

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
SHARWELL BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Richard Mirabito, Scott L. Metzger, Tony Mussare from Lycoming County, and Commissioner Jeff Snyder from Clinton County were in attendance.

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

Guests: Aimee Tsikitas – Community Services Group and Casey Monaghan – Public Guest.

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board was Called to Order at 1:01 p.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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Snyder Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the minutes from the July 19, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting as presented by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS CALENDAR YEAR 2023

HealthChoices – Calendar Year 2023 Renewal and Reinvestment Agreements

Mr. Wagner presented three HealthChoices agreements to the board. The first is a renewal agreement with MaherDuessel to perform a Specialized Insurance Audit for HealthChoices calendar year 2023. There is a \$4,000.00 increase from last year’s agreement, which the firm attributes to increased salary costs for its staff.

The second agreement presented to the board was with Keystone Counseling and Evaluation Services which will use reinvestment funds to begin a “Path to Licensure” program for workforce development. This is an incentivized program that will assist facilities in hiring more master’s-level educated individuals to service the local community. In exchange for assistance with obtaining the hours and education required for a master’s degree each employee will be required to sign a two-year employment contract with Keystone.

The third agreement Mr. Wagner presented was with Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers (DTAC). This new agreement will use reinvestment funds to create an Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) program for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. In past therapy sessions, the worker would evaluate parent-child interactions in an office setting. This new piloted program will move these sessions into the client’s home environment.

Commissioner Metzger Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

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

- ***MaherDuessel-*** *Renewal agreement for auditing services in the amount of \$27,000.00;*
- ***Keystone Counseling and Evaluation Services New*** *Reinvestment agreement for Path to Licensure workforce development program in the amount of \$105,000.00.”*
- ***Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers (DTAC)*** *New Reinvestment agreement for Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) with Parent Child Interaction (PCIT) Interventions in the amount of \$109,704.”*

Commissioner Mussare commented that each HealthChoices agreement should be reviewed and voted separately for approval. With all members in favor the Motion to approve failed unanimously.

Commissioner Mussare commented that the \$4,000.00 increase for the auditing firm MaherDuessel was excessive. He suggested negotiating the rate increase or submitting the auditing services out for bid. Commissioner Metzger Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the renewal agreement with MaherDuessel for auditing services between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for calendar year 2023 in the amount of \$27,0000.00”

With no one in favor of renewing the agreement the Motion failed unanimously.

Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the following HealthChoices Reinvestment Agreement between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for the period 7/1/23 to 6/30/25:

- ***Keystone Counseling and Evaluation Services New*** *Reinvestment agreement for Path to Licensure workforce development program in the amount of \$105,000.00.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Snyder Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the following HealthChoices Reinvestment

Agreement between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for the period 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:

- ***Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers (DTAC)***
New Reinvestment agreement for Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) with Parent Child Interaction (PCIT) Interventions in the amount of \$109,704.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Joinder Sublease Agreement: FY 23-24:

Mr. Wagner presented two renewal sublease agreements with Center for Community Resources (CCR). The first agreement is to sublease space at the Sharwell Building located at 200 East Street, Williamsport, PA 17701. The second agreement is to sublease space at the Lock Haven Satellite Office located at 8 North Grove Street, Suite A, Lock Haven, PA 17745. Commissioner Snyder Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following Agreements with the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board** for the period 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- ***Renewal Agreement with Center for Community Resources (CCR) to sublease office space in The Sharwell Building for an income of \$3,000.00 per month;***
- ***Renewal Agreement with Center for Community Resources (CCR) to sublease office space in at the Lock Haven Satellite Office for an income of \$450.00 per month”***

The Motion passed unanimously.

Joinder: School-Based Services (Income) – FY 23-24:

Mr. Salvatori presented (5) agreements for school-based services with East Lycoming School District, Keystone Central School District, South Williamsport Area School District, Muncy School District, and Loyalsock Township School District. The purpose of these agreements is so the Agency can provide case worker and outreach services. An Agency staff member is assigned as the school district's point person and liaison. The services provided by outreach staff assist schools in matters regarding truancy and obtaining MH services for students. The rate for these services increased from \$10,000.00 for FY 22-23 to \$15,000.00 for FY 23-24. These agreements generate income for the Joinder and help offset the salaries of Joinder employees assigned to provide services within these school districts. Mr. Salvatori noted that the staff assigned to the schools provide a variety of services to address mental health issues, suicide concerns, truancy, parenting issues, etc.

Discussion:

Commissioner Mussare commented that many school district expenses are funded through taxpayer money. He expressed concerns that the increase in the agreements would further burden

taxpayers in the local school districts. He stated that these income contracts were paid to the Joinder, who also receives state funds to finance its programs. He questioned if these contracts would result in double taxation for taxpayers.

Rhonda Asaro commented that it would not be double taxing, because the majority of these expenses falls outside the parameters of what Children and Youth are allowed to claim as reimbursable services.

Keith Wagner commented that the schools have requested MH services be provided to children within their schools. Without the income of these contracts, there would not be enough money to fund these much-needed programs.

Commissioner Mirabito questioned if the income funds received reflect the true cost of these services to The Joinder.

Matthew Salvatori, Rhonda Asaro, and Keith Wagner stated the income received does not cover all costs associated with providing Outreach services through The Joinder.

Keith Wagner commented that it is not the responsibility of MH/ID to pay for school provided services. Many of these case workers assist families with situations that fall beyond the parameters of Mental Health and would be considered the responsibility of the school districts. If the school districts wish to direct staff provided by The Joinder, then they must help share in the costs. He further stated that many of the school districts received funding from the state and chose to use that money toward the placement of full-time case workers at their school.

Commissioner Metzger Moved, and Commissioner Snyder Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following **Income Letters of Agreement** with the **Lycoming-Canton Joinder Board** for school-based outreach and student assistance services the period 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- ***East Lycoming School District** – \$15,000 (offset salary for 1 Joinder staff - MH income);*
- ***Keystone Central School District** – \$30,000 (offset salary for 2 Joinder staff - MH income);*
- ***South Williamsport Area School District** – \$15,000 (offset salary for 1 Joinder staff - MH income);*
- ***Muncy School District** – \$15,000 (offset salary for 1 Joinder staff - CYS income).”*
- ***Loyalsock Township School District** – \$70,000 (offset salary for 2 Joinder staff - CYS income).”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

Intellectual Disability Services: FY 23-24 New Agreement

Mr. Wagner presented two new contracts for Intellectual Disability (ID) Services. The first agreement is with Zigari and Associates to provide guardianship legal services to a client

residing in the Pittsburgh area. The second agreement is with Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems whose agency will provide psychological evaluation services for ID clients. Individuals are required to have a psychological evaluation prior to being eligible to receive ID services. Since the retirement of the Joinder's previous psychologist there has been back log of consumers needing evaluations. Contracting with Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems will speed up the process and allow these individuals to receive services sooner.

Commissioner Snyder Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following **Letters of Agreement** with the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board** for Intellectual Disability Services for Fiscal Year 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- **Zigari and Associates** – for client legal services at a rate \$300.00 per hour, not to exceed \$3,000.00 for the period of 06/15/23 to 09/30/23;
- **Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems** – for Psychological Evaluation Services not to exceed \$3,500.00 for the period of 7/20/23 to 6/30/24.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

Joinder Professional Services (Income): FY 23-24 New Agreement

Mr. Wagner presented an income agreement to provide IT support services to West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission. The services are provided both remotely and onsite when needed. Commissioner Metzger Moved, and Commissioner Snyder Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following **Income Letter of Agreement** with the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board** for Information Technology Services for the period of 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- **West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission** – (For IT support services at rates of \$40.00/hour–off site support; 45.00/hour–on site support; not to exceed \$10,000.00.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

Early Intervention Services: FY 23-24 Agreements

Mr. Wagner presented 18 renewal agreements for Early Intervention Services. Early Intervention serves clients between the ages of 0 months to 3 years old for both Lycoming and Clinton Counties.

Discussion:

Commissioner Mirabito noted that these services were provided on an as needed basis and there was no specific amount allocated. Commissioner Mussare questioned why there were so many speech therapy providers. Mr. Wagner stated that many of these agreements are with independent providers who structure their own schedule and therefore, more contracted providers are needed. Mr. Wagner also noted that speech delays are one of the first indicators of

developmental concerns. There were no increases in amounts from the Fiscal Year 22-23.

Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following renewal Purchase of Service Agreements with the **Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID Program** for early intervention services for the period 7/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- ***Justine Ammon** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Rebecca Baumunk** for the provision of special instruction services at the rate of \$30.58 per quarter hour;*
- ***Patricia Carroll** for the provision of special instruction services at the rate of \$30.58 per quarter hour;*
- ***Patricia Chuprinski** for the provision of speech therapy and evaluation services at rates of \$251.22 per evaluation, and \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Charlotte Conser** for the provision of special instruction at the rate of \$30.58 per quarter hour;*
- ***Marie Cummings** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Christie Fritz** for the provision of special instruction services at the rate of \$30.58 per quarter hour;*
- ***Infant Development Program, Inc.** for the provision of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech pathology, and special instruction services at the rates of \$30.58-\$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Megan Maeulen** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Kathleen Musheno** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Janeen Nahodil** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***North Central Sight Services** for the provision of various occupational and speech therapy services at rates of \$28.13 to \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Donna O’Brien** for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Marilyn O’Neill** for the provision of hearing services at the rate of \$30.91 per quarter hour;*

- *Play and Learn Speech, LLC for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- *Laura Rowland for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- *The Joy of Speech, LLC for the provision of speech therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- *UPMC Williamsport for the provision of occupational and physical therapy at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 NON-BLOCK GRANT PLAN

Mr. Wagner provided an overview of the FY 2023-2024 County Human Services Plan. Mr. Wagner noted that funds incorporated in this plan include Mental Health Community Based-Funded Services, Behavioral Health Services Initiative, Intellectual Disabilities, Drug and Alcohol Services, Homeless Assistance Program Funding, and Human Services Development Funds. He also reviewed the county planning process to create this document and the members that provided input. He noted that a Public Hearing was held on September 18, 2023, to obtain input and comment from the public. Mr. Wagner distributed copies of the Plan to the Commissioners in attendance and provided copies to be taken to those who were unable to attend today’s meeting.

Discussion:

Mr. Wagner noted that the figures remained flat from the previous fiscal year except for funds received from an applied for grant for First-Episode Psychosis. Mr. Wagner noted there were few options available for employment and workforce opportunities, the primary providers being the CSG Club House, and Clinton County Community Connections (CCCC.) Mr. Wagner commented that Rise Up Bakery, a locally run organization, recently reached out to The Joinder in search of referrals for their workforce development program. The organization is willing to work with MH/ID individuals to train them in the culinary arts. Commissioner Mirabito commented on the possibility of reaching out to Advance Central PA, a workforce development board, to inquire about assistance with employment for MH/ID individuals.

Mr. Wagner commented on the significant need for housing in both Lycoming and Clinton counties. There is a lack of housing for lower income individuals and many landlords are reluctant to rent to these individuals. The Joinder does employ a full-time housing case worker, but this issue still remains a big problem in the community. Group homes have also been negatively impacted through the years due to insufficient MH/ID funding. There were once at least 17 group homes in the bi-county area and currently there are 2. The lack of housing creates problems for prisons, hospitals, and shelters. Commissioner Mirabito agreed and stated that without housing, individuals have a harder time getting mental health treatments and finding employment.

SUBMISSION OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES NON-BLOCK GRANT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Following a review of the Plan document, Mr. Wagner noted that he would need approval for its submission to the State. Commissioner Mussare Moved and Commission Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the submission of the County Human Services Non-Block Grant Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as prepared by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (HSAB) APPOINTMENT:

Mr. Salvatori noted that Richard Saylor has expressed interest in becoming a member of the HSAB on the Children and Youth (CYS) Sub-Committee. He noted that Mr. Saylor has decades of experience working in family services and spent many years working for Lycoming County Children and Youth services. Mr. Salvatori added that Mr. Saylor would make a great addition to the board. Commissioner Metzger Moved and Commissioner Snyder Seconded a Motion to:

“Appoint Richard Saylor to the Lycoming-Clinton Human Services Advisory Board (Children and Youth Services Sub-Committee) with a term ending 6/30/26.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Monaghan expressed concerns regarding Children and Youth’s involvement in the Zamorski case. He also inquired about the funds recently spent to host a Kevin Hines speaking engagement. Mr. Monaghan stated that many people, himself included, are being forced to wait months for appointments due to the lack of providers in the area.

In response Mr. Wagner stated that The Joinder did not pay for the Kevin Hines event. The money spent on the speaking engagement was paid using a special public education grant.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.** in the lower-level conference room of the Sharwell Building in Williamsport.

A meeting of the Lycoming County Children and Youth Standing Committee has been scheduled to begin just prior to this meeting at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith A. Wagner, Executive Director
Joinder Board Secretary