

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SHARWELL BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Richard Mirabito, President; Commissioner Scott Metzger, Treasurer; Commissioner Tony Mussare and Commissioner Angela Harding were in attendance.

Staff: Keith Wagner – Executive Director/MH-ID Administrator; Matt Salvatori - CYS Administrator; Jacque Miller – HealthChoices Director; Rae Weber – CSI Mental Health Manager; Beth Malone – Early Intervention Supervisor; Jon Tallman – Human Resource Director; Jim Hicklin – County MH Director; Cathy Bennett – Administrative Assistant; and Charles Greevy III, Esq. – Joinder Solicitor.

Guests: Jonathan DeWald, Esq. and Brandon Griest, Esq. - McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall; Lori Gardner and Aimee Tsikitas – Community Services Group; Rob Labatch – Hope Enterprises, Inc.; Scott Moore – Clinton County Community Connections; Madison Clary – Pennsylvania College of Technology.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was Called To Order at 9:05 a.m. by Commissioner Mirabito, Joinder Board President. Commissioner Angela Harding was present as a proxy/substitute for Commissioner Jeffrey Snyder, Joinder Board Vice President, who was unable to attend due to a conflict. Also, it was noted that Commissioner Scott Metzger would be arriving shortly past the start of the meeting and that Commissioner Tony Mussare would be acting as his proxy/substitute until his arrival. Proxy/substitute letters were received and have been placed in the meeting file. Zoom/call in was available for today’s meeting and some guests were in attendance via this option.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commissioner Mussare Moved and Commissioner Harding Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the minutes from the August 15, 2021 Executive Committee meeting as presented by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET STATUS REPORTS:

FY 2021-2022 Year To Date Budgets - Mr. Wagner presented the budget reports for **Mental Health, Intellectual Disability and Early Intervention** services through 8% of FY 21-22. He noted that the budget for FY 21-22 is still under development but will be in the same range as the previous fiscal year when presented for approval. He added that the figures appearing on the report for FY 21-22 are actual numbers. At present, revenue is slightly under as it is early in the fiscal year and we haven’t received all of our funding and, as a result, expenses are running slightly higher.

Mr. Wagner noted that the budget report for **HealthChoices** through July reflects 58% of the year as this program operates on a calendar year. He added that revenue is running at 60% with claims around 56%. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, the State is continuing to authorize MCO’s to

pay providers 100% up front based on their previous year's expenses and, if needed, adjustments will be made at the end of the year.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:

Joinder Professional Services: FY 21-22

Mr. Wagner noted that following last month's meeting he had forwarded to the Board the proposal he had received from the law firm of McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall in response to a Request For Proposals (RFP) to provide legal services for the Joinder and MH/ID Program. As the Board is aware, Mr. Greevy has expressed interest in retiring from his position as the Joinder's solicitor and efforts have been underway to secure a replacement. He noted that an agenda item to appoint McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall to provide these services was on today's agenda and that Jonathan DeWald, Esq. and Brandon Griest, Esq. were present today representing the firm. Commissioner Harding Moved and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the agreement between the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board and McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall** to provide Joinder and MH/ID legal services at the hourly billing rate of \$175.00 per hour for attorneys and \$125.00 per hour for paralegals for the period 9/15/21 to 6/30/22.”*

The Motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners extended their thanks to Mr. Greevy for his many years of service to the Joinder and for his continued involvement in the transition process to the new law firm. They also welcomed Mr. DeWald and Mr. Griest to their new role in providing legal services for the Joinder and MH/ID Agency.

Joinder: Information Technology Services: FY 21-22 Renewal

Mr. Wagner also presented a renewal agreement with West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission for information technology services provided by the Joinder's staff. He noted that this agreement provides income to the Joinder and that it has been in place for many years. Commissioner Metzger Moved and Commissioner Mussare Seconded a Motion to:

*“Approve the Purchase of Service Agreement between the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board and West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission** for information technology services in the amount of \$10,000 (income – Joinder) for the period 7/1/21 to 6/30/22.”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

Joinder – FY 21-22 School Based Services - Mr. Salvatori presented five (5) renewal agreements for school based services. He noted that these agreements generate income for the Joinder and help to offset the salaries of Joinder employees who have been 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. Commissioner Mirabito noted that a second staff person has been added to Keystone Central School District and asked Commissioner Harding if this has addressed any of her concerns regarding needed services for this School District. She noted that it is too early in the school year to know for sure and hopefully the addition of the second staff person will make a much needed difference. Commissioner Metzger Moved and Commissioner Mussare Seconded

a Motion to:

*“Approve the following **Letters of Agreement** with the **Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board** for school based outreach and student assistance services the period 7/1/21 to 6/30/22:*

- ***East Lycoming School District - \$10,000 (MH income)***
- ***Jersey Shore Area School District – \$10,000 (MH income)***
- ***Keystone Central School District – \$20,000 (MH income)***
- ***Loyalsock Township School District - \$10,000 (CYS income)***
- ***Williamsport Area School District – \$30,000 (CYS income).**”*

The Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION BY FAMILY MEMBERS RECEIVING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES:

Mr. Wagner noted that this month’s service presentation pertained to Early Intervention (EI) and that two families were present via Zoom to talk about their experiences in services. He introduced Beth Malone, the Joinder’s Early Intervention Supervisor. She noted that Early Intervention Services help to identify eligible children birth through 3 with developmental delays and provide services to help them achieve age appropriate skills. These services can include physical, occupational, speech therapy and special instruction, case management or monitoring of a child’s development. This program attempts to identify problems in a child’s development such as developmental delays, significant prematurity of birth, very low birth weight, or other medical conditions or circumstances posing a significant risk to development. EI Services can be provided to help children achieve developmental milestones needed to be successful in school. She noted that children who are eligible for early intervention receive services at no cost to the family. These services can include information on how children develop skills and abilities; education and support for the parent/caregiver, and specific developmental therapies designed for the child (e.g., hearing, vision, occupational, physical, etc.). Services may be provided during the child’s daily activities at home or in the community, at child care centers, nursery schools, play groups, and Head Start programs. Once a child turns 3, services are funded through the Intermediate Units of the County of residence (Lycoming – IU #17, Clinton – IU #10).

Beth introduced two families (Kayla/Tyler and son Jacob and Kelly and son Lincoln) who both spoke at length about the positive experiences they have had in services. Both families noticed that their child was not developing in speech to the level they felt they should be and their pediatricians suggested they contact our Agency. Our staff set up an independent evaluation for their child and both boys were determined to have at least a 25% delay in speech. These families were referred to a speech therapist who worked with their child and the family at their home. The families explained that they did not have the knowledge needed to help their child progress and that the therapist has guided them in the skills they need. Each family commented on how close their child has become to the people who have worked with them and expressed their appreciation for all the help they have been given. They were also very pleased with the progress their child has made from these services. Jacob has aged out of early intervention services and Lincoln is still receiving services.

The Commissioners thanked the families for updating them on their experiences in early intervention services and extended their best wishes for continuing progress for their children.

OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING:

Commissioner Mirabito asked if there was any further business from anyone in attendance. With none noted, he noted that an Executive Session would be held following the conclusion of this meeting and that no further action would be taken following this discussion.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Sharwell Building. A meeting of the Lycoming Children and Youth Standing Committee has also been scheduled to begin just prior to this meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom conferencing or call in will continue to be offered for attendance of both meetings.

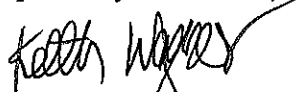
MEETING ADJOURNED:

With nothing further presented, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was held following the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting to discuss a variety of personnel and other matters.

Respectfully Submitted,



Keith A. Wagner, Executive Director
Joinder Board Secretary