

**JOINDER BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2023
SHARWELL BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Richard Mirabito, Scott L. Metzger, Tony Mussare from Lycoming County, Commissioner Jeff Snyder and Commissioner Angela Harding 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; James Hicklin – County MH Director; Vanessa Shellman – HealthChoices Clinical Manager; Kelly Gordon – HealthChoices CASSP Coordinator; Jacque Miller – HealthChoices Director; and Jon Dewald- Joinder Solicitor.

Guests: Patricia Crossley- Williamsport Sun-Gazette; Barbara Vanaskie – West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission; and Casey Monaghan – Public Guest.

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board was Called to Order at 9:01 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

“Approve the minutes from the September 20, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting as presented by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Mental Health Agreements: FY 23-24:

Mr. Wagner presented one new agreement with Carol Simpkins. Ms. Simpkins is being contracted to scan and convert paper involuntary commitment files to an electronic format. This project should be completed by the end of February 2024. Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Snyder Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following Agreement with the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board** for the period 9/12/23 to 6/30/24:*

- *New Agreement with Carol Simpkins to scan and create electronic copies of files at a rate of \$15.10 per hour, not to exceed \$12,000.00.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

Early Intervention Services: FY 23-24 Agreements

Mr. Wagner presented 3 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. Mary Bauman performs vision teaming services and was recruited specifically to provide service to a young child that is both deaf and blind. Ms. Bauman coordinates a team of individuals to ensure all providers are working cohesively.

Discussion:

Commissioner Mirabito inquired as to who discovers these types of developmental delays in children. Mr. Wagner responded that many times it is the child’s pediatrician that will discover physical delays early on and speech delays in the future. Commissioner Mirabito questioned whether families are routinely bringing their children to scheduled medical visits. Barb Vanaskie commented that many times families are unable to attend or miss appointments due to lack of transportation and childcare for other children in the home. Matt Salvatori stated that CYS agencies offer Outreach Case Workers that will assist with providing transportation to doctor’s visits. Keith Wagner added that the early intervention staff at The Joinder often attend public events and are able to provide initial assessments to parents and children they encounter. Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the following new and renewal Purchase of Service Agreements with the **Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID Program** for early intervention services for the periods of 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 and 10/1/23 to 6/30/24:*

- ***Kimberly Heffner** for the provision of occupational therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Emily Boyles** for the provision of occupational therapy services at the rate of \$34.70 per quarter hour;*
- ***Mary Bauman** for the provision of vision teaming services at the rate of \$27.31 per quarter hour;*

The Motion passed unanimously.

PA UNEMPLOYEMENT COMPENSATION (UC) NOTIFICATION

Mr. Wagner stated that in the past the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board has been registered as a non-profit when electing the reimbursable method for (UC) benefits through the state. In the past the Joinder has been required to carry a surety bond at a cost of \$18,000.00. Joinder Solicitor, Jon Dewald stated that since the Joinder is also a political subdivision, the agency would be saving money by removing the non-profit and re-electing the reimbursement under the heading of political subdivision. To change the status a form needs to be signed and approved by the board. Commissioner Snyder Moved, and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve changing The Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board from a non-profit to a political subdivision for the re-election of the PA Unemployment Compensation reimbursable status:

The Motion passed unanimously.

HEALTHCHOICES AUDIT CONTRACT UPDATE

Mr. Wagner stated that the Joinder contacted MaherDuessel to discuss this year’s \$4000.00 increase for contracted auditing services. A representative from MaherDuessel confirmed that the increase was attributed to higher personnel costs because of the state requiring additional schedules to be completed. Because of the expedited need for the auditors to begin services Commissioner Mussare Moved, and Commissioner Metzger Seconded a Motion to:

“Amend today’s agenda to include the renewal agreement with MaherDuessel between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for calendar year 2023.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

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

“Approve the following HealthChoices Renewal Agreement between the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board, on behalf of its Lycoming-Clinton HealthChoices Program for the period Calendar Year 2023:

- ***MaherDuessel-** Renewal agreement for auditing services in the amount of \$27,000.00.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Monaghan expressed concerns regarding the organization NAMI’s statement that “No one is to blame for mental illness.” Mr. Monaghan stated that he believes environmental factors and stress from situations like bullying can contribute to the development of mental illnesses. Mr. Monaghan also stated that he does not support mental health involuntary commitments.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Clinton County Commissioners’ Office Building in Lock Haven, PA.

It is further noted that there will be a Lycoming and Clinton County CYA Agencies Meeting held prior beginning at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith A. Wagner, Executive Director
Joinder Board Secretary