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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Cumberland County, PA – At their public meeting today, the Cumberland County Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Cumberland County in an effort to raise awareness of a problem that often goes unrecognized in our communities. This national campaign acknowledges the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is one of the most important things the County can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.

Commissioners also emphasized the important roles of two County agencies that work on behalf of child victims of abuse and/or neglect – the County’s Children & Youth Services Agency and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program. These agencies work diligently every day to ensure the protection and well-being of children in Cumberland County.

Also, in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Children’s Memorial flag will fly at Veterans’ Square in April. This flag, sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America, is flown to direct attention to the tragedy of violent child deaths as part of a national initiative to reduce child mortality. The flag is a simple, moving image – a red field depicting blue, paper-doll-like figures of children holding hands. In the center, the white chalk outline of a missing child symbolizes the children lost to violence.

For additional information about Cumberland County Children & Youth Services and the CASA Program visit the County’s website at www.ccpa.net. For more information about child abuse protection and how to report suspected cases of child abuse visit the State’s Keep Kids Safe website at www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov.

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