

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022**

The Board of County Commissioners met today in their weekly Work Session.

Present at today's meeting were:

**Ray D'Agostino, Chairman**  
**Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman**  
**John B. Trescot**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Lawrence M. George**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF CLERK**

**Jacquelyn Pfursich, Esquire**  
**COUNTY SOLICITOR**

Also present were:

**Heather Adams**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**Leigh Bardell, Portfolio Manager**  
**EDC FINANCE CORPORATION**

**Sara Baker, Director of Development**  
**COMMUNITY FIRST**

**Tim Beiler, CEO**  
**UPWARD BROADBAND**

**Jade Campos, Reporter**  
**LNP**

**George Custer, Director of Administration**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**Rebecca Dittenhafer, Accounting Systems Manager**  
**CONTROLLER'S OFFICE**

**Franklin Egan, Chief Climate Strategist**  
**REGENALL ENERGY**

**Michelle Gallo, Director**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Claudia Harrison, Grants and Fund Procurement Specialist**  
**COMMUNITY FIRST**

**Rick Kastner, Director**  
**DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION**

**Kathy Kunkel, Deputy Controller**  
**CONTROLLER'S OFFICE**

**Tom Lisi, Reporter**  
**LNP**

**Cheri Modene, Director**  
**JUVENILE PROBATION**

**Drew Fredericks, Director**  
**YOUTH INTERVENTION CENTER**

**Patrick Mulligan, Director**  
**BUDGET SERVICES**

**Crystal Natan, Executive Director**  
**CHILDREN & YOUTH AGENCY**

**Cheryl Steberger, Warden**  
**PRISON**

**Tim Stuhldreher, Writer**  
**ONE UNITED LANCASTER**

**Rob Troxelli, Director of Business Development  
UPWARD BROADBAND**

**Alice Yoder, Executive Director  
LG HEALTH**

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced an executive session was held yesterday, August 29, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., Office of Open Records, docket No. 2022-1831.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced approval of the August 23, 2022, Work Session Minutes.

1. Ms. Bardell, Portfolio Manager, presented Resolution No. 78 of 2022: Next Generation Farm Loan with Jesse and Barbie Beiler.
2. Ms. Bardell, Portfolio Manager, presented Resolution No. 79 of 2022: Next Generation Farm Loan with Henry and Marian Lapp.
3. Ms. Bardell, Portfolio Manager, presented Resolution No. 80 of 2022: Next Generation Farm Loan with Christian and Mary Riehl.
4. Ms. Natan, Executive Director Children and Youth Agency, Ms. Modene, Director of Juvenile Probation, and Mr. Fredericks, Director, of Youth Intervention Center, presented Resolution No. 81 of 2022: 2023-2024 Needs-Based Budget and the 2022-2023 Special Grants initiative Implementation Plan.

Mr. Lisi and Mr. Stuhldreher had questions about the salaries of caseworkers.

5. Ms. Kunkel, Deputy Controller and Ms. Dittenhafer, Accounting Systems Manager, presented as Agreement Extension with Hypergen, Inc.
6. Mr. Custer, Director of Administration, presented Renewal Agreements.
7. Ms. Gallo, Director, presented Approval of Side Letter with AFSMCE.
8. Mr. George, County Administrator/Chief Clerk, presented Resolution No. 82 of 2022: 2023 Holiday Schedule.
9. Mr. Mulligan, Director, presented Resolution No. 83 of 2022: Election Integrity Grant Funding.
10. Mr. Parsons, Commissioner, presented Opioid Settlement Work Group Discussion.

Commissioner Parsons said a work group was formed to discuss potential uses of Opioid settlement money the County will be receiving. He said the money will be administered over several years and that the Commissioners will ultimately decide where the money will be used.

Ms. Pfursich provided background on the Opioid settlement and said the County was able to secure the participation of 17 municipalities with more than 10,000 residents which gets them more money. She said about \$ 16 million will be disbursed to the County over 18 payments and there is no set schedule as to when the payments will occur. The first disbursement should arrive in the next week and the funds must be used to battle the Opioid crisis.

Ms. Yoder, who is co-chair of Joining Forces, along with Commissioner Parsons, provided a summary of some of the work the organization has done since it was formed in 2017 in response to the high levels of death from opioids and heroin.

Mr. George said the work group would like to create a caseworker position within the early intervention component that can work with the local health care system, going out conducting assessments, meeting with families and mothers to ensure there is a comprehensive support system put in place.

Mr. Kastner, said if approved, this funding would add two additional student assistant program (SAP) assessors to further serve the school districts in the County. The goal of SAP is early identification, assessment of the needs of the child and early intervention with treatment. The team would be made up of teachers, counselors, administrators and would be trained by CompassMark. Once a student in either middle or high school is identified as needing assistance, they must agree to a SAP assessment.

Ms. Adams discussed the MDJ Diversion Program, which is designed to keep low level offenders out of the criminal justice system. In June, the District Attorney's office launched the Pathways to Recovery Diversion program which is available to low level offenders at the magisterial district justice level who commit crimes related to drug or alcohol addiction. A major component of this program is a treatment component, which will be available early in the criminal justice process. The money will go toward the salaries of certified recovery specialists. If offenders complete the treatment program, the charges against them will be dismissed. She also discussed the drug task force, which is being considered as a recipient for some of the funding. She said overdose deaths in the County are significant and they have to look at rehabilitation and treatment, but they can't overlook enforcement, which is the first line of defense in holding those accountable that are bringing these substances into the County. One of the top five reasons an inmate needs medical help is because of drug withdrawal. Medication delivery in the jail is a big part of the day. Oftentimes the medication is for helping for that withdrawal.

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Work Session  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022**

Ms. Steberger discussed breaking the cycle for incarcerated individuals and about medically assisted treatment (MAT) at the prison. She said the programs previously discussed all reduce recidivism which means those individuals won't end up in the prison. The correctional and healthcare team at the prison often see inmates who are limited to no healthcare in the community prior to incarceration, they are mentally unstable, under the influence or withdrawing from various substances. The jail has seen a 21 percent reduction in population over the last five years. The burden on the medical and mental health team and correctional staff that are providing care at the jail has increased. The jail has experienced a 31 percent increase of new intakes requiring detox medication. The jail's medical vendor, Primecare, has made significant changes to assist these individuals. One of the changes is the Medical Assistance Treatment program. Working along with Primecare, the jail would continue care for the released inmate while working alongside community stakeholders. The money would be used to hire additional staff. Ms. Steberger said the proposed program would have a positive impact on the community and recidivism rates will decrease.

Commissioner Parsons said the board will most likely wait to decide on these projects until they money comes in. He said there is no timeline as to when the payments are going to be.

Commissioner Trescot said the first requests where additional staff is needed should be prioritized and changes could be made to budgets in two- or three-year increments.

Mr. Stuhldreher and Mr. Lisi asked questions about the timeline of the how the money will be spent once it is received.

11. Mr. George, County Administrator/ Chief Clerk, presented proposed Community ARPA requests.

Mr. George provided an overview of each of the five following ARPA request proposals. Community First wants to build a new financial development center that will offer consumers the opportunity to obtain affordable credit. The ARPA review committee did not find this proposal to be eligible under federal or county guidelines. Upward Broadband would like to increase broadband infrastructure, reliable Internet access, telework and telehealth and add equipment on 22 existing communication towers. The project is eligible under federal and county guidelines via infrastructure. Lancaster Science Factory's proposal is to install a skybridge exhibit to inspire students and families and drive tourism. The project is eligible under federal guidelines but not under county guidelines. IU-13's proposal is for four different projects which include repairs to ramp curb steps to install a security door, to install an emergency alert system, network cabling and a wide area network consortium. Some of the projects are eligible under federal guidelines but not all. RegenAll Energy's proposal is to assist 500 low-income families to install residential solar power and high efficiency heat pumps to save on their energy bills. The project is not eligible under county guidelines.

The Commissioners agreed to not move forward with Community First Fund's request because it did not meet the guidelines. Commissioner Parsons said Upward Broadband's proposal is largely a private sector issue and should be led by municipal government because they are responsible for things like water, sewer and now broadband. He said there can be a role for the County but he is not clear on this project if there is a role. Commissioner Trescot said broadband has become more like a utility in that people need it in modern society but he would need more information from Upward Broadband and does not see moving forward with this now. Commissioner D'Agostino said other organizations are looking at the Broadband issue and he is not in favor of providing this kind of funding to one private sector business to compete with other providers. Related to the Science Factory proposal, Commissioner Parsons said the County used some CARES funding to promote tourism, but is more cautious with the ARPA funds. Commissioner Trescot said he thinks The Science Factory is more related to workforce development because all the children participating in stem activities is the first step of getting them interested in science and technology in high school and then ultimately, in college and then as a career. Commissioner D'Agostino said he does not view this project as workforce development. Mr. Reed said children get inspiration by coming to the science center and the skybridge would attract more children who would hopefully one day go into STEM careers. Commissioner Parsons said the work group's decision needs to be respected but if there are funds left at the end, the board may look at broadening eligibility. The Commissioners agreed that IU-13's request looked like maintenance and similar requests have been denied. Commissioner D'Agostino also said that schools receive lots of money for projects like this one. The Workgroup determined that RegenAll is not eligible under County guidelines because it is a private sector issue and the Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Egan asked for comments from the work group to understand why his request was not eligible. He was told it was because they did not meet guidelines.

Mr. Beiler asked if he could reduce the scope of the application after he hears from the municipalities.

Ms. Campos had questions about broadband.

13. On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the following reappointment was made to the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority:

Zach Pierson.

Lancaster County resident.

Motion passed unanimously.

14. The August 31, 2022, Commissioners' Meeting Agenda was presented.

15. On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Commero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Commero, Administrative Secretary  
Commissioners' Office