

**YORK/ADAMS MH-IDD  
JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOINDER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
*Emergency Meeting***

**FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Joint Board of County Commissioners met via conference call on Friday, May 1, 2020, for an emergency meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

**ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONER(S) ATTENDING:**

Commissioner Randy Phiel  
Commissioner James Martin  
Commissioner Marty Karsteter Qually

**YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONER(S) ATTENDING:**

Commissioner Julie Wheeler  
Commissioner Doug Hoke  
Commissioner Ron Smith

**COUNTY STAFF ATTENDING:**

Ms. Sharon L. Harlacher, MH-IDD Administrator  
Ms. Casey Darling-Horan, Director, Early Intervention  
Ms. Kerry Miller, Asst. Director, Early Intervention  
Ms. Susan Noya, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Ms. Gillian P. Foster, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Michelle Hovis, York County Human Services, Director  
Ms. Taryn Maguire, Director, HCMU  
Mr. Tom Hoover, Budget Director, York County  
Ms. Kimberly Sellers, Administrative Assistant, York Co. HSD/HCMU

Mr. Steve Nevada, County Manager, Adams County  
Mr. Sean A. Mott, Esquire, Adams Co. Assistant Solicitor

The Meeting was chaired by Commissioner Hoke. He informed participants that may have called in that they are welcome to make comments or request documentation.

## **Program Updates – Ms. Sharon Harlacher**

- **Early Intervention Funding Updates**

Ms. Michelle Hovis took the lead indicating that there have been concerns with regards to the amount of funding currently available to pay the Early Intervention providers. Early Intervention is the Program that covers birth to three for individuals with developmental delays. It was felt that it would be helpful if the program staff provided information about the historical experiences had in regards to the budgeting process and what is being heard presently from OCDEL in terms of funding moving forward. Financial documentation was also prepared by Ms. Susan Noya for review to provide a better sense of where the County Program is financially with regards to the shortfall that is being experienced.

Ms. Casey Darling thanked the Board for providing an audience. She reported that every year there is a deficit. An allocation is granted yearly and it rarely meets the need of the full financial picture. But every year, OCDEL goes through a rebudget process to reassess program needs who spend more than their allocation. This is very typical. What is different with this year is that there is less certainty about what that process looks like. In a typical year, a letter would be written to OCDEL, advising them of the needs and they typically respond that they understand the projected deficit and they have confidence that very likely 100% of the costs would be covered. This year, their terminology is a little different in that they are asking counties to try their best to help out in the situation and continue to provide services. At this time, the County Program's allocation is very close to running out. Providers have been notified that we are not able to pay them after today. Typically, other means would be utilized that are available to us but due to the COVID-19 crisis, it is not available and the assurances from the state level are less.

Ms. Hovis advised the Board that the decision that needs to be made today is really about whether or not the counties wish to front the monies that are short, out to providers and pay them with the hope that the County Program gets reimbursed for those funds in the fall.

This would affect approximately 1,700 families as of today but this number changes as new enrollments are constant and others also age out. If the County does not agree to pay the providers, some of them will not be able to continue to serve children and those families would be very disrupted by a loss of services. The County Program would try it's best to mitigate by using the providers that would be willing to agree to serve but that number is uncertain as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Susan Noya provided and reviewed a handout offering at a glance, a snapshot on the dollar amounts. The currently available funding is \$4.982 million. What was analyzed

and assured is that that funding is available and is sufficient to cover the county operations for administration and service coordination thru June 30, 2020. In addition, all direct service claims and expense that have been authorized and incurred thru service dates of today, May 1, 2020. This also includes the fiscal impact of cost containment that we as a County Program have taken through the recent furloughs as well as the positions that were intended to be filled but are frozen. This equates to \$114,000.00. Pre COVID-19, it was reported at the last Joint Board of Commissioners Meeting that the OCDEL shortfall would total \$892,746. The more recent analysis since the COVID-19 impact straightline average trend as of today has deflated that shortfall down to \$730,881. A forecast was also provided based on the March actual claims. These amounts were also inflated due to the COVID-19 impact. From the best data and metrics available, it is believed that the floor of the shortfall would be in the range of \$485,963.

Ms. Harlacher added that another reason we're in this situation is that OCDEL made the decision to raise all providers' rates by 3%. They also started the fiscal year over \$100,000 shorter than last year.

Ms. Hovis reiterated that it is believed that the state is trying to take some of their own budgetary issues and pass it on to counties by not allocating what is actually needed. This will push the risk down to the provider level.

Tom Hoover inquired whether or not the Human Services Block Grant as well as the HealthChoices incentive funds can be utilized in this crisis. In response, there is cash in our bank account that are federal mental health project dollars but these funds cannot be used as OCDEL is not providing the assurance that we will be made whole. The HealthChoices monies cannot be used for early intervention as those dollars are geared to provide mental health and substance abuse support for Medicaid eligible recipients.

Susan Noya again made reference to the handout that was reviewed. Column A is the floor which would be \$485,963. York County would be responsible for \$393,630 and Adams County for \$92,333. The ceiling from the best analysis and data thru March is \$730,881 with \$592,014 for York County and \$138,867 for Adams County. Monies in the amount of approximately \$100,000 are still available from the Elder Healthcare account that can be refunded to support York County.

Different suggestions were made for requesting philanthropic donations from organizations like NAMI or the Human Services Fund. In response, NAMI gets funding from the County Program and the Human Services Fund has certain buckets that are designated for specific items. Nothing is designated for this type of service. The Community Foundation was also suggested to solicit funds from the COVID-19 Response Funds. WellSpan was also recommended to solicit for grant funding as well as push back on the providers to assist in minimizing the impact.

The motion was made by Commissioner Phiel and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the lower amount of \$485,963 (\$393,630 for York and \$92,333 for Adams) and utilize all means and resources to secure other funding. The motion was not adopted as Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Smith voted no.

Ms. Harlacher asked the two Commissioners that voted no if there are any changes to the motion that could change their vote at some time. In response, a plan of action is needed to implement some of the suggestions made. There should be a robust plan to solicit donations as well as an assurance from the state that the funding will be restored in the future.

The motion was made by Commissioner Wheeler and seconded by Commissioner Martin to recess the meeting, conduct research and talk to legislators and reconvene at an undisclosed time on the following Monday (May 4<sup>th</sup>) or Tuesday (May 5<sup>th</sup>) afternoon with a plan of action. The vote passed.

The meeting ended at 11:53 a.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**



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**GILLIAN P. FOSTER**  
Administrative Assistant