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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH – MARCH 2015**

**Cumberland County, PA** – At their public meeting today, in recognition of National Professional Social Work Month in March, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation in honor of social workers who represent the County’s Human Services Agencies. The mission of social work is to enable all people to develop their full potential, enrich their lives, and prevent dysfunction. Social workers help people solve and cope with problems and challenges in their everyday lives to lead a productive and fulfilling life with dignity.

Social workers are employed in a variety of settings, including mental health clinics, schools, child welfare and human service agencies, hospitals, and private practices. Social workers’ duties typically include the following: identify people who need help, assess a client’s needs, situations, and support networks to determine their goals; develop plans to improve a client’s well-being; help clients adjust to changes and challenges; research and refer clients to community resources; assist clients in working with government agencies to apply for and receive benefits such as Medicare; respond to crisis situations such as child abuse; advocate for and help clients get resources needed to improve their well-being; follow up with clients to ensure that their situations have improved; and evaluate services provided to ensure that they are effective.

In Cumberland County Government, social workers are part of a team that provides support to the residents of the Claremont Nursing & Rehabilitation Center for comprehensive care, and caseworkers, case managers and care managers provide an array of social services and programs for consumers of the Office of Aging & Community Services; Children & Youth Services; Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disability Services, and Drug & Alcohol Services. Social work is also essential to the rehabilitation of inmates at the Cumberland County Prison.

According to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), this year’s theme of “Social Work Paves the Way for Change” was chosen to convey what NASW and the social work profession have done over the past six decades to bring about positive changes in society and for individuals. Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month encourages social workers and citizens across the country to promote the value of the profession and highlight social workers’ important role in contributing to society. For additional information on National Professional Social Work Month visit: <http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/default.asp>.

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