

# CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Minutes

May 23, 2024

Ebensburg, PA

May 9, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 10, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 13, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 14, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 15, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 16, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 17, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 20, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 21, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA

May 22, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

**Commissioners in Session.** Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky were present.

The Commissioners' Meeting was called to Order by President Commissioner Scott W. Hunt, at the St. Michael Firehall, 849 Locust Street, St. Michael, at 10:05 a.m.

**Public Comment:**

None.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes of May 9, 2024, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

**Notice of Executive Sessions:**

1. May 20, 2024, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. May 21, 2024, meetings with Human Resources and Solicitor.

**Proclamation:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve a Proclamation for National Emergency Medical Services Week.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Invoice:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the payment of Invoice No. 058794 to PCoRP, in the amount of \$10,000.00, for an insurance deductible.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Project:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve allowing Kevin Hershberger, Boy Scout Troop 2098, to do improvements to the Laurel United Cemetery for his Eagle Scout Project.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Resolution:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve the Local Match Resolution Certifying Responsibility of Municipality for Advertising Revenue Shortfall, for the Cambria County Transit Authority, Fiscal Year 2024-2025, in the amount of \$25,000.00.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Grant:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the grant application with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, for the 2023-2024 Indigent Defense Program, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$98,133.00.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Lease:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve the Lease with Abood & Pappas Law to rent space on the first floor of the Central Park Complex Building, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026, at a rate of \$375.00 per month.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Agreements:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the one-year Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory Usage Agreement between the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Cambria County Juvenile Probation Office, a rate of \$3.00 per assessment.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Short-Term Lease Payment Agreement with Blackstone Capital, LLC, for property located at 364 1/2 Corrine Avenue, Johnstown, at a rate of \$875.00 per month, for a term not to exceed six (6) months.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the LifeSolutions Services Statement of Work with Workpartners, at a rate of \$10,857.60 per year, effective June 1, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Notice of Intent with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, for the 2024 Election Security Grant, in the amount of \$4,335.76.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

**Contracts (Provided Funding is Available):**

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve one (1) Service Contract for Cambria County Children & Youth Serve, Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

| Bethany Christian Services (BCS) of Central Pennsylvania |   |                    |                  |                    |                          |
|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Cert No.   | Services Provided   | Levels/<br>Unit ID | Per Diem<br>Rate | Allowable<br>Admin | Allowable<br>Maintenance |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Foster care for children birth to 2 years of age. Monthly visits from BCS caseworker. Reunification and/or SWAN services can be provided with referral. Children have no medical or behavioral needs at this time.  | Level 1 AC         | \$34.78          | \$18.58            | \$16.20                  |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Foster care for children between the ages of birth and 18 years of age. These children have a low acuity of behavioral, mental health, mental retardation, and/or physical challenges that are well controlled with or without medication. Intervention services are provided in the school setting. Monthly visits from BCS caseworker. Reunification and/or SWAN services can be provided with referral.  | Level 2 BC         | \$46.20          | \$25.50            | \$20.70                  |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Foster care for children between birth and 18 years of age. These children will have minimal behavioral, mental health, mental retardation, physical aggression and/or physical challenges where a single supportive service is needed/recommended to promote development. Therapeutic/supportive intervention is defined as medication management, outpatient counseling, wraparound services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, early intervention services, speech therapy. Monthly visits from BCS caseworker. Reunification and/or SWAN services can be provided with referral.  | Level 3 CC         | \$77.58          | \$42.88            | \$34.70                  |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Foster care for children between the ages of birth and 18 years of age. These children will have moderate behavioral, mental health, mental retardation, physical aggression and/or multiple mental health diagnoses requiring increased supportive services. BCS caseworker will identify and refer for appropriate services to ensure all needs are met. Biweekly visits from caseworker are maintained. Multiple therapeutic intervention services are necessary to meet physical, emotional, or psychiatric needs of the child. Service plan reviewed and updated quarterly. Reunification and/or SWAN services can be provided with referral.  | Level 4 DC         | \$92.16          | \$49.84            | \$42.32                  |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Foster care for children between the ages of birth and 21 years of age. These children will be displaying physical aggression, diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder, diagnosed on the Autism spectrum or diagnosed with multiple mental health/behavioral health diagnoses requiring supportive services in all settings. Any child coming from a failed adoption situation or a child stepping down from a congregate care facility or treatment facility. BCS caseworker will identify and refer for appropriate services to ensure all needs are met. Visits from caseworker a minimum of 3 times per month with support as needed to resource family for provision of supportive services. Multiple services and therapeutic interventions are required to meet needs of the child and ensure permanency. Service plan reviewed and updated quarterly. Reunification and/or SWAN services can be provided with referral. | Level 5 EC         | \$147.32         | \$96.60            | \$50.72                  |
| 363470<br><br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910       | Foster care for children between the ages of birth and 21 years of age. Children eligible for medical foster care services, a child must be eligible to receive Medical Assistance (MA) funded. Foster care services must be enrolled in medical assistance, have been diagnosed by a licensed practitioner as having a special or chronic medical condition or physical disability and require medical foster care services to remain in a foster care placement that is less restrictive than an institution or hospital. The board rate is reimbursed by MA.   | Medical 1          |                  | \$18.51            | \$19.36                  |
|  |   | Medical 2          |                  | \$25.64            | \$29.66                  |
|  |   | Medical 3          |                  | \$46.99            | \$49.3                   |
|  |   | Medical 4          |                  | \$61.23            | \$77.090                 |
| 363470<br>331220<br>330570<br>332780<br>335910           | Authorized Absence Rate: Limited case management services for a child in placement who experiences an acute behavioral health hospitalization beyond a stay of 5 days. During this time, BCS staff and foster parents may participate in treatment team meetings, discharge planning for the child during and leading up into their discharge, including planning for the transition to a higher level of care, if warranted. Consulting psychologist and coaching staff may also provide oversight and supervision and may participate in planning meetings. Child would have access to their BCS therapist, if assigned, and foster parents will maintain access to their parent coaching specialist to consult on hospital and treatment issues.   |                    | \$61.89          | \$34.19            | \$27.70                  |

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve two (2) Service Contracts for Cambria County Children & Youth Service, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.**

| Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI) |         |   |               |                        |                      |                       |                 |
|--------------------------|---------|---|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Cert No.                 | Unit ID | Service Provided  | Rate          | Title IV-E Unallowable | Title IV-E Allowable | Allowable Maintenance | Allowable Admin |
|                          |         | Professional Fiscal Consultancy Services<br>• Up to a total of 500 hours<br>Maximum total - \$55,000.00 | \$110.00/hour |                        |                      |                       |                 |

| Jefferson County Juvenile Detention Center, Ohio |         |   |                          |                        |                      |                       |                 |
|--|---------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Cert #   | Unit ID | Service Provided                                | Rate                     | Title IV-E Unallowable | Title IV-E Allowable | Allowable Maintenance | Allowable Admin |
|  |         | Detention space & services, as needed.          | \$225.00 per day per bed |                        |                      |                       |                 |
|  |         | Detention beds for juveniles charged as adults. | \$275.00 per day per bed |                        |                      |                       |                 |

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Resignation:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve the resignation of Jessenia Anderson from the Cambria County War Memorial Authority Board, effective immediately.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Appointments:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Joshua Wolfhope to the Cambria County War Memorial Authority Board, for a 4-year term, beginning June 1, 2024, and ending May 31, 2028.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve appointing Toccara Thomas-Smith to the Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning June 1, 2024, and ending May 31, 2027.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Reappointment:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Jason Riligio to the Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Bid:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the bid of Kev's Excavating, LLC, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, for the Project located at 289 Plummer Road, Sidman, Croyle Township, in the amount of \$32,106.00.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Grant Correction:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve applying for a grant, on behalf of Aerium, not on behalf of Nulton Diagnostics, in the amount of \$250,000.00, to be used for the Medical Autonomous Care Research and Development Program. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held May 9, 2024).**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.**

**Emergency Work Correction:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve correcting the amounts of the emergency phone work, for security purposes, at the following Magistrate Offices to include Fortigate Firewalls at each location. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held April 25, 2024).

Magistrate Varner - \$7,306.00      Magistrate Gindlesperger - \$8,806.00  
Magistrate Zanghi - \$7,806.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

**New Hires:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Joseph Mazarella, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$37,713.00 annually), effective June 17, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Nate Fisher, Full-Time Sheriff Deputy for the Sheriff's Office, (Paygrade 35-B/\$18.00 per hour), effective June 3, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Isaac Thomas, Full-Time Sheriff Deputy for the Sheriff's Office, (Paygrade 35-B/\$18.00 per hour), effective June 3, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Ivan Hersco, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 per hour), effective May 28, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

**Transfers:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Julia Gully, Full-Time Chief Investigator for the Public Defender's Office, (Paygrade 49-H/\$14.58 per hour), to Full-Time Administrative Assistant for the Public Defender's Office, (Paygrade 27-B/\$15.00 per hour), effective May 28, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer James Cheskey, Full-Time Director of Maintenance/Safety for Maintenance, (Paygrade 54-C/\$51,000.30 annually), to Full-Time Director of Maintenance/Safety Coordinator for Maintenance, (Paygrade 60-H/\$65,000.00 annually), effective May 27, 2024.

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Erica Wirfel, Full-Time Domestic Relations Clerk III for Domestic Relations, (Paygrade 16-A/\$15.83 per hour), to Full-Time Domestic Relations Clerk IV for Domestic Relations, (Paygrade 22-J/\$16.62 per hour), effective May 28, 2024.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Brody Lawrence, Full-Time Telecommunicator for the Department of Emergency Services, (Paygrade 35-F/\$21.72 per hour), to Full-Time Shift Supervisor for the Department of Emergency Services, (Paygrade 48-E/\$29.61 per hour), effective May 28, 2024.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Remove from Payroll:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Brody Gies, Per-Diem Summer Duman Park Worker for Duman Park, (Paygrade 000-Q/\$12.00 per hour), effective May 16, 2024.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Lexi Lindrose, Full-Time Adult Probation Officer for Adult Probation, (Paygrade 47-C/\$38,321.66 annually), effective May 18, 2024.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Elsie Kirkpatrick, Full-Time Fiscal Officer II for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 45-D/\$40,692.34 annually), effective June 1, 2024.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**Rescind:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve rescinding the hiring of Leigh Ann Walk, Full-Time Clerk Typist for the Area Agency on Aging, (Paygrade 7-B/\$24,199.50 annually), effective May 13, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held April 25, 2024).**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

**President Commissioner Hunt stated that the next regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting would be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.**

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**Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk**