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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County 911 Dispatchers Recognized for Life-saving Efforts

Cumberland County, Pa. – The Cumberland County Commissioners recognized three dispatchers with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) today for their extraordinary efforts in providing medical instructions to callers.

On September 6, 2017, Ben Thumma provided CPR instructions to a caller until an ambulance crew arrived, which was instrumental in saving the life of a 58 year old female patient. Thumma was presented with a life saver pin for his efforts. Jonathan Kibe, also a DPS dispatcher although off duty at the time, heard this call and being close to the incident, responded to the scene. Kibe assisted with CPR until the patient was placed in an ambulance and transported to a local hospital. Kibe was presented with a certificate of special recognition for his efforts.

Kyarah Kuykendall also received two recognitions from the Commissioners. On September 12, 2017, Kuykendall assisted with the birth of a healthy baby girl by providing delivery instructions to the caller. With the delivery of the baby, Kuykendall is a two time member of the DPS “Stork Club.” This group includes 24 DPS dispatchers who have assisted in the successful delivery of 29 babies. In addition, Kuykendall was also recognized for her efforts and detailed CPR medical instructions to a caller that resulted in a cardiac arrest resuscitation on September 16, 2017. Kuykendall determined the severity and nature of the medical emergency, selected the proper services to dispatch, and assisted the caller until the arrival of an ambulance crew. Kuykendall was presented with a life saver and pink “stork” pins for her efforts.

The Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocol used by the County’s Department of Public Safety allows dispatchers to rapidly assess a medical emergency and provide detailed, pre-arrival medical instructions to callers until first responders arrive. These instructions cover a range of medical emergencies, including CPR, childbirth and the Heimlich maneuver. For more information on EMD and the Cumberland County 911center, please visit www.ccpa.net/publicsafety.

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