

FINANCE MEETING – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTORS RE: FISCAL BUDGETS

April 23, 2014

The Cumberland County Finance Meeting took place on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse, Carlisle, PA. Present were Commissioners Barbara Cross, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Larry Thomas, Chief Clerk; Joanne Burkhart, Deputy Chief Clerk; Heather Ilgenfritz, Commissioners' Office; Chris Sechrist, Administrative Services; Dana Best, Sherry Byers, Ron Snow, Finance; Nikki Gresh, Lisa Reider, Nicole Crisp, Children & Youth Services; Jack Carroll, Drug & Alcohol; Silvia Herman, Sue Carbaugh, MH/IDD; David Miller, Office of Aging & Community Services; Kirk Stoner, Planning; Steve Marroni, Patriot News; Daniel Walmer, The Sentinel.

Introduction and Presentation: Jack Carroll and Silvia Herman:

Jack Carroll conducted a presentation regarding the state of the County's Behavioral Health Services and HealthChoices (**see attached**). The presentation highlighted cuts to Human Services State funding over the past ten years including a 10% cut two years ago. These cuts have presented significant challenges to providing the desired level of funding needed for the fiscal budget.

It was noted that it has always been a goal to decrease institutionalizations and increase residential placements.

Medical Assistance Discussion:

Mr. Carroll said that County residents who have an income just over the poverty line are not eligible for medical assistance; thus, they come to the County for assistance.

Governor Tom Corbett's plan for expansion of Medicaid services is under consideration by the federal government for possible approval.

Because of Cumberland County's rising population, mental health needs and drug and alcohol services, it is critical to identify individuals who may be eligible for medical assistance, thereby eliminating reliance on County funds. However, the patient must pay any deductibles before medical assistance contributes to their costs.

Prison/Criminal Justice System Discussion:

Untreated mental illness can impact the costs to the criminal justice system, particularly because of drug and alcohol-related crimes. For example, probation departments face relapses because individuals on probation violate their probation; Children & Youth Services face funding impacts because of the rise in abuse and neglect cases and Public Safety is often impacted.

There is an alarming increase in the number of prison inmates who arrive with the need for detox treatment services.

Community-based mental health services for individuals upon release from prison is an important factor to help alleviate a negative impact on the community.

The County may be eligible for time-limited Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grants.

The Criminal Justice Policy Team has liaisons from both Human Services and Court-related departments to help to evaluate Intermediate Punishment alternatives.

Substance Abuse:

Mr. Carroll said that substance abuse is a cost-driver affecting all other Human Services Agencies.

- 2011-2012 Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment: 27% County Managed
- 2011-2012 Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment: 40% County Managed

One of the most treatable forms of alcohol abuse is the prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome. It would be helpful for bars to post signage warning women not to consume alcohol while pregnant.

Fiscal Budget: Finance Director, Dana Best:

The Fiscal Budget will be made available for review. The Fiscal Budget is only a prediction until the State budget has been adopted.

Dana Best discussed the Fiscal Budget (**see attached Cumberland County Fiscal Budget 2014-2015 and Scorecard**). She presented early projections for 2014 and 2015 estimating the funding the County will receive from the State for Human Services and Criminal Justice Programs. The State and federal funding remains flat.

The biggest risk to the General Fund is providing mandated services because the demand for services cannot be forecasted.

Children & Youth Services: Nikki Gresch and Lisa Reider:

Children & Youth Services received a 1.7% increase in funding.

The next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. The topic of this meeting is Discussion on Fee Generators and Public Financial Management (PFM) Recommendations.

Laurie J. Mazarella
Administrative Coordinator