

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 08, 2019**  
**Department of Corrections**  
**825 Marlboro Road**  
**Keene, NH 03431**

**Present:** Commissioners: Charles Weed, John Wozmak, and Robert Englund

**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, DOC Superintendent Van Wickler, Sheriff Rivera, Behavioral Health Director, Michael Potter, County Attorney Chris McLaughlin, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

**Guest(s):** Professor Leaf Seligman and Professor Tom Bassarear, Monadnock Restorative Community Program, Dot Maver, Restorative Justice and Peace Building Consultant

At 8:30AM The Chairman opened the meeting and recognized Michael Potter to discuss Master Agenda Item #677: Behavioral Health’s Semi-Annual Report. Potter presented and discussed the following report:

**2019 BI-ANNUAL REPORT**  
**CHESHIRE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAMS**  
**January 1 through March 27, 2019**

*This report will include the 28 individuals that were carried over from 2018.*

	<b>Current metrics for 1/1/2019 to 3/27/2019</b>	<b>Comparison to 1/1/2018 to 3/27/18</b>
<i>Current population =</i>	25	25
<i>Females =</i>	8	7
<i>Males =</i>	17	18
<i>Clients involved in Keene District Court =</i>	10	11
<i>Clients involved in Superior Court =</i>	11	14
<i>Clients involved in both Courts =</i>	4	0
<i>Clients with co-occurring disorders =</i>	21	24
<i>Clients with only mental health issues =</i>	3	0
<i>Clients with only addiction issues =</i>	0	1
<i>Total number of admissions =</i>	9	6
• <i>Alternative Sentencing Program =</i>	1	1
• <i>Mental Health Court =</i>	8	5
<i>Total number of successful completions =</i>	4	8
• <i>Alternative Sentencing Program =</i>	0	0
• <i>Mental Health Court =</i>	4	8
<i>Total number of non-completions =</i>	5	1
• <i>Alternative Sentencing Program =</i>	1	1
• <i>Mental Health Court =</i>	4	0
<i>Average number of clients per week =</i>	25	24

**LONGEVITY (RECIDIVISM) STUDY:**

*CCBHCP has been engaged a longevity study with those clients who completed the programs successfully in 2012 and 2013. This has been done by look at who many of those individuals had*

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*returned to the Cheshire County House of Corrections. The outcome has not change since the last reporting.*

- *2012 MHC clients (n = 21) = 53%*
- *2013 MHC clients (n = 22) = 78%*
- *2012 ASP clients (n = 9) = 89%*
- *2013 ASP clients (n = 11) = 76%*

**NARRATIVE:**

*The start of 2019 has been uneventful. Most of the gathered metrics are similar to 2018 with the exception of the “non-completion” category. AS we look at the circumstances behind the non-successful terminations, we see that the individual’s non-compliance most were due to relapsing back into their use and not following through with recommendations for treatment. Another common factor has to do with their age bracket which was 18 to 28. How does this factor in, one might ask? Immaturity of brain development and lack of negative consequences i.e. to use 12-Step recovery phrasing, they have not reached the point of “being sick and tired of being sick and tired”. Their emotional pain from the negative consequences of their use has not been great enough to override their pleasure of using.*

*A new trend that is being observed in the Drug Courts a crossed the State, is the “drug of choice” (the drug that is preferred by the users) is changing from opiates/opioids to cocaine and crystal-amphetamines. Please keep in mind that it was not ever the drug-of-choice that was the problem (although some are deadlier than others) but the untreated disease of addiction that is the underline problem. Early education, detection and treatment (which this STATE does not have enough treatment services) is how to combat this disease.*

*And finally, if the Commissioners are not aware, I have informed the County Administrator, Chris Coates, that I will be retiring at the end of May. I am grateful for the support I have had over the years of service here and hope that I have been able to contribute to the improvement of this county and those that I have attempted to help.*

*Respectfully,*

*Michael Potter, MLADC*

*Director of the Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Programs.*

A discussion of co-occurring disorders was covered and the much greater number of clients with co-occurrences being served was covered. Potter also said that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is also now become a major issue for many of Behavioral Health’s clientele.

The recidivism rates for participates in the Behavioral Health program was highlighted and the differences between the drug court, mental health court, and alternative sentencing were discussed.

**MINUTES**  
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The Administrator and Commissioners commented on Potters impending retirement thanked him for his work and spoke of the strong legacy of advocacy for patients that he is leaving behind and the very strong program ground work that has been put into place upon which the County can continue to build.

The Commissioners then took-up Master Agenda Item #678: Richmond Police Services Contract and recognized Sheriff Rivera.

Rivera presented the Richmond town police services paperwork and explained that the agreement has been vetted by the County Attorney as well as the attorneys at the County insurance company. He then highlighted some of the contract details and concluded by asking the Commissioner's to approve and sign the agreement.

**Following a short question and answer period, Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize and sign the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #679: Restorative Justice was then taken-up for discussion and Commissioner Wozmak introduced Dot Maver of Walpole, NH and provided a background of her interaction with the community and world at large. Maver is a Restorative Justice and Peace Building consultant who is recognized throughout the world for her work. Maver discussed restorative practices that have been River Phoenix Center for Peace Building in Gainesville FL. <https://www.centerforpeacebuilding.org/>

Maver is also associated with The Hill Center for Peace Building in Walpole.  
<https://www.worldpeace.org/2017/08/the-hill-center-dedicates-peace-pole-new-hampshire-usa/>

Leaf Seligman and Tom Bassarear were also introduced and Seligman and Bassarear provided an overview of the efforts to get the Monadnock Restorative Community program started in the County. They provided the outline of how the program will handle and address lower level crimes such as shoplifting, misdemeanor theft, unlawful possession of alcohol, and driving under suspension and discussed how cases will be referred to the group from the County Attorney's office.

An extended and in-depth conversation then began and Commissioner Wozmak asked about the scope of the program and the types of cases that will be accepted. The County Attorney reviewed the criteria that will be referred to the program.

Seligman then discussed the scope of the assistance that would include a family restoration process for incidents where a family-member has been arrested and incarcerated for a crime against another family member.

McLaughlin then spoke of the cases in the County Attorney's office and said the majority of the cases that he and his staff handle mostly focus people that have re-offended.

Seligman then spoke of how broken the system is for many kids in the school systems and discussed the lack of resources available to the student population and parents.

**MINUTES**  
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A further discussion of how the restorative justice process works and the how the perpetrator and victim are approached and engaged over time to begin the healing process was covered.

The Commissioners thanked Maver, Seligman, and Bassarear for their work and for taking the time to meet with the board so that they can better understand where the County can assist them in their efforts.

The Chair then recognized the County Administrator for the Weekly Operations Report:

Coates said that two events involving inmates at the DOC last week were handled in an outstanding manner and the staff and Superintendent should be commended for their response.

Coates then revisited the previous weeks discussion concerning a non-public session regarding compensation of personnel and said that a very positive meeting was held with the Superintendent and staff and a short-term and long-term plan will be developed that meets the needs of the facility.

Coates then said that the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) issue that was discussed at last weeks meeting and that involves paying license fees for the Nursing Home residents was addressed in the past few days. He said that after approaching an attorney who has expertise in the area the advice received was to enter into negotiations with the MPLC to receive a greatly reduced rate for the nursing home. This will be discussed further and a resolution will be worked out in the coming weeks.

**Coates then addressed an HR request for an FMLA extension for a staff member and the recommend from the HR Department was to extend the FMLA as requested. Following a short discussion, the Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the extension for the FMLA for MW for an additional eight (8) weeks.**

Coates said that three (3) policies concerning Safety issues for Commissioner approval will be reviewed at the Commissioners meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> but the policies will be forwarded to the Commissioners ahead of time for review.

Coates said that he has learned that River Valley Community College will be starting an LPN program this year and he reminded the Commissioners that National Nurses Week Meal appreciation dinner is being held today at Maplewood.

Coates then addressed the status of the landfill on the Maplewood campus and said that the overall condition of the site is in very good condition.

He then discussed the possible installation of a battery storage site on County property by Eversource. He said that Bouchard and he met with Eversource personnel yesterday and the meeting went very well. Eversource is seeking a site to install a micro-grid back-up battery that will service the entire Westmoreland village area and the nursing home. Conversations will continue and long-term lease arrangements for the site will be explored and should begin shortly.

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Old Business: None

New Business: None

The Weekly Census was then reviewed and the report was accepted as informational.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed, and **Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund, upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**The minutes of May 01, 2019 were then reviewed and Commissioner Englund moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The calendar was then reviewed.

**General Discussion for Commissioners:**

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter. The Commissioners discussed an additional amendment to the letter and a draft of the language will be forth coming.

At 11:46 the Commissioners adjourned from the conference room to attend the Master Agenda Item #680: Department of Corrections Correctional Officer Certification Graduation.

**At 12:15 PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Englund and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Englund, Clerk