



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' WORKSHOP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, II, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff; Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Marie Rebuck, Controller; Bob Dick, Treasurer; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Assistant Solicitor; Chip Vance, Esq., Assistant Solicitor; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; J. Scott Burford, Spring Creek Administrator; Barry Wyrick, MH/MR Administrator; Dan Eisenhauer, MH Deputy Administrator; Ellie Myers, MR Deputy Administrator; Steve Howe, Tax Assessment Director; Randy Baratucci, Purchasing Director; Edgar Cohen, Facility Maintenance Director; Tom Guenther, Information Technology Director; Mike Pries, Security Director; Kay Sinner, Personnel; Sharon Way, Personnel; Bob Christoff, Conservation District; Bob Hawley, Deputy Court Administrator; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Garry Esworthy, Risk Manager; Sandy Moore, Human Service Director; Richie Martz, Commissioners' Office; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Diane McNaughton, Press Secretary; Lena Martinez, Commissioners' Office; and Julia E. Nace, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jennie Romberger; Lee Romberger; Clark Frese; Stephen Hetrick; William Taylor; and Jack Sherzer

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 two sets of Meeting Minutes for approval at next week's meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are 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

Mr. Haste: I'm going to go out of order here and I'm going to move to Item C.

- C. Bob Christoff, Resource Planner, Dauphin County Conservation District
 - 1. Agricultural Conservation Easement Check presentation for the Faye Romberger Farm located in Washington Township.

Mr. Haste: I'll ask that Bob and the Rombergers come forward. It is our pleasure today to continue to participate in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. This is our 86th easement farm in Dauphin County. I actually remember when this program started. I was here under a different capacity. It is good to see that we are now up to 86 farms. We have a total of 8,800 acres now in the program. With today's check we'll be paying the County's portion which is 52% of the easement and the state will be picking up the 48%. I think this has been a very worthwhile program and am glad that we can continue to participate.

At this time, I would ask Bob to come forward and we will present the check to Jennie Romberger on behalf of Faye. The check is in the amount of \$60,767.65 and again that is the County's portion of the total easement. Do you have anything else that you want to add to this Bob? (Bob indicated, no.)

(The check was presented and pictures were taken.)

Mr. Haste: At this time, I'll turn the microphone over to George.

A. Commissioners

1. Proclamation Presentation to Barry Wyrick, MH/MR Administrator.

Mr. Hartwick: It's with mixed emotions that I provide this next presentation. I know that there have been many phases of this Board of Commissioners that we have tackled and many people that we have worked with and I know this Board has come in and tried to send a clear message that we know that the people who do the job every day are the ones who make or break the County. I know that in Mental Health we have an individual who has been passionately and personally involved in trying to address the issues and be there as a spokesperson on the state level and obviously here in the County to try to raise awareness about mental health issues, about issues related to mental retardation and not just to talk about it, but also put firm policies and go out after funding in the state hospital transition in order to make sure that not only do we raise awareness about these issues, but when we have the opportunity we try to address the issues in a meaningful way that is going to hopefully change the face of the way we view mental health illness, mental retardation issues in all of Dauphin County and in all of Pennsylvania. I'm proud to have worked with Barry Wyrick and I said it is with mixed emotions that we address him today even though we're going to be extremely successful in how he moves the organization so we'll still continue to judge him as he leaves. One of the things that we certainly value in Barry is his involvement here in the County and his passion that he has shown in the area of mental health and mental retardation with a lot of work yet to be done. We feel he has left us in able hands but it is with mixed emotions because he is now going to spend a lot of time on the golf course and I'm very jealous. He spent a great deal of time planning out for what he actually wants to do with he and his wife in their later years and that plan has come to fruition so in that part of your life I'm glad for you Barry but it certainly is our loss. With that I could go on and on about Barry but unless you want to stay for a long time, I'm going to cut my comments. I think there are some other Commissioners who also would like to make a few comments today. With that I would like to read a proclamation and then followed by a special presentation and then we would like to bring you up to have some photos taken.

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 joining the countless friends, family members, co-workers and fellow human service providers in congratulating Barry K. Wyrick on his years of dedicated, compassionate service to persons with mental illness and mental retardation, and in wishing him well as he pursues the new opportunities that await him in Florida;

Whereas, after receiving a B.A. in Psychology in 1980, Barry graduated summa cum laude with an M.S. in Community Counseling from Shippensburg University and summa cum laude with a Masters in Business Administration from Penn State-Harrisburg;

Whereas, after years of outstanding work in the mental health field, Barry began employment with The Stevens Center in Carlisle, where he served as director of various departments, including Drug and Alcohol Programs and Outpatient Services, before becoming Executive Director of Cumberland Valley Mental Health Center in 1999;

Whereas, Barry began his employment with Dauphin County as Administrator of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and has been directly involved with the development and execution of a transition plan for state hospital patients in the months prior to closure and the promotion of a new focus on the mentally ill in prisons;

Whereas, in Florida, Barry plans to spend his time golfing and enjoying his family;

Therefore, we join the 251,300 residents of Dauphin County in applauding Barry K. Wyrick as he leaves Dauphin County behind, with a superlative record of hard work, impassioned advocacy and public service; we applaud his devotion to personal excellence, professional achievement and community service; we wish him continued health, happiness and success in the years to come; and in grateful

recognition of his exemplary life and professionalism, we proudly declare January 20, 2006 as "Barry Wyrick Day" in Dauphin County.

Mr. Hartwick: Now I would like to turn the microphone over to my colleague Commissioner DiFrancesco.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Let me begin by congratulating you on a job well done for Dauphin County. We are truly blessed in this County to have many professionals who pour their heart and soul into what they do. They believe in it passionately. You certainly stand among that group as one of those people. You've done an excellent job for us and for the people that you serve. We really, really hate to see you go and at the same time, I'm sitting here very jealous that you're going someplace very, very nice. I wish you and your wife great pleasure as you move on in your career to another phase. Now having given you the appropriate commendations and the pats on the back, I think it is important also to note as you're leaving I felt a calling to do something for you. On behalf of the Board, I do have a presentation for you when you come up to get your proclamation. I would like to give you this plaque that I had made up for you on behalf of the Board. It is an aerial picture of the State Hospital. And as you move forward in your career and go down to Florida, I just wanted to make sure that you never forget what that wonderful institution looks like.

Mr. Wyrick: I would like to have an aerial photo of those grounds in about ten years.

Mr. Haste: You can come back, we'll give you one. I, too, would like to say thank you. It's funny when I first came to the County and saw this long-haired hippy dude walking around talking about issues, I thought oh my goodness what are we in for. Then I found out he was from the Queen City eating White Castles and chili and graduated from Shippensburg, I thought he couldn't be all that bad. I know someone else like that.

We had a discussion Tuesday at the Prison. We fought for so long to get someone in your agency to pay attention to what is going on at the Prison, the difficulty that we are in. In the past it has been said, our dollars can't go there so it is not our problem. From a consumer's perspective, it is still the County. When we first started talking about it, I wasn't sure you understood what I was talking about. But, you made a believer out of me. The folks at the Prison, just this past Tuesday, were talking about in their mind what they feel what a great loss this will be with you moving forward because again this is the first time that they thought they were heard and someone understood the issues that they were talking about out there and the difficulty that they face. To you, that's a great hats-off!! Hopefully those that follow in your footsteps have recognized what you have done out there and will continue that. I, too, want to echo my two colleagues' remarks and say that I'm saddened that you're leaving. I think you were a great asset to Dauphin County. I do on a personal level wish you a lot of luck. I still think Dauphin County is the best place to live even though it is fun to visit Florida. I wish you a lot of success, luck and enjoyment down south. If you get a chance to move north or come

north again, call me and we'll go have a White Castle somewhere. We'll enjoy those. I wish you a lot of luck.

Barry, you are next on the agenda.

B. Barry Wyrick, MH/MR Administrator

1. Up-date on Mental Retardation services in PA.

Mr. Wyrick: We decided that I couldn't leave without one last opportunity to sit here. Through the Hospital closure process I was offered a permanent seat. I declined that offer.

There are some significant changes that are occurring in the mental retardation system that the Commissioners will be dealing with over the coming months. I was asked to provide an update on those issues and to answer any questions before I left. Ellie, Deputy Mental Retardation Administrator for the County, has been intimately involved in these processes and probably knows more about them than I do. We just want to go through these today to talk about some of the changes that are going to be occurring in the coming months and answer any questions that you have.

The changes in the Mental Retardation System are a result of a compliance review of the Pennsylvania Mental Retardation waivers by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. There are actually two mental retardation waivers that we participate in here in Dauphin County. Those are the consolidated waiver which is a program that entitles the individual to any services that they need to meet their needs. Then there is the person and family directive waiver. That is a non-residential service waiver. It actually has an annual dollar cap. It is through these waiver programs that Pennsylvania is able to drawdown federal match on the dollars that they spend for mental retardation services. If you look on the next page, what that means in Dauphin County is the waiver services provide over \$30 million of our total budget of about \$36 million in mental retardation services. Of that \$30 million a little more than \$15 million of it is actually federal dollars that are drawn down through the waiver. So the waiver program is a very, very important part of the funding for mental retardation services in Dauphin County. The federal waiver has a life span that must be renewed every five years and that renewal of Pennsylvania's waiver was due in July of 2005. As CMS reviewed the material for the renewal they actually declined to renew Pennsylvania's waiver and they said there are very, very important things that must be taken care. So all we're going to do is to provide 90-day extensions of your current waiver. They agreed to provide four 90-day extensions if they saw significant progress toward meeting the changes that they were requiring and we've already been through two of those 90-day extensions. We are now into the third 90-day extension. So July 1 of 2006 the state must be fully compliant with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. They have threatened to deny Pennsylvania's waiver which would remove all the federal dollars. That is how critically important these issues are. The issues that CMS had with Pennsylvania's waiver were

basically two. Those two concerns that they had went throughout the entire mental retardation service delivery system in the state.

The first of those concerns is that there was variability between the counties and how the counties administered mental retardation services. And what CMS said is this is a state waiver not a county program and so there is one consistent program throughout the state not 47, 50 or 67 different programs depending on which county you live in.

The second concern was that there were individuals who were enrolled in the consolidated waiver who had unmet needs, meaning that those needs were not being addressed. A consolidated waiver says the individual must receive all of the services that they need if they are enrolled in the program. It was those two issues that threatens Pennsylvania's waiver.

In response to the issues raised by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Pennsylvania has developed basically seven things that we are currently working on. The first of those is that there will be a state contract with the counties for waiver services. Secondly, there will be a state defined contract and the elements of the contract will be defined by the state for the contract between counties and the provider organizations. So rather than using the boiler plate that we currently use, we will be receiving a new boiler plate that the state says you must use this boiler plate for your waiver contracts. Third, there was a state-wide rate-setting process that is being implemented. Fourth, there is state-wide provider qualification process rather than the counties deciding whether a provider is qualified to provide the service. The state will be making that decision and they will qualify that provider throughout the state to provide services any where in the state.

Mr. Hartwick: Do we see any issues with our current providers?

Mr. Wyrick: No, they'll be fine, the ones that provide services for us, yes.

Fifth, there will be a state-wide process for defining consumer need. That was one of the elements. That was a vast variability across the state on how does the county define what a need is? There will be a state-wide process implemented that actually measures and defines individuals needs for services.

Sixth, there is a dispute resolution process where the state will actually be involved in both disputes between consumers and the counties regarding needed services, and also disputes between the counties and provider organizations over the delivery of services. There will be a dispute resolution process implemented where the state will be making the final decisions on those disputes.

Finally, if a county chooses not to participate, not to contract with the state for the delivery for waiver services the state will be issuing an RFP for a state-wide administrative entity that will administer the waiver services for the county if the county chooses not to. That is how the state has responded to the issues raised by CMS.

What does that mean for us in Dauphin County? As I analyze it really four things leaped out at me. First of all for the first time the County will be required to enter into a contract with the state regarding waiver services. In the past, there has been a supplemental grant agreement where basically they send that down to my office and say this is how you're supposed to administer the waiver program and we have done that. What will now be presented is an actual contract between Dauphin County and the state, very much like the Health Choices Contract, where we will need to bring that contract to the Commissioners to sign. It is an agreement between the state and Dauphin County. Secondly, as I said, we will be required to use a state defined boiler plate for our contracts with providers regarding waiver services. Now for the services that are not covered by the waiver we will continue to be able to use our existing contracts. But for waiver services, there will be a different contract that we will be required to use. This is not yet settled whether that is going to be an amendment to the contract or whether it must be a separate contract. There is the possibility that we'll be required to execute two contracts with our mental retardation providers, one for non-waiver services and one for waiver services. There is a possibility that will happen for the 2006/2007 year. Third, if a provider is qualified by the state and if a consumer chooses that provider the County will be required to enter into a contract with that provider. What that does is it enables consumer choice. The consumers are able to look at all the providers and what the providers have to offer and choose what best meets their needs. But it puts the county in a position of having to support that by executing a contract with the provider organization. If a provider gets in trouble with the state, it is the state's responsibility to kind of police the providers that they have qualified. The county is involved in that process but, the state, if there is any disciplinary action taken against the provider, is ultimately responsible for that. Finally, fourth the county will be required to meet all of the unmet needs of individuals who are currently in the waiver before we are able to serve any new individuals. In the past, we have balanced what have been unidentified needs with the needs of individuals who are receiving no services. And when we have received new money, we have looked and said, how can we best spend that money? What we have done, is we have met some of the unmet needs that we've identified, but also served some individuals who were receiving no services. We will not be allowed to do that in the future.

Our flexibility of choosing which consumers we will be serving is going to be lost especially for the next two years because all of the expansion money that is going to be available from the state is going to be used both this year 2005/2006 and next year 2006/2007 to meet the needs of individuals who are already in the waiver who have unmet needs. So we'll not be serving any new consumers off the waiting list until July, 2007 except those in very, very, very emergency situations where an individual becomes frankly homeless unless we intervene and provide services. Realistically the only way that we have the ability to do that, meaning the money and slots in the waiver to do that, is if somebody for some reason drops out of the waiver. The usual reason for an individual dropping out of the waiver is that they die. That really is the situation that we're forced into at this point.

Mr. Hartwick: With that, what is the state-wide waiting list right now?

Ms. Myers: It is about 23,000.

Mr. Hartwick: We expect it to go expeditiously with these new regulations?

Ms. Myers: This whole crackdown by the federal government is one of the reasons why the waiting list is growing at the rapid rate that it is because as Barry said we can't just sort of try to meet the few needs of everyone. We have to meet all the needs of the people who are in the consolidated waiver first. That has been happening the last couple of years. Until we get all the needs of all the people in the waiver met, it will continue to happen. But, hopefully, we'll get to the point maybe in two years where that will be the case and then we'll be able to start serving new people again.

Mr. Haste: The waiting list will be so large by that time.

Ms. Myers: You're right, although we looked at our figures right before coming over here and talked about the way the list was last year when we submitted our annual mental retardation plan and we had 700 and some people on the waiting list and there are actually a few less on the waiting list now than there was then. I'm not sure why.

Mr. Wyrick: We had approximately 750 when we presented the mental retardation plan and we're at 746 right now.

Ms. Myers: We do as capacity in the existing services allows. We do take people in and they are usually the people who are in the worst crisis rather residentially. That, I expect to continue. If there is an opening in a group home, we will be able to put someone in there. We are very fortunate because we have our Respite House which is a three bed home that really should be so parents can go away for a weekend or something. In recent years, it has become sort of our crisis house. If we have someone who really has nowhere to go, their parents have died or whatever, we often can put them in the Respite House and keep them there until we get an opening in a group home. But, Barry is right, once people come in there isn't a lot of turnover because these are long term care services. Whenever we can we move people in. We try to help people find other solutions.

Mr. Haste: Can you give me a typical profile of who is in the waiver program?

Ms. Myers: In the consolidated waiver, the focus of the consolidated waiver are people who require residential care. They are typically adults. We serve very few children residentially. That is a wonderful thing in the years that I've been working with the County, we've been able to provide enough support for families and I don't mean just us, but the schools, etc., that families are able to keep their children at home. So it is typically adults and typically people who either at some point along the way came out of state institutions because we used to have, when I first started working for the County, we had over 250 people from Dauphin County who were in state institutions. That was

a long time ago. Now we have 11 or 12. So over the years, those folks came back to the County so there are those folks and then there are people who need usually 24 hour supervision and whose family support is now gone. Their families are either no longer able to take care of them or are no longer with us. In the residential program, there is anything from people who are in apartment living all the way up to people who are really total care medically involved or behaviorally disordered or whatever. That is where the bulk of that \$30 million is spent in the residential services. We also can serve people in their own home. We have some people who have staff who come into their own home and work with them in their own home and who go to day programs, like Goodwill or something. That's the consolidated waiver. The person and family directed support waiver was written specifically for people who are keeping their family member at home and that includes a lot of children. In that waiver, we're able to provide respite care and home base services and the day programs, etc. That waiver has a cap of approximately \$22,000 a year. The people in the consolidated waiver some of their services might be very expensive depending on their needs; especially the people who are either really total care, medically involved or people who are behaviorally disordered or dual diagnosed that also may have a mental health problem. That segment of our population is probably some of the most care dependent people that the society sees.

Mr. Hartwick: Give me an example of individuals that are on the waiting list.

Ms. Myers: A lot of those folks on the waiting list have some of the same kinds of needs as the people who are in the waiver except that they have family members and community base services that are helping to keep them at home. On the waiting list right now, we have a lot of older adults whose parents are in their 70s & 80s even 90s and have cared for their family members for their whole lives and now they're really at the end of the time when they can care for them. Also on the waiting list, we have all these young people who are graduating from school who, you know their right to education extends up to age 21 for people with disabilities, and then when they graduate at age 21, what should happen is if they have ongoing programming needs then they would transition to the mental retardation system. But the last, at least three fiscal years, our whole graduating classes have graduated to no support from us unless they were already in a waiver. That's one of the reasons why the waiting list has grown and grown.

We had last Spring, you know there was expansion funding in the Governor's budget, and we had been given direction to look at all of our recent graduates and to make a proposal to the state as to what it would cost to serve them in day programs and we were getting that together when this CMS ruling came out that we couldn't serve anyone else until the people in the waiver had their needs fully met. At that time, we had, I think it was 67 recent graduates, of our kids that were graduating that year who had no support. Just giving you an example on that, Barry was called by Representative Marsico's office about a family who had a daughter who is graduating this year and she has many needs. She should be going into a day program and getting therapy and supports, etc. At this point, we can promise them nothing. This is the only game in town more or less. It's the money that we have to do things with.

Mr. Haste: How many people are covered by the waivers now?

Ms. Myers: We have over 600 people in Dauphin County who are in the two waivers.

Mr. Haste: There are more on the waiting list?

Ms. Myers: Over 700 people on the waiting list. Some of the people on the waiting list, though that is a little misleading, because there are people on the waiting list who are in a waiver. They have some services but they are waiting for something else. That is one of CMS's issues. We have to serve them first. I don't know that number. I do know that what they decided to do was to take all the money that the Governor had allocated for expansion, or I guess what CMS wants them to do, is to take all the money that the Governor allocated for expansion and use it to meet the needs of people in the Consolidated Waiver that are in emergency status. There are three levels, emergency, critical and planning. So we had to send in a list of people who were in emergency status in the Consolidated Waiver and that was somewhere between 11-15 people but it was over a \$1 million. We have not heard anything about getting that money this year. We have not gotten the money. Here we are seven months into the fiscal year and the money is in the state budget. We still haven't gotten that even for the people who are in the emergency status in the waiver.

Mr. Hartwick: How are these folks making it?

Ms. Myers: Typically, they are getting some services, just sort of a stop gap kind of thing until services come through.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Can you give me that number again? How many people and how much money?

Ms. Myers: It was somewhere between 11-15 people and over a \$1 million. I can get you the exact numbers on that. We are waiting for that \$1 million. We are expecting to get it. It is allocated. Of course, I guess other counties have lots of needs, too.

Mr. Wyrick: Just one thing to highlight about the changes and that is there are two things that we view as positive results of this change. The first of those is, when we are done with this, there will be a clear process for identifying consumer needs. Right now, a consumer need is defined by how vocal the consumer is and who they contact about their needs for the consumer and their family. In the future, we will have a process for actually identifying what those needs are. There have been some abuses in the MR System across the state. I will not say that there have been abuses that I've seen in Dauphin County. But there have been abuses of the system across the state and this will enable them, the state, to control those abuses to make sure the funds are actually going to meet actual needs of consumers.

Mr. Hartwick: When you say, abuses,.....

Mr. Wyrick: Trips to Florida or to Ireland or hot tubs or those kinds of things. Things paid for by MR Service money in other counties.

Mr. Hartwick: I would say more on terms if somebody who has influence in authority trying to get somebody placed in the waiver system over somebody who has more critical needs but that's a little bit more.....

Ms. Myers: That happens as well.

Mr. Wyrick: But these abuses are where MR funds are used to pay for things that when you look at them you really can't justify why the person would need these services or these things and yet again through influence, those things are approved.

The second thing is a big change. That is, if the County identifies an unmet need of a consumer during the year and that means more money is needed to serve that consumer but there is no more money in the County MR budget, it is the state's responsibility to identify the funding for and to provide the funding for those additional services. The state cannot force a county into overmatch on waiver services. That is a huge change.

Mr. Haste: In reality, how is that going to happen?

Mr. Wyrick: In reality how that happens, is we identify the service...

Mr. Haste: They will say that is their promise they've had forever.

Mr. Wyrick: What has been discussed is that there would be a portion of the state MR budget that is held by the state and not allocated. The regional offices have control of those funds. The County identifies an unmet need, proposes a budget to meet that need, sends that budget to the regional office and then they release those funds to meet those needs. That is what has been proposed for 2006/2007.

Mr. Hartwick: We're still waiting for a million dollars that has been allocated and I can't wait to see how long we wait once we identify unmet needs for those monies.

Mr. Wyrick: I agree. The last thing in the separate handout is a timeline that shows regarding the contract between the County and the state for the waiver services. This shows the timeline that we're looking at. We have received the draft agreement. I forwarded that to Fred Lighty for legal review. He'll be working with the County Solicitor on that and then we will have the final version in mid-February. We then have to send in a Letter of Intent that we intend to enter into the contract in March and then the final operating agreement must be signed by the Commissioners by the middle of May. That timeline will then go forward to a contract which is effective July 1st.

Mr. Hartwick: For the record, we don't expect any new County dollars to come as a result of these additional regulations that are being placed and requirements on the County?

Mr. Wyrick: We don't expect that either.

Ms. Myers: If I could just say there won't be new County dollars but the good thing about the waiver program is over the years, it has allowed us to expand mental retardation services enormously and provide a lot more services to a lot more people with no County dollars. The waiver is 100% state and federal funding. It has allowed us to provide a tremendous amount of service. The waivers are really good things. I think Dauphin County has done a good job of administering the waiver and I think the State thinks so, too. We aren't one of their problem counties. We're sort of one of their model counties.

Mr. DiFrancesco: What is the key cost driving, when I do a simple average and you say \$11-15 million, roughly if you're spending \$100,000 on an individual, what is the key driver in that cost, is it the housing, or the services?

Mr. Wyrick: It is the housing. The house costs are not nearly as great as the staff in the house to provide the support services to the individual.

Ms. Myers: Twenty-four hour residential care, as you know with the County Nursing Home, is an expensive proposition. Then depending on the needs of the individuals, it could be a more intensive staffing level. Our residential programs by regulation waiver homes cannot be larger than usually four people to a house. That makes the staffing ratio, you need more staff.

Mr. DiFrancesco: We talked about the need for county dollars, aside from the fact that services are going to be more compelled, you're not going to be able to spread service out over more people. Do you expect the cost of service to increase because of the policy changes? Is there anything that you can see driving the actual cost of service to be higher than what it was before?

Mr. Wyrick: Yes, the state rate setting process, and all of the County administrator's have been very vocal about this. It actually sets a perspective rate as opposed to what we do now, which is we basically retroactively adjust people's contracts to their actual costs. We will not be allowed to do that in the future. We must set a perspective rate. Providers are limited to a 5% retain revenue...

Ms. Myers: Averaged over a 5 year period.

Mr. Wyrick: Oh, averaged over a 5 year period. Right now providers are limited to 3% retained revenue. Providers are going to be at risk, meaning they can lose money. Right now we at the end of the year settle to costs. All of those things tell me, that there

will be an increase in cost. Anytime you put an organization at risk, you have to increase the cost of the service to cover that risk. That's pure economics.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Do you foresee the pot getting any bigger or does the pot stay the same size as costs increase with less services?

Mr. Wyrick: I don't see the pot getting bigger. I really, really don't. With the Department of Public Welfare's budget, I can't see them making any significant additions to the MR system. The federal government said we will match every dollar that you spend until the limit is the availability of dollars in the Pennsylvania budget.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Simply put, less flexibility, reduced services, less dollars, etc.

Ms. Myers: It's federal Medicaid dollars.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I think that is the problem and I'm not saying there is an easy solution to this. I think part of the flexibility that we had here in Dauphin County was that our professionals were going to do the best that they could do with the limitation of funding. As we start to standardize across the board, if that is the result of policy to make it standard for everybody in losing that flexibility, we are hurting the system not helping it. I understand there is a tremendous challenge at the federal and state level as well as the County level. Dollars are short. Everybody's budget is tight. My concern is that the response to that is thoughtless policies and how can we do more with less money. In a position of more rigid standards, in the end, it creates a system that is much more expensive than it has to be. Therefore, we can provide even less services. That is my concern. It is not just with mental health. It's with every single turn of Human Services. Again, at some point, somehow the policy makers at the federal and state level have to sit down and spend a lot more time and dialog with all of you and get good input from the Philadelphia model, but also the rural, the suburban, and a lot of areas. Instead of imposing these rigid standards and I'm not sure, I'm assuming based on what I'm seeing, they're probably not rigid standards based on best practices. They're probably imposition rigid standards when we should be looking at a model that uses best practices. Unfortunately, sitting in this chair we see this all too often in too many different areas of Human Services. We're setting ourselves up that as community issues and community problems continue to build and this probably in particular, the mental health problem is only going to get worse as time goes on, because as I understand statistically there are more and more people that will be coming into this system as time goes on. It's very frustrating but we have to keep pushing and I know all of you not only do your job extremely well but you all are very, very vocal in the organizations that speak to the state legislators and representatives okay in Congress.

Mr. Haste: Human Service Block Grants, give us the money and hold us responsible for the categories and let us make the determination.

Mr. DiFrancesco: More flexibility is better than less flexibility. The dollars will go further.

Mr. Hartwick: Ellie, after the meeting if we could get together and at least identify where that million dollars is at and maybe draft a letter from the County Commissioners to our legislative delegation, as well as the Governor and identify a timeline on when we can expect to receive that money.

Ms. Myers: Okay.

Mr. Wyrick: We could present a draft back to you and get that done by the end of the week. It has been my pleasure in working with you gentlemen. It has been my joy in working for Dauphin County. It is with significant regrets that I leave. Thank you.

Mr. Hartwick: By statute, we are required to actually move forward and make sure that we appoint an acting director in the vacancy of the current administrator. So at this time as we move forward with the selection process to the Advisory Committee and present it to the Commissioners, I would like to make a motion that we appoint and yet another hat in the triple administrative capacity, Sandy Moore, to be the interim administrator of the Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation. Mr. DiFrancesco seconded the motion.

Mr. Haste: There has been a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? (There was none.) All those in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Haste: Motion carried.

Mr. Hartwick: I don't think there has been a history in Dauphin County where somebody has worn three administrative hats.

Mr. Haste: Steve would you please come forward?

D. Steve Howe, Tax Assessment/Tax Claim Director

1. Tax Refunds – City of Harrisburg.

Mr. Howe: I've been asked by your Chief Clerk Chad Saylor to come and answer any questions you may have relative to a tax refund for twenty-three various property owners in the City of Harrisburg that you have before you for approval. By way of explanation, the City of Harrisburg in cooperation with the City School District and Dauphin County participates in what we all commonly refer to as the Tax Abatement Program. It's really a LERTA program which is an acronym for Local Economic Revitalization Tax Act. It allows property owners when they improve their property to opt in only within the City or specified areas to opt into the Tax Abatement Program where they can defer real estate taxes for various type of construction whether it be new construction, rehabilitation, or commercial properties over a specified period of time. Various programs are available to residential property owners within the City of

Harrisburg to opt into the Tax Abatement Program. The different programs are designated when the property owners apply for their Harrisburg City Building Permit. On the reverse side of the building permit there is a process where whoever issues the permit from the City of Harrisburg selects a specific box for which particular abatement program the property and improvement qualifies for. Referring to the request that you have before you now, are as a result of the City of Harrisburg selecting the incorrect abatement program when the building permit was obtained by the property owner. The property owners were told in fact when they applied for the building permit in most part that they were opting in for and selecting a ten year 10% per year phase in of the improved value for the particular assessment. When this permit was provided to use in fact the City selected on the reverse side of the application they marked a three year 100% tax abatement program rather than the ten year phase in. When the three year period expired the property owners now received a 100% tax bill and came back to the City and therefore the County as well and I'm sure the school district, and essentially if I may say, hey, what is up guys? You told me it's going to phase in over ten years. They didn't bother coming to the County or the taxing authorities and say for the previous three years, I didn't get a tax bill at all but when they got the 100% tax bill rather than the phase in, that certainly got their attention. They came back to the City, the City came to our office who administers the tax abatement program and basically said, we made a mistake, could you recalculate and put those folks in the proper ten year phase in program rather than the three year program. We identified various parcels that had been erroneously entered into various abatement programs at the City's direction and what you see before you are twenty-three of those properties where they are due slight refunds. When we calculated the refunds, we actually went back to in most cases the year 2003 when they first went into the program and calculated basically what they should have paid versus what they did not pay and carried that calculation forward through 2005. So what you see is really a net result of the correction that is being made to an amount that the individual property owners paid over the past, in some cases three years.

Mr. Hartwick: We expect they will be on track with paying those taxes they owe increased by 10% a year and not expecting them to be tax exempt for the upcoming years?

Mr. Howe: That is correct. The property owners were made aware of the 10% phase in program when they purchased the properties. And for whatever reason when the building permit boxes were selected the City simply selected the wrong box. Those adjustments have been made. The correct abatement schedules have been implemented. Unless there are more properties identified by the City that are in the incorrect program from this point forward we've made sure that the City selects the proper program.

Mr. Hartwick: And all your administrative time will be calculated in billing the City of Harrisburg?

Mr. Howe: Unfortunately, I doubt that is possible. That is my explanation of the refunds before you for approval for next week. If you have any other questions, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Just to make sure that I'm reading this spreadsheet right, what we are talking about is the right hand column on that second page?

Mr. Howe: The far right hand column is the net adjustment of the refund process.

Mr. DiFrancesco: So that is the dollar value that we are talking about?

Mr. Howe: Yes, as you can see some of them are negative and some are positive. So there are some property owners that do owe more tax but there are some that we owe refunds to. The memo that we've prepared for the Controller's Office which requested individual calculations for individual property owners and street addresses actually does include the computations for four of the twenty-three for which there are refunds due not simply the spreadsheet that you may have before you that lists the entire computation.

Mr. DiFrancesco: The sheet that I have has no negative numbers on it so I'm assuming I don't have everything at this time.

Mr. Howe: The sheet that you have only has negatives?

Mr. DiFrancesco: It does not have any negatives. They're not listed as negatives. We're not voting on this today so I can get it.

Mr. Howe: That is only one page of a four page document. There are many negatives and a few positives. Are there any other questions? (There were none.)

Mr. Saylor: While you are here Steve, if I could bring up another item that is on the agenda which is under Items for Discussion, it is Item B. It is Proposals for appraisal consulting services for Spring Creek. As the Commissioners know, the County Code requires that for us to sell the nursing home should we choose to do that. We are required to have two independent appraisals done of the property. In order to do that, we have two proposals before you for approval today. The Code allows us to use the County tax assessor as one of those and Steve is already underway in doing that. He would like the assistance of Noone & Associates to help him with that at a cost of about \$5,000. We've also talked with RSR Appraisers to do a second analysis for a cost of \$10,000. Steve called a number of appraisal companies to get some different estimates and we had a couple of companies come in at about \$15,000 to do it for us. In a sense, we have two proposals for the price of one.

Mr. DiFrancesco: What was that number again?

Mr. Saylor: They are going to be operating in the system while Steve will be doing most of the leg work. That is why we are going to be able to get some savings.

Mr. Howe: It is Patrick Noone, MAI & Associates.

Mr. Saylor: If there are any questions on that, while Steve is here, perhaps he could answer them. That is the next step in exploring the option of selling the nursing home. And this will enable us to take the next step.

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to approve the following two proposals for appraisal consulting services for Spring Creek; motion carried.

B. Approval of proposals for Appraisal Consulting Services of Spring Creek:
(*A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/18/06)**

1. Patrick Noone, MAI & Associates, Inc.
2. RSR Appraisers and Analysts

Mr. DiFrancesco: Steve, back to the tax refund list the majority of these, they owe us rather than we owe them?

Mr. Howe: That is correct. The negatives show the refunds and the positives represent what they owe us.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Haste: Stephen Hetrick.

E. Stephen Hetrick, Charles River Collaborative

1. Replacing the T-Rowe Mid-Cap Value

Mr. Frese: I'm Clark Frese. Stephen Hetrick and I are the investment advisors for the 457B Plan. Our objective is to give the best management plan for participants and not salary savings plan. From time to time we review the money managers that are available to participants' mutual funds throughout the program. On January 12th we had a meeting with the Volunteer Employee Benefits Committee to review the T. Rowe Price Mid Cap Value Fund which has been failing our screening process for the last three quarters. In order to give participants the best possible management of their plan we drafted an investment policy statement which was approved by the Commissioners which gives a criteria under which we keep a manager in the plan or take a manager out of the plan. The failure of the T. Rowe Price showed was in Style Drift, which means that we had set them up as a mid-cap value fund and they were drifting over buying gross stock becoming more a mid-cap blend fund. That in itself may not have been the only reason we needed to replace the fund and the other reason was performance has been below average for the last three quarters. That gave us concern and we had it on watch with the committee. After meeting with the committee on January 12, we had

done a manager search in which we recommended that we take T. Rowe Price out of the plan and substitute in Artisan Mid Cap Value. If you look at the reports in front of you, there is a summary of the activity of these funds over the past 1, 3, and 5 year period of time. If you look at the T. Rowe Price Fund, you can see in that column, it says Style Drift, yes, that was the primary reason for it being on the watch list. If you look down to the first row of boxes Alpha sharp ratio and the one year returns had been below average. On the second page, which is Artisan Mid Cap Value you'll see that particular fund has no Style Drift and has superior performance in the same categories in which T. Rowe Price has failed. Artisan Mid Cap Value Fund is a great fund family. They offer eight different mutual funds to investors. Currently six of those funds have been closed to new investors because of popularity and quality of management of the Artisan Fund Family. The Artisan Mid Cap Value will soon close as of January 31 so we felt it would be an appropriate time to recommend that change to the Commissioners. The Volunteer Employee Benefit Committee agreed with our recommendation to come to the Commissioners and it just only requires your approval at this time.

Mr. Hartwick: Am I looking at this wrong but looking at the last quarter, it is down.

Mr. Frese: The Artisan Mid Cap Value Fund for the last quarter was down. They have an energy correction in the last quarter.

Mr. Haste: And the Committee was aware of that?

Mr. Frese: That is correct.

Mr. Hartwick: So does that put it, one quarter not performing and they have two left to change it around?

Mr. Frese: No we look at longer terms than that but we were aware of that correction and that was a pretty broad correction for any fund.

Mr. Hartwick: In any of these cases, how many employees in the plan are enrolled in the actual T. Rowe Price Mid Cap Value that will have to transition?

Mr. Hetrick: There are 800,000 or so in that fund.

Mr. Hartwick: Just remind me again of the notification process and as we make any changes there's not going to be any fees associated with that, that won't obviously have an affect on that individual. Will you walk us through the transition again to refresh my memory?

Mr. Hetrick: What would happen is on the 20th, we are on a time constraint because the budget is closing on the 31st. So on the 20th we would sit down with one or two participants and then the trades would be placed next week. Sell on the 24th and buy on the 25th. Then the changes would be made. Throughout the enrollment process, our participants have been made aware that we're doing this ongoing so that they don't

need to worry about the funds that are in there. They just need to worry more about the asset allocations, selection of those funds in order to meet those long term retirement goals. So it should not come as a big surprise to people because that is how the plan has been presented.

Mr. Haste: I think what George was getting at was all the concern about the change being made and employees losing funds in the process.

Mr. Hetrick: We can make sure that is spelled out in the communication to the employees.

Mr. Frese: There is no charge to come out of the fund or go into the new fund.

Mr. Hartwick: I see there is no load at all or any fees to get out of the other.

Mr. Frese: No.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve the recommendations made by the Volunteer Employee Benefit Committee to replace the T. Rowe Price Mid Cap Value Fund with the Artisan Mid Cap Value Fund; motion carried.

Mr. Haste: Edgar, please come forward.

F. Edgar Cohen, Facility Maintenance Director

1. Emergency purchase of a transport van for Spring Creek.

Mr. Cohen: You have in front of you a proposal that we are looking to purchase a transport van at Spring Creek. At the end of December, there was a bad accident that involved a 95 Chevy transport van. There was extensive damage done to the front axle and also the body of the other vehicle. The estimate came in around \$5,300 for repairs of this vehicle. The vehicle is only worth \$5,000 as book value. The dilemma that we are having now is we have one in use right now, but the amount of transporting that we have of residents to different doctor's appointments, etc. Spring Creek has to use an outside service company. The total of the outside service company has been averaging around \$400-\$500 a week. What I'm asking is an emergency purchase of a new transport van which will eliminate that cost. The amount of the vehicle is not coming out of general fund dollars, it is coming out of activity fees accumulated over the years. I'm asking for a vote so we can keep the process moving. There won't be a purchase order because it is not coming out of the general fund.

Mr. Haste: There still needs to be a purchase order.

Mr. Cohen: Okay, we'll need to get one then.

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to move forward with the purchase of a transport van for Spring Creek for a total of \$40,832; motion carried.

Mr. Cohen: I will have Randy include it in the packet next week.

PERSONNEL

Ms Sinner: I have the position listing today. Do you have any questions on the position listing? That I just put in the mailboxes.

Mr. Hartwick: I didn't take a look but she is talking about the total overall listings of all county positions. Did you have a chance to review that?

Ms. Sinner: Did you want to vote on that or do you want to wait until next week to vote?

Mr. Hartwick: Next week.

Ms. Sinner: The Salary Board items that I have today, Spring Creek is eliminating an LPN in their MDS Department; eliminating a central supply inventory specialist position; eliminating a part-time temporary unit secretary position that was created for someone to fill in while another unit secretary was on a leave of absence. Children & Youth Agency, there is a new unit that is being created and the requests are in this packet. A supervisor; five caseworkers and a social services aide II are being requested. Later in the packet you'll see that we're promoting a court crier to one of the crier administrator positions that was created last year. There are a total of eight positions so they are eliminating the vacant court crier position in Judge Bratton's Office.

In the personnel packet.....

Mr. Saylor: Before we move into the personnel packet, if I may, could I ask a couple of questions on the personnel listing? You indicated to me that you had to do some clean up to the list that you had. Did you find any discrepancies?

Ms. Sinner: A couple of positions, I know Parks & Recreation had some questions on a couple position titles.

Mr. Saylor: So there were some issues about what the specific titles were?

Ms. Sinner: Right.

Mr. Saylor: Did you have any positions that were on here but should not have been or some that should have been and weren't?

Ms. Sinner: When we went through the vacancy list, I know the Conservation District questioned one of their vacancies but was a correct vacancy. They had forgotten that

they created two positions years ago. They are going to leave that there because they just applied for more funding, another grant. Children & Youth, we had some position issues that we worked out. There are a couple of other ones, tax collectors, I was getting those squared away because you know there are a lot of changes there. I can't recall what some of the other ones were.

Mr. Saylor: Do you think that you are going to be able to maintain this so that next year will be

Ms. Sinner: I want to maintain it. I'm going to make this my vacancy list/position listing. As vacancies get filled, I'm going to fill in with the new name, incorporate it into the active listing. I'm still going to maintain a history on the second page like I always have. I need to do that.

Mr. Saylor: Then at budget time both fiscal year in July and then at the end of the year when we do the general fund budget, if positions are created or eliminated you just need to coordinate that with Mike so that you are aware of it.

Ms. Sinner: That is correct. Spring Creek is requesting permission to fill an assistant administrator vacancy and that is the position justification form I've given you to put with the others. They are also requesting permission to fill a part-time dietary aide position. Children & Youth have three caseworker vacancies they are requesting permission to fill as well as a social services aide II and social caseworker intern vacancy. Facility Maintenance has three part-time custodian vacancies that they are requesting permission to fill and the Prison a correctional officer because they had someone resign. MDJ Smith had a legal clerk I resign and they are requesting permission to fill that.

In new hires, Children & Youth is filling a vacant clerk typist II position. This is one that has been vacant for a while. Economic Development is filling their environmental specialist I position they created recently. Facility Maintenance is filling one part-time custodian vacancy. The Prison is filling two more correctional officer positions. MDJ Pianka is filling a legal clerk I position.

Mr. Saylor: While we are on the issue of new hires, in terms of the hiring freeze, I notice that we have a Children & Youth Clerk Typist and Economic Development Environmental Specialist, the window is going to open in February.

Ms. Sinner: Yes, the environmental specialist should have waited until then. I realize that.

Mr. Saylor: I think that position is not funded with County dollars.

Ms. Sinner: It isn't. It's with the Home Program Grant.

Mr. Saylor: Children & Youth, normally the wall I hit there is that the State will cite us for not having enough staff. I will pursue it if you want me to. The rest are part-timers and the Prison. Prison is usually an overtime issue. Part-timers don't really have a major impact.

Ms. Sinner: The Prison, this is filling the rest of the vacancies they had. These people will all start on January 30th. They all will be starting at the same time. Spring Creek does have someone to fill the assistant administrator position. There is a supervisor transferring into that position. They also are promoting someone into the vacant assistant director of nursing position. The transfer to assistant administrator, they want that effective immediately. So if I could have a vote on the request to fill the vacancy which was Item #1 and then the transfer which is Item #15 today? I would appreciate that.

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to approve Item #1 and Item #15 in the personnel packet; motion carried.

Ms. Sinner: Do you have any questions on any of the other changes?

Mr. Hartwick: The question I have is there is an unusually high number of resignations and terminations. Is there a reason for that?

Ms. Sinner: I don't know why. I thought too it was a lot. I know there was a lot listed in the last packet. It wasn't like there was a pay period missed or anything.

Mr. Hartwick: You don't know if there was any special reason?

Mr. DiFrancesco: One of the things that is unfortunate, several months ago or maybe a year ago I asked to have the separation surveys given to me for my oversights and unfortunately when people leave, a lot of people choose not to fill out the surveys.

Ms. Sinner: Or we mail them after they leave and a lot don't return them.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Unfortunately, that's valuable feedback. For the few that I get, I actually look at them and try to figure out what was going on and see if there is something that we could do to make a better work environment. But unfortunately when employees leave, they often choose not to fill these surveys out. It's a really nice tool if people would choose to do so.

Mr. Hartwick: I receive those from Human Services folks. They do a lot more exit interviews in Human Services.

Ms. Sinner: Right, they do. The only other items in the packet are the overtime reports and an overtime request from the Prison.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have received your purchase orders yesterday. There is only one budget item and that is on page 7. That is the Coroner vehicle situation. Mike was waiting to adjust that until we had all the purchase orders done. Last week we did three of them. This week there are two more, one for lettering and one for installation. That will complete all of the items that we need to get for the new Coroner's vehicle and an adjustment will be made out of the contingency fund as stated last week. Other than that there are no budget issues. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. Otherwise it will be passed next week.

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Saylor: I assume there were no questions on the training packet.

Mr. Haste: We do have Item #2 on the training packet that needs approval so that they can get the registration in and funding in an appropriate time.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco to approve Item #2 in the training packet; motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Haste: We still have two items that we need to take a vote on and that is Item A & C. Item A, Chad can you explain that?

Mr. Dick: She submitted a check to us and the check bounced. So she wants her money back basically. In other words, she submitted a check to us including the \$1,230 odd dollars.

Mr. Haste: How does that normally work? I would assume this is not an infrequent request.

Mr. Dick: Normally, tax collectors wait about two weeks until all checks clear and then they send it into us. Shirley didn't do that. There is one tax collector that refuses to take personal checks after December 15 for fear of bounced checks. She'll just accept certified checks, cash or money orders. Shirley Hoon took this person to be reputable and that his check was good. She puts that in her account, then submits the taxes to us, what taxes are due school districts, and what taxes are due East Hanover and the check happened to bounce. So she is asking her money be returned to her. It is her money basically.

Mr. Haste: I take it she won't do it this way the next time.

Mr. Dick: I can't speak for her. I wouldn't but....

Mr. Saylor: In processing this, Jul has indicated to me that this has happened before from time to time. Hopefully she has learned a valuable lesson.

Mr. Dick: It has happened it's not frequent but it has happened. Again, most of the tax collectors in some way protect themselves.

Mr. Haste: Is there a motion?

Mr. Hartwick: I see a no from back there. Does that mean it has not happened in the past, yes or no?

Ms. Nace: It has happened in the past, just last week. We don't usually process them this quickly. It usually goes through the normal process and approved at a legislative meeting.

Mr. Hartwick: Is that a reasonable request based on your experience?

Ms. Nace: Yes.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco to approve the following refund, motion carried.

- A. Real estate tax refund to Shirley L. Hoon, East Hanover Tax Collector, the amt. of \$1,234.17 for parcel #25-017-049. (Insufficient funds from taxpayer.) (**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/18/06)**

Mr. Haste: Item C, is for the Liquid Fuels Tax, we have to submit to PennDOT each year. I looked at it and there were some items Mike Yohe needed to correct. It's now ready to go.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve Item C; motion carried.

- C. Report of Dauphin County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the year 2005 to be submitted to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. (**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/18/06)**

Mr. Haste: We have the other items that can wait for next week.

- D. Performance Evaluation Policy and Employee Performance Evaluation Form.
- E. Letter of Agreement between Dauphin County and Conrad Siegel Actuaries for provision of actuarial services for the Dauphin County Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Program.

- F. Agreement between Dauphin County and Comprehensive HealthCare Solutions, Inc. (CMHS) to provide prescription discount cards for Dauphin County residents.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Saylor: If you have any questions, I certainly can take them back to them.

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Saylor: I have nothing further.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: Any comments from the Commissioners?

Mr. Hartwick: Items #12 & 13, are only six months agreements entering into the current facility and we expect those to probably be extended only for another six months.

Mr. DiFrancesco: A couple of brief comments for the Board. First, and this goes back to the discussion that we had early on with mental health, some of the issues that we did foresee coming down the road as a result of some of the changes in the MA realignment are in fact coming true with regards to the Schaffner Center. In fact, due to the changes finding providers that are MA approved you know it is going to get harder for us to find professionals. The system is only going to get more costly. We're already beginning to see some impact. Just to let the Board know, again, basically we're going to have less options, longer timeframes in getting children evaluated which means of course longer stays at Schaffner which costs the County a lot more money. The system itself is becoming more expensive. When we had the discussion about the changes that were coming down the road, we knew that these changes would impact the system. We knew the system would become more costly and in fact, we're starting to see now and we're starting to budget for the fact that this will be happening. That is one thing for the Board.

Number two, sort of a kudos to Dauphin County and yet maybe a push that we need to do even more. Having now sat through and having oversight for Schaffner for two years, repeatedly month after month sitting through advisory board reports, etc., it's alarming that there is such a high percentage, an overwhelmingly high percentage, of the cases that come through Schaffner are still actually juvenile crimes, whether they go through Schaffner or other places, is a result of families broken, families in need of support, two categories that consistently each and every month show a statistic that is telling us that most of the children coming from the system are coming from single parent families and through families where the parents of the child have never been married. Dauphin County has done an exceptional job with fatherhood initiatives, with reaching out to the faith community, finding ways through Family Group Conferencing to strengthen families and there is no question that we are right on target and we are right

where we need to be in order to start to have an impact on the juvenile crime rate in this county. Without question, looking at the statistics we have to continue to do more and more and more. The challenge is with the service cuts, the limitations coming down from the state and federal level, are really going to force our people on their toes and force us to do more.

The final thing that I have to report is that things are very well with the Quality of Life Task Force, the subcommittees have met and while we are not ready to publicly announce what is going on, I was given a tentative agenda for the next several months to a year and the group is really jelling well and they are coming up with some really good proposals of things that we can genuinely get done. They are answering the call that we gave them. And that was not to come up with a list of dreams but a list of things that we can actually accomplish over a short period of time and they are doing that. So I hopefully will have some good things to report very shortly.

Mr. Saylor: I would like to note for the record that tomorrow we are sponsoring a local government seminar. We've invited local government officials from around the County to come together, network with one another and learn about County government and what services are available to them. That is tomorrow night at the Conservation District in Middle Paxton Township starting at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Haste: We have Prison Board today at 1:30.

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

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff

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