DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2014
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Mike Pries, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Randie Yeager, Director of Human Services; Peter Vriens, Director of Children & Youth; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; David Mattern, Children & Youth; Nicole Mattern, Juvenile Probation; Melissa Bradley, Human Resources; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Sarina Bishop, Children & Youth; Chad Libby, Director of Probation Services; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Barb Miller, Paul Barker, James Roxbury, Jen Wintermyer, Dajuann Greenee, Jamien Harvey, Kyla Crawford, George Clements, Paula Clements, and Stephen Range

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are several sets of Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

Mr. Burford reported that there were no Executive Sessions held between meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Wintermyer, of the Tri-County Community Action Commission, thanked the Commissioners for their support of the programs offered. The programs help to make the community a better place. One of the programs offered is the Cross Ages Mentoring Program

Mr. Haste thanked the Commission. The Commission has been a long time partner of the County’s and the Board appreciates that.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Nicole Mattern, Probation Services and David Mattern, Children & Youth

1. Presentation on Dauphin County’s Mentoring Matters Campaign

Mr. Haste mentioned that today there will be some discussion on the mentoring programs in Dauphin County. The County has a number of programs that the County contracts with providers where they try to match adult mentors with youth in the community to help them with whatever issues they may have and to develop a relationship that allows them to grow into good citizens and good responsible people in the community. There are some great stories to be told and the Board has some great partnerships out there. He called on David Mattern and Nicole from Probation Services to come forward. It is a program that is done on a regular basis, but it was kicked off this year at the Cultural Festival. If anyone knows of someone that could participate or be a potential mentor to let them know.

Mr. Mattern thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to talk about the mentoring program. The County currently contracts with five different programs that work with
Children & Youth and Juvenile Probation Youth. They serve in a variety of different ways. They have different backgrounds and histories. This presentation today is an extension of the Cultural Fest where the Mentoring concept was the theme of the program. They were able to distribute approximately 1,000 brochures. The brochures summarize mentoring and what the benefits are and the rolls. It highlights some of the programs that the County has. All five of the programs are represented here today. He thanked them for coming. The types of people that they are interested in recruiting can come from a variety of backgrounds and different interest levels. They have mentoring opportunities in northern Dauphin area, Harrisburg region, specific programs for older population (45 and older) mentors, after-school type mentoring opportunities and mentoring opportunities for people who want to help an older youth transition into adulthood. There are five programs, two versions of the YMCA – the Northern Dauphin YMCA and the Camp Curtin YMCA, Bethany Christian Services, Community Action Commission and the Josiah Project.

Mr. Harvey thanked the Commissioners for having them this morning. Mentoring is very important. He sits here today as a Harrisburg High School graduate. If it wasn’t for some of the mentors that he had throughout his career, he may not have been able to sit here today. He has a long list of people that he could say made a difference in his life. One of them is actually here today, Dajuann Greene. He is working for the Community Action Commission. He played a major role in Mr. Harvey’s life. Mr. Greene was his basketball coach. He was a mentor that pulled him back in and told him what to do and to do it the right way. He tries to give back to the community as Mr. Greene gave back to him. With him today is the program director, Kyla Crawford and she will talk about the program that is offered at the YMCA.

Ms. Crawford stated she will keep it to the mentoring programs. As Mr. Harvey said there were a lot of influential people who played a part in his life. She thinks that both of them share a passion to do more in the community for the youth. They incorporate mentoring in all of the programs. Whether a kid is coming to open gym or any other event, they have staff available to talk to them if they need someone to talk to. Man Up and Sisters Helping Sisters started off as just a grassroots initiative. Mr. Harvey ran the boys group and she ran the girls group. It made them a family. They gave them a family environment that they wanted. With their vision they were able to connect with Juvenile Probation and Children & Youth. They established collaboration with both entities and they have serviced over 100 youth. When the youth leave the program they know that they can come back when they need help. They are very fortunate to have the support of Children & Youth, Juvenile Probation and the Commissioners in their initiatives to be able to help serve the kids. Man Up and Sisters Helping Sisters meet three days a week. The kids do community service two days a week, they participate in life skills two days a week and then drug and alcohol prevention one day a week. Every day the kids have recreation. They serve a hot meal. The goal is to get the kids to transition out of their ten weeks of Man Up or Sisters Helping Sisters successfully and transition into some other YMCA programs, like Teen Achievers or youth basketball. Last year, they were able to take three graduates on college tours. These kids were able to see over 7 universities, starting in Harrisburg and ended in Charlotte.
kids were amazed. They wanted to go to college. Just exposing them to opportunities that they may not know of out there is the mission and goal of the program and to serve as a family for these kids.

Mr. Haste asked how many kids are in the program.

Ms. Crawford indicated that they currently have eight kids. The numbers fluctuate. They are both boys and girls. Two are getting ready to graduate. The referrals come in consistently. They serve about 15 kids at the most at one given time.

Mr. Pries asked what the age differential is.

Ms. Crawford stated that they start at 11 and right now there is a child that is 17.

Mr. Harvey stated that the Commissioners are welcome to come up to the Camp Curtin YMCA anytime. It is a great facility. The facility and staff is definitely what truly makes the program. The kids also receive free memberships to the Camp Curtin YMCA and also all the program fees are waived.

Mr. Pries indicated that he is glad Mr. Harvey mentioned Mr. Greene. He knows Mr. Greene from awhile back. Mr. Greene gives back to the community. He doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk. He is a good man. He tells you the way it is and he is always there.

Mr. Mattern stated that the comment about the college tours is specifically worth highlighting. All the research shows that youth that have mentors, not only are they more likely to graduate high school, but they are significantly more likely to pursue higher education. He would like to have Paula and George Clements come forward. They are mentors to youth Stephen Range.

Mr. Clements stated that he is retired military and they live in New Cumberland, PA. They were introduced to the program through Ms. Angel from Bethany Village. They met Stephen around December/January. It has been a new ride. They are empty nesters even though Stephen does not reside in their home. They are interested in learning and trying to work with him. They don't have to micromanage Steven. It is an honor to work with him and Angel. He hopes that they can make a difference for Stephen.

Ms. Clements stated that she works in the adoption field. She started in 1995 and opened her own agency in 2002. She sees the need for people to step forward and lend a helping hand. There are a number of children that age out of the foster care system that don't have a security net. Mentoring is a security net for some of those kids that age out and don’t have anybody to fall back on. They have two children, ages 23 and 26. When they were in school every little activity that they were involved in they sat through. It would be a lot easier for the kids if they knew that they could look back in the audience and see somebody smiling or waving back at them. That is what they do for
Stephen. George is more involved with Stephen than she is. Stephen and George connect. Stephen attends a lot of family functions. He is in school now. He will be attending Mansfield College. In the short time that they have been involved with Bethany Christian Services, they have enjoyed themselves. They have been mentors long before they got involved with Bethany Christian. George worked at Scotland School for Veterans Children. They lived on campus. This is just another extension of opening up their heart and home to be of service to someone.

Mr. Range indicated that he is a foster child. He is happy to have the support from Mr. & Mrs. Clements to help him go through life. As a foster child there weren’t a lot of people around for him. No one taught him how to be a man. Even though it was at the last second to figure out what he wanted to do, he is appreciative to have someone like Paul and George to show him the way and what he needs to do in life.

Mr. Haste asked if military is an option.

Mr. Range stated secondary, if he doesn’t finish Mansfield.

Mr. Haste indicated that he can do both.

Mr. Range stated that he is currently at HACC. He wants to get done with one college first and then figure out after that.

Mr. Haste stated ROTC.

Mr. Range stated that it is a possibility. Mr. Harvey said it the best…just having a mentor to show and guide you where you want to be. He is very appreciative. Mr. Harvey was his football coach back at Bishop McDevitt.

Mr. Haste wished him a lot of luck.

Mr. Pries thanked Mr. & Mrs. Clements for all they have done and are doing and will continue to do for Stephen. Stephen is a lucky young man to have folks like this and Mr. Harvey along the way to support him. Keep up the good work!

Ms. Mattern stated that it is important to note that as Probation Services and Children & Youth go through working on evidenced-based practices, if anyone researches mentoring, it is one of the most impactful services that can be provided to reduce recidivism. The need for strong positive role models from the community is tremendous. Right now there are about 40 mentors. They are looking to have around 125 mentors knowing that community members can have such a significant impact on the youth is huge. The County has been very fortunate and appreciative of the website that it has to guide anyone who is interested.
Mr. Mattern stated that they appreciate the support from the Board of Commissioners, whether it is helping with the distribution of the flyer or the creation and maintenance of the website.

Mr. Pries asked Mr. Burford if he still greets the new employees at employee orientation.

Mr. Burford indicated that he does.

Mr. Pries asked him to include the mentoring program in his presentation.

Mr. Burford indicated that he would be happy to.

Mr. Haste indicated that he has never been an official mentor, but he has coached youth sports for a number of years. Some of the most memorable players he has had are actually those that had the most difficulty. A bond is developed. Not only for the youth, there is also a great value to the mentor as well. He has one who is now 30 years old and sometimes they talk frequently and sometimes they don’t talk that often. He noticed that whenever there is a need to have that talk he is one of the first persons that he calls. It is rewarding on both sides.

Mr. Mattern stated that it is a tremendous opportunity for both sides. The kids may disappear for a little while, but then they always come back to talk to someone or get some help in a time of need.

Mr. Haste thanked everyone. Hopefully this will inspire people to become mentors.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on any items in the Personnel Packet. (There was none.)

The Personnel Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci stated that it is a small Packet, only five pages. There are no over budgets. He asked if there were any questions. (There was none.)

The Purchase Order Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.
**TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Burford indicated that he is requesting a vote on Items 9, 10, 11 and 12.

*It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve Items 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Training Packet.*

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

There was none.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT – JOSEPH A. CURCILLO, III, ESQ.**

Mr. Curcillo reported that he believes that all the items listed on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for next week.

**CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – J. SCOTT BURFORD**

Mr. Burford stated that he has nothing to report this morning. He asked if there were any questions of him. (There was none.)

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adjourn; motion carried.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz