Easton, Pennsylvania       April 20, 2017

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Glenn A. Geissinger, Vice President; Mathew M. Benol; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro; Kenneth M. Kraft; Hayden Phillips; Seth Vaughn (via telephone); Robert F. Werner; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council and Phil D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Mr. Cusick led County Council in a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Werner led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kraft made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the April 6, 2017 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Scott Parsons, Wind Gap, PA - announced the Friends of Gracedale Foundation, which was a 501 c.3, had been incorporated.

Mr. Werner advised the Friends of Gracedale Foundation was an independent public charity dedicated to encouraging community-wide participation and philanthropy to ensure continued care at Gracedale. He further advised their mission was to develop strong community involvement with fundraising efforts that promote programs that would enhance the quality of life for the residents of Gracedale.
Mr. Parsons stated everything they received would be brought before County Council because they would be gifts to the County. He further stated their goal was not to raise money for the employees or the operation of Gracedale, but to take care of the residents at Gracedale and the facility itself.

Mr. Parsons advised that if anyone wished to make a tax exempt donation to the Friends of Gracedale Foundation, the address was PO Box 138 Nazareth, PA 18064. He further advised the board consisted of: President - himself, Vice President - Ms. Janet Meese (ph), Secretary - Ms. Luann Fogel, Treasurer - Mr. Phil Rissmiller (ph), Directors at Large: Ms. Rosemarie Fehr (ph), Ms. Maryann Smoyer, Ms. Maryann Hurdle (ph), Ms. Karen Kirchfield (ph) and Mr. Werner. He noted their next meeting would be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 8, 2017, in the Gracedale Conference Room.

Mr. Werner stated this was a tax incentive program for corporations and philanthropists who wanted to donate time, money or goods to Gracedale. He further stated he wanted to thank Dr. April Nyes, representative for Congressman Matt Cartwright’s Office, Representative Robert Freeman and Kathy Miller, who was the Director of the Easton Foundation for Easton Schools.

Chief Scott Fogel, Lehigh Township Police Department - asked if the members of County Council had any questions regarding the information he provided at the last meeting.

Mr. Cusick advised he believed there may be a solution to their issue later in the meeting that he hoped would be satisfactory. He further advised he personally would like to see their center remain open because it was a valuable resource.

Chief Fogel stated their center processed 211 people in 2016 at $300, which equated to $63,300 and at the 20% reclamation rate mentioned last night that was $12,660, which covers more than a full year of what those fees were. He further stated currently for 2017, 53 people have been through the center and at 20% that equated to $3,180 so it was not like they were not bringing in money.

Chief Fogel advised they covered all the other supplies, but they needed funds to cover the maintenance fees. He further advised having this center helped with public safety by keeping cops on the road and making it easier for the people in the outlying areas when they were arrested.
Chief Fogel advised it also lessened the burden on the other booking centers and helped in arresting people that had outstanding warrants. He further advised it also helped deal with people with mental health issues because putting them in the back of a police car to drive them to Easton could increase their stress level.

Ms. Catherine Gumlock, Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group — was given a proclamation by Mr. Cusick on behalf of County Council to proclaim May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month throughout the County.

Ms. Gumlock stated she was a member of the Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group that met the first Wednesday of every month at Country Meadows, Bethlehem. She further stated that if a person had symptoms of the flu during the summer, they may have Lyme disease and should get treatment immediately.

Ms. Gumlock provided information regarding Lyme disease, protection and proper removal of a tick (see Attachment #1).

Confirmation of Appointments

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 35-2017 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their re-appointments as indicated hereafter:

GENERAL PURPOSE AUTHORITY

Re-appointments:
Shawn M. Donahue, MBA
1948 Quarter Mile Road
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Terms to Expire: 12/31/21

J. Michael Dowd
25 Chestnut Ridge Circle
Easton, PA 18042

Terms to Expire: 3/18/19

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

Re-appointments
Victoria Bastidas
1311 Santee Mill Road
Bethlehem PA 18017
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Judith Henckel
1752 Robin Hood Road
Mount Bethel PA 18343

Claire Wildermuth Sadler
4080 Suncrest Lane
Bethlehem PA 18020

R. Michael Topping
734 Fire Lane
Bethlehem PA 18015

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Controller's Report

Mr. Stephen Barron, Controller, advised he thanked County Council for taking time to discuss the issue regarding the Lehigh Township Central Booking because he did not know if doing an audit would resolve anything.

Mr. Barron stated the external auditors were entering their report writing phase. He further stated they planned to meet with them to determine what things did or did not work.

In answer to Mr. Cusick's question as to when the audit would come out, Mr. Barron replied it traditionally came out in June or July.

Mr. Barron advised he forwarded a memorandum on Monday with regard to increased expenditures as part of his year-end work. He further advised he looked for line items that might be material to the financial statements and bring out budget imbalances. He noted the number he provided pertaining to spending in the Department of Human Resources for staff development was now $20,501.
Mr. Cusick stated they planned to talk to Ms. Amy Trapp, Director of Human Resources, at yesterday's Personnel Committee meeting, but unfortunately she was unable to attend, but would talk to her in the near future.

Mr. Barron advised he wanted to alert County Council to that number because there was going to be a P-Card audit coming up and a lot of these purchases were done with a P-Card. He further advised there were already things in the P-Card Policies and Procedures that have been violated within the County.

County Executive Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, stated the large numbers in the budget for 2016 was for the Administration building a foundation for the Department of Human Resources and one of those things was the training that was provided to the employees at all levels.

Mr. Brown advised some of the training that was credited to the Department of Human Resources budget was for some of its personnel, but some of the management training covered five different departments.

Mr. Brown stated over time there would actually be an increase in the annual expenditures for training because it was the number one thing the County had to do. He further stated they were bringing online a system that would track employee training hours.

Mr. Cusick advised he was a strong supporter of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) training programs and would encourage having employees use them whenever possible. He further advised community colleges also offered relevant training programs.

Mr. Cusick stated the trips to New Orleans and Las Vegas were the ones that stood out and he wanted to know if those trainings were available via webinars or any other means.

Mr. Brown advised the trip to Las Vegas was for NeoGov training, which was a system the County had invested heavily in and had saved the County money since it was implemented. He further advised the trip to New Orleans was recommended for one employee who was handling Workers Compensation. He further advised they asked the County's Worker Compensation third party
administrator about the value of attending this training and they highly recommended it and it had also saved money in dealing with the claims.

Mr. Brown stated these trips were the exception, noting they just scheduled management training for five departments at the Northampton Community College.

Mr. Phillips advised he was interested to find out what the approval process was for training.

Mr. Werner stated he would like to know what research was done to determine whether the training could have been done closer and whether they used government discounts.

Mr. Benol advised this report was nothing more than a political football and when he asked Ms. Trapp if anyone contacted her she indicated she had not seen it. He further advised this was another one of those knee-jerk things the Controller had done to try to make the County Executive look bad and he was tired of it.

Mr. Benol stated at the next meeting he planned to take some action on the Controller because this position was financial not political. He further stated he understood this was an issue that technically fell under the purview of that position, but it had to be an objective report.

Mr. Brown asserted he had no objection to audits because many of the audit reports done before his Administration were repeated year after year and recommendations were never implemented.

Mr. Brown advised the Administration spoke often to Mr. Barron’s staff to determine how they planned to look at an audit in case they could give some insight for a more robust audit. He further advised after an audit was completed they discussed the comments so they could provide an explanation and recommendations were passed on to the department heads.

Consideration of Personnel Requests: a) Department of Human Services - Children, Youth and Families Division and Drug and Alcohol Division; b) Department of Public Works

Department of Human Services - Children, Youth and Families Division and Drug and Alcohol Division
Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 36-2017 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one full time position of Caseworker 2, in the Department of Human Services - Children, Youth and Families Division, pay grade PS-35, salary range $39,446 to $64,312, shall be eliminated and the one full time position of Attorney 2, in the Department of Human Services - Children, Youth and Families Division - Child Protective Law, pay grade HS-45B, salary range $63,085 to $98,883, shall be created, effective the 20th day of April 2017.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one full time position of Caseworker 3, pay grade PS-37A, salary range $43,471 to $70,839, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Children, Youth and Families Division, effective the 20th day of April 2017.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one full time position of Clerk Typist 2, pay grade PS-27, salary range $28,024 to $44,699, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Services - Drug and Alcohol Division, and that the one full time position of Drug and Alcohol Case Management Specialist, pay grade PS-35, salary range $39,465 to $64,312, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Drug and Alcohol Division, effective the 20th day of April 2017.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Department of Public Works

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 37-2017 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one full time position of Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, in the Department of Public Works - Gracedale Nursing Home, pay grade CS-28, salary step 4-D, salary $67,425, shall be moved one step to pay grade CS-28, salary step
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5-E, salary $70,459, effective the 20th day of April 2017.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Consideration of Article XIII Contract Approval Resolutions: a) RKR Hess; b) Alfred Benesch & Co.; c) Borton Lawson; d) Wind Gap Electric; e) TierPoint

RKR Hess

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 38-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for any contract "where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County's General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness"; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract in the amount of $45,300 for a term of one year with RKR Hess, a Division of UTRS, Inc., for engineering and design services for painting of five County bridges: Bridges 58, 72, 83, 125 and 160.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to approve a contract with RKR Hess, a Division of UTRS, Inc., for engineering and design services for painting of five County bridges.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.
The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Alfred Benesch & Co.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 39-2017  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary" and, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for any contract "where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County's General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness"; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract in the amount of $199,628 for a term of 18 months with Alfred Benesch & Co. for engineering and design services for the replacement of Bridge 115.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with Alfred Benesch & Co. for engineering and design services for the replacement of Bridge 115.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Kraft, "yes".
The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Borton Lawson

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 40-2017  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.17 d requires approval of County Council for "The written notice procedures for all contracts set forth in Administrative Code Sections 13.16 c, d (1), d (2), e, f (1) and f (2) shall also apply to amendments to existing contracts. e. "In addition to complying with the requirements set forth in Section 13.17 d, written notices involving amendments to existing contracts shall clearly indicate the monetary amount of the amendment, the reason for the amendment, the services to be provided by the amendment, the original amount of the contract and the total amount of the contract, as amended." and f. "For any existing contract that is amended, if such amendment increases the value of the original contract to an amount that would require Council approval under Section 13.16 c (1), then such approval must be obtained for the amendment."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary" and, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for any contract "where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness"; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2012, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a four year contract totaling $418,584.54 with Borton Lawson for preliminary engineering, final design and construction consulting services for Bridge No. 102, which they did by Resolution No. 53-2012; and
WHEREAS, on December 19, 2014, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract in the amount of $146,263.59 with Horton Lawson for additional preliminary design services for Bridge No. 102 with 80% of these expenditures being reimbursed by PennDOT so the County share of the increased expenditure is $29,252.72, which they did by Resolution No. 5-2015; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing an amendment to a contract with Horton Lawson for additional oversight construction services of Bridge No. 102, in the amount of $56,061.39 of which 95% of these expenditures will be reimbursed by PennDOT as per Agreement 050668 Rev F. The County’s share of the increased expenditure is $2,803.07.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to approve an amendment to a contract with Horton Lawson, for additional oversight construction services of Bridge No. 102.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1.

Wind Gap Electric

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 41-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness.
WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract in the total amount of $1,950,400 ($384,700 for general construction and $1,565,700 for electrical construction) for a term of one year with Wind Gap Electric for general construction and electrical construction services for Stand-by Generators at the Gracedale Nursing Home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to approve a contract for Wind Gap Electric for general construction and electrical engineering services for Stand-by Generators at the Gracedale Nursing Home.

Mr. Cusick stated Mr. Kraft raised a concern at yesterday’s Finance Committee meeting that the County had awarded contracts to low bidders only to be presented with change orders and in the end the County paid as much as it would have if they had chosen a higher bidder so he hoped this would not happen with this contract.

Mr. Kraft advised he spoke with Mr. Stan Rugis, Director of Public Works, and he felt better about how the bid was arrived at, but he still had some concern.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

TierPoint

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 42-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding
$100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract for a five year term in the amount of $215,034 that includes a one-time implementation fee of $4,230 and a five year annual fee of $42,160.80 per year, with TierPoint for Disaster Recovery Hot Site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with TierPoint for Disaster Recovery Hot Site.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Consideration of Resolution Granting Funds from County Council’s Contingency Account to Lehigh Township Central Booking Center

Mr. Cusick stated at yesterday’s Finance Committee meeting, a discussion was held regarding Lehigh Township’s interpretation of the County Central Booking Plan and the County’s responsibility to cover their bills. He further stated invoices were presented and a resolution was prepared to take those funds from County Council’s Contingency account and to indicate that a Memorandum of Understanding was to be drawn up between the County, the City of Bethlehem and Lehigh Township to determine how things would be handled in the future.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:
R. 43-2017  RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $17,680 shall be granted from the 2017 County Council Contingency Fund to the Lehigh Township Central Booking Center to cover past due invoices and to make them current through May 31, 2017.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a Memorandum of Understanding shall be established between the County of Northampton, the City of Bethlehem Central Booking Center and the Lehigh Township Central Booking Center setting out the rules that are to be adhered to regarding the collecting of fees and the maintenance of the centers going forward.

Mr. Kraft advised he maintained his position there was a booking center at the Jail that they could use. He further advised he understood Lehigh Township got their booking center through a grant and five different municipalities used it because it was a convenience for them.

Mr. Kraft stated he was going to agree to give them money so they could become current, but he did not believe going forward the County had any obligation to pay for this facility. He further stated he did not want to see it close so maybe they could put together an agreement with the municipalities that used it to fund it.

Mr. Phillips advised he would also agree to this one-time payment to keep them going, but he was not making any statement as to what the County’s obligation was in the future.

Mr. Geissinger stated this was an example of County Council, as the elected representatives of the people, taking money out of their own pocket in order to ensure the public safety of the citizens of these municipalities. He further stated he was in full agreement that this was a one-time payment and that a Memorandum of Understanding must be put in place to determine the future funding of the booking centers.

Mr. Lauer advised there have been a number of Court Orders that created the County Central Booking Plan and took positions on a number of issues relating to the plan. He further advised the current plan did provide that the facilities that would be used for central booking included the Northampton County Department of Corrections, Bethlehem Police Department and Lehigh Township Police Department.
Mr. Lauer stated the plan also provided the Lehigh Township Police Department funding for the ongoing project would be provided in part by the General Operating funds of the Northampton County Prison and the Bethlehem and Lehigh Township Police Departments along with funds charged to persons booked in the central booking facilities. He further stated as part of the Judicial Code that had been in effect for quite some time provisions for a booking center fee was optional.

Mr. Lauer advised the provision was that once a County-wide Booking Center Plan was established a person may in addition to any other fines, penalties or costs be required by the Court to pay a Booking Center Fund Fee of no more than $300, but they had to meet a number of other requirements for that to apply.

Mr. Lauer stated by State law the fee that was paid to the County was to be deposited into a special central or regional Booking Center Fund established in the County and that the money in that fund was to be used solely for the implementation of a County-wide Booking Center Plan and the start-up, operation and maintenance of a booking center.

In conclusion, Mr. Lauer advised the documents currently in effect in this County provided Lehigh Township to be a Central Booking Center and for the County, in part, to fund it. He further advised there was also a provision in State law that indicated what should happen to those fees.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she felt the County's role was to make things accessible to the people and she did not believe it was doing that in this case. She further stated she felt the County and maybe municipalities had an obligation to fund all booking centers.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Parks and Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Dietz advised the Parks and Open Space Committee met earlier this evening and a presentation was given regarding Greenways and the different trails they were trying to connect. He further advised a discussion was also held regarding how tourism and commerce could come into play.

Conservation District Liaison Report

Mrs. Ferraro stated invitations were sent out to the Conservation District Envirothon being held on April 27, 2017 so she hoped everyone would attend.

Capital Projects and Operations Committee Report

Mr. Phillips advised the Capital Projects and Operations Committee met yesterday and there were discussions pertaining to the contracts for bridges that were approved tonight, as well as other capital projects.

Human Services Committee Report

Mr. Benol stated the Human Services Committee met earlier in the evening and it was announced that Gracedale had received a contract with the Veterans Administration.

Gracedale Advisory Board Liaison Report

Mr. Werner reminded everyone the Friends of Gracedale Foundation was established and urged everyone to open their wallets. He advised they also learned about the Veterans Administration programs that were going to be offered at Gracedale.

Mr. Werner stated people were going to find out that Gracedale was going in a different direction and with the Intergovernmental Transfer Program funds along with some tax incentives for some large companies should help the taxpayers to operate Gracedale as it should be.
CCAP Conference Report

Mr. Phillips advised at the CCAP Conference he attended a panel discussion with regard to retaining Children, Youth and Families (CY&P) caseworkers. He further advised on the panel were Supreme Court Justice Max Baer, Common Pleas Judge Linda Cordaro, Children and Families in the Courts Director Sandra Moore and Department of Children and Youth Director Cathy Utz.

Mr. Phillips stated he was very impressed to be in a room with this panel and the discussion with regard to what had to be done for retention was very interesting because there were people at the highest level who were really interested in it. He further stated it was such a hard job and for many money was not the driver, but they get burnt out.

Mr. Phillips advised at the end of the discussion he got to meet these individuals and when they found out he was from Northampton County they said “you got Kevin Dolan; you got the good one”. He further advised he also found out that Mr. Dolan, Director of CY&P, helped put the presentation that was given together.

Mr. Phillips stated the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts grouped Counties by phase with Phase 1 Counties incorporating the best practices and integrating current modalities in CY&P. He further stated they had ranked Northampton County as Phase 1.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mr. Phillips advised April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and he went to a Blue Cupcake event held by CY&P because the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Caseworkers gave an award from the Family Support Alliance. He further advised it was unique because all the caseworkers got it and he provided a document regarding what these individuals did (see Attachment #2).

Update on Stepping Up Program

Mr. Dietz stated a few months ago County Council passed a resolution regarding the Stepping Up Program that dealt with mental health issues in prison systems. He further stated last week there was a webinar with the Counties that passed the
resolution so they could determine how to implement a program
and CCAP was presenting a webinar next week.

Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Liaison Report

Mr. Geissinger advised at the second meeting in May a
presentation would be given regarding the proposed plan that was
approved by the Board of Governors to sanction the grant money
that was put forth for Braden Airpark.

Mr. Geissinger stated a lot of people stood firm when LNAA
was making bad choices regarding Braden Airpark and all that
time and effort was now paying off.

Adjournment

Mr. Benol made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

_________________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council
Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group

Meets the first Wednesday of every month

at

Country Meadows, 4011 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem, PA
Building 1, Entrance Lounge

7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group is an all volunteer organization which seeks to improve the lives of people suffering from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and to provide information about prevention of Lyme disease.

All meetings are free and open to the public. Lyme patients and family and friends of someone with Lyme disease are invited to attend.

Join us to share positive strategies, coping methods, informative speakers and an opportunity to talk with others who understand your experiences and efforts to get well.

Printed information and a lending library are available at each meeting.

Speakers Bureau: Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group Board members are available, with adequate advance notice, to provide age-appropriate classroom presentations, presentations to scout groups, and PTAs. Topics will address prevention and recognizing early symptoms of Lyme. We can provide printed educational materials for groups for a nominal fee.

For more information:
Cathy: 610-419-4135  cgumlock@aol.com
Heidi: 610-882-2253  hnthealy@aol.com

Look for the Lehigh Valley Lyme Support Group on Facebook.
Protecting Yourself from Tick Bites

Ticks are all around us. They are carried by small mammals such as mice, squirrels, chipmunks, cats and dogs. They can also hitch rides on birds. Therefore anywhere you find these animals, you will also potentially find ticks: in the woods, in fields, in yards and gardens, on sports fields, and even in cities. People don't need to give up outdoor activities, but we do need to take sensible precautions against allowing ticks to attach themselves to our bodies.

Be aware of places where ticks are likely to be found: tall grass, ground cover like ivy and pachysandra, mulched areas, bushes and low-hanging tree branches, leaf litter, wood-piles, and stone walls or piles of stones. Try to avoid brushing through these areas or sitting directly on grass or other areas where there may be ticks.

Dress appropriately. Wear light-colored clothing so you can see a tick if it is on your clothing. Tuck your pants into your socks. Wear enclosed shoes. Bare feet are an unnecessary risk. Sandals are great on sidewalks and paved areas, but should be avoided when in grassy or overgrown areas. Wear a hat when walking under trees to protect yourself from ticks dropping down onto you from above.

Increase your protection with the use of repellants. Sprays containing DEET may be applied directly to your skin. For children, limit the percentage of DEET in the repellant to 30%. Repellants containing permethrin may be sprayed on clothing and shoes. Clothing pretreated with permethrin is also available for both children and adults. There are also natural repellants that are made from herbs. (Use of chemicals is a personal decision.)

Perform tick checks periodically while you are outdoors and upon returning indoors. Ticks usually crawl upwards from pant legs or sleeve cuffs. They may crawl down from necklines. They frequently choose hollows or creases such as arm pits and the backs of knees as sites to attach. Also check or have someone else check your hair and hairline.

Showering and rubbing all areas of your skin with a rough cloth or shower sponge can work to remove unattached ticks.

When you remove the clothing you wore outdoors, do not drop it onto beds, upholstered furniture or rugs. Launder it and dry at high heat for about an hour.

Check your pets for ticks and remove them if found. Do not allow your pets on your beds or upholstered furniture where a tick might drop off the pet and later attach itself onto you.

Place "tick tubes", available online, throughout your property to kill ticks carried by mice.
How to Properly Remove a Tick

With a pair of fine point tweezers or a tick removal tool, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull outward with a slow, even force, pulling in the opposite direction to how the tick entered the skin.

DO NOT JERK OR TWIST THE TICK. This might tear the head and mouth parts from the tick’s body and will encourage the tick’s fluid to enter your blood stream or skin.

DO NOT USE YOUR FINGERS TO REMOVE THE TICK. Squeezing the tick could cause it to disgorge the contents of its body into the wound. Remember you can contract Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever simply by handling ticks and having their excretions absorbed through your skin.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE TICK WITH CHEMICALS (such as nail polish remover, soap, Vaseline, kerosene, oils, etc.) OR BY HEATING IT WITH A MATCH. This can kill the tick before it disengages its mouthparts. It can also cause the tick to regurgitate into the wound, increasing the likelihood of transmitting diseases.

WASH THE TICK ATTACHMENT SITE. Use warm soapy water and/or rubbing alcohol. You can apply an ointment like Neosporin to help protect the bite site from additional contamination.

SAVE THE TICK. If you want to send it for testing (not generally recommended) place it in a small sealed ziplock bag with a very slightly damp cotton ball (not wet). Keep it in the refrigerator until you are ready to ship it. Remember – testing a tick does not guarantee the organisms will be detected, nor that they were passed along to you. NEVER wait for the tick test results to come back before being treated. Remember, the earlier the treatment the better.

NOW WHAT?

DO NOT WAIT FOR A RASH OR SYMPTOMS TO APPEAR TO TAKE ACTION. Do NOT wait for a rash to appear! Less than 50% of people with Lyme report a rash and less than 10% of children nationwide have one. Do NOT wait for the disease to spread throughout your body and for symptoms to appear before being
treated. In highly endemic areas treating the tick bite as soon as possible may help reduce the incidence of contracting Lyme and other tick borne diseases. (See recommendations for treatment below.)

SAY “NO” TO ONE DOSE OF ANTIBIOTICS. The “one dose of Doxycycline after a tick bite” theory, which some health care professionals may believe is curative, has not been proven or accepted to be an effective means of preventing Lyme or other tick borne diseases, or in reducing the number of reported cases. In fact, there is no scientific evidence indicating that one dose of doxycycline will prevent or totally cure Lyme or any other infectious tick borne diseases. Remember, pathogens found in ticks can travel through the blood stream or skin and can be spread throughout your body in a manner of hours or days.

IF ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER IS SUSPECTED TREAT IMMEDIATELY. Do not wait for test results and do not wait for a rash to appear. All major health care agencies in the USA recommend treating first and asking questions later if Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is even suspected. RMSF is not limited to the mountainous areas in the west as its name would imply. RMSF is found in most states in the USA. Five of those states – North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri_ currently have the most reported cases. You do not need to be bitten by a tick to contract RMSF – simply handling ticks puts people at risk for contracting the sometimes fatal disease.

ARE YOU THIS KIND OF TICK, OR THAT KIND? Some medical professionals may still want to see the tick that bit you before prescribing antibiotic treatment. You need to know that it doesn’t matter what kind (species) of tick bit you or how long it was attached, or its percentage of engorgement to determine if you were potentially exposed to diseases. All species of ticks can carry one or more known disease organisms, especially in areas highly endemic for Lyme disease. Remember – Lyme disease isn’t found only in deer ticks and RMSF isn’t found only in lone star ticks, as some may still believe.

EARLY TREATMENT IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE. Lyme, Bartonella, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Anaplasmosis, Mycoplasma and STARI are some of the many diseases ticks can carry. Doxycycline, prescribed for an adequate length of time, is currently the preferred treatment (barring any contra-indicators, such as your age, allergy, etc). A prompt and adequate dose of Doxycycline will address most of the known bacterial infections carried by ticks. (Babesiosis is not a bacterial infection, so it is one of the exceptions.)

No One Likes to Take Medicine!

TAKE ALL OF YOUR PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS. When taking doxycycline (and other antibiotics) be sure to complete the full course prescribed even if you are not feeling sick. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can take your medication
Common Misdiagnoses of Lyme Disease

"Called the "Great Imitator,"
Lyme disease, because of its
myriad symptoms, can mimic two hundred other illness. As a
result, it can be missed by doctors who are not well
acquainted with its pathology and progress."

Quote from Coping With Lyme Disease (p.33) by Denise Lang

Some common conditions /illnesses for which
a diagnosis of Lyme should also be considered:

- Multiple sclerosis
- Fibromyalgia
- Systemic lupus
- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Sjogren's syndrome
- Mononucleosis
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Alzheimer's disease
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- ADHD
- Hypochondria
- Bi-Polar disease
- Depression
- Polymyalgia Rheumatica
- Autism
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Anxiety
2017 Nomination Form

Person Being Nominated: All Child Welfare Caseworkers in Pennsylvania

Nominated By: PA Children and Youth Administrators Association
Brian Bornman, Esq.-PCYA Executive Director
PO Box 60769
Harrisburg, PA 17106
717-736-4736

Describe what this person has done to prevent child abuse in their community:

Each day in Pennsylvania, many children are at risk from child abuse and neglect. Fortunately, there are also people who take the initiative to take a stand for those children by speaking up, stepping in, and calling for help. Even more fortunate is the fact that there is a group of people who are there to answer those calls. They are our Pennsylvania Children and Youth Caseworkers, and what an amazing group of people they are.

The work done by caseworkers on behalf of Pennsylvania's children is one of the toughest jobs anyone can ever have. Every day they face the possibility of facing drugs, weapons, vicious pets, and violent people. Sometimes they have the police along with them, but most of the time they don't. They take such risk in order to protect children and save lives.

The challenges of being a caseworker don't end when the work day is over. It's impossible to see the suffering of children all day and then just put that out of their mind when they go home. Many sleepless nights are spent tossing and turning while worrying about the children in their care. Are they safe? Did they make the right decision? Should the child have gone into placement? Could they have safely gone back home? Will they make it through the night?

Caseworkers must face situations that most of us have the luxury to refuse to believe even happen. Nobody wants to believe that people will burn a child in a scalding bathtub. Nobody wants to believe that someone would actually sell their child for drugs. Nobody can imagine that someone would shake a baby enough to cause their retinas to detach. No child would actually be tied up and starved in a closet. They may read about these stories or hear them on the news, but their minds won't allow them to really believe these things actually happen. They do. And caseworkers spend every day
looking that square in the face...a child's face.

They are awake some nights going over and over again the testimony for the next day's court hearing. Even though they know they are the good guys, court can often feel like they are the ones on trial. The failure to keep good records and professionally convey the risks to the child may mean the child could go back to a dangerous situation. The stakes are terribly high and the responsibility is very real.

Not all moments are bad. On the days when they get to help a child move in to a safe, clean and warm home with a loving caretaker are satisfying. When a sibling group is reunited after spending months apart; that feels pretty nice. When a teenager they have had on their caseload for years invites them to his high school graduation...That is a special moment. When a Birth Mother hugs them and says thank you for helping me to get my children back. That is a success. And when they get to attend the adoption hearing to finalize a forever family, it feels great.

Most people care about preventing child abuse, but our Children and Youth Caseworkers commit their lives to stopping it. They are largely underpaid for such a dangerous, emotional, and taxing job and yet many of them can't imagine spending their life doing anything else. They are heroes to our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. The reward of a smiling and safe child keeps them fighting the largely under-appreciated fight.

Every time a caseworker reaches out to a struggling family and gets them help with basic needs or even just lets them know that someone cares about them, the potential for keeping one more child safe goes up. Tragedies are prevented, children don't go hungry, and families stay together. These are the truly untold stories because they lack the sensationalism of a child tragedy, but this should be no less acknowledged. The child welfare system never can know how many lives are saved and tragedies prevented due to the involvement of caseworkers. They are making the world a better place and their efforts and struggles should be recognized, certainly as much as system failures.