

MINUTES  
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday August 31, 2016 09:30AM  
County Hall Building  
Commissioners Conference Room  
12 Court Street  
Keene, NH

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

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

At 9:33AM Chair Rogers opened the meeting and recognized Count Administrator Coates who provided the following Weekly Operations update:

Coates recognizes Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley who announced that the County has been awarded a System of Care continuation grant that will enable the regional coalition of providers to continue the previously established program for four (4) years at \$1M dollars per year for a total grant of \$4 million dollars.

The grant will enable the regional coalition of providers to address *“the unmet needs of children with serious emotional disturbance, and their families. Between 13% and 20% of children in the United States experience a serious emotional disturbance in a given year. However, only about half of all children in need of behavioral and emotional services receive them. Many uninsured youth and young adults who cannot afford the cost of care are less likely to receive substance use and mental health services.*

*“A new report shows that behavioral health treatment and supports provided through systems of care can have far-reaching benefits for children and adolescents who experience mental disorders. Some of these benefits include a reduction in rates of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts.*

*Approximately 10 percent of children and adolescents in the United States experience a serious emotional disturbance (SED) that impacts their ability to function at home, in school, or in the community. Yet according to the National Institutes of Mental Health and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, only about half of all children and adolescents in need of behavioral and emotional services receive them”.*

A press release will be issued concerning the details of the grant award.

Bansley said that a grant application was completed and submitted last week to help develop jobs in the region. Over 450 participants will be targeted and the grant will provide up to \$2.5M in funding.

*“The America’s Promise Job Driven Grant Program which is a competitive grant program will build on the momentum of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to develop and expand regional partnerships and training opportunities particularly for middle-to-high-skilled HIB industries and occupations, ensuring that communities fully maximize their Federal, state and local funds to build a competitive workforce.*

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*One of the primary vehicles for driving these strategies is regional workforce partnerships that are creating sector-based career pathways and offering tuition-free training to meet the needs of workers and businesses. Rather than working in siloes, training providers, economic development and industry, and the workforce system are coming together to align public and private resources in response to employer demand and to offer innovative, evidenced-based education and job training”.*

Discussion of how the grant would operate and the scope of the training and the certifications that can be earned ensued. Coates provides background of the project and discusses the positive impact that the program could have on the local regional economy.

**At 9:57AM 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**

**As a result of the deliberations in nonpublic session a decision to hire K. N. for the Assisted Living Facility at \$28.05 per hour as a per-diem RN based on her experience, training, and education.**

**At 10:04AM The Commissioners unanimously voted to return to public session.**

**At 10:06AM 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**

**As a result of the deliberations in nonpublic session a decision to hire C. M. for the Department of Corrections at \$16.10 per hour as a Corrections Officer based on his experience, training, and education.**

**At 10:18AM The Commissioners unanimously voted to return to public session.**

A discussion of the next Correctional Officers graduation ceremony was reviewed and it was decided to hold the graduation exercise on September 28<sup>th</sup> in the Delegation meeting room at 12 Court Street, immediately following the weekly Commissioners meeting.

Coates said that the next meeting of the Delegation Executive Committee to discuss and review the recommendations of the Maplewood Sub-Committee, will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 12 Court Street, Keene to review the recommended options for the Future of Maplewood made by the Maplewood Sub-Committee to the Executive Committee of the full Delegation.

Commissioners Rogers then related a call in which it was learned that the proposed long-term drug rehabilitation center that was being considered for the Westmoreland nursing home should the nursing home be moved to Keene, has been closed out due to the withdrawal of interest by

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service provider organization and therefore the project will not continue.

Coates reviewed a meeting that was held with Amanda Littleton of the Conservation District who is seeking storage space for the Districts rental farm equipment. Bouchard will conduct a site inspection of the storage space and determine the overall condition of the building and the overhead doors, some of which are currently non-functional, to determine needed repairs and to conduct a safety inspection. Further discussions will be scheduled in the near future.

Coates then discussed a phone call that was conducted with the owner Granite State Automation who recently concluded an extensive review and repair of the facilities HVAC control systems. As part of the review Granite State had recommended that an RFQ for the operational balancing of the HVAC systems be considered. The result of the RFQ was that only one (1) bidder responded to the request and the bid was significantly higher than expected.

Coates said that as result of the conversation with Granite State, their personnel will assist in reviewing a new RFQ and will further assist in identifying companies who may be interested in bidding.

Coates then discussed an upcoming meeting with NH Association of Counties to review a number of open issues including the implementation of Managed Care and the pending 1115 Waiver from the State of New Hampshire that addresses the behavioral health delivery system. *To find out more about the State of NH 1115 Waiver visit this addresses:*  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/section-1115-waiver/>

It was then discussed that the state Managed Care program as presently configured will only down-shift additional costs to the County's with added administrative and provider costs.

An extended discussion began of the Medicare and Medicaid structure in the State and the monies associated with Pro-Share annual distributions.

Coates then discussed a meeting that has been setup with Bond Counsel and County personnel that will be held to determine the rules and options around any bond that would be issued for the rehabilitation or replacement of the nursing home. Other alternatives to bonding will also be explored such as the possible use of low cost of funds from United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs from the federal government.

Coates the said that he has been asked to join the Greater Keene Chamber of Board of Directors and feels that it would be positive step to have County representation on the Board and also provide a direct method of communication with a large number of area businesses. The Commissioners agreed that Coates involvement would be beneficial and support his appointment to the board.

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A discussion of the upcoming 2017 budget preparation cycle began and it was reviewed how the planning for capital maintenance projects and set asides for reserve accounts could be accomplished without increasing the County tax rate.

Commissioner Weed discussed the NH Association of County's award procedures for 2016 and how the award choices are made. How the election and nomination processes are handled was covered and the emphasis of how the awards are handled internally was reviewed.

Director Trombly was then recognized and she distributed and discussed the 2016 Apportionment of taxes from the state for the County towns. The Commissioners stated that they want to hold a meeting for County Selectpersons at which the DRA would be present to explain how equalization between towns is effected by that department

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

**Commissioner Weed moved to accept the Minutes as presented of August 24, 2016 as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Commissioner's Calendar was then reviewed.

**At 11:58AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Graves moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
P. Graves, Clerk