

Commissioners:

SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT
*Director of Administration
and Chief Clerk*

J. DAVID SMITH
Solicitor

Telephone (570) 320-2124
Fax (570) 320-2127

COUNTY of LYCOMING
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

www.lyco.org
county.commissioners@lyco.org

**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Mussare Commissioner Mirabito, Director Matthew McDermott, and Solicitor J. David Smith.

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

J

Jacob StopperFirst

1.6 Proclamations:

- **Tracy Haas-Ungard, Agency Services Manager, Central PA Food Bank: 2023 Hunger Action Month – Comments attached. She also shared a quote “The only way out is straight through” She thanked the Commissioners for being part of the solution.**
- **Angelique Labadie Chianowicz – Sojourner Truth Ministries – Ms. Chianowicz explained that they are predominantly a Soup Kitchen Ministry located at the corner of High and Center Street. She reported that they served close to 20,000 lunches last year. This year they are tracking at 30,000 lunches. Last Saturday they were packed. She spoke to someone who was there that told her they came due to an article in the paper that day that said the Ministry would be able to help them. Per Ms. Chianowicz they were able to provide the family, who was living in a tent, a meal, a meal for later that night and a food care package from the food bank as well as some blankets. That small bit of advocacy helped many people.**

Emily Camerer, Development Office, Central PA Food Bank – thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. She explained the definition of the term Food Insecurities and how it can happen to anyone, at any time. Educating people on understanding where it comes from will be part of the Hunger Action Month. She reported that some counties in the region don't acknowledge that hunger exists in their county.

Mr. Metzger commented that they are examples of unsung heroes in our communities. They acknowledge and attack the problem. As prosperous as this country is no one should have to go hungry. He thanked them for all they do.

Mr. Mirabito pointed out that the packed lunches provided to seniors may be the only time some of them have contact with other people. Seniors and children are the most vulnerable groups. Mr. Mirabito listed some of the affects of hunger for both populations.

- **Krista Rogers: Childhood Cancer Ms. Rogers announced that Dr. Ramada was unable to make it to speak today. Ms. Rogers comments are attached.**

Harry and Krista Rogers added comments from a parent's perspective based on their personal experience. They thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Mr. Mirabito thanked the family for sharing their experiences. He commented that it helps people to understand and keeps it in front of the public.

Mr. Metzger thanked Olivia for sharing her story and talents. He complimented her beautiful singing voice. Mr. Metzger told Olivia that she is doing great things and helping many people and will continue to help them throughout her lifetime.

Mr. Mussare talked about the uncertainty that cancer brings upon the family. He encouraged everyone to reach out, volunteer and help in any way you can.

- **Krista Rogers: National Suicide Prevention Week – Ms. Olivia Rogers spoke. Her comments are attached.**
- **Ms. Kelly Gordon, President NAMI North Central, PA and CASSP Coordinator for Lycoming & Clinton County - comments are attached.**
- **Ms. Kate Kiessling, Coroner – Ms. Kiessling provided statistics for Lycoming County suicide rates. She commented on the impact suicide has on family and friends as well as how their office tries to assist them when they are on the scene. The Coroners office has done the following**

for suicide prevention: become part of the local Suicide Prevention Coalition, developed a small handout with suicide prevention and crisis information for medical providers to give to patients and developed grief booklets that list local resources. Ms. Kiessling announced that she is on the Safety Committee. She will be doing some trainings open to County Employees in October which will include Mental Health First Aid and QPR training. These will offer information on red flags and how to help someone that's having mental health issues walk themselves off the edge.

- **Mr. Charles Kiessling, Coroner described suicide as preventable deaths. He pointed out the need for local resources. Per Mr. Kiessling, local emergency rooms hold people that would be unsafe if released until they can get the treatment they need due to the lack of local resources. He also noted that Lycoming County is typically above the national average of suicide rates.**
- **Mr. Metzger recounted how suicide has impacted his life and the lives of those left behind. When you see someone is down reach out. Anyone can go through bad times and there shouldn't be a stigma attached to it. Mr. Metzger thanked NAMI for all they do.**
- **Mr. Mussare shared his beliefs in divine intervention and Tim Hines purpose for surviving his suicide attempt in addition to the message he brings to others.**
- **Mr. Tim Mahoney, Volunteer – Mr. Mahoney talked about the 988 number that anyone can dial for help and will be immediately connected to a crisis worker. This is a national program and many states help fund the service. Pennsylvania does not help fund the program. Per Mr. Mahoney, this service needs to be sustained and it has been proven to be very effective. New call centers are being added to expand the service. He encouraged people to contact their representatives to support this program.**
- **Mr. Mirabito explained that there is also a local crisis line that is run by CCR, a private vendor.**
- **Ms. Kiessling added that CCR has a variety of options for contact such as chat, text, online and mobile crisis. They also will follow up with a person after the crisis**

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify invoices due through 9/6/23 to be paid on 8/30/23 in the amount of \$1,314,992.41.**

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

3.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 3.1 Matthew McDermott for Allison Wolfe – Approve the following Personnel Actions as conditional offers of employment, subject to the successful completion of a background check and all other employment conditions as outlined in**

Attachment (A).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve Price Quote from Supply Source in the amount of \$13,800.00 (2023 budget funds available).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.2 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve Resolution 2023-16 to appoint Peter C. Lovecchio as an additional assistant solicitor.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.3 Leslie Kilpatrick – Vote to approve 2023 Core and SQL Microsoft Licensing in the amount of \$207,091.49 (2023 budgeted item).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.4 Jason Yorks – Vote to approve Right-of-Way Agreement with PPL Electric Utilities Corporation.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.5 Kelsey Green – Vote to approve Change Order #1 with Steinbacher Enterprises for 2023 Flood Mitigation Acquisition & Demolition project located at 1849 Merrill Ave, Williamsport in the amount of \$1,000.00 (HMGP funds).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

4.6 Kelsey Green – Vote to approve Change Order #2 with Steinbacher Enterprises for 2023 Flood Mitigation Acquisition & Demolition project located at 1839 Frey Ave, Williamsport in the amount of \$1,000.00 (HMGP funds).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

5.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

6.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board

Tom Adams, Williamsport- Mr. Adams read a proverb. He commented on Mental Health issues, the need for those suffering to ask for help and for everyone to reach out and help others. Mr. Adams also commented on the fires in Maui.

Mark Sortman, Loyalsock – Mr. Sortman commented on the rising incidence of homeless people in Loyalsock Township. He asked the Commissioners for information regarding resources that the township can refer the homeless to that might aid them.

Mr. Mirabito suggested that they may consider partnering with an agency or church in Loyalsock to open a shelter and/or come up with solutions for the township. Several agencies were named that may be able to assist people experiencing these difficulties were mentioned by the Commissioners.

YOU TUBE COMMENTS:



Jacob StopperFirst



KeystoneChiefSecond

Atarah YasharaRental assistance where is the round 2 fundings?



Atarah YasharaWell you cannot control people.



Atarah Yasharalit starts at homes



Atarah YasharaI like the red flags awareness



Atarah Yasharalmore housing opportunities for safe houses

Atarah YasharaHave a good day byeeee Yahuah guide you all

7.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room, 1st Floor, Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

To View This Meeting Click on the Link Below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwWqQACsvXM>

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

- Resource Management Services – Douglas Leonard, Resource Recovery Supervisor, Full-Time Replacement, \$24.77 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: September 3, 2023.
- Information Technology – Douglas Boyles, Technical Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$23.08 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: September 18, 2023.
- Pre-Release Center – Gabrielle Abriatis, Resident Supervisor I, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.10 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: September 3, 2023.
- Information Technology – Laura Harrison, Clerk III – Mailroom, Full-Time Replacement, \$16.46 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: September 5, 2023.
- District Attorney – Lindsay Sweeley, Assistant District Attorney, Full-Time Replacement, \$65,000 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: September 5, 2023.



2023 Hunger Action Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Lycoming County where 10.7% of residents experience food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Lycoming County is committed to taking steps to combat hunger in every part of our community and to provide additional resources to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Lycoming County is committed to working with Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and its partner agencies in educating people about the role and importance of food banks and food pantries in addressing hunger and raising awareness of the need to devote more resources and attention to hunger issues; and

WHEREAS, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and its partner agencies distributed nearly three and a half million pounds of food in Lycoming County through their network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated "Hunger Action Month" in order to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and to enlist the public in the fight to end hunger by taking action – including volunteer shifts, social media shares, and donations – to ensure nobody has to make an impossible choice between food and other necessities like medicine, utilities or childcare; and

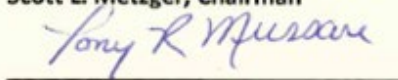
WHEREAS, food banks across the country, including Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, will host numerous events throughout the month of September to bring awareness and help end hunger in their local community.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Lycoming County Commissioners do hereby recognize September 2023, as **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** in Lycoming County and we call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

Lycoming County Commissioners



Scott L. Metzger, Chairman



Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman



Richard Mirabito, Secretary



Hunger Action Month 2023
Proclamation Talking Points
Tracy Haas-Ungard

- Thank the commissioners for helping raise awareness about the issue of hunger
- September is Hunger Action Month, a time when the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank joins with Feeding America food banks and anti-hunger organizations across the U.S. to raise awareness on the issue of hunger in our communities and raise our collective voices to advocate, educate and work together to end hunger & food insecurity
- We encourage the public to get involved: **DONATE, PARTICIPATE, EDUCATE, ADVOCATE**
 - o **DONATE:** Either to the food bank or a local organization. We can't fulfill our mission without support from the community
 - o **PARTICIPATE:** Volunteer at the food bank or a local partner organization
 - o **EDUCATE:** Learn more about hunger in Central PA. Check out the policy blog on our website- centralpafoodbank.org
 - o **ADVOCATE:** Advocate for public policy that reduces hunger and increases access to fresh, healthy food. In D.C., Congress is debating a federal Farm Bill which includes important nutrition programs like SNAP and senior food boxes. Learn more and get involved under the 'advocacy' page on our website
- Thank the Commissioners again for this small, but important, way of bringing attention to the issue of hunger. Every time we discuss hunger, it helps reduce stigma and can encourage someone to seek help



SEPTEMBER CHILDHOOD
CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, Lycoming County's children are our greatest resource and treasure. Their wellbeing is integral to our bright future. This month Lycoming county honors the survivors of childhood and adolescent cancers, their families, as well as all those whose childhoods were cut short.

Whereas, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children and adolescents. One in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday. Forty-six children per day or 16,790 children per year are diagnosed with this devastating disease.

Whereas, childhood cancer spares no one, affecting children from every race, color, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

Whereas, childhood cancer does not just affect the child, but also impacts parents, siblings, extended family, friends, neighbors and entire communities. The financial burden can be devastating to the families and impacts all of us.

Whereas, The National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer as well as the need for increased funding. Only six new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer in the last 30 years.

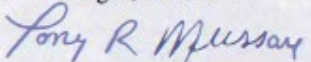
Whereas, we express sincere gratitude to those who work tirelessly to support, treat and care for these children and their families, as well as those that strive to find treatments and cures for this deadly disease. We pay tribute to all those fighting this battle. May their courage and commitment continue to move us toward new cures, healthier outcomes and a brighter future for America's youth.

Now, Therefore, Be it Proclaimed, that the Lycoming County Commissioner's do hereby declare the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to join in reaffirming the commitment to fighting childhood cancer that so deeply impacts families in our community and across the country.

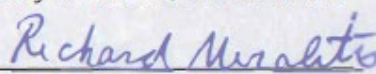
Lycoming County Commissioners



Scott L. Metzger, Chairman



Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman



Richard Mirabito, Secretary



Ms. Krista Rogers Comments Childhood Cancer:

1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday, and; the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old,
80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe, in the last 30 years only six new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out; hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American Childhood Cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure. How can you help?

Donate time

To feel the direct impact of your support during childhood cancer month, dedicate time to the cause. Nonprofits can always use an extra hand, or benefit from services you and/or your employer can provide. Find volunteer opportunities—in your neighborhood or online, for you or a group of friends or coworkers—through [VolunteerMatch](#).

And you don't even need to do it solely during childhood cancer month. Make it a habit and set aside your personal children's cancer awareness week where you'll volunteer your time at a pediatric hospital near you. You get to decide when child cancer awareness week is for you, as long as you commit to it consistently.

Create childhood cancer gift baskets

Gift baskets are a great pick-me-up for kids spending long periods of time in the children's hospital. Think about things they might miss from life at home—perhaps a stuffed animal friend, fuzzy socks, or a new coloring book—and wrap it up in a gold bow. If you have the time, spend a part of your day at a pediatric hospital, help hand out the baskets, and see a child's face brighten.

Start a fundraiser for someone facing childhood cancer

If you're connected to a child who has received news of a cancer diagnosis, consider starting a fundraiser. The cost of cancer can put a serious dent in a family's finances, creating barriers between a sick child and much-needed care. In the US, high costs (even for those with insurance) force many cancer patients to skip necessary treatment. To help family members focus on the child's health and recovery, launch a fundraiser in his or her name to show that you're supporting them.

Start a workplace fundraiser for childhood cancer research, education, or advocacy

For Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, team up with colleagues to support pediatric cancer research, education, and advocacy through a fundraising program. Crowdfunding simplifies fundraising, enabling you to collect funds from friends, family, and coworkers with ease. Call a meeting and start a fundraiser. You can even set up your own child cancer week and do fundraising events regularly at your workplace.

Donate to a childhood cancer nonprofit

Whether you want to support research, education, or advocacy, nonprofits fighting childhood cancer will put your money to good use. Local charities that support families are **the Paternastro Foundation, K's for Cancer, Think Big, High School Mini-Thon events** – Also nationally and internationally are **Momcology, American Childhood Cancer Organization and Childhood Cancer International** are groups that directly support families with information, gifts, and connections.

International Childhood Cancer Day – by **Childhood Cancer International and the International Society of Pediatric Oncology** set their 2023 message to be **Better Survival is achievable through their hands**. The focus being to pay tribute to patients, families and medical teams/healthcare workers and the positive impact they have on the lives of children and adolescents with cancer and vice versa.

Get your representative involved

Did you know that the House of Representatives has a bipartisan caucus dedicated to childhood cancer awareness? The Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus works toward eliminating the threat of cancer for children. If your representative isn't already involved, invite him or her to join.

Take time to get to know childhood cancer survivors

Jenny Shaw was 6 years old when she was diagnosed with cancer. She is now a proud survivor, and she and her family are determined to pay their good luck forward by giving back to others who are

3

battling childhood cancer. You'll find it hard not to be inspired by Jenny's story and her [fundraiser to give care bags](#) to other children in their time of need.

#TEAMTINK is a group I started back at diagnosis to keep our friends and family updated. I have kept it going since 8/3/2017 to draw attention to childhood cancer and follow Olivia's journey through treatment and back to health until she is released medically in November 2024. Another place to look at on Facebook is I Draw Childhood Cancer - Angus Olsen, the artist, is from Australia and is the father of a childhood cancer survivor. Through their journey he turned to his talent and he has a heart to educate and support families facing the beast. His work is known across the world and can be seen in many fundraising flyers, as well as in medical arenas. Angus has been nominated for Australian of the year 2023.

"Children with cancer are like candles in the wind who accept the possibility that they are in danger of being extinguished by a gust of wind from nowhere and yet, as they flicker and dance to remain alive, their brilliance challenges the darkness and dazzle those of us who watch their light. ~Unknown



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION & ACTION MONTH

HOPE FOR THE DAY'S

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; With September being recognized as "Suicide Awareness Month," the National Suicide Prevention & Action Month Proclamation was created to raise the visibility of mental health and proactive suicide prevention resources in our community. We also want to start the conversation, destigmatize it, and help connect people with the appropriate support services; and

WHEREAS; According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (A.F.S.P.), suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages 10 and 34 with more than 48,000 people dying by suicide annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS; According to Hope For The Day (H.F.T.D.), with an average of 132 suicides completed daily and each one directly impacting 100 additional people, including friends, service members, family, social media connections, and neighbors we can safely assume everyone has been impacted by suicide; and

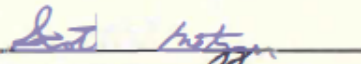
WHEREAS; Lycoming County, Pennsylvania publicly places its' full support behind those who work in the field of mental health, education, and law enforcement; and

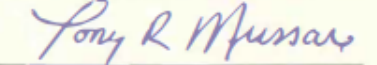
WHEREAS; Global organizations like Hope For The Day and our many local mental health agencies that are here serve on the front lines of a war that many refuse to discuss due to stigma; and


WHEREAS; We encourage all residents to take time to understand mental health through education and recognize that we need to take care of our mental health while we take care of each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the Lycoming County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023, as National Suicide Prevention & Action Month in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Lycoming County Commissioners


Scott L. Metzger, Chairman


Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman


Richard Mirabito, Secretary



Ms. Olivia Rogers Comments -Suicide

On November 28, 2021 a very dear friend of mine took his own life. His name was Jose and he was only 15 years old. He hadn't even lived here 3 months but he was bullied for his race and numerous other things. Mental Health Awareness and suicide prevention are incredibly important topics that deserve our attention and support. By raising awareness, we can break down the stigma surrounding mental health and create a more compassionate and understanding society. It is crucial to educate ourselves and others about the signs of mental health struggles, so we can intervene and provide necessary support. According to the CDC, deaths due to suicide declined in 2019 and 2020, but increased by approximately 5% in the United States in 2021. Suicide deaths further increased in 2022, rising from 48,183 deaths in 2021 to an estimated 49,449 deaths in 2022, an increase of approximately 2.6%. According to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, "9 and 10 Americans believe America is facing a mental health crisis. The new suicide death data reported by CDC illustrates why. One life lost to suicide is one too many. Yet, too many people still believe asking for help is a sign of weakness." Common signs of mental health struggles in teenagers can include changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from activities or friends, sudden mood swings, excessive irritability or anger, changes in sleep or appetite patterns, difficulty concentrating or making decisions, loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, or expressing feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or worthlessness. It is important to approach these signs with empathy and support and encourage open communication. Also, seeking professional help is crucial if you notice these signs persisting or worsening. I would like read a poem called It will be ok, you will be ok.

I-remind-myself¶
It's-ok-to-not-be-ok·
Allow-yourself-time·
Be-kind-to-yourself·
Don't-feel-like-|
You're-a-failure·
Everything-needs-to·
Be-looked-after·
Even-the-strongest¶
Buildings-will-start-to-crumble·
If-not-cared-for-properly¶
It's-only-then-they-can-be-fixed·
And-made-stronger¶
But-it's-not-something·
That-can-be-done-alone·
There's-no-shame¶
In-asking-someone-to-hold·
The-ladder-as-you-fix·
Them-hard-to-reach-places·
Take-a-deep-breath¶
And-remember·
It's-ok-to-not-be-ok¶
-K.-W.-U.¶

I also really like these Bible verses and felt the pull to read them to you here today.

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will, never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

I would like to thank the Commissioners for recognizing Suicide Awareness and Childhood cancer both causes that are very important to me and to who I am today.

Kelly Gordon – NAMI - Comments

The Center for Community Resources (CCR) initiated their role as provider for Mental Health Crisis Intervention Services in Lycoming and Clinton Counties, in August 2022. CRR brings a comprehensive approach to crisis support by offering a 24-hour mobile access line, telephone support, chat options, texting capabilities, and walk-in support. This level of support has offered a diverse and immediate response for individuals who are suffering from a mental health crisis and/or having thoughts or feelings of Suicide.

Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID partners with a local National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) chapter known as NAMI of North Central PA (NCPA) in hosting the county's Suicide Prevention Committee (SPC). The county SPC mission is to promote collaborative efforts amongst community members, service providers and agencies and develop strategies to prevent suicides through public education and awareness, community action and local grassroots advocacy. The Suicide Prevention Committee supports those affected by suicide, provides education surrounding prevention and post-vention, and focuses efforts on reducing the stigmas associated with suicide and mental illness. The committee is also committed to efforts and discussions that reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm. With the support of local and partnering Veteran's Centers, gun locks have been donated to the counties SPC committee for distribution to providers, organizations, geriatric homes, community events, and local gun raffles. In addition, in 2023, the Suicide Prevention Walk in Lycoming County attracted its largest crowd since its initiation for its 7th annual event.

To support larger outreach, education, and awareness NAMI of North Central PA and Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID hosted a free speaking engagement for the community by Kevin Hines in both Lycoming and Clinton County. Kevin Hines is a mental health advocate, award-winning global speaker, bestselling author, and documentary filmmaker who reaches audiences with his story of an unlikely survival and his strong will to live. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder (19 years of age), he attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge and lived to tell his story of hope and healing. The designated managed care organization, Community Care Behavioral Health (CCBH) also hosted a Suicide prevention training that offered a personal account and perspective of suicide and recovery with discussion on implementing lethal means prevention.

Mental Health First Aid continues to be offered and facilitated by the Joinder employees to prison staff, law enforcement, first responders, School Districts, clergy, and parishioners located within our bi-county region. To ensure access across ages, Lycoming County BLAST IU 17 offers classes for Mental Health First Aid for youth. Another training offered to all providers and agency partners this year was QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer). QPR training is for those on the "front lines" of suicide prevention that teaches individuals how to interview potentially suicidal persons, determine immediate risk of suicide, and help reduce the risk of a suicide attempt or completion through a safety planning and referral process.

Despite positive efforts and steps taken for Lycoming-Clinton Counties, suicide remains a public health issue that touches the lives of our communities. Suicide and suicide attempts cause serious emotional, physical, and economic impacts. Suicide and suicide attempts affect the health and well-being of friends, loved ones, co-workers, and the community. When people die by suicide, their surviving family and friends may experience prolonged grief, shock, anger, guilt, symptoms of depression or anxiety, and even thoughts of suicide themselves. Firearms continue to be the most common method of suicide in the bi-county region followed by strangulation/suffocation and poisoning.

COUNTY OF LYCOMING

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10

WHEREAS, the County appointed solicitors and assistant solicitors by Resolution 2014-25, dated December 4, 2014, and the Resolution has been amended from time to time;

WHEREAS, the County desires to appoint an additional assistant solicitor;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Peter C. Lovecchio is appointed as assistant solicitor at the rate of \$135 per hour effective July 1, 2023;

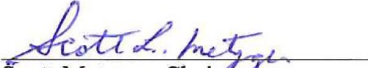
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution 2014-25 as amended otherwise remains in effect as approved.


Duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lycoming on the 31st day of August, 2023.

COUNTY OF LYCOMING

ATTEST:


Matthew McDermott, Chief Clerk


Scott Metzger, Chairman


Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman


Richard Mirabito, Secretary