

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday April 19, 2017 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright, and Charles Weed

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Behavioral Health Director Potter, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

GUESTS: Walter Rohr, IPG

At 9:30AM the meeting opened and Chairman Graves recognized Director Trombly who introduced personnel from IPG Benefits and Cigna Insurance. Trombly provided an overview of the current employee health plan and said that consideration is being given to adding a qualifying high deductible health plan. Trombly said that the time is right to offer a different kind of plan for employees that offers much lower premium costs with higher deductibles. The imposition a potential “Cadillac” tax on the existing health plan is another reason to consider adding a new plan.

Rohr of IPG said that the proposal is to offer an alternative plan as of January 1, 2018. The plan would offer employees a lower cost health care plan and would also assist in helping the County avoid the potential 40% tax emanating from the pending “Cadillac” tax in 2020.

Rohr discusses how the plan would help lower costs and describes some of the tools that employees can use to manage their health care. He said that the plan could help lower the overall costs for all employee health care costs.

The Health Care Savings plan being proposed would be about 25% lower premium cost than the current plan. This is approximately \$650.00 less costly than the current plan but comes with a \$1,500.00 deductible.

The Cigna representative then spoke about how to engage the employee around a comprehensive education program both pre-and post-implementation. Getting the employees to manage their own insurance plans to assist them in cost savings is one of the main goals of the program.

The health savings plans options were discussed and the ability to do cost comparisons for various medical procedures was explained.

The savings account portion of the program can be up to \$3,400.00 per year single individual and up to \$6,750 per year per family. The money from the health savings plan can be taken tax free when used for any medical expenditures. The same list of services that are covered in Flexible Spending Accounts are also covered in the proposed Employee plan and prescription drug costs and other health treatment alternatives are also covered by the plan.

The plan is designated as an “open access” plan through Cigna and staff may choose their own physicians and care locations. The Cigna website also offers bill paying and health care management tools through the employee web health care site.

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A discussion of how the proposed plan would impact the existing health care plan costs was covered as well as the current financial status of the existing plan. The possible impact on the reserve funds of the present plan was discussed and it was learned that the 2016 reserve was approximately \$1.8M.

A discussion of how much of the post deductible expenses would be covered by the proposed plan began and it was learned that following employee payment of the \$1,500.00 deductible 100% coverage for the remaining expenses would be covered.

The Commissioners were asked for their support to continue investigation of the implementation of the plan and following discussion it was agreed to move forward with gathering more data and to review the impacts on the current plan and to assess the options for the proposed plan.

Master Agenda Item # 485: Semi-Annual Report – Behavioral Health was taken-up for discussion.

Potter presented the following report: **CHESHIRE COUNTY BEHAVIAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAMS - January 1 through March 27, 2017**

This report does include the 33 individuals that were carried over from 2016. It should be noted that out of the 33 carried over, 10 are carry overs from 2015. Nine (9) out of that 10 were mental health clients. Out of that 2015 carry over, 3 have completed successfully this year.

Metrics from January –March 27th, 2017:

Current client population = 36

- Clients in Keene Circuit Court = 20
- Clients in Cheshire Court Superior Court = 15
- Clients in both Courts = 1

Total admissions to date = 13

- Alternative sentencing Program (ASP) = 7
- Mental Health Court (MHC) = 6

Successfully Completions = 12

- ASP = 5
- MHC = 7

Non-successful completion = 4

- ASP = 2
- MHC = 2

Average number of clients per week = 37

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Number of co-occurring = 32 (88%)
Number of just mental health disorders = 2
Number of just substance misuse disorders = 2

Age Breakdown:

18 to 25 = 10 26 to 35 = 13 36 to 45 = 8 45 and older = 5

Comparison from the totals from the same period in 2016:

Client population at time of report (January 1 through March 31) = 52
Admissions = 16
Successful completions = 11
Non-completions = 9
Average number of clients per week = 53
Number of co-occurring 44 (83%)
Number of just mental health disorders = 5
Number of just substance misuse disorders = 3
Clients in Circuit Court = 35
Clients in Superior Court = 8
Clients in both Courts = 9

NARRATIVE:

When comparing 2017 census to the same period from last year we can see a decline in numbers. There are two variables possibly contributing to this decrease. One, most cases are felonies (possession of a controlled drug) which places them in the Superior Court. The procedure is at slower pace than that of Circuit Court. Even when the cases are dropped down to misdemeanors charges the case remains in Superior Court.

Secondly with the Circuit Court Judge in semi-retirement there are now two other judges that presiding over the cases. This has delayed possible clients being placed in the programs for pretrial participation at the time of arraignment.

Client Insurance: With the Affordable Care Act and Medicare Expansion the County was able to save budget money that would have been spent on treatment for clients who did not have coverage. However, with the survival of both programs being questionable at this time, the County may once again be paying for client care. At this time all but two clients have some type of insurance coverage. Those two clients are in the process of getting coverage.

CLIENT TREATMENT: This County just like all the counties in our State are experiencing difficulties with treatment placement. The major problem is having too few resources in the area of substance misuse and mental health. The County has been investigating the potential of being providers of care. This has become a long process. We are working on the issue of being able to meet qualifications to be on the insurance panels as a means to provide treatment and receive reimbursement from the insurance companies.

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Recently the State Legislature voted down to increase of funding from the profit of the sales of liqueur and wine from 1.53 to 3%. The additional funds would have helped in the areas of treatment and prevention of substance misuse. The misinformation that New Hampshire does not have a problem with alcohol (which this State does) and that some of our elected officials do not understand that the problem is not opiates but addiction is unconceivable. The additional funding would have greatly helped in providing the education in the schools to help prevent some of the youth in going down that path and to provide more service to those that are struggling with the disease of addiction.

Neither the State's House of Corrections nor the Counties should be placed in a position of having to be providers of mental health or substance misuse treatment. As it stands CCBHCP is currently looking for clinical staff which will be shared with our Drug Court so that treatment can be provided to this segment of the County's population.

2016 COST TO THE COUNTY FOR 2016 PER CLIENT DAY = \$9.98

Coates then presented the Weekly Operations report:

Coates passed out a communication from the Colony House that is holding a seminar on Islam titled "A Short Course On Islam For Non-Muslims" on June 15th.

Coates discussed a meeting at New Hampshire Association of County (NHAC) yesterday. It was covered that a possible assessment for \$10,000 for each County to examine the impact that managed care would have on the County nursing homes may be made in order to find better alternative plans. A discussion of the potential impact of managed care was covered and alternative plans to the implementation of managed care plans was covered.

Coates said that next Tuesday the 25th is the volunteer dinner at 5:00pm. Some of the Commissioners will attend.

Coates reports that the Maplewood reconstruction team met and said that it was a productive meeting and that all team members are now on the same page as to the focus and results that are needed.

Trombly then provided an overview of how the State budget neutrality factor for Medicare / Medicaid payments are calculated. An extended discussion of how to gain more reimbursement from the federal government and the State was reviewed.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of April 12, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon

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vote the motion passed unanimously.

11:46AM Commissioner Weed left the meeting for a previous appointment.

Commissioner Cartwright and Graves reviewed the weekly Census.

The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

At 12:13PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed