

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2023
PIPER BUILDING LOCK HAVEN**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Richard Mirabito, Tony R. Mussare, Scott L. Metzger from Lycoming County and Commissioners Angela Harding, Jeff Snyder, and Miles Kessinger from Clinton County were in attendance.

Staff: Keith Wagner – Joinder Executive Director; Matthew Salvatori - CYS Administrator; Matthew Wood – CYS Clinical Director; Emma Thompson – Joinder Administrative Officer; Rhonda Asaro – Joinder Fiscal Officer; Jacqueline Miller – Joinder HealthChoices Director; Aundrea Trautner – Joinder Administrative Assistant; and Jon DeWald – Joinder Solicitor.

Guests: Patricia Crossley- Williamsport Sun Gazette; Aimee Tsikitas – Community Services Group; Autumn Bower and Tristan Rock – Clinton County CYS; Leslee Rundio – Community Services Group; Nicole Miele Knarr – Community Care Behavioral Health Organization; Wenda Butler – Clinton County Commissioners Office

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board was Called to Order at 9:34 a.m. by Commissioner Mirabito, Joinder Board President. Zoom/call in is available for today’s meeting and some guests were in attendance via this option.

A meeting of the Joinder Board’s Lycoming County Children and Youth Services Standing Committee was held just prior to today’s Joinder Board meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. This meeting was held to take action on CYS Agency business and separate minutes will be prepared for this meeting.

In addition, an informational sharing meeting between staff from Lycoming and Clinton County Children and Youth Services was held immediately prior to the LCYS Standing Committee meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commissioner Snyder Moved and Commissioner Messinger Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the minutes from the January 18,2023 Joinder Board meeting as presented by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS CALENDAR YEAR 2023

HealthChoices Renewal Agreement

Mr. Wagner noted a renewal agreement for data and technical support with software company Living Complete Technologies was listed on today’s agenda. This technical support will take

raw data received by the HealthChoices program and place it into a useable and easily read format. It was noted that this agreement was changed from a one year to a six-month agreement, for calendar year 2023 due to changes being performed at the state level that may impact the raw data after June 2023. Commissioner Snyder Moved and Commissioner Harding Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the following Renewal Agreement for Software License and Maintenance Support between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for the period 1/1/23 to 06/30/23:

- ***Living Complete Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$2,500.00 for an annual fee and \$1,320.00 per month.***

The Motion passed unanimously.

HealthChoices Reinvestment Agreements

Mr. Wagner noted that there were 4 provider Reinvestment Agreements on today’s agenda pertaining to HealthChoices for Calendar Year 2023. Mr. Wagner discussed the increased need for Telehealth services in the mental health community. Both Allay Mental Health and Wellness and West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission identified a need for telephone systems, camera setups, and other technological equipment to improve their ability to provide Telehealth services.

Community Solutions, Inc. requested funds to offer MST Therapy for sexual behaviors displayed specifically in adolescents. These services will be offered in both Clinton and Lycoming County.

Crossroads Counseling, Inc. has requested funds to provide outpatient services for Adult Mental Health consumers in Lycoming and Clinton County that will benefit those involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Wagner noted that outpatient partial programs are difficult to find, and the services offered by Crossroads will come to the consumer in an outpatient setting rather than force the consumer to attend a facility.

Commissioner Harding noted that funds for similar services were approved by the Clinton County Prison Board. She questioned whether this agreement would be a duplication of services as she did not want there to be duplicate funding. Jacque Miller stated she would look into the matter and ensure that this would not be the case.

Commissioner Mirabito discussed the allocation of funds and whether it would be based on per capita of population or an equal distribution between counties. It was concluded that funds would be distributed between both counites based on the individual needs of consumers regardless of residence.

Commissioner Mirabito questioned whether consumers have been turned away or put on a waiting list for services due to lack of staff. He suggested ideas for future initiatives that would allow providers to recruit and retain staff. He discussed the needs for incentives that would allow prisons and other programs like schools the ability to remain competitive. Jacque Miller mentioned programs that would ease the path of licensure and education to assist providers with employing and retaining the necessary qualified candidates. A simple increase of 6-8 qualified staff members would greatly increase services provided and allow providers to serve a multitude of clients.

Commissioner Messinger Moved and Commissioner Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the following Reinvestment Agreements for Provider Technology Enhancement and Outpatient Services between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for the period 1/1/23 to 12/31/23:

- *Allay Mental Health and Wellness in the amount of \$1,739.00;*
- *Community Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000.00;*
- *Crossroads Counseling, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000.00;*
- *West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission in the amount of \$15,112.00.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS, NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

Crisis Response

Commissioner Harding expressed concerns regarding the lack of response from mental health crisis workers when called to assist local law enforcement. She questioned who was responsible for assisting Clinton County law enforcement when handling mental health crisis issues and what agency was paying for said services. If understaffing or a lack of funds was the problem, she suggested allocating funds from the Opioid money to provide greater support to law enforcement in these situations.

Mr. Wagner noted that crisis should respond in situations where there are mental health emergencies including possible suicide intent. He mentioned forth coming regulation changes for crisis and the possibility of initiating protocols and structure that would better enable crisis staff and law enforcement to work together. He mentioned the availability of grant funding from the state. CIT training collapsed during 2020 and there have been struggles getting it restarted due to the lack of de-escalation trained individuals.

Commissioner Harding mentioned recent scenarios in which MH crisis workers were called and did not respond to assist local law enforcement when needed. Mr. Wagner noted that Center for Community Resources (CCR) was responsible for responding to MH crisis calls. He noted there have been ongoing meetings between staff from CCR and local hospitals and suggested that a meeting between CCR staff and local law enforcement be scheduled to address concerns regarding the provider’s lack of response. Commissioner Mirabito mentioned contacting the law enforcement association that meets every third Tuesday to provide a presentation on the crisis services available. Jacque Miller noted that CCR has presentations available as well as mini trainings that can be shared with local law enforcement. Commissioner Harding mentioned that these resources should also be shared with 911 dispatch personnel. It was agreed by all members present that crisis response is critical in assisting local law enforcement and keeping those suffering from mental disorders out of incarceration.

Sharwell Building Lease

Commissioner Mirabito opened discussion surrounding the extension of the lease for the Sharwell building or the possibility of the Joinder moving to a new location. He noted that Joinder Fiscal Officer Rhonda Asaro is the checking with the state regarding the availability of reimbursement costs for the move and possible renovations. Mrs. Asaro noted that the government would not approve the payment of rent on a county owned building. Depending on the scenario there could be a number of possibilities surrounding what is and is not consider reimbursable. She mentioned the need for more information including an assessment of new buildings if necessary. Depending on the scenario presented reimbursement of funds would follow the listed accounting allocations. An average of 80% could be reimbursed by CYS and a best-case scenario of 90% would be reimbursed by MHIEI. Commissioner Mirabito mentioned the possible use of the Executive Plaza building and suggested members of the Joinder Administration schedule a tour of the building to evaluate its possible use. Commissioner Mirabito also suggested that the money saved in rent could be used to expand and provide better services for local consumers

Commissioner Mirabito inquired if there were any additional questions or comments from the guests who were in attendance. With nothing further presented, it was noted that the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the lower-level conference room of the Sharwell Building in Williamsport.

With no further business presented before the Joinder Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith A. Wagner, Executive Director
Joinder Board Secretary