



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMISSIONERS ACKNOWLEDGE EMPLOYEES & PROVIDERS FOR
DELIVERING VITAL HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS DESPITE
THE 2015 STATE BUDGET IMPASSE**

Cumberland County, PA – At their public meeting today, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution citing the impact of the 2015 State Budget Impasse and recognizing the County’s employees and human services providers for their commitment to rendering vital services while enduring the State budget gridlock. Cumberland County’s Human Services Agencies and their providers maintained a focus and commitment to delivering these critical services for our most vulnerable citizens despite the extreme and egregious difficulties created by the State Budget Impasse.

In an effort to manage the growing financial impact the County was forced to incur, the Commissioners implemented several policy measures in October 2015 that included withholding payments to human services providers, either in full or in part. Providers who were able to absorb the impact to their cash flow were cooperative and agreed to wait for reimbursement of their professional services rendered once the funding from the State had been released. Due to the suspended payments, some providers in the State used funds from their savings accounts or had to borrow funds to meet their payroll obligations.

State funds account for approximately 46% of Cumberland County’s revenues, and a higher percentage for the County’s Human Services Agencies, and without funds owed to counties from the State, Cumberland County was faced with spending nearly \$3 million per month from the General Fund to keep programs operational. Programs potentially affected included child welfare and protective services, mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homeless assistance, meal programs, lottery funded transportation and others. The policy measures also involved implementing a hiring freeze, placing restrictions on staff overtime and all non-essential travel, and suspending capital expenses as well as spending of some grant monies.

The Commissioners are thankful to all County employees for their efforts as well as to those providers and organizations that have shown exemplary dedication and made difficult sacrifices in order to deliver uninterrupted services to residents whose needs transcend the political landscape of a budget adoption.

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