



MINUTES

Cumberland County Public Hearing

July 30, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room
Courthouse, Carlisle, PA

Phone (717) 240-6150 Website: www.cumberlandcountypa.gov

Public Hearing

RE: The 2025-2026 Human Services Block Grant Plan

Board of Commissioners Present: Commissioners Kelly Neiderer, Jean Foschi, and Gary Eichelberger.

Staff Present: Angela Smyser, Deputy Chief Clerk; Lauren Kauffman, Executive Assistant.

Department Staff Present: Jill Kurutz, IMTO; Samantha Krepps, Communications; Katie Zimmerman, Grants Administration; Keeter Kallam, Veterans Affairs; Dana Best, Finance; Annie Strite, Brian Wilson, Kristi Parthemore, MH/IDD; Nikki Gresh, Children and Youth Services; Brenda Iliff, Drug and Alcohol.

Department Staff Present via Zoom: Shane Henry, IMTO; Kim Winton, Aging.

Others Present: Jennifer Polhemus, Citizen.

Others Present Via Zoom: Harold Weber, Karen Halfner, Citizens.

Other Agencies Present: Bill August, Superintendent, Shippensburg Area School District; Sarah Sporer, Debra Helwig, Cumberland/Perry Community Support Program.

Other Agencies Present Via Zoom: Greg Welker, Alyssa Smith, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

Media Present: Charlie Thompson, PennLive.

Call to Order: Commissioner Neiderer called the public hearing to order.

The 2025-2026 Human Services Block Grant Plan: Brian Wilson presented the Human Services Block Grant Plan stating that the comprehensive plan will highlight all human services' needs, strengths and weaknesses for populations and is due August 11. He explained this is one of the two public hearings required by the state.

Brian Wilson covered the Mental Health portion, sharing that due to the deficit, services and support had to be cut. He reported the main priority of the department is to maintain and monitor current services to keep them as they are based on allocations. Brian explained their goals and priorities, which include sustaining the system, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention initiatives.

Annie Strite shared the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities portion, stating they plan to focus on the areas that will help individuals to achieve the goal of living an everyday life, such as finding

employment and living independently through supports coordination and competitive employment. She reported they continue to have problems with affordable housing for residential needs for independent living and complex behavioral cases.

Brenda Iliff provided an overview for the Drug & Alcohol portion and reported that they will be using the funding from the block grant to provide treatment services for individuals as a funder of last resort. She reported that unfortunately, due to Medicaid cuts, they will be losing COBRA funding but they will continue to address issues including vaping, marijuana, and alcohol usage in youth, and opioid use.

The Commissioners asked if there has been any scientific correlation between gambling and addiction. Discussion ensued.

Kim Winton covered the Human Services Development Fund and Homeless Assistance Program portions. In the Human Service Development Fund portion, it provides funding to Aging for transportation, personal care, care management, protective services, home delivered meals, and it supports the 24-hour contact health line. In the Homeless Assistance Program portion, she explained they support several agencies in the county, including Safe Harbour, Community Cares, Maranatha-Carlisle, and Blue Mountain Escape. She explained their case management rental assistance program provides assistance finding affordable housing to the homeless or near homeless' and they also work closely with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to assist their homeless clients.

Public Comment: Karen Halfner read her testimonial about losing her job and services due to the county's cuts of services and programs.

Debra Helwig read some testimonials from Jessica Paul, James Baldic, and Won Huan Hyun expressing the importance of the services and programs provided by these departments.

Sarah Sporer read testimonials from Harold Weber, Richard Greene, Brenda Jumper, Dawn Kohler and Matt M., which expressed concerns over the loss of services and programs that the county had once been able to provide and the effect it will have.

Jennifer Polhemus thanked the commissioners for the investment in the county's support in mental health support so far and shared her thoughts of optimism and how everyone needs to be resilient in pulling through as funding is cut.

Bill August said that as Superintendent of Shippensburg District, the cut that has been made to the Student Assistance Program is a cost that the schools must now handle and they do not have the mental health expertise to assist.

Commissioner Foschi shared her frustration that the state budget has not been passed and that payments are delayed to human service organizations. Commissioner Neiderer thanked everyone for attending and shared she has heard the frustrations. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Foschi moved to approve the 2025-2026 Human Services Block Grant Plan. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Other Business: None.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Neiderer made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Kauffman, Executive Assistant



MINUTES

Cumberland County Finance Meeting July 30, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Commissioners Hearing Room Courthouse, Carlisle, PA

Phone (717) 240-6150 Website: www.cumberlandcountypa.gov

Present: Commissioners Kelly Neiderer, Jean Foschi, and Gary Eichelberger.

Staff Present: Angela Smyser, Deputy Chief Clerk; Lauren Kauffman, Executive Assistant.

Department Staff Present: Jill Kurutz, IMTO; Samantha Krepps, Communications; Katie Zimmerman, Grants Administration; Keeter Kallam, Veterans Affairs; Dana Best, Finance; Annie Strite, Brian Wilson, Kristi Parthemore, MH/IDD; Nikki Gresh, Children and Youth Services; Brenda Iliff, Drug and Alcohol.

Department Staff Present via Zoom: Shane Henry, IMTO; Kim Winton, Aging.

Others Present: Jennifer Polhemus, Citizen.

Others Present Via Zoom: Harold Weber, Karen Halfner, Citizens.

Other Agencies Present: Bill August, Superintendent, Shippensburg Area School District; Sarah Sporer, Debra Helwig, Cumberland/Perry Community Support Program.

Other Agencies Present Via Zoom: Greg Welker, Alyssa Smith, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

Media Present: Charlie Thompson, PennLive.

Call to Order: Commissioner Neiderer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Commissioners Neiderer, Foschi and Eichelberger were present.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Foschi made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 9, 2025. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Motion to Approve Cooperation Agreement Among Cumberland County, CAEDC, and Penn Harris Hospitality RE LP with Respect to Ineligible Expenditures of Grant Funds for the Penn Harris Hotel Redevelopment Project:

Greg Welker from Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation presented this agreement which is a combined agreement for two previously approved RACP grants.

Commissioner Foschi made a motion to approve a cooperation agreement among Cumberland County, CAEDC, and Penn Harris Hospitality RE LP with respect to ineligible expenditures of grant funds for the Penn Harris Hotel Redevelopment Project. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Other Business: None.

Adjourn: With no additional business to come before the Board, Commissioner Foschi made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Kauffman, Executive Assistant