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Addiction services chronically under-funded

With the current state of the economy and its impact on State and Federal budgets, Rick Kastner, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission (LCDAC) recently took a look back at the LCDAC's allocations from previous years. "As I suspected," Kastner said, "we actually were being cut for the last seven or eight years."

Below are the annual allocations received by the LCDAC since 2002. This list does not account for inflation:

2002-2003: \$3,803,816; **2003-2004:** \$3,707,901;
2004-2005: \$3,776,497; **2005-2006:** \$3,637,925
2006-2007: \$3,637,925; **2007-2008:** \$3,592,948;
2008-2009: \$3,554,089

The people who rely on the LCDAC for rehab services are those "working poor" individuals who make too little to afford health care, and make too much to qualify for medical assistance (MA): They are stuck in the middle. But with a perpetually shrinking budget, the LCDAC has been unable to fully satisfy this growing need.

For Kastner, this kind of under-funding has long been an unfortunate fact of life: "The cuts that are getting a lot of attention these days, and the shortfalls in State and Federal budgets are new to some other programs or systems, but is not new with the drug and alcohol field."

LETTER: "Kiss ass" Sunday News article re LGH

"I am aghast at the front-page article in the recent Sunday News detailing yet another 100 million dollar profit for Lancaster General Hospital during the recent financial year. The gall of the Lancaster Newspapers to paint Lancaster General as poor because their profit margin was 23 million dollars less than the previous year!

"With LGH's profitability of greater than 100 million dollars, the sum total donations amounts to less than 1%. In this God-fearing county and with many of the citizens tithing 10% of their respective incomes, LGH is not demonstrating much altruism. Their donation is actually an example of being kind for a personal gain.

"The 'kiss ass' approach of the newspapers does not end with the Sunday News. Our mayor could not compliment Lancaster General more. Mr. Mayor: Please envision what projects could be achieved with an additional 10-25 million dollars from your county's biggest and [publicly owned] employer.

"I would suggest Lancaster General Hospital change their logo to two hands in their own pocket clutching their profits (with a watchful Mayor Rick Gray looking eagerly for another <1% crumb)."

The Brothers and Sisters Café: Soul food on the edge of town

By Cliff Lewis

If you love Lancaster City life, visit every shop on the Downtown strip and faithfully art-walk every First Friday, odds are you still haven't been to this place. The Brothers and Sisters Café quaintly sits on a far Southeastern edge of Lancaster City, where the lines begin to blur between the city and the County Central Park.

The restaurant is owned and operated by Willie and Frances Morant, both natives of South Carolina. In 1998, the couple opened up shop, calling their new restaurant the “Brothers and Sisters Café” to set the tone of *“unity among family, friends and loved ones—a feeling Brothers and Sisters desires to offer its customers each time they walk through the door.”*

The name is fitting. Just upon walking through the doors, one can recognize the casual and family-like atmosphere. It's like swinging by an aunt and uncle's place for Sunday dinner. Frances ran the front counter, and Willie worked back in the kitchen—but he made sure to stroll over to chat with the visiting patrons.

The home-cooked food is generous and authentic: perfect fried chicken, sweet and buttery yams, loaded collard greens, fried rice, black-eyed peas, and a whole lot more. The Brothers and Sister's Café is located at 601 S Marshall St, and is open Thursday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m

PAM's fame spreads to Eastern Europe and China

When the artistic founders of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music (PAM), Michael Jamanis and Fran Veri, concertized in Budapest, Hungary earlier this year, a relationship was established with the prestigious Bela Bartok secondary music school. As a follow up, five music students from Budapest will come to Lancaster this summer to participate in the two week *Vivace* summer festival at PAM. Three of the students won national competitions this year.

About the same time, PAM faculty members comprising the Newstead Trio will perform seven concerts starting in Beijing at the famous China Performing Arts Center and continuing on to six other cities across China. The trio follows in the footsteps of Veri and Jamanis who have made several concert and teaching tours to China over the decades.

.INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL: Newly appointed McCaskey football coach David Given said: *“The best way to change something around is through hard work. We will establish a work ethic at McCaskey where the coaching staff works hard, the players work hard and then we can start expecting things to turn around.”*

WATCHDOG: Not only does Given bring a record of knowledge, experience and success as a coach, but he hopefully will assist Athletic Director Jon Mitchell in setting high standards for coaching in all sports and a cessation of laxity and whining. No longer must systemic failures be blamed on the students. Mitchell can't do it all alone. Welcome Coach Given!

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