nation in proclaiming September 2011 as "Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month" in Dauphin County, and we join the 268,000 citizens of Dauphin County in supporting those in recovery so they may enjoy productive, peaceful, healthy and happy lives.*

Mr. Hartwick: With that I want to thank you for all your innovative work, all of your aggressive pursuits of addressing those issues with partnerships with the Prison and Juvenile Probation to provide services for juveniles unlike what anyone has seen in Dauphin County. We are using every dollar to try to access individuals who need help. Thank you for all of your concerns, compassion and your commitment to serving the community.

Mr. Haste: Just a follow up on what Commissioner Hartwick said. First of all I would like to say Mavis, hats off to you. I know some of the changes you made and some of the decisions you were advocating weren't that popular when you first mentioned them. I think our numbers are starting to show that you were correct in your assumptions and the directions that you wanted to take the department. I commend each and every one of you that work on this. As George was talking, I was sitting here thinking and Betsy knows this as well as anybody, I see this more from the correction side than anywhere else. When we look at the numbers, it is like 93% of those that go to jail have an addiction issue. Co-dependency is rising. The more I get involved with folks and even in youth sports I see kids who get involved in there and then they have siblings or someone else who don't...Alcohol, even at a young age, and through the parent abuse of alcohol is just...It is a real demon in our society. It is amazing how alcohol and all that goes with it is glamorized in our society. It is really the start of a lot of the problems. Your awareness and I hope we get more recovering people to get go out there and preach it, because that's how people see it the most. Your involvement in Drug Court has been eye opening. I think not only for those of us that are here, but those in the Courts and in the criminal justice system. As George said I think Dauphin County, we have a lot to be proud of. We have a lot still to do, but I'm very pleased with our departments and our free-thinkers and the ones who are willing to try. The only ones

who make mistakes are those who try. I'm really glad to see that we are getting innovative in what we are doing. The coordination that we have between your department, the agencies that are out there, our other departments, that is the only way that we are going to, I can't say beat this, but keep a lid on what is going on in our society. The cost of drug and alcohol abuse to all of us is tremendous. Too many people don't realize that. My hat is off to you and I thank you very much for what you are doing.

Mr. Hartwick: The students have been very essential to what we have been able to do. They have been a really great addition. One of the things that I realize more and more is that as cool as I think I am, even with my young daughters, I don't know how to necessarily communicate in the most effective way to their peers and figuring out, from a student's level, what the best way is to engage and to really try to get that message out in a positive way. That has been a learning experience for me, both with social media network and terminology. We are grateful for your support and would like to hear from them as well.

Ms. Nimoh: I'm not going to really speak. I'm going to let them speak. I just wanted to introduce the folks that are here today. We have the Division Director of Treatment for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Steve Seitchik. We also have the Director of the Pennsylvania Recovery Organization Alliance, Cheryl Floy. We have Sherry Clouser our Prevention Specialist, who is really pivotal in putting together our Youth Advisory Board. We have members from the Youth Advisory Board, if you want to wave. We also have Martin Adams who is the President of our Youth Advisory Board. He just wants to say a couple words on behalf of the Department. I want to thank both of you for your support over the last three years. We wouldn't have been able to make the turnaround that we were able to do without it. I thank you for your continued support for Drug and Alcohol.

Mr. Adams: Greetings distinguished guests and Dauphin County Commissioners. My name is Martin Adams. I'm the President of Dauphin County Youth Advisory Board. We are a youth-based group to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services. We were formed in 2010. Our model is we are the voice of a drug and alcohol free generation. What that means to us is we intend to set examples to our peers that we can live full, happy and productive lives without the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Over the course of a year and a half, the YAB has performed community service projects at our local food shelters, organized a community give back day that gave away thousands of articles of clothing and goods for residents, hosted a leadership camp, a holiday event called "Trunks or Treats", public service announcements on the radio all promoting alternatives to engaging risky behaviors. We have also learned from our advisors, Sherry Clouser, Dionne Baylor, Heather Crook and our Director, Mavis Nimoh, that leadership begins with each of us. Therefore, we have all made a pledge to be drug, alcohol and tobacco free. As you youth leaders representing communities throughout Dauphin County, we would like to thank our Dauphin County Commissioners, Jeff Haste, Mike Pries and George P. Hartwick for proclaiming September to be Dauphin County Recovery Month and in conjunction with Dauphin County communities and

counties throughout the nation for celebrating National Recovery Month. When prevention works and treatment is effective, people recover. We have proof that prevention works. We know treatment is effective as the Department served 1,600 people last year with treatment services and the County's Drug Court graduated numerous individuals. Lastly, people do recover when working with individuals in the Department's Recovery Committee. Thank you!

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Haste: What all schools do we have represented here today?

Ms. Nimoh: Well, we actually have Halifax. Because it was in the middle of a school day, we couldn't get a lot of kids out. We actually have Heather Crook here who is the Halifax coordinator. She is our prime advisor for the Youth Advisory Board. I want to thank Halifax for that commitment. We have a very close bond with the Northern Dauphin area. A number of the students are here and I don't know if they want to stand up and introduce themselves. We also have Jonathan, who graduated from Susquehanna School District, as well.

Students that were present: Gabrielle, Andrea, Brooke and Jonathan

Mr. Haste: I want to thank you for what you are doing. I don't know if you understand how important it is what you are doing, but if you just look back and what you can teach older generations. When I look back on recycling, recycling was a thing that my generation didn't do. I was a generation of disposable. Now, I recycle like crazy, not because I thought it was the right thing, but my kids made me do it. You talk about peer pressure; I don't know any better peer pressure out there than youth to parents. I know there are a lot of parents in a generation ahead of you, 30's and 40's, who still think and I get amazed at this, that buzz drinking and driving is okay. I hope that what you are doing in your pledge takes on like the recycling did and you teach the generations ahead of you the right way to handle things. My hat is off to you. I want to thank you and I admire what you are doing. So, keep it up!

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

## **B. Elizabeth Nichols, Deputy Warden and Jack Wright, Grant Writer**

### **1. Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative**

Ms. Nichols: Jack and I are here today to request permission to submit for the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Grant. As you are very familiar with, many years ago we had Project Trade where we had the men refurbish the house on Derry Street. Over about a year and a half ago, we submitted another Federal Grant to work with the women. That is coming to an end. It was actually supposed to end in December and we kind of squeezed the money out. We are hoping to squeeze it until this December. This would be a grant to start up in January working with the men again. We are

rotating it. The total cost of the project will be \$200,000. We are requesting \$150,000 from PCCD and \$50,000 from the Commissioners.

Mr. Haste: What would it take to get to the point where we have it ongoing for both, men and women?

Ms. Nichols: We would have to have two instructors, two separate places, because I wouldn't want to mix the men and women participants. I think at first we probably should have them separate to see how that works out. So, actually it would be \$180,000 is the part of Project Trade and what it would cost to up and run that, so it would probably be \$360,000.

Mr. Haste: There is no savings by...Why would it have to cost that much?

Ms. Nichols: A lot of that is the instructor's cost. So, you would have to have two instructors. We would only have to have one manager managing both projects and finding jobs for both projects, but some of that is materials and things like that. They would have to learn how to build things. So, it is project materials and what not. You have two projects going on and you would have twice as many inmates participating in it. There would be a savings as far as the manager. I just kind of doubled that quickly.

Mr. Haste: I support this, but I really would like to get to the point where it is ongoing for both.

Ms. Nichols: I would too. That is what we are asking for this year. I met with PCCD last month. They were picking my brain as to what we actually needed. Many years ago there was a grant with PCCD for bricks and mortar. That was to build prisons. I know you don't want to give money to build prisons, but what we need is bricks and mortar for this program. I can take a house off the tax rolls for \$1.00, but I need the materials to fix that house up. Once I get the materials to fix that house up and can sell that house, not making a profit, but enough to keep the program going for other materials and things like that. That is something that they said they would consider in the future. We have local churches out there that would give us the house. They just don't have the money for the materials to fix the house up. Once you do that how do you get the money back to keep the program continuing? This is our third shot at it with asking for grant money. It would be nice to have something that is self-sufficient.

Mr. Hartwick: Have we ever gone through with a number of the community-based groups that are surrounding reentry? I don't know what your overall comprehensive plan is relating to the prisoner reentry program, but one of the things that I know needs to occur is, hopefully this is helping to provide some real marketable skills. Folks are going to be forced to make the same decisions. They have child support and fines and costs to pay. They are strapped and they are in a situation where they are probably going to have to resort to whatever economic means, legal or illegal, that they need to undertake in order to try to meet their obligations. What I was thinking and one of the things that has been real successful for our juvenile program is we have 46 kids doing

painting and landscaping, how to spec out and to really create an economic opportunity, hopefully the base for some future vo-technical education and other avenues about changing your expectations. Absent that piece of it, you are going to expect to see a significant amount of the same behavior. You also have to address the drug and alcohol and mental health issues along with that. What kind of comprehensive strategy are we trying to put together? I think the State is moving. We've moved in the juvenile system, I know we have done a lot with the adult system with the mental health diversion and the drug diversion. I think the missing component has been housing and job skills development. Those are the two areas that have not allowed us to be as successful in the reentry program from our standpoint. Are there any resources that could take a look at a comprehensive strategy for reentry? I know the Courts are interested and I know the Commissioners are interested in being a little bit more, instead of just doing a year program, that may be able to be fulfilled by PCCD that does provide real help to people and get them skills, more of a comprehensive strategy that involves all the stakeholders in a reentry sort of strategy. I know our community has come up with a couple of plans. How can that work along with the Prison?

Ms. Nichols: You are absolutely right, because that was their total reason that we brought this program back with the women. Especially the women, they are the ones that do not have—they are working as maids and they needed a more substantial income. That is the sole reason for this program.

Mr. Haste: In fact, I think I saw a letter this week or last week from one of the ladies that came through the program who thanked us. She now has a permanent job and she talked about how it made a big difference in her life.

Ms. Nichols: She is one too that also has mental health problems and was in our disciplinary unit and has been a long term repeat offender. So, for her to complete that...You may not have the numbers, but for her not to come back is a big success.

Mr. Haste: Again on what Commissioner Hartwick was saying, I think we need to make this permanent. We need to find a way to expand upon it. We need to have an overall plan. I know within our Criminal Justice Center, that is one of my hopes is that reentry is a key part of that. We need to start planning that now.

Mr. Wright: This is a Criminal Justice Advisory Board grant. As such, we have along the lines of both your suggestion that we have an ongoing construction and employment program for both the males and females. Perhaps we can meet with the Criminal Justice Advisory Board members and get their feedback and thoughts in terms of having an ongoing process as opposed to our every year or two going to PCCD for funds. Let's see what kind of advice they might have to offer.

Mr. Haste: I actually saw where in the trades women oftentimes score better than men on the electrical side.

Ms. Nichols: Yes.

Mr. Haste: I don't know that we've really pursued that. It would be great to get these ladies taught in electrical work and get out there and start...Google it and I don't know that you would find too many women electricians out there. It is said that they would make great electricians.

Ms. Nichols: Our fingers are smaller. That was one of the reasons with the last grant that we went with the women. I thought HBI was going to be kind of hesitant, because women are very hard to work with. That was one of the things that the supervisory position does. They have been in contact with a lot of the electrical companies. To be perfectly honest with you, right now is a really hard time to find people jobs in this industry, but I don't want to give this up because it is a really good project. I think it is a really good idea. I just kind of what to weather out the housing market right now with it and get these people in as we can.

Mr. Hartwick: I welcome being a part of it. I think the time has come where the Courts, I know Judge Hoover and I have had the conversation and Judge Evans and I have had the conversation about a comprehensive strategy for trying to provide holistic reentry services. We actually did such a good job on the homeless side of trying to develop that strategy that I think we saw an influx of folks. We would like to talk about even some requirements if we are going to run and get the WIB around the table, churches, mental health professionals, the Courts.

Mr. Haste: Even the trade unions.

Mr. Hartwick: We should make it a requirement to provide services to people who reside in Dauphin County. We don't want to build a reentry program that is going to be so successful that we are going to see a significant influx of people. But having those kinds of discussions and a larger stakeholder group of County employees and I know we have had community folks discussing it, but I don't know to what extent we've had a real focus, internal effort, Countywide with those stakeholders. I know you have picked up the ball and done a significant amount of work. You deserve a great deal of credit. I think if we are okay from the Board's perspective, we should talk about a much more comprehensive strategy and try to get all the players around the table and develop a plan for reentry and go after dollars that could be sustainable over the course of time. That would be my suggestion.

Ms. Nichols: The next step maybe bring it up at the CJAB Meeting and then I also have some stakeholders that we have been working with, Habitat for Humanity and a local organization that works with handicapped people in refurbishing their houses and things that we have been working with as far as some of the providers and maybe some of the local businesses at the direction of CJAB.

Mr. Hartwick: I'm available and I think that is a great idea.

Mr. Haste: Do you need us to take action today or is next week fine?



Ms. Nichols: Next week is fine.

## **C. Sue Cohick and Sandy Pintarch – Children & Youth Agency**

### **1. 2012/2013 Needs Based Budget**

Ms. Cohick: Sandy and I are here to present or review our official Needs Based Budget submission. You recall that we had presented, along with the other County departments, our fiscal budget projections for July 1 through June 30. With the Needs Based Budget process, through the Department of Public Welfare, the timing doesn't actually coincide. We have to submit our budget in two segments. By August 15<sup>th</sup>, we have to submit a narrative portion of our Needs Based Budget and then by September 15<sup>th</sup>, we submit the fiscal portion. We are here just to review that actual submission that will be going to the Department of Public Welfare. It does take the information that we presented earlier prior to July 1 and updates that for you so that it is the same information that you are getting, as well as the Department of Public Welfare. Since our presentation for the County budget, you received a letter that indicated that our confirmed allocation from DPW was decreased from what we had projected. They had taken some money from what we call our Act 148 allocation dollars. Just to review very briefly, our Act 148 dollars are the dollars that provide us a little bit more flexibility. You would have seen in the allocation letter that we received from the Department of Public Welfare that our evidenced-based programs were supported at the level that we requested. Where the reduction came was in the Act 148, which was again where that flexibility occurs.

There are a couple highlights that we want to bring to your attention. I'll let Sandy focus on the fiscal components and then I would like to come back and just identify some programmatic things that relate to that.

Ms. Pintarch: The budget, as it is prepared, is really prepared in a worst case scenario mindset. In that this is our opportunity for fiscal year 2012/2013 to present our plan and discuss the needs of Dauphin County specifically, how we are going to meet those needs, either with continued or new programming, and how we may respond to specific trends that are occurring.

In doing so, we did try to project in a way that will promote the idea of obtaining the most possible Act 148 dollars that might be available. If those dollars are not approved obviously we will need to make adjustments as we move forward in our County budget as it is presented next Spring for 2013.

There are a number of factors that are currently impacting our budget, both for the current year and pass year. They include the fact that we still have about 60 of 200 providers whose rates have not been finally approved for 2011 by the State. We still have outstanding Title IV-E invoicing that needs to be done. We've maximized our invoicing through June 30<sup>th</sup> as much as possible, based upon the rates that have been

approved. For Dauphin County, we have probably 10 to 12 providers in that list of 60 whose rates have not been finalized and not been presented to the Commissioners for approval. At that point in time we will be doing some additional retroactive Title IV-E invoicing for 2011, which will reduce the County's share. At this point, we can't project that and we want to give the State a clear picture of where we are at this point in time based upon the known factor of Title IV-E. That carries over in 2013, because this is an automated program, so that revenues and expenditures carry forth from one year to the next and then we have to make adjustments, which were provided to you in the packet; a list for both 2011/2012 and for 2012/2013. Those adjustments really reflect the kinds of programming reductions that we may have. For example, as children move from foster care into adoption, we would have costs then that move. They would decrease for foster care and increase for adoption subsidy. We also would have any reflections upon approved positions that were approved by the State in last year's Needs Based submission for 2011/2012. Any proposals for 2012/2013 would be included in next year's budget. Based upon the final figures that were produced through the automated program, what we are requesting of the State is approximately \$24.5 million in Act 148 dollars. We realize that will not realistically be our final number, but again as we plan and move forward to our 2012/2013 County budget, we will adjust figures to responsibly react to what our final allocation or tentative allocation will be and will receive that next Spring.

Again, although this does not reflect our evidenced-based programs, many of our grants are really targeted at trying to reduce the number of placements. If those are effective in a number of initiatives that we have in place, our real hope is that our placement numbers, particularly for dependent youth, will decrease. That is the factor that will have the biggest impact on reducing costs for the County. I was very conservative though in budgeting anything related to that. Again, as I mentioned, most of the adjustments do reflect worst case scenario. It is certainly our hope that our final figures for 2011/2012 will reflect some significant reductions as presented here.

Ms. Cohick: I wanted to highlight a couple things, just for your consideration, as we move forward knowing the environment that the State is in right now related to fiscal matters. If you look within the budget highlights within your packet and you look on the final page of those budget highlights, one of the bullets under Section F, that is labeled comments, you will see there where it is identified how many mandates have come down upon the counties, particularly the child welfare agencies, to comply with. Just to highlight that, during the last three years, 46 new mandates have been implemented by DPW. When you compare that to a total of 76 mandates that were implemented in the prior 27 years, you will see that the environment between the Department of Public Welfare and the counties, the Department is attempting to put more mandates on the services that are being provided, which reduces our flexibility to be innovative at times. One of the messages that we'd like to convey is that flexibility, whether it's through funding or the reduction of mandates would be beneficial for counties. Every county, as you know, is different. So, the way that we can meet the needs of each county depends upon that flexibility related to how we provide those services and also how we use the

dollars. When we are facing a reduction in Act 148 dollars, which are the ones that allow us the most flexibility; how will we meet the County's needs moving forward?

We certainly have tried to put programs in place that do address the needs of Dauphin County, but again each year is different depending upon the environment and depending upon what happens with the juvenile justice system, as well as the child welfare system. We have seen reductions in placements, which has been a cost benefit to the County. We predict, as Sandy said, from a conservative basis, that we will continue to be very sensitive to placements, continue to work to reduce those. If anything changes in our economic environment or our management of juvenile justice, it will impact us significantly in our budgetary projections.

Mr. Haste: What percentage of these dollars are Federal pass-through dollars? As you know, we have been advocating, for lack of a better phrase, a block grant approach. Both Commissioner Hartwick and I have been told that if they can get to that point, Dauphin County will be one of the pilots. It is my understanding still in that, one of the difficulties that we have, are the strings that are attached from the Feds, because the Federal pass-through dollars is a different issue from the State dollars.

Ms. Cohick: Correct.

Mr. Haste: If we get to that how much of that will really have an impact here?

Ms. Pintarch: If you look at the budget summary page, under FY 2012/2013, of the \$46.3 million budget, approximately \$9.5 is Federal funds. It is approximately 20%.

Mr. Haste: So, it would have a significant impact on us.

Ms. Pintarch: Right now most of our Federal dollars really are placement related and you don't generate those dollars unless you place kids. So, although all the Federal regulations and the Federal mandates and many of the things that we are expected to do are aimed at reducing placements and really engaging families and providing connections to the biological families. The only stable and I'm not sure it is even stable at this point, but the only real Federal funding stream we have is that Title IV-E, which primarily is a reward almost for placing kids.

Mr. Hartwick: Not to mention the issues that are complicated in surrounding Title IV-E right now and the uncertainty with the provider lawsuit that has really placed about \$30 million in jeopardy in the State of Pennsylvania. There is a group of providers that moved forward. There is a process of issuing bulletins to change some regulatory and some oversight responsibility from DPW's standpoint. Instead of changing and amending the Public Welfare Code, they would go through the process of issuing bulletins to counties as a way and mechanism to change and to have them adopt certain procedures that they thought were making them more federally compliant. The providers took the position that they would take this up in Court and have won. Their initial court case, which puts about \$30 million in jeopardy in IV-E funding and not to

mention what the impacts are going to be ongoing and how that issue is all going to settle out and what it means to the State if they have to repay those IV-E dollars to the Feds. There is a lot of uncertainty and a lot of really not addressing some of the most critical structural funding issues right now, particularly in the overall...You said that is the only stable source of funding.

Ms. Pintarch: We have very minor funding through Title XX and IV-B. In addition to that there is still a substantial amount of deferred payments from the Federal government from FY 2009/2010 that will not be released until the Federal government feels very satisfied that the State of Pennsylvania has addressed all the issues with determining what are allowable Title IV-E rates, which is what all of this contracting process was initiated to address.

Mr. Hartwick: What we need to stay focused on is what we can control. In this budget we can control really keeping in mind the safety of children first, but we need to make sure we are doing everything we can to engage families to provide a support system to reduce placements. That is the only way that we are going to impact the bottom line of our budget. I think we have done a very good job on the delinquency side. We need to make those inroads to the extent that we can on the dependency side while not jeopardizing the safety of our kids. I know that is the challenge. For us to be using evidenced-based, family-based, community engagement, family finding and family-group conferencing in a way that is really going to allow us to have options other than formal placement is really the only way we are going to see, from our control standpoint, a reduction in the bottom line of both the County's share and our overall line item. For us, the \$537,000 question for this year, which I don't think has been answered yet, is what is the State going to do.

Ms. Cohick: The State has provided no guidance or response to making a county whole. As you know, we still have a lack of leadership.

Mr. Haste: I don't know if they are at a point where they can.

Ms. Cohick: That is probably the case, but they have not made any comment to validate that.

Ms. Pintarch: For FY 2010/2011, they won't know how much unspent Act 148 dollars there are until after all counties have submitted their fourth quarter invoices. It will be probably sometime in the winter when that might be known. We also don't have any guarantees as we did when Deputy Secretary Gold was in office, that Act 148 dollars would remain available to counties in overmatch. That is a real issue.

Mr. Hartwick: Traditionally the State has been underspent in Act 148 dollars. We need to make sure that those monies go to reimburse counties that, quite frankly, have utilized Act 148 dollars wisely to try to reduce placements and other things instead of the State seeing it as another pot of money even though they have allocated in the last budget to use for other purposes.

Ms. Pintarch: That money was set aside and designated by the Legislature for child welfare and I think we need to advocate that is where the money remains.

Mr. Hartwick: On the other hand about the flexibility, we have had all of our directors submit to us in the best case scenario, both from Federal mandates and State mandates, if they had the world of how this would work what would be their ticket. We feel pretty confident that we are ahead of the game in Dauphin County as it relates to assessing needs. In our last meeting that we've had with the County Commissioners Association, Lancaster County seems to be a willing partner in addressing a lot of the issues. They got some great ideas as it relates to the mental health ID side and using waiver and other Federal regulations, which I found really exciting and innovative. They also have a new system of data, a cross systems data approach that I don't think we have examined yet. I think we are going to try to look forward...CCAP's perspective is we are not going to do a statewide proposal. We are going to do a proposal in conjunction with the human services and categorical agencies and Lancaster County to really attempt to be a model next year for what works and what doesn't. So, it does provide a unique opportunity. We have some planning sessions coming up with Lancaster County in the very near future. It is an opportunity to address and when people say what regulations would you like to address? I would like to take a look at the 46 regulations that have happened in the last year and say what are the most cumbersome and let's figure out a way for the State to address them directly. I think the sky is the limit as it relates to how we are able to structure this. They are looking for anything innovative that is going to allow us to reduce the State's long term cost commitment for State dollars and allow us the flexibility to address existing needs. That might mean some Children & Youth dollars being used for mental health purposes. We really need to think about...We don't want to rob any of the categoricals, because we know you are stretched, but this is a way for us to address our highest and most pressing needs across all systems. I think it gives you great opportunity, but also presents some real challenges with implementation. They are going to look to Dauphin County as to how we are going to attach this. Overmatch is important, make sure we maximize Act 148 dollars is extremely important. We are even looking at Schaffner at that facility to try to reduce length of stay, figuring out ways to not have kids come back and also reducing the per diem, which is still too high at Schaffner Youth Detention Center, even though we had 90% of those costs covered by the Act 148 dollars and Title IV-E dollars. We are still paying too much as it relates to other facilities for shelter. We're talking about co-locating other providers and a number of innovative things to try to push down costs. Act 148 dollars are the most flexible and the hardest to come by. We are using them quicker than almost any other county.

Ms. Cohick: The placement rates, and I'll give you a color graph, Juvenile Probation continues to do very well. Since October 2008, they have a 43% reduction in placement, which is outstanding and I doubt if matched by any other juvenile probation. Children & Youth has lagged a little bit behind that. As a matter of fact, we had one of our highest ratios in April of this year. We started in October 2008, 367 youth in placement. As of this present time, we are down to 311, which is a 15.3% reduction.

Most of that reduction has occurred between the month of April and present. Placement is only done when there is a safety risk. I think what has happened with child welfare historically is that there have been times when children have been placed for reasons other than safety. We are trying to refocus our efforts and indicate that placement will only occur if there is a safety risk to that youth. Otherwise, we'll use community resources to help support that family and engage kinship relatives to help support that family unit and strengthen the family rather than bring them into an artificial parent situation. We are proud of the work that we are doing and recognize that we have more to do. We appreciate your support and time. If you have questions, we are available not only today, but anytime that you may have them.

Mr. Hartwick: The number needs to come down significantly. I know you always give us the worst case and best case. We like when you come in well under.

Ms. Pintarch: I think I learned the first year that Needs Based Budget was created by the State. It may have been 20 years ago. I did a best case scenario and I learned from that, which is not the way to present a budget to the State, because they are going to chop away at it any way so we do want to make sure that we protected ourselves. In this economic climate, it is very difficult to predict the stressors on many families and the children that we work with.

Mr. Hartwick: I can't think of any more competent fiscal director in the State of Pennsylvania. You are not allowed to leave anytime soon.

Commissioners: Thank you!

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle: Do you have any questions on the Salary Board items?

Mr. Hartwick: When a position is created there is usually a position that is abolished. I understand, because of this process, this position needs to be created and once it is filled there will be an associated removal of a caseworker position. Make sure we stay on that. Don't increase the complement.

Mr. Haste: So, what will get eliminated eventually?

Mr. Hartwick: It will be a caseworker position in Children & Youth.

Ms. Lengle: Are there any questions on any of the items in the Personnel listing?  
(There was none.)

## **PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci: It is a relatively small packet. There are a few budgetary items that need to be cleaned up. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. (There was none.)

## **TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Haste: Item #11 we need to vote on. This is for a Solid Waste event that came up. I told them to get it in today so we could vote on it.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve Item #11 of the Training Packet.**

**Question:** Mr. Haste – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- A. Purchase of Service Per Diem Rates between Children & Youth and:
1. Hempfield Behavioral Health, Inc.
  2. It Takes a Village, Inc.
  3. Bethany Christian Services of Central PA
  4. Demage, Inc.
  5. Pressley Ridge
  6. Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, Inc.
  7. Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc.

Mr. Haste: We have Items for Discussion that are on the Agenda, which we will vote next week. Is there any discussion that needs to occur on any of these? (There was none.)

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.**

Mr. Tully: I have no changes to the draft report. If you have any questions on those matters, I would be happy to address them.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions of Bill? (There was none.)

## **CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – J. SCOTT BURFORD**

Mr. Burford: Two points that I would like to mention. One is the Parks & Recreation sponsored Jazz Festival this weekend. It is a rain or shine event. I would like to point out to keep an eye on the website and also contact Parks & Recreation if you have any other follow-up questions. With the weather predictions, I'm not sure what the status is. It will be a day-by-day. Right now it is on.

The other thing that I would like to point out is the Dauphin County Courthouse is being featured on PCN, October 13<sup>th</sup> and it is basically a program sponsored in part with CCAP on county historical buildings throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. Haste: Did they give you a time?

Mr. Burford: 6:00 p.m. on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Also, as a part of that partnership, CCAP and PNC have partnered to develop services across the Commonwealth. That segment featuring Dauphin County Children & Youth and Human Services will be aired on September 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, EMA will be featured as well.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

(There was none.)

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Matt, just for your benefit, we are having a briefing at 11:00 a.m. downstairs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz