DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Dan Eisenhauer, Administrator of MH/ID; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Melissa Bradley, Human Resources; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Janelle Weidner, Human Resources; Larry Moore, Parks & Recreation; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Tom Guenther, Director of IT; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

James Roxbury, Tom Connolly, Karl Singleton, Hari Jones, Stephen Hetrick, Julie Matera, Beth McAlister, Mike Grier and Leah Eppinger

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 three sets of Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Connolly of Swatara Township noted that he was here last week and spoke about a mailer that he received at his home. He asked some questions, but didn’t really get any answers. He later saw that some responses were given to an inquiry from a Pennlive Patriot-News reporter. There were some inaccuracies in that information. When he said 24 photos, he meant individual pictures. There were 17 actual photos. He took exception to the quote that it is very similar to what is done in Swatara Township. He is the Vice-President of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners. One of his roles is the Chairman of the Communications Committee. Part of that role is putting out a Township newsletter. The Township also has a Fall 2015 Newsletter. He made a comparison of the two newsletters. On the Township Newsletter there are no photos. The home phone numbers of all the Commissioners are included in the newsletter. That is the only place a name is listed. The Senate and House of Representatives don’t send out materials within 60 days of an Election cycle. The biggest issue that he has was with the quote “That this was mailed on a list of voters and residents.” The Township mails out 1,200 of these using a postal system that goes to every single place in the Township that gets mail. There is no consideration as to whether there are voters at that address. The document should contain information that is important to everyone, not just voters. He plans on filing a complaint with the Election Bureau. He stands on his contention that this is a political mailing sent out very close to an Election where the three people who are pictured repeatedly are candidates in that Election. He also visited the website for Haste and Pries and the actual headline that is used on the County Newsletter is the headline that is on the Haste/Pries campaign website since January.
DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Hari Jones, Curator of the Permanent Exhibit at the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, DC

1. The Lost Story Lectures

Mr. Haste stated that it is his pleasure to introduce Hari Jones, the Curator of the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, DC. Mr. Jones will be blessing the community with four lectures.

Mr. Jones is the Museum Curator and a former Marine. The Lecture Series that will be presented at the National Civil War Museum is entitled the “Lost Story”. When he was working on this lecture series, he thought he should have added an American Lost Story. This is telling a complete story of this American experience called the Civil War.

The first lecture will be held on October 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. – “Buffalo Soldiers: The Henry Highland Garnet Guards and Black Militias in Struggle for Freedom and Enfranchisement” - Those who answer the call for resistance after an 1843 speech by Henry Highland Garnet at a convention in Buffalo, New York.

The second lecture will be held on October 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. – “In the League for Light and Liberty: Lincoln’s Legal Loyal League or the 4L’s in the War of the Rebellion – The origins and activities of what Allan Pinkerton as the head of Union intelligence gathering described as a “Loyal League” of person of African descent.

The third lecture will be held on October 24, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. – “Recruiting a Gospel Army: Freedom Fighters in the War of the Rebellion” – The voices of the laborers, soldiers and sailors recruited as well as the voices of those who recruited and commanded them are the voices featured in this lecture.

The fourth and final lecture will be held on October 24, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. – “Lost Story Series: A Glorious March to Liberty: Victory and its Consequences” – The war time experiences of African descent soldiers, sailors, and laborers are featured in this lecture. The military successes and failures that lead to victory over slavery and the Confederate States of America are chronicled and analyzed.

Mr. Jones spent 30 years tracking the Loyal League. This was a secret organization. He identified who the players were, what their code systems were and what their objectives were. They advocated the abolition of slavery in league with the Constitution. He has been asked how the word got out. It is how trade moves. Pennsylvania becomes important, because in the commercial expansion of this country, Pennsylvania is clearly the Keystone State. Harrisburg is clearly the keystone of the Keystone State. This becomes a central point of communications and reaching out for this underground network. When you focus on the voices of the actual history makers, they get a different story than what has been presented. When he tells people that “Glory” isn’t
very accurate, they are shocked. Gospel soldiers believe that this was their calling. One of the most impressive aspects of these soldiers is that they actually, from the time they enlist in the army, are outstanding soldiers. Why is this? It is because of the Henry Highland Garnet guards, the black militias. They will discuss how they contributed to the strategic victory in abolishing slavery and saving the union. When you include all pertinent facts, what they find is that the reception in Harrisburg in November of 1865 is anything but a consolation. This is not a celebration in response to the grand review. Why, because the United States Colored Troops weren’t completely excluded from the grand review in Washington. The 135th United States Colored Troops were there. When President Andrew Johnson pulls them out, they actually leave reluctantly. They understand that the 13th Amendment is going to be ratified. They come to Harrisburg to celebrate. This is a victory reception. This is a moment of pride for these soldiers who began with that answer to Henry Highland Garnet’s call in Buffalo. He will tell a story that will help explain why Harrisburg was selected to be the host of this victory reception. These lectures will take place at the National Civil War Museum.

Mr. Haste thanked Mr. Jones. It is important to have someone like Mr. Jones come in and talk about the role that Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania played in the Civil War. One of the things that will be learned from the lectures is just how critical Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania was. There is probably very little that occurred on the union side of the war that did not have its touches of Harrisburg in it. The national leaders that were living here that haven’t made the big textbooks, but the country would have been different if it hadn’t been for their leadership. He thanked Mr. Jones for bringing this to the forefront. This area is the keystone of the Keystone State.

Mr. Hartwick thanked Mr. Jones. This is a very good preview to what will be an outstanding series. The Board appreciates his expertise and candor. The Board encouraged folks to attend. He thanked him for bringing this to Harrisburg.

Mr. Pries stated that if you combine Wayne Mott and Mr. Jones, the energy that those two folks have is very impressive.

Mr. Haste stated that hopefully every high school history teacher in the viewing area will see this.

Mr. Jones mentioned that CSPAN will be covering the first two lectures.

B. Dan Eisenhauer, Administrator, MH/ID and Beth McAlister of NHS and Mike Grier of Keystone Human Services

   1. Dauphin County Mental Health Program: Trends and Issues

Mr. Eisenhauer discussed the “Overview of the Mental Health System and some current Trends and Issues”. There is a lot of numbers and data. With him is Mike Grier from Keystone and Beth McAlister of NHS. He talked about the National Mental Illness
Prevalence Data, the funding patterns and the service delivery pattern changes that have been seen over the years and high level system indicators. He will also mention the State budget impasse, which thanks to the Board’s support has not been as detrimental to the providers as it might have been.

About one in four adults in America, 61.5 million Americans, will probably have a diagnosis of mental health concern this year. Within that group, about 5% are seriously mentally ill. The community publicly funded mental health system focuses primarily on that 5% of people who have a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder. Nationally only about 60% of adults and about half of the children that actually have a mental health diagnosis receive treatment for their condition. That becomes important as they talk about what he calls the growing demand for mental health services. State MH Funding to Dauphin, in 2008/09 the County received $19,618,224 and then 2014/15 it was $17,531,023. That is a $2.1 million decrease. State funding is not the sole funding source, but even when Federal funds, grant funds, one-time funds and with some creative things that have been done over the years, the total picture of decreased funding over that same period is $2.9 million. They are serving more people with administrative case management and serving fewer people with targeted case management. The reason for that is targeted case management is more expensive, smaller caseloads, it is a better level of service, but since funding has been cut they have had to reduce or restrict the amount of targeted or intensive case management that can be provided. This means that more people are getting administrative case management versus targeted. There is a very significant increase in emergency services and crisis intervention. Emergency services refer to the number of people who get hospitalized as a result of presenting at the emergency room and being evaluated by the crisis department and the emergency room physician. This speaks to community demand. This is not a result of funding, because crisis serves everybody in Dauphin County and even some people in surrounding counties. It is people with private insurance, no insurance, medical assistance, VA benefits – it is people that need to get assessed in a crisis. They have not had any staffing complement changes at crisis during this period of time. They decreased the outpatient services. Part of it they have been able to shift some funding and some consumers to medical assistance, but outpatient services are the least restrictive form of community services and most people in the system need it. Social rehab services are services that help people integrate into the communities successfully. They have had to do some funding cuts, so those numbers have decreased. The total number of people served in 2008/09 it was 4,819 and in 2013/14 it was 4,422. After 2012/13 they do not have the capacity to do more with less. They are now doing less with less.

Medical Assistance - $53 million last year. If you add the behavioral health funding and HeathChoices it is around $70 million. Over 8,000 people received outpatient services through Medical Assistance. They had only about 860 people that received inpatient in Medical Assistance. They are serving almost 18% of the people in the HealthChoices Program get behavioral health. They are much closer to that national data of 25% than they are in some other funding sources. High level of service is the extended acute
care, which is provided at Philhaven Hospital and Danville State Hospital. They still admit a lot of people to EAC and to Danville State Hospital. They admit more people than ever to Danville State Hospital and the EAC level of care than they did before the State Hospital was closed.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the difference is the wait time.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated the wait time is the problem. Those people that need to go to that high level of care they have a difficulty discharging people from that level of care to the community, because they lack community resources. No one can go into one of those facilities until someone comes out. They have a fixed bed capacity.

Mr. Haste stated that the Prison is seeing that trend out there as well. They stay in jail longer than they need to be and they are not getting treatment.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated for them it is a system picture. No one goes into those facilities until someone comes out. People coming out need a community network that can support them. That is part of what is required to discharge someone. In 2008/09 the flow was better. They got people served in the community.

Mr. Haste asked what has changed since 2008/09.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated lack of funding, programs closed and beds closed.

Mr. Haste asked if that was around the same time that the State changed its system where they took over some of the operations that the County used to do.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated no, that was the ID system. When they lose $2 million at some point they have to close programs. As residential programs are closed, the opportunities for people to be discharged or to prevent them from needing higher levels of care is diminished. For fiscal year 2014/15 there are 1,824 new people that present to crisis that were never evaluated or seen before. Return contacts for 2014/15 was 1,174 hospitalizations. Hospitalizations have gone up. Diversions are stable.

Mr. Hartwick asked if that is directly correlated to the lack of resources and/or education.

Mr. Eisenhauer indicated that is correct. They prefer inpatient be used as seldom as possible.

Medical Assistance – this is where the bulk of funding is in the mental health system. This is a pretty good indicator for the system as a whole. There is an increase in the number of admissions, the number of unduplicated people getting inpatient and an increase in the length of stay, which is a combination of acuity and community resources on the discharge end.
Mr. Hartwick stated acuity is how serious someone’s illness is at the time they are admitted to the hospital.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that the State budget is three months late. The Commonwealth is continuing to provide Medicaid funding in both the mental health system and the ID system. There is no County funding. Thankfully, the Dauphin County Commissioners have agreed to support the program and providers during this budget impasse. He is not sure how long that will continue.

Mr. Haste stated that he is glad that they are able to do it, but time is ticking. He is starting to get nervous.

Mr. Hartwick stated that what was part of a stop gap budget measure would have been even more detrimental to the system. The idea of getting money flowing would have come with significant cost - meaning that the County would not have seen the ability to have some level of restoration and a system that is completely underfunded. There are some other pieces that would have also been detrimental to waiting lists as well. The County wants to be careful about trying to get money flowing, but it doesn’t want to further damage financially the system to get those dollars flowing. The Board will have some discussions about that. He is concerned as well. He doesn’t want to further deteriorate a system that is right now in crisis with further cuts that do more to hamper access to services.

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that it is not all doom and gloom. They are also continually improving the system. They changed the service delivery. They try to shift funding around and try to do new innovative things.

Ms. McAlister stated that she works for NHS Human Services. She is also a member of the Dauphin County Block Grant Committee. Currently NHS is serving approximately 1,880 consumers within Dauphin County. They have seen an increase in the outpatient clinic, in consumer participation. They just recently opened an Open Access Clinic, one day a week with a psychiatrist and a therapist that a consumer does not have to have a prescheduled appointment. There are close to 40% of no-show rates. In the last two weeks with the Open Access Clinic, they had 31 consumers that walked through the door. They received their evaluation and assessment. Seventy-five percent of those 31 saw a psychiatrist. There were actually two that were in a crisis. They were diverted through this Open Access Clinic. It is only two weeks, but they will be monitoring it.

They have a Physical Behavioral Health component and an internal medicine doctor on site at Cameron Street Outpatient. If a consumer comes in for their mental health appointment, they can also see the internal medicine doctor. They get their physical care, as well as their mental health care. They have seen some improvements with this approach. Many mental health consumers never see a family physician.

Mr. Haste stated that the other good side hopefully to that is the management of meds.
Ms. McAlister stated yes, there is collaboration with the psychiatrists, the physician assistant and therapist. There is a lot of discussion between the folks. Right now they have approximately 250 patients.

One of the other area that has helped and in working with Dan and his staff is tele-med and tele-psychiatry where you can have a psychiatrist anywhere and through the video connectivity the consumer can be seen right there at the outpatient clinic. That is another choice for them. They have seen pretty high percentages of compliance with return visits after the initial assessments with getting their meds on a monthly basis. They have tried to be innovative and creative in offering some of the newest therapies and integrated approach and most recently the Open Access Clinic.

Mr. Grier stated that he is with Keystone Human Services. He thanked the Commissioners for extending funding, even though it may be short-lived. They really appreciate it. Keystone is involved with a number of counties and not all the places are doing that and they are feeling that. When they get through the budget impasse, the best that they are hoping for is flat funding. Actually flat funding is negative funding, because you do not continue to pay the same prices for every item that you purchase. They don’t pay the same prices for healthcare insurance for the employees, the same prices for fuel oil, etc. You try to do the most with the least and if you are affective at it, you get rewarded by continually having to do it.

Mr. Haste stated that the County understands that well. Keystone is being very realistic on the outcome of the budget.

Mr. Grier stated that another challenge for them is recruiting qualified personnel. Because the budgets are flat, they are not in a position to offer salaries that are competitive with those in the private sector. Keystone and NHS are both large providers within the system. They have the ability to have their CFO and Presidents go in and leverage some of the credit line, so they can get through this budget impasse, but for a small provider it would be difficult. Keystone took existing dollars and shifted it and utilized the same amount of money and developed two new programs. One is a residential program for people that are transitional age from 18 to 25, folks that may have been in more restrictive environments costing more money. They also developed the second licensed psychiatric rehabilitation program in the South Central PA area in Dauphin County. That program specifically works with people to get back to work, utilizing various approaches of psychiatric rehab to do that. In the past year they served about 75 people in the program. It was done in partnership with Mr. Eisenhauer’s office and they also solicit much input from the stakeholders in Dauphin County.

Mr. Haste stated that on behalf of those who need the services, thank you for hanging in there with the County.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he wants to publicly thank Dan Eisenhauer. Dan doesn’t appreciate kudos. There are very few individuals across the State of Pennsylvania that both understand the complicated funding structure and are on top of innovation and
continue to make system improvements despite the bleak and horrible underfunding of a system that is critically important to the well-being and safety of the community. He is grateful to Dan and his staff. Dan is on the front edge of understanding both the system and the ability for the County to try, in a difficult environment, still be progressive. There is also the new Co-occurring Outpatient facility in the hill area of Harrisburg. It is the first drug and alcohol and mental health outpatient facility in the County. That continues to be a significant concern, absent the ability to provide and receive services, folks are self-medicating. The ability to serve both mental illness and drug and alcohol needs – they see it in the jails – in times of significant underfunding innovation still occurs in the County. Some of the highlights from the presentation – 18% increase, 28% overall system increase and a $3 million reduction in funding. Jails are the number one mental health providers in the nation. This is probably the most underfunded system of any system and the dangers and concerns are real. He would ask the legislators and the media to go along with crisis for one day. The County lacks the resources to be able to provide that level of community based service with the closing of the state hospital, waiting list times and folks in community institutions – what is it going to take – this is not something that should be argued over in a budget crisis for politics. The mental health system needs to be adequately funded. It is important to get the message out. The facts indicate that we are in crisis. We need to act in a way to restore funding that has been taken away from the system and to actually address the needs that exist that are causing other systems and taxpayers to spend millions of dollars for treatment that does not work. This has to be addressed.

Mr. Haste stated that the jail population is usually over 40%. It is the wrong setting to be dealing with this illness.

C.  Stephen Hetrick

1. Proposed Fund Change to the Deferred Compensation Plan

Mr. Hetrick stated that the Dauphin County PA Deferred Compensation Plan is a defined contribution plan where participants can elect investment options in which to invest their retirement contributions. To help ensure the participants have quality investments to choose from there is a due diligence process in place to monitor the ongoing performance of the funds in the plan. The plan's U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund, the Wells Fargo Advantage Growth Fund A, has been on the watch list. At the last Voluntary Employee Benefits Committee (VEBC) meeting, they voted to approve the recommendation to remove the fund from the plan and replace it with a fund that is meeting the due diligence criteria. There were several funds that meant the screening criteria. They recommended the Parnassus Endeavor Fund. It is a diversified, fundamental, U.S., large-cap core equity fund, which is categorized by Morningstar as Large Cap Growth Fund. The fund invests principally in undervalued equity securities of large-capitalized companies with outstanding workplaces. Companies with good workplaces usually are able to recruit and retain better employees and perform at a higher level than competitors in terms of innovation, productivity, customer loyalty and profitability. The Fund avoids investing in companies engaged in the extraction,
exploration, production, manufacturing or refining of fossil fuels. The Fund also takes environmental, social and governance factors into account in making investment decisions. The fund offers great performance along with some socially conscience investment policies, which may appeal to some Plan participants.

Mr. Haste noted that the Board will consider this action at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

She noted two changes to the Personnel Packet – Item #19 the Range should be 00109, Step 01, Grade 01 and Item #31 the effective date should be October 12, 2015.

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

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci indicated that he has one addition to the Purchase Order Packet. It is for the District Attorney’s Office. W.B. Mason holds a warehouse sale. The DA’s Office purchased some items. They need to get the items paid within a short period of time. He is asking to include that requisition in the Packet. (The Board was in agreement.)

There are some budget adjustments that will be made prior to next week.

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

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve #1 and #19 of the Training Packet.

Discussion: Mr. Pries asked the reason for #1. The date of the event was June, 2015 and he would like to know why it is being submitted so late.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There was none.
SOLICITOR’S REPORT – JOSEPH A. CURCILLO, III, ESQ.

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

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor stated that he has nothing to report unless the Board has questions. (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