




**MATT TUERK
MAYOR**

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TO: Michael Hanlon
City Clerk

FROM: Matt Tuerk 
Mayor

DATE: November 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorities, Boards, Commissions Appointments

Mayor Tuerk has approved the following appointments for City Council's consideration.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Authority/Board/Commission</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
Riley Kreuzer	Commission on Homelessness	12/05/2028
Mary McGonigle	Commission on Homelessness	12/05/2028

Kreuzer and McGonigle will be filling vacant seats on the Commission. McGonigle works at the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services and Kreuzer works at the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Their resumes are attached.

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Mary R. McGonigle

Objective To provide support to casework staff to enhance service to children and families, to be knowledgeable of community resources and to eliminate barriers for children and families to access community resources

Education 1998 – 2002 Kutztown University Kutztown, PA
Bachelors of Arts Social Work- Advanced Standing

- Graduated Cum Laude

2005-2006 Marywood University Scranton, PA

Masters of Social Work

- Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- Graduated with a Specialization in Child Welfare

2015- Pennsylvania Master's Level Social Work License

- Minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every two years that must include ethics, suicide, and mandated reporting

Professional experience 2002- Present
Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services
Allentown, PA

2002-2006 **Caseworker I & II**

- Completed Pennsylvania Department of Welfare certification of a child welfare direct service worker
- Intervene with families with children at risk due to issues of child abuse and neglect.
- Case documentation of an ongoing log that includes every contact with a family or on behalf of a family.
- Help the family to build on their network of family, friends, and community resources that may be able to alleviate circumstances leading the child to be in an unsafe situation.
- Gather and prepare evidence to deliver testimony at Juvenile Court
- Complete bio-psycho-social assessments in the form of safety assessments, risk assessments, and juvenile court summaries on assigned families.

2006-2015 **Caseworker III**

- Deal with very confrontational situations to begin building a working relationship with a family to reach a common goal of ensuring child safety.
- Assist and mentor coworkers in the unit to engage with their assigned families.
- Provide testimony at Juvenile Court proceedings.
- Assigned as a mentor to new workers that join the agency.

- Provide a high level of supervision to undergraduate interns in completion of their field placement and child welfare experience.
- Facilitate support groups for both children and kinship caregivers
- Complete detailed home study evaluations on kinship caregivers in order to approve kin homes for children removed from their parents' care.
- Provide ongoing support to family, caregivers, parents, and children involved with Public Child Welfare
- Trauma Informed Care training completed and part of agency work group to implement trauma informed care
- Implement Child Preparation Services for children removed from their parents' care

2015-Present Supervisor

- Completed Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Child Welfare Supervisor Training Program
- Supervise Permanency Unit who handles all adoption cases and youth ages 16-21 in out of home placements
- Strengthen partnership with Lehigh County Juvenile Probation for crossover youth to be served in a team approach by probation and children and youth caseworker
- Support casework staff in completing a minimum of 12 court hearings each month
- Support casework staff in finalizing adoptions, a minimum of 24 children adopted each year
- Participate in community outreach in partnership with Valley Youth House, Lehigh Valley Permanency Project, Allentown Youth Housing Stability Project, Statewide Adoption Network, and National Adoption Awareness Month for Lehigh County
- Chair of Human Trafficking Subcommittee to develop screening tools and standard operating procedure for children that are high risk or confirmed to be involved with Human Trafficking
- Facilitate quarterly youth focus groups at Lehigh County
- Facilitate team building activities for the Permanency Unit to promote team cohesion
- Provide ongoing supervision both in scheduled and unscheduled forums for the unit members
- Assist in home visits, court hearings, and meetings to both provide support in high risk situations but also to cover the matter if schedule prohibits assigned staff to attend
- Contact and coordinator for youth age 18-21 who wish to reenter care
- Log ongoing statistics for adoption finalizations, children changing foster homes, exiting foster care, graduating high school, and monthly visits
- Complete performance evaluations and promote opportunities for the Permanency Unit to experience professional growth
- Perform after hour on call duties
- Minimum of 20 hours of training completed annually that focus on topics of child development, impact of drugs and alcohol, adoption, parenting, trauma, human trafficking and effects of child abuse and neglect.

2004-2005 Crime Victims Council Allentown, PA

Direct Counselor (MSW Internship)

- Job duties included individual and group counseling for survivors of crime as well as responding to 24-hour crisis hotline.