DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2014
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Laura Cullison, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Leila Brown, Solicitor’s Office; Jean King, Register of Wills; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; George Connor, Community & Economic Development; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Peter Vriens, Director of Children & Youth; Dave Schreiber, Human Resources; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Registration & Elections; Dan Eisenhauer, Director of MH/ID; Will Gordon, Community & Economic Development; Mavis Nimoh, Director of Drugs & Alcohol; Randie Yeager, Director of Human Services; Faye Fisher, Director of Human Resources; Larry Moore, Parks & Recreation; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

Ms. Cullison reported that there was an Executive Session held this morning to discuss personnel matters.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Dauphin County Commissioners

1. Presentation of Proclamation – Richard Chinapoo

Mr. Haste stated that he remembers Richard, in seasons, where he would lead the league in blocked shots. As a defender in indoor soccer that is very impressive. Richard has also been one of those individuals that was a gentleman when he needed to be and tough as nails when he had to be. He played the game with respect. He has taken the leadership role in Central Pennsylvania soccer with that same tenacity. He has been a great leader, not only of the CASA organization, but the HEAT. Richard has been instrumental in bringing the HEAT back. There are a couple games where he thought Richard would put on his shoes and get back out there. It has been a pleasure to get to know Richard as Richard Chinapoo, not as a soccer player or a coach, but as an individual. Even though it is a sad day for Central Pennsylvania, he has a ton of
respect for Richard for what he is doing, because he has put family first. That is what we should all be doing. Hats off to Richard for making a good, but very tough decision.

(A PowerPoint presentation was been playing since the beginning of the meeting. There are some shots of Richard's impact to Central Pennsylvania and the game of soccer.)

Mr. Haste read the following Proclamation.

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation
We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are honored to acknowledge and applaud the legendary Richard Chinapoo for his lifetime of coaching and playing professional soccer and developing young talent in the region;

Whereas, this Trinidad and Tobago native not only captained his country’s national team, but also was a National Professional Soccer League and Major Indoor Soccer League all-star while playing as a defender for the Harrisburg Heat;

Whereas, he also led the Harrisburg Heat franchise to two playoff appearances as Head Coach from 1998 to 2002 and headed up the team again from 2012 to 2014;

Whereas, known for his amazing skill, speed and agility, Chinapoo spent two seasons with the North American Soccer League’s New York Cosmos, six seasons with the Baltimore Blast and three with the Dallas Sidekicks;

Whereas, for over 17 years, he has served as the Technical Director of the Capital Area Soccer Association, one of the largest youth soccer programs in Pennsylvania, and growing and training thousands of young players;

Whereas, both on and off the soccer field, he is a winner in every sense of the word, building physical, psychological and social skills in young people that will last a lifetime;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County in celebrating the countless the contributions of Richard Chinapoo, a gifted coach, athlete, friend and mentor; we thank him for his enduring impact on professional and youth soccer in Central Pennsylvania and wish him continued health, happiness and success as he relocates to south Florida; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim February 19, 2014 as “Richard Chinapoo Day” in Dauphin County.

(Appplause was given.)

Mr. Pries stated that a testament to Richard's legacy is the amount of his peers that are here today. The best of the best in Central Pennsylvania and beyond are here to support Richard and to show their respect and admiration for all that he has given over the years to this area. He is a talented athlete. All that Richard has brought to CASA and the surrounding community will never be forgotten. Our loss is Florida’s gain. Thousands of kids have benefitted under Richard’s tutelage. Commissioner Haste is a big soccer fan and he speaks very highly of Richard and all that Richard has done for the community. Richard has given of his time, talent and outstanding personality to the kids that he loves so much in teaching them the game that he loves so much. This is Richard’s day. This Board can’t thank Richard enough for all that he has given over and over again.
Mr. Hartwick stated that when he thinks of Richard he thinks of class, someone who brings a high level of competition, training and skill and someone who shows a modeling of leadership and behavior that has been backed up by the organization and those that he has been able to teach. Richard is one of the pioneers in raising the level of play in soccer in Central Pennsylvania to be one of which has been recognized throughout the State. It used to be only certain portions of the State that had the State Cup chances. Now, as a result of engaging a lot of youth in soccer and showing the level of technique and skills that are going to be required in order to compete at those levels, and those that have followed you to provide that high level of training I want to say thank you for putting Central Pennsylvania on the map. The urge never leaves a highly competitive top level athlete. The mind tells us one thing, but the body reacts a different way when we get older. Those reaction times may not be what they used to be, but I know the passion and spirit in Richard’s eyes and the level of commitment that he has towards the sport that he loves has come across to so many. He is grateful that Richard chose Central Pennsylvania as a home. He has made a significant difference in raising the level of soccer. On behalf of the residents, this Board wants to thank Richard and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Commissioner Hartwick also thanked Ruby for putting together the PowerPoint.

Mr. Haste stated that it is a pleasure to sit here looking at the PowerPoint that is going on and seeing the smiles on some of the kids’ faces. That is what will be remembered the most.

Mr. Pollihan stated that he goes back 30 plus years with Richard. As mentioned earlier, Richard had a fine career with the Baltimore Blast and also with the Dallas Sidekicks. Mr. Pollihan came to the Harrisburg area in the summer of 1991 to coach the Harrisburg Heat. It was a new franchise and had a number of very good young players. The HEAT had a very good solid first year in Harrisburg, but the team needed something else to get to the next level. Mr. Pollihan knew who that was and how to get him. It is in Richard’s blood that he wants to play soccer and wants to help coach soccer. It was Mr. Pollihan’s job to get Richard to move one more time. Richard had just returned to Baltimore. The first season that Richard came to Harrisburg was the HEAT’s second season. He came as a commuter. He would come up for practice and games. He never missed a practice unless he had other obligations. He never missed any games. As all these soccer players sitting here know once it is in your blood you can’t get it out. Richard was up for the challenge of coming and helping Harrisburg build a very successful franchise. Richard decided to move to Harrisburg. He has done a fantastic job in running CASA. He has done a fantastic job as a player for the Harrisburg HEAT, as an Assistant Coach and as a Head Coach. Mr. Pollihan stated that he had one job to do and that was to help get the Harrisburg HEAT to the next level and the team needed experience and Richard brought that experience. He is a fierce and tough competitor. He is always up for a challenge. Mr. Pollihan is very proud of all the work that Richard has done in this area. He sees a lot of his fellow teammates here that are coaching youth teams and are still playing the game. Some of the players that Mr. Pollihan had when he was coaching that are here are John Abe and Bill Becher, they are still
involved in soccer. It is a unique game that once you get it in your blood it doesn't come out. Congratulations to Richard!

(Applause was given.)

Mr. DiFlorio stated that he is younger than Mr. Pollihan. He has known Richard for 25 years. They started playing together in Dallas for a short period of time and then when he got the coaching job in Harrisburg when Mr. Pollihan stepped down. Mr. DiFlorio was playing in Cincinnati and when that league went under Mr. Pollihan called him. He didn't call him back. One day he was sitting on the couch and the phone rang and it was Richard. The first thing he said to him was "don't you dare hang up". Mr. DiFlorio has been in Harrisburg since 1998. Richard has been such a great friend and mentor. It is hard to call him Richard. He always calls him "Coach". Richard has taught Mr. DiFlorio the game and has always talked to him about how to deal with kids. It is a sad day, but a happy day for Richard. He is not going to be around the corner. Richard has brought so much to this area. He is still the same person. Once this game is in you, it never leaves you. Congratulations on everything that you have done for this area. Good luck...he will be wearing his shorts and flipflops and walking on the beach.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Haste stated that when the HEAT came back he was approached about buying season tickets. The deal that he had was that he would buy season tickets if his box could be the "Chinapoo Box".

Mr. Chinapoo stated that he doesn't normally write any speeches. When he went to a hall of fame induction, one of his coaches said that he was going to speak for 20 minutes, one for each year of coaching. All of the things that have been said by the Commissioners, Jim and Gino pretty much encompasses what he does. Thank you! He thanked the Commissioners for recognizing this. He appreciates all the kind words. He thanked the HEAT, Jim Pollihan, Rex Herbert for bringing him to Harrisburg. He didn't know Harrisburg existed. He spent six years in Baltimore. He thanked CASA, all the presidents and youth. He actually spent close to 20 years in Harrisburg. The only other place that he has spent more time in his live is Trinidad. He spent six years in New York, six in Baltimore, three in Dallas. Central Pennsylvania is a place when he played people held the door open for you. You will be driving down the street and you stop and people say go ahead. You don't find that in New York. He doesn't like traffic. He liked what he saw in Central Pennsylvania. It is a great place to raise a family. It all started with a call from Jim to come here and play. Jim tried to get him the year before, but he had a choice between Harrisburg and Dallas. Needless to say he went to Dallas. Unfortunately the league folded after that. He reached out to Jim and the rest was history. The first year in Harrisburg, he was a 34-year old rookie.

Mr. Pollihan stated and the young boys treated him like one.
Mr. Chinapoo stated that they tried. It was a great bunch of young guys who played the year before. They used to call him "Granddad". He was the logical one of the group. The only way to gain their respect was to work harder than them. Over the years they gained respect for each other. In 1992/93 he was able to accomplish five all-star games, two division titles, one trip to the final, one coach of the year and one player of the year. He moved to Harrisburg permanently in 1997. He has two children that graduated from college. He got married and had another daughter and she is nine now. He watched soccer grow in Central Pennsylvania to the point where this area is recognized and has produced national players. He has also seen the rebirth of the HEAT. He knows that soccer in Central Pennsylvania is in a good place. He is moving in July and he has made a commitment to the HEAT and CASA to make sure everything is in place before he leaves. It is time for his youthful body to feel some heat and warmth. He grew up where the average temperature was 85 degrees.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

Mr. Haste presented Mr. Chinapoo with a soccer ball that has been signed by players and CASA representatives and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

B. Chris O'Hara, Show Manager, Great American Outdoor Show

1. Presentation on Economic Impact

Mr. O'Hara thanked the Commissioners for inviting him today. So far, from what is known and heard and the feedback from both exhibitors and attendees, has been a home run and success. There were some weather issues, but it really did not negatively impact anything that was being done. Based on what has been compiled, there was an approximately 23% increase in attendance over the previous show of 2012. There was a 27% increase in occupancy in hotels in the region over the previous show. Obviously there was a huge increase over last year, 66% increase in occupancy over 2013 for the same time period. Direct spending there was $35 million in direct spending by attendees and vendors. Economic impact is $7 million. Hotel participation – 50% increase in participating hotels over 2013. A key point that is very important for the growth of this show in the future is there was a 50% increase in on-site renewal before departure. That is big. In the past probably the best that the previous show produced to his knowledge was about 30%. More space can be sold to create an even better show. Vendor feedback was 98% positive with some minor concerns. The minor concerns were booth location and category management. Everybody just loved the organization of the show. The vendors were extremely happy with the attendance and the new layout. The flow was much easier. People could move around easier. The category management also helped. Everybody was extremely happy that the NRA had taken over the show. The feedback was that they loved seeing the larger manufacturers at the show and glad to see that they got rid of what they call the “fringe exhibitors”. The only concerns that they got back from attendees is the parking, which is always a struggle. Additional lots were available. You are going to have some people that are always concerned about parking. Friday was the toughest day. It is one
of the busiest days for the show and there were a few accidents near Cameron Street and 81. Attendees loved the new layout. It was very clean. Having been involved in past shows, this show was definitely more organized. It was more attendee and exhibitor friendly. It was the best produced show without cost or revenue being the main focus. It was already the biggest so we made it the best. Everyone got onboard. Customer focus was the number one priority. He did not get one call the entire week from an exhibitor complaining about something. For the future, they are looking to get more outside events in the area/community, bring more manufacturers to the show (local and regional), retailers, larger local vendors and large scale site events. We tested the water with a few things and learned a lot. Attendance was very well, but he believes that some things can be done differently in the future. There are a few things that need tweaked. It was a huge success.

Mr. Haste stated that he was there every day the show was open. He didn’t get to see everything that he wanted to see even though he was there every day. It shows you the volume and size of the show. He made a point to talk to some vendors and attendees. The comments were overwhelmingly positive. Vendors were telling him how professional it was run. This show has always meant a lot to the region. We didn’t realize how much better it could be until the show went away and we had to look for a new owner of the show. Everything the NRA said they would do they did. One of the things that the NRA said is that you have done well at putting heads on beds, but they are going to work with everyone to make this a community event and to start putting things into ballrooms and other areas. This year was a good example. The dinner upstairs, the concert and some of the other things that happened, smaller things in other hotels. The other thing that was refreshing with the leadership of the NRA this year was the honesty and openness. The NRA was very careful about trying to get factual information. The Visitors’ Bureau worked with the hotels. All information received a benchmark. Parking was 55% greater on opening day. That just tells you the demand. The real issue is how do we handle the growth, because it is clear there is still demand for growth in that facility. It has been a great partnership. Those who want to call the show whatever they want to call it, did not attend. It clearly was an outdoor show. He got outdoor cooking stuff, camping stuff and things that we saw were handy for track meets and soccer games. He sat in on two seminars. The Tourism Bureau has been a great partner, as well as the Chamber and CREDC, Dave Black.

Mr. Hartwick gave kudos to Commissioner Haste for his leadership. When an economic impact faces a region as a result of something negative happening, this Board’s ability to think bigger, better and see it as an opportunity is not going to stop us from moving forward. Commissioner Haste took the leadership role in pulling together the right partners. His family attended and had a wonderful time. His son caught a trout. It was a great environment. The kids could be involved with bow and arrow shooting. It is sort of like laser tag. People always want to talk negatively and place a shadow over something that is positive, but this region is moving up in tourism spending. It is continuing to grow. You know why people want to come live and spend their money in Central Pennsylvania. This event is just another reason for the region to shine as it relates to family-related opportunities and tourism spending. The concert was sold out.
He expects those tourism numbers to grow. He supports the involvement in future
sportsmen shows.

Mr. O’Hara indicated that they did make sure that they increased the opportunities for
family participation. Obviously if you don’t do that there won’t be any outdoors or show
in the future. He travels the country and he has for years and one thing that he wants
everyone to remember is that this show, whatever companies ran it, whatever name it
has been under, is never referred to by that name. It is referred to by one name and
that is the Harrisburg Show.

Mr. Pries stated congratulations! You guys hit a homerun. What a difference a year
makes. A year ago we were wallowing in the despair of the Harrisburg debt crisis, the
$70 million economic impact hit a punch in the gut to the region when the show left.
This Board could have done one of two things. It could have sat back and felt sorry or it
could have done something about it. Commissioner Haste took the bull by the horns
and started reaching out to people. This group got together and did something about it.
They thought positive instead of negative. It was the culmination of about nine months
of hard work and meeting after meeting to make this show the best ever. The big
winners were the hotels, restaurants and the small business owners of the region. This
shows why Commissioner Haste is the leader of this County of 268,000 residents.
Folks outside of the County and region owe a great deal of gratitude to Commissioner
Haste for his leadership during this past year by taking such a negative and making
such a positive out of it.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Haste stated that the region came together. The business community understands
the importance of this show and it paid off. Please give the Board’s thanks to the NRA.
You can’t ask for a more professional group of people to run the show.

C. J. Scott Burford, Randie Yeager, Dan Eisenhauer, Peter Vriens and Mavis Nimoh

1. Update on the Human Services Block Grant

Mr. Burford stated that the directors would like to provide you with a mid-year update on
the Human Services Block Grant Program and some of the progress that the team has
made this year. As you know, there is an external Advisory Committee that has been
assembled. The Committee has met twice. Some of things that the Committee has
been hearing from the public is that employment opportunities are important and also
the pitting of one agency against the other as they start to combine funds and spend
money in a community-wide effort. They have also heard a number of comments about
partnerships. You will hear from the Directors some of the programs and updates that
they have implemented to accomplish these goals. One of the other priorities was to
establish a funding formula to build a tool for the Board to use in order to assist in the
allocation of funds as appropriate to meet the highest and best needs of the community.
That will be presented to the Board at the next update. The formula is built. It is in a
test phase at this point. As with any formula, it is only as good as the variables that go into the formula. We are focusing a lot on defining the variables and spending time in that area. That will be produced at the next presentation. Part of the block grant does involve seven funding streams. They are MH, ID, Homeless Assistance, Human Services Development Fund, Drug & Alcohol, Children & Youth, Child Welfare.

Ms. Yeager stated that this process has been invaluable to ensure that the vital needs are being met through the Human Services Development Funds (HSDF). We have been working with the non-profit organizations who we contract with. There are seven currently funded through HSDF and they are also creatively raising funds of their own. They are restructuring staff, cutting all non-essential tasks and all of that is being done outside of government dollars. They continue to work closely with each of those organizations, including monitoring and maintaining those important programs. The Central PA Food Bank, when they began providing food bank services in northern Dauphin County, anticipated serving about 100 to 125 families per month. They are actually serving over 300 families per month and that includes over 700 individuals. A part-time staff person was added and additional staff is being considered. They are also, over the next couple weeks, going to be looking at a couple of individual cases, individuals with specific needs and we are going to try to ensure that they have those needs met, because they don’t fit into other categories. We have over the past several years used HSDF for particular cases and we have a couple of those coming up that we are going to attempt to serve.

Mr. Haste asked if there was any reason for the increase in the families with the Food Bank. The old numbers come from the old bank, is that correct.

Ms. Yeager indicated that the projected numbers were from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank as they entered the partnership that they have in the building. They are about five years old. The foot traffic that is coming through the building, people are more aware of services. It is tough economically so there are more folks who qualify for food bank services. Some of them are very short term, but the need it there.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the need has grown substantially. They suspect that the need could grow even larger. There are other food banks in northern Dauphin County, as well as what we offer through the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center. The need is great and if you take a look at the socio and economic data and the drivers you can see clearly that there are some significant needs. Folks understand that they are going to be treated with dignity and respect. Instead of someone having to eat cat food, they now have a choice to get some nutritious food. It sounds like a horrible example, but it is real life based upon what he has heard in the northern end. In 2004 HSDF funds were $660,000 and today it is $248,000. The contracts have been cut to a position where it is almost difficult for us to sustain any level of service through HSDF. The goals are to really take a look at the needs that are covered through HSDF and come up with a plan to meet those gap needs that are currently not being served in the categoricals where folks don’t qualify with money that is being able to be carried over and utilized through the block grant process.
Mr. Vriens stated that the Children & Youth programs and services funded through the Human Services Block Grant are Family Group Conferencing, Family Development Credentialing, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Housing Grant, Truancy Grant and the Promising Practice in regards to foster parent training. The services included in the Block Grant are the Child Welfare Special Grants and the Evidence Based Programs and tied directly to the County’s chosen benchmarks within the Needs Based Plan and Budget and also the goals of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project in which Dauphin County participates. These goals include increased family engagement, a continued safe reduction of youth in out of home placement, particularly congregate care, enhancing placement stability for those youth in placement, decreasing the length of stay in placement and reducing the rates of re-entry. Through the utilization of these programs and practices, as well as family finding of other family engagement strategies over the last two and half years, Children & Youth has seen the following outcomes: an overall 33% reduction of the number of youth in out of home placement, 60% reduction of youth in congregate care, which is anything other than foster care. In 2013 specifically, we saw a 24% decrease in the number of youth in placement, 318 families were referred to family group conferences through Children & Youth and Juvenile Probation, 32 youth were kept out of placement through family group conferencing and 103 youth were kept out of placement through family finding.

Mr. Haste questioned what the timeframe was.

Mr. Vriens stated that this was just last year. Children are being reunited with their families more quickly and children reentering placement are at an all-time low. From a fiscal point of view these outcomes have resulted in the agency coming in significantly under budget for fiscal year 2012/2013 with our County share ending up to be $1.6 million under what was budgeted. This year, through the Block Grant, we are putting more focus on developing a foster care program that can support youth who would typically be placed in congregate care and provide the necessary supports to allow for increased stability in a youth’s placement. Extensive training will be provided to perspective foster parents. We are increasing the number of training hours from six to 84. We will be utilizing the Pride Program Curriculum of Promising Practice and other support for our foster parents. Funding for this is through a Promising Practice in the Children & Youth portion of the Human Services Block Grant. Through the Housing Grant portion, we have implemented a transitional housing program. In addition to housing this program assists families in building informal support networks while they build competencies in the areas that have been contributing to their housing struggles. This includes debt recovery, budgeting, employment coaching, social services for any identified mental health or drug and alcohol issues and parenting supports. Through increased agency efficiencies, Children & Youth will be underspent this year in certain areas making funds available where needed. As we have said, this is the strength of the flexibility within the block grant and allows us to best serve our constituents.

Mr. Hartwick stated that Children & Youth, from a budget perspective, was one of the few areas that received an increase in the Governor’s proposed budget. Not knowing
what the impacts of the new legislation that has been recently enacted to expand the
definition of abuse and additional laws that have been passed, we are trying to analyze
what those impacts may be fiscally and come up with a Statewide look at what it means
to actually do the implementation and what will be required of our agencies to be able to
adhere to the new laws. The other part is that we have a unique opportunity to
potentially partner with Milton Hershey Medical Center right now, a leading location that
has spared no expense to bring the experts from around the country and world to do
both clinical and other levels of trauma therapy, the ability to understand practice and
ethics and also do research on evaluation of what currently works and what doesn’t.
We are trying to work through a partnership arrangement for a level of cooperation that
is right here that could really advance the work that we are doing in a way that can
provide even more efficient investment in areas that we know have proven outcomes for
our kids and families. That partnership will be one that is invaluable. We also went
through a comprehensive structuring of the agency. We are going to be the first in the
State, one of the only places in the country, that has readjusted. We went through a
careful consideration of trying to make that move, but we think it will have further impact
on the efficiencies of the operation and also the decision making process that goes into
the evaluation of cases by having many more people have their eyes and ears open.
Some of us get calls on Children & Youth cases and concerns. They are often
emotional and we cannot disclose what those issues are in public, but one of the ways
internally we are trying to address to ensure that there is no one person that has a look
at a case and has an axe to grind or has a relationship, because you often hear that
when it comes to Children & Youth cases. We are starting to implement a team
approach where there are multiple people engaged with the cases that allows for
several eyes and opinions and assessments to be done related to the outcome of the
case. We really want to look at foster care and recruitment, adoption and what we are
doing with our IQ kids in making sure that we come up with some progressive best
practice strategies to deal with areas that I don’t think we have been as successful as
we have been in Dauphin County. There is a lot going on in Children & Youth. If it
wasn’t for the ability to utilize some money that has been generated from efficiencies
and Children & Youth is funded to a level that the other behavioral health areas that we
are getting ready to hear from are not. The areas of struggle are upcoming and the
needs outside, without the ability to use some of the monies that you have efficiently
been able to provide, we wouldn’t be able to provide treatment services in either Mental
Health or Drug & Alcohol.

Mr. Eisenhauer highlighted some areas that they have underway for 2013/2014 in
Mental Health, Intellectual Disabilities and Homeless Assistance Programs. Last year
2012/2013, even though the funds were cut, more people were enrolled in the Mental
Health program than ever before. The demand for services continues to increase. That
is the back drop for what we are focusing on now. We are trying to focus on improved
access to treatment at the lowest level possible. We saw a growing trend of people
accessing mental health services through emergency room and crisis intervention. So,
we are trying to do two things about that. One is improved rapid access to treatment
and also educate the public about pursuing treatment before people get in a crisis,
which is early recognition and signs and systems of mental illness and how to get help
earlier. We actually got a grant from OLMSA to do mental health first aid for children and families with certified trainers that are going to be reaching out to schools and various other child serving agencies to improve their education. We are also improving the use of evidence-based practices and treatment. We are expanding tele-psychiatry with Northwestern Human Services at both northern Dauphin County and here in Harrisburg. He is working with PPI, they have opened a rapid access acute partial hospitalization program. Again these are all strategies to help people that are presenting at emergency rooms get into treatment other than inpatient pretty quickly. It is a next day service at the acute partial program, which is pretty good.

Mr. Haste asked how people get referred to that.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that people walk in. People present at the emergency room. The number one referral service for crisis intervention is the emergency room. The second one is actually police. The two largest referral services are walk ins and police departments.

Mr. Haste asked if they walk in the emergency room, how do they get from there.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that they get triaged. They get admitted through the emergency room and then they contact Crisis Intervention if it is someone that needs to be assessed or evaluated from a healthcare concern. Our folks go across the street or to Hershey or Osteopathic and do an onsite assessment. We are there in minutes or it could be hours. About 40% of the folks in the emergency rooms end up getting hospitalized and 60% don't. It is that 60% that we are trying to move quickly into treatment.

Mr. Haste asked if the event is the next day.

Mr. Eisenhauer replied that in most cases they get to a formal treatment program the next day.

Mr. Haste asked what is the success rate of moving them.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that it just started. PPI just opened in November. The census will eventually be about up to 20 people that they can serve at any given time. Right now it is operating at about 6 to 8 census. We only had a handful of people from the emergency room to the partial program. Part of an overall strategy PPI has also stationed a social worker of their own staff in the emergency room at peak time, which is from 12:00 to 8:00. That person can also work with our crisis to get them to where they need to go. It will work, but we just haven't had the capacity developed at the partial program because it just opened in November.

Mr. Haste stated that could be the sticky point.
Mr. Eisenhauer stated that when the social worker has made appointments for either outpatient or partial, the success rate is really incredible, meaning that the people really do get there. It is just small scale.

Mr. Hartwick stated that taking a look at the success rate again from folks prior to this resource being available and coming from PPI was quite a different story.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that it is such a volume of folks. It is going to take a while to assess the overall impact. We have always had other diversion programs. We have two residential programs that can be an alternative to inpatient, but our issue was that we could get them to a program but if they weren't already in treatment, getting folks in treatment was a hurdle. If I'm an emergency physician I might not be comfortable discharging someone from the emergency room to a residential program if I also know that they don't have treatment available. Since we can get treatment available it is a package of services that we need to put together to be successful at diverting. So, we are just building the pieces of that package. It is a work in progress. It will get there. He suspects in about three to six months we should be more closer to full capacity and have better news to share. Those are the interventions that we are doing on the treatment front. Employment is also a focus. The YWCA has been a partner for an employment grant for people who are homeless and are mentally ill. Their grant is ending from the Federal government so we are looking at trying to have mental health funds back fill that lost grant. We should be able to work something out with them. They are also working on expanding the NAMI family-to-family program, which again is another support service. It is another way of getting more information out to the community about early access to treatment. The ID program served about 1,000 people last year and we are on pace to serve the same again. That is just with County-based funds. The big initiatives are employment. They are negotiating with OVR about project search. It has been a little confusing. They wanted to develop two sites. First they said only one site at a time. Now, just last week, they indicated that maybe we could do two sites at a time. We will work with them either two at one time, one first and then one later. We need OVR to declare the rules and order of events, because they provide funding for the license. We are also enhancing a summer employment program for youth with ID and focusing on training education. For Homeless Assistance Program, he echoed what Randie said about the demand for the food bank. We have seen a slight increase, but an increase in unsheltered people and people that are near homeless over the last two years. It's not like an astounding increase, but since 2008 we have seen year over year increases in the number of people that are homeless or near homeless. Homeless Assistance Program is a preventive service on the front end that the rental assistance and case management and they also provide funding for shelter transitional programs. They are just always full. The transition and shelter programs have been 100% capacity for at least 1 ½ years, all year round all the time.

Mr. Hartwick asked where they are at with funds for homeless assistance this year. Last year it was something that we needed to address from the Block Grant perspective. We are going to hear from Mavis on the treatment monies getting ready to run out in March. He would like to have the Board, if it is their position to do so, direct
Scott to move some of the money that we have in order to ensure that treatment continues through the Block Grant.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that he is not requesting any transfer of funds at this time, but it is a possibility that he will later.

Mr. Haste asked later meaning when.

Mr. Eisenhauer replied possibly April or May. We did an assessment with Christian Churches United who does the rental assistance program. They are on pace with their current budget. We also got funded a second rental assistance program from the Commonwealth – Emergency Solutions Grant, which has helped them. That was not in place last year. It is in place this year so we have two funding sources that we are managing now for rental assistance. Their projection is that they should be okay. We are not requesting any transfer of funds at this point. As Randie mentioned there are a couple of cases that have come to his attention that are not eligible in either the mental health system or the intellectual disabilities system, but they are in between and they are close to one or both. In the past, HSDF has been able to support a couple of individuals like that. The flexibility of the Block Grant allows that opportunity.

Ms. Nimoh stated that she will provide a brief overview of where we are at currently and then some of the initiatives that we are working on and what our forecast looks like. Presently we made some changes to the Block Grant. Behavioral health service is the least funded out of all the services. We had an opportunity to leverage services, leverage current existing funding streams elsewhere and be able to serve a lot more people. Our providers pretty much exceeded deliverables for our providers within the Block Grant. In particular our support services and this is really vital, because this serves as a way to safe guard some of our dollars. They are able to intervene. It is similar to what you would find on the mental health side in terms of peer services. That is something that is relatively new in the drug and alcohol field. Our research indicates that we are seeing tremendous work upwards of 50% retention and treatment for individuals who are paired with an individual who has also been through recovery and showing them the ropes and how to access resources and services without going into the formal systems, which of course are much more costly. We have seen some tremendous outcomes with our recovery support providers. The January weather events took a tremendous toll on our providers. The off-shoot of that is that has sort of helped the budget in terms of providers not being able to reimburse because they had to close offices down. However, we are on track and once we get our full January estimates we are essentially going to be running out of funds before the end of the fiscal year. Typically what we have done and we have been doing it earlier within the fiscal year is we send a notice out to our providers for contingent authorizations. All of our providers are required to file for medical assistance applications so that individuals can then be funded through HealthChoices. This goes into some of our current projects. Our criminal justice population is our biggest cost driver. They are approximately 80% of the individuals that we end up seeing through the County system. To that end, what happens is that they are ineligible while they are in Prison obviously for medical
assistance, funding for HealthChoices. So, they would typically fall into the County funds. That is a big cost driver for us. Some of things that we have been able to do is we have partnered with Secretary Gary Tennis of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to do a medical assistance prison pilot. We are the eighth county in this pilot. Essentially what we are doing is working with prison staff and we are doing assessments, but we are also getting a medical assistance application started. Through some administrative work we are able to actually start the individual on medical assistance the day that they leave. We are hoping that this can actually be used possibly as a condition of pre-release. This will help expedite individuals out of the prison system. It is something that the Prison is very excited about and so is Probation. We are excited as well as Pre-Trial. We are also working with Work Release. Having individuals within the criminal justice system is such a big portion of our population. We are also looking at ways that make sense in terms of getting these individuals treatment as opposed to incarceration. We are working with Work Release to have a provider provide intensive outpatient and group services onsite at the Work Release Center. That is going to be Genesis House. They were selected by Work Release as the preferred provider. We anticipate being able to expand the medical assistance pilot to the Work Release Center.

Mr. Haste asked if the Judicial Center was included.

Ms. Nimoh replied that the Judicial Center we have had difficulty in figuring out what services they want there.

Mr. Haste asked why wouldn’t we sign the people up when they are there.

Ms. Nimoh replied that we have no issue with doing that. The feedback that I have gotten in terms of the Judicial Center is sort of a hold-off on the social side of it.

Mr. Haste asked why.

Ms. Nimoh replied that she can’t answer that question.

Mr. Haste asked who said to hold off.

Ms. Nimoh replied that individuals at the Judicial Center and the Courts. That is the feedback that we got from judges that they would like us to hold off on the social service side of things.

Mr. Haste stated the intent was to have it there. That was one of the things that the Courts wanted.

Ms. Nimoh stated that it has been a request of the Courts to hold back on providing social services at the moment. Pre-Trial comes in and does assessments.

Mr. Haste asked why.
Ms. Nimoh stated that she cannot answer that.

**Ms. Cullison stated that she believes they were going to wait six months until they got the operations down.**

Mr. Haste stated that it has been six months. That makes no sense to him, because that is where we should be doing it. Because people go over to the jail many times are pre-sentenced. They should be analyzing things right there. That was the intent of this. He needs to talk to the Courts.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he shares the Commissioner's frustration.

Ms. Nimoh stated that for the first time in Dauphin County we are going to be able to have school-based treatment services in the majority of our school districts. We have never had the opportunity to have school-based. We will have a provider located within our school setting. That will help mitigate transportation and other issues as well. We are also leveraging our reinvestment dollars. We have been able to through a RFP create the expansion of an adolescent intensive outpatient site. The County was instrumental in helping Mazzitti and Sullivan create their site in Highspire. We have seen tremendous outcomes and really good success. We have had the opportunity to also leverage dollars in terms of housing typically for individuals in the D&A field. Housing is a major issue. It is one of the triggers of going back to the people, places and things that are doing the things that you normally are going to do. We have been able to create an house for women to reside with their children in two additional houses within Dauphin County. Also a scholarship program for individuals coming out of inpatient to be able to get housing. Even though we are the least funded and even though are services cross all the other categoricals, we have been able to leverage the dollars that we do have and that is a testament to sort of the design and ability within the Block Grant system.

Mr. Hartwick asked if she had a request.

Ms. Nimoh stated that she does. At this point minimally we would be requesting $100,000. We think that will get us through March and into April. From there, because we work on a system where we are a month behind because we are reimbursed fee for service structure, we don’t always know what the invoices look like, but we know that amount will get us well into the Spring.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he would ask Scott to move that money now because that may not be the entirety, but it will keep you in a position to meet continual treatment needs of the D&A clientele. It is always interesting and I want to note that the biggest opposition to the Block Grant was the Drug and Alcohol Lobby. I think the benefit from the Block Grant has been seen by counties across the Commonwealth in improved access.

Mr. Haste stated that he hasn’t heard from that lobbyist in about seven months.
Mr. Hartwick stated that same lobbyist got an established fund from gaming for inpatient services. They seem to have benefited greatly even though they complained and bitterly opposed the counties flexibility. The only thing that we are concerned is not pitting categorical verus categorical. We are concerned about making sure treatment services are available especially to the clientele that drives the cost in the County, but also to families who may qualify. We want to keep the doors open and the Block Grant is the only way that we have been able to do that with the loss of money through the HUB.

Mr. Haste asked why are we only asking for money to get us to March or April as opposed to the end of June.

Ms. Nimoh stated that part of that is based on sort of going back to discussions with Scott to see what other plans and designs are intended for those Block Grant funds. We are also waiting to see what the weather events did in terms of January, because they were very significant. I would hesitate to take more money at this time. I would reserve the right to come back to the Board and ask when it is appropriate and we have demonstrated a need for additional dollars. I will certainly forecast that before we run out.

Mr. Hartwick asked if it is a requirement that we still have to issue the contingency authorizations to providers.

Ms. Nimoh stated that we will hold off on issuing the contingency authorization notice.

Mr. Hartwick stated that can be a step that can be avoided knowing that funds are available.

Mr. Burford stated that what he is recommending at this point is that we look at a $300,000 not to exceed authorization if that is permissible.

Mr. Haste stated that he would prefer that so you can do as you see fit as opposed to having you come back and do this again.

Mr. Burford stated in anticipation of the fiscal reallocation to Drug & Alcohol of $300,000 and also HSDF.

Mr. Haste stated as needed.

Mr. Burford stated that it would be drawn as needed.

Mr. Haste asked if authorization is needed to do that.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he thinks it is administrative. Just the discussion and dialogue.
Mr. Haste stated that it is on the record that the Board supports this. There was no opposition.

Mr. Burford stated that he does anticipate seeking a waiver with the State to meet the 75% minimum spend as a requirement of the Block Grant. He will take care of that administratively as well. We do have two public hearings come up. One on April 18th and again on May 23. The May 23 meeting we will be presenting to the Advisory Committee the Block Grant plan for 2014/2015 with the anticipation of submitting our plan to this Board for submittal to the State in June.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on the Salary Board Packet and/or the Personnel Packet. There was none.

The Salary Board Packet and the Personnel Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci indicated that there some budget adjustments that need to be made to the Purchase Order Packet. 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**

Ms. Cullison indicated that there are several training requests that need approval. They are #1, 2, 10-14 and 21-25.

> It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Items #1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the Training Packet.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Haste questioned the Bond Issue.

Ms. Cullison indicated that the proposed refunding will refund a portion of the currently outstanding 2009 Bonds. The proposed refunding issue will be approximately $10,000,000 and the projected savings, using current interest rates, are approximately $500,000. The 2009 Bonds will be redeemed on November 15, 2014, the first optional redemption date.
A. Ordinance #1-2014 – Dauphin County 2014 Bond Debt (**A Vote is Requested 2/19/14***)

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

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

Mr. Curcillo indicated that everything on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

**CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – LAURA CULLISON, ESQ.**

Ms. Cullison reported that Dauphin County will commemorate Black History Month with a free program entitled “Free Your Mind…The Rest Will Follow” tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Whitaker Center. The event is open to the public, however, full house. More than 680 people and school students are expected to attend.

**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. Hartwick that the Board adjourned.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz