

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday April 20, 2016 9:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Stillman Rogers, Charles Weed, and Peter Graves

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director Hurley, Grants Manager Bansley, County Attorney McLaughlin, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

At 9:30AM Chairman Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates then reminded Commissioner Graves that he is scheduled to attend a voter participation panel meeting on April 25th at the Railroad Square Senior Center on Community Way in Keene.

Coates asked Sheriff Rivera to briefly discuss the project that he has been working on that will recognize John S. Walker, Sr. as the first Police Officer killed in the line of duty in NH. Sheriff Rivera spoke of the research that he has been conducting for the past two (2) years and said that on April 22, 1886 Walker was at the scene of a domestic argument in Walpole and was struck by the husband with an axe which caused his subsequent death a few weeks later. Due to the documentation that the Sheriff has been able to assemble, Walker will be officially recognized as the first Police Officer to die in the line duty in NH. He said that on May 20th of this year his name will be read for the first time in a roll call honoring fallen Police Officers.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the Maplewood Sub-committee would be meeting again on Friday April 29th at 10:00AM at 12 Court Street.

He then said that on Thursday a public meeting on the proposed pipeline will be held at Keene City Hall at which State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) personnel will be present. He said that he will be attending the meeting.

Coates addressed a request from the Keene City Manager to discuss the feasibility of pursuing a joint purchasing cooperative effort between the County, Keene, and other towns. A discussion began concerning the possible areas of joint interest and will be followed-up on in the next few weeks.

A discussion concerning the possible use of Sheriff's services to patrol County municipalities began and Coates said that he has had some very preliminary talks with a few towns that are considering moving from municipal Police Departments to contacting patrol services through the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Rivera said that he wanted to be very clear that he strongly supports all of the County's local Police Departments and their personnel, and in no circumstances would he approach a town to offer services to supplant the current department's functions. He said that only if the Sheriff's department was specifically being asked to discuss the issue by the town Selectboards would he engage in such a discussion.

Coates then said that at the May 4th meeting a discussion concerning the overall economic development status of the County will be had and that the Phil Suter of the Keene Chamber of Commerce and Jack Dugan of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation would be attending.

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Coates discussed the use of the delegation hall as a public meeting space and said that the first of hopefully many public events are being scheduled by the Horatio Colony Museum for June 23rd and July 14th.

Grants Manager Bansley was then recognized and presented the following Master Agenda Item:

Master Agenda Item #377: EMPG Dispatch Relocation/Upgrade Project Grant. Bansley asked that the Commissioners vote to accept the EMPG grant agreement terms as presented for \$99,776.00, with a total project cost of \$199,552.00 that includes a match of \$99,776.00 to come from the Sheriff Dispatch Capital Equipment budget line for communications center construction. **Following review and questions, Commissioner Graves moved to accept the grant as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. The County of Cheshire Board of Commissioners, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) as presented in the amount of \$99,776.00 for the purchase of equipment. Furthermore, the Board of Commissioners acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$199,552.00, in which the County will be responsible for a 50% match (\$99,776.00).**

Master Agenda Item#373: Linda Ruben - CMC Living Wage Initiative was then taken-up for discussion. Administrator Coates introduced Linda Ruben, Director of the Healthiest Community Initiative to discuss the Monadnock Living Wage work group program. Rubin reviewed two (2) PowerPoint presentations and discussed what the Living Wages are for the Monadnock Region and how it is calculated. She discussed the business case and community benefits for advancing wages in community and discussed the impact on families and children in a living wage household. A discussion of wages, housing costs and the overall cost of living in the area was had. The Commissioners and staff asked questions and discussed the possible impact of the program and costs associated with implementing the initiative. Rubin said that a presentation on "Making the Case for Becoming A Living Wage Workplace and Community" will take place on Wednesday, April 27th from 12:00PM to 2:00PM at the Hannah Grimes Center Conference Room. A second meeting will also be held under the banner of the "Healthy Community Summit" on May 17th and will run from 7:30AM to 3:00PM.

The Commissioners thanked Rubin for her presentation and said that they found her presentation very informative.

At 10:40AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Weed moved to go into non-public session to discuss the hiring of any person as a public employee. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public a decision was made to extend an offer to J. P. as the Maplewood Activities Director at wage to be determined, but not to exceed \$32.96 per hour, which reflects their advanced education, training, and experience for the position. Upon vote of the Commissioners, the motion was unanimous.

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At 10:55AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

The Commissioners then recognized Behavioral Health Director Potter who presented the following Semi-Annual report to the Commissioners:

CHESHIRE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAMS
January 1 through March 31, 2016

Metrics from January 1 – March 31, 2016:

- Current client population = 52
- Admissions = 16
- Successful completion = 11
- Non-successful = 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 use disorders = 3

Comparing the yearly totals from the same period in 2015:

- Client population at the time of report = 42
- Admissions = 14
- Successful completions = 15
- Non-successful = 4
- Average number of clients per week = 21
- Number of co-occurring = 27 (65%)
- Number of just mental health disorders = 9
- Number of just substance use disorders = 6

2016 Primary drug of choice

Opiate/opioids = 32 clients
Alcohol = 11
Cannabis = 2
Other = 3

2015 Primary drug of choice

18 clients
7
11
no data

2016 Secondary drug of choice

Cannabis = 20 clients
Alcohol = 10
Benzodiazepines = 7
Cocaine = 6
Opiate/opioids = 1

2015 Secondary drug of choice

no data
no data
no data
no data
no data

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Employment Status:

Employed part or full time =23
Unemployed = 12
SSDI/SSI (disability) = 17

Gender break down for 2016:

Females= 22
Males = 30

Insurance status:

NH Medicaid/Medicare (includes expansion programs) = 45

- Private insurance = 4
- Not insured (working on getting coverage) = 3

Age Breakdown:

- 18 TO 25 = 23
- 26 TO 35 = 20
- 36 TO 45 = 5
- 46 AND OLDER = 7

Number of clients per Courts:

- Keene Circuit Court = 35
- Cheshire Superior Court = 8
- Both = 9

Narrative:

Yearly allocated moneys are where they should be expected to be at the end of the first quarter other than for line item 4460.29 (“BEHAV HLTH CRT OUT SERV”). At the end of February they were at 77.82% remaining. However, this may correct itself once the contracted providers are on the 5MOs provider’s panels and can start billing them instead of the County. Providers have been contacted re: their status. Several have applied and are waiting notification from the insurance companies.

Two of the providers are LADCs and not MLADC and therefore do not meet the insurances standards. Both have over ten years in the field and one is good at working with the opiate population. They have informed me that the State Association is working with the insurance companies to modify this because of the shortage of MLADC in NH.

Please keep in mind that those with SSDI/SSI are on traditional Medicaid/care and do not have coverage for Substance Use Disorders. This would make the County up hold their “payer of last resort” for those who have both issues.

The other issue re: out flow in this area is that Phoenix House still having difficulties with staffing. They are looking for another MLADC to hire so the ratio between MLADCs and LADCs is acceptable to the insurance company for reimbursement.

It might be prudent to consider not paying the cost for Domestic Violence/Anger Management evaluations and the follow up groups. Both the evaluations and educational follow up groups are not traditionally paid for by insurance carriers.

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New Drug Screening Procedure:

Drug testing for CCBHCP clients and CCDC clients will be handled through Burlington Labs. They have offered to start a collection site here in Keene. The clients' insurance is bill directly by Burlington Labs and the Lab will cover the cost for those who do not insurance. A color will be assigned to the client and a phone number given them. They are to call in each but Sundays to find out if they are to come in for a urine drop. The clients are observed, urine sent to the labs and the results are posted in a secure website within 24 hours. The programs are notified if the person does not call in or show up. We will also have instant tests here in the office to use if suspect a person is under-the-influence when they come in for their monitoring session.

They are currently look for office space and will notify us when they are setup and ready to start the process.

New Case Management Position:

CCBHCP has been given the clearance to advertise for a FT Case Manager. Michael Potter will work with Wendy Hurley are crafting the ad with final approval from County Administrator Coates.

Medicaid Care and Five Month Reimbursement:

Work is continuing through our Finance Dept. in regards to this topic. Recently there was a discussion regarding what items are covered in "Targeted Case Management" (TCM) and what credentials are required to do the work and be reimbursed for that work.

What was found out is the State might have to pass a State Plan Amendment so it is possible to get reimbursed for TCM and Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC). The County needs to contract the NH State Medicaid Office to find out if these programs are available to our County programs.

TCM would cover four areas: assessment, development of a care plan, referral and follow-up monitoring. These are areas that pay for the cost of connecting clients to non-Medicaid services such as referral to vocational rehabilitation service, treatment services, and food, housing and childcare assistance.

MAC, which may also be reimbursable, would pay for only connecting the client to Medicaid services like Service Link to complete the process of signing up for the Medicaid/Medicare Insurance. This is important more to Cheshire County House of Corrects (HOC) because when the client is coming from the HOC, which most of them are, they usually are signed up for the insurance before they are released and for every dollar spent on MAC activities they would be eligible for a 50% federal match. Here again it is suggested that the County needs to contact the NH State Medicaid Office for specific regarding this possible reimbursement source.

Summited by: Michael Potter, MLADC
Director of Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Programs

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A prolonged discussion began concerning various aspects of the report and the possible impacts of the State 1115 Wavier for billable services was reviewed and the lack of Master's level Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors was discussed.

The Commissioners thanked Potter for his report and then **at 11:15AM entered recess to discuss a pending Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

At 12:17PM The Commissioners re-entered public session.

Master Agenda Item #375: Purchase of the Gutter Cleaning System for the Farm Milking Barn was reviewed. Following discussion it was determined that Commissioner Graves would visit the farm to determine the overall condition of the mechanics of the system and make a recommendation on how to proceed.

Master Agenda Item #376: 2016 TAN schedule and signature of Bond Council engagement letter by the Chair was taken-up for discussion. Director Trombly reviewed the purpose of the letter that is signed each year and after a short question and answer period the Chairman signed the Bond Counsel engagement letter.

The Commissioners then reviewed the weekly Census.

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

The minutes of April 13, 2016 were then reviewed and Commissioner Graves moved to accept the minutes as amended, and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

At 12:28AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk