

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
July 2, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick and Richard L. Fink, George J Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Jennifer Bellas – CD Division Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Dave Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Mark Campbell - Deputy Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Jim Kuemmerle – Administrator, Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR, Gary Montebell- Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Chad Paz – Family Life TV, Tiffany Chaffee -Kittanning Paper.

Mr. Scahill was absent due to his attendance at the Wounded Warrior's Walk.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the June 18, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Phase II of the Belmont Complex Agreement with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Montebell, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved Phase II of the Belmont Complex Agreement with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Mr. Montebell described that this started with the DCNR grant applied for in 2008; and that this is the most current correspondence stating that all paperwork is in order and ready to proceed.

HIPAA Non-Disclosure Agreement with Leechburg Pharmacy

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Warden Hogue, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the HIPAA Non-Disclosure Agreement with Leechburg Pharmacy. Warden Hogue explained that this agreement is in regards to the confidentiality on behalf of the pharmacy and the medications they provide to inmates in the Armstrong County Jail.

Modification of the County of Armstrong OBO Brady's Bend Township FFY 2006 Competitive Community Development Block Grant

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Bellas and pending the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners adopted the resolution to modify the FFY 2006 Competitive Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Bellas explained that the Village of Roseville Water Extension Project was completed under budget by approximately \$141,700. The surplus will be used to extend the water line, encompassing five households, in which 78.6% are of low-moderate income. The homes are in both Brady's Bend Township and Perry Township.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Bellas and pending the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the modification of the FFY 2006 Competitive Community Development Block Grant. The Commissioners described many encounters with grateful residents who now have an improved water source.

Home Health Services Contract – Interim Healthcare

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Home Health Services Contract with Interim Healthcare of Dubois. Ms. Talerico explained that these agreements will give the recipients more choices in care.

Home Support Services Contract – Interim Healthcare

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Home Support Services Contract with Interim Healthcare. Ms. Talerico described these services as light housekeeping and respite care. Ms. Kirkpatrick asked about procedures in place for quality assurance issues and the service providers, Ms. Talerico replied that there are service surveys in place for comments or concerns.

Home Personal Assistance Services Contract – Interim Healthcare

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Personal Assistance Services Contract with Interim Healthcare. Ms. Talerico listed the three choices available as Interim Healthcare, Concordia and Helpmates.

Home Personal Care Services Contract – Interim Healthcare

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Personal Care Services Contract with Interim Healthcare. Ms. Talerico restated that this contract increases the provider's list to three options.

Home Support Services Contract – Helpmates

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners

approved the Home Support Services Contract with Helpmates. Ms. Talerico was happy to announce that this contract does not reflect a rate increase.

Personal Assistance Services Contract – Helpmates

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Personal Assistance Services Contract with Helpmates. Ms. Talerico stated that the contracted rates are also the same as the 2008 to 2009 contract.

Personal Care Service Contract – Helpmates

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Personal Care Service Contract with Helpmates. Ms. Talerico restated that the contracted rates have also remained the same.

Armstrong - Indiana MH / MR Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners acknowledged the 53 contracts signed for Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR. Complete listings of the agencies are as follows:

- AccessAbilities, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – Base
- AccessAbilities, Inc. – Early Intervention Services ITF Waiver
- Aging Services, Inc. – Domiciliary Care (Indiana County)
- ARC of Indiana County – Independent Monitoring Teams
- Area Agency on Aging – Domiciliary Care (Armstrong County)
- Armstrong County Memorial Hospital
- Audiological and Speech Associates – Base
- Audiological and Speech Associates – ITF Waiver
- Barto, Jody Early Intervention Services – Base
- Barto, Jody Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
- Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. Early Intervention Services – Base
- Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
- Citizens Ambulance Service
- Community Guidance Center – Program Funded
- Community Guidance Center – Fee for Service
- Community Living and Learning, Inc. – Base
- Evergreen Homes, Inc. – Base
- Family Counseling Center – Program Funded
- Family Counseling Center – Fee for Service
- Family Services of Western Pennsylvania
- Ford City Ambulance Service
- Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU)
- I & A Residential Services, Inc.
- ICW Vocational Services, Inc. – Base
- Indiana County Community Action Program
- Integrated Care Corporation – Early Intervention Services – Base

Integrated Care Corporation – Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
Irene Stacy Community Mental Health Center
William C. Kilgore, Jr. – Constable
Kiski Valley Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.
Kittanning Hose Company #6
Lifesteps, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – Base
Martha Lloyd Community Residential Facility, Inc. – Base
Chase G. McClister, Attorney
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Southwestern Pennsylvania
National Mentor Healthcare, Inc. – Children / Adolescent Respite Services
Neurological Therapy Specialists, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – Base
Neurological Therapy Specialists, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
Neuropsychiatric Associates, Inc. P.C. – Court Testimony
Next Step Therapy, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – Base
Next Step Therapy, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
Northwestern Human Services of PA
P.B.S. Mental Health Associates, P.C. – Dr. John Soffietti – Court Testimony
Pediatric Therapy Professionals, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – Base
Pediatric Therapy Professionals, Inc. – Early Intervention Services – ITF Waiver
Progressive Workshop – Base
Progressive Workshop – Transportation – Base
Rehab Care – Early Intervention Services – Base
Southwestern PA Human Services (SPHS)
Therapy Connections – Early Intervention Services – Base
Tri-Centers, Inc.
Westmoreland Community Action

Mr. Kuemmerle explained that these services utilize both state and federal monies to assist those who are unable to pay for the associated services.

The Board invited Mr. Kuemmerle to comment on the state budget and the financial cuts that the MH / MR programs face. Mr. Kuemmerle explained that the local MH / MR programs will no longer be setting provider rates for waiver services, they will now be set by the state and include an inflated rate of over 200 percent. He has estimated that, at the increased rate and with the decreased funding available based on last year's budget, there will not be money left to pay for services by the holidays. He expressed concern over the state's inability to offer answers for coverage of the shortfalls. Mr. Kuemmerle has been meeting with state representatives and legislators on a pro active mission to bring awareness to the plight of the MH / MR programs. The Board of Commissioners also expressed concerns for county residents who, once the budgeted money has been exhausted will no longer receive financial assistance towards vital services provided by MH / MR.

In regards to budget cuts to Community Action services, Mr. Fink noted two services in particular that concern him; medical transportation and daycare. He is concerned over the medically needy unable to reach appointments for dialysis or chemotherapy treatments, and those such as members of the labor force who require daycare assistance to maintain the jobs that they desperately need.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the approval of financial transactions for June 2009.

Mr. Fink was pleased to announce an invitation that the Commissioners from Armstrong and Indiana County received to visit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Pittsburgh. IBEW would like to show the Commissioners what they are doing to train and expand skills for the workforce of the future. The visit is scheduled for July 27, 2009.

Ms. Kirkpatrick discussed Congressman Dahlkemper's recent health initiative announcement and her plans for national implementation. Ms. Kirkpatrick mentioned that following Congressman Dahlkemper's Announcement, the Robert Wood Report regarding obesity rates was released. The report indicated that Pennsylvania has alarmingly high rates with 32 percent of the state's youth and 26.7 percent of the adults were at obese levels. She read the statistics from 1991 when there were no states above 21 percent and from 1980 when the national rate was at 15 percent. She is proud of the initiatives that the county has in place to improve the health of county citizens and the positive role model that "HEALTHY Armstrong" represents for the nation. Ms. Kirkpatrick encouraged everyone to visit the website HEALTHYARMSTRONG.COM to learn more about healthier lifestyles and choices.

Ms. Talerico described the fun that the seniors enjoyed at the recently held Area Agency on Aging Senior Games, especially noting the much enjoyed Wii demonstration that was available. She expressed hope that all of the centers will consider purchasing a Wii.

Mr. Fink stated we are fortunate to have two Congressmen who are involved in healthy initiatives. He noted Congressman Dahlkemper's active agenda; and Congressman Murtha's past involvement and continuing effort to promote awareness with special focus on diabetes.

The Board of Commissioners wished everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:07 PM until Thursday July 16, 2009 at 1:30 PM.