

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
County Hall Pursuant to Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04
This meeting will be conducted electronically.

Conference Call Information

Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Present: Commissioners: Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Connected Families Project Director Calcutt, UNH Cooperative Extension Manager Majewski, Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s): James Fauth, Dir of Behavioral Health Improvement Institute, Keene State College

At 8:31 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and County Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting. Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as "present."

Commissioner Wozmak then moved to conduct this meeting as an emergency meeting under the relevant provisions of NH RSA 91-A and consistent with the recommendations contained in Executive Order 2020-04 Order 12 issued by Governor Sununu.

Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll-call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A Pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, paragraph 8 provides: "State and local government bodies are permitted and encouraged to utilize the emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct meetings through electronic means while preserving, to the extent feasible, the public's right to notice of such meetings and ability to observe and listen contemporaneously."

2. Pursuant to Emergency Order #2 issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, gatherings of fifty people or more are prohibited.

3. To implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, II 1 (b), that a quorum of a public body be physically present unless immediate action is imperative, is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04.

4. To further implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, II 1 (c), that each part of a meeting of a public body is audible or otherwise discernible to the public "at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting," is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 so long as the public body:

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- Provides public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means.
- Provides public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
- Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; and
- Adjourns the session if the public is unable to access the meeting.

Coates then outlined the rules of the meeting.

1. The public has an opportunity at the beginning of the Commissioners Meeting under "Public Comment" to speak. Community input will not be allowed after that point unless recognized and allowed by the Chair of the Commissioners.
2. All votes will be Roll Call, and when recognized, we are asking that you re-state your name and yes or no
3. If you have a question or motion that you would like to ask to put forward, please state the following, "Mr. Chair, Commissioner (your name) has a question or motion."
4. If you are having issues hearing the call, please text or call the County Administrator at 603-313-9002.
5. Please mute your phones so background noise won't interfere with the meeting.
6. This meeting has been posted on our website so that the Community, department heads, and media can listen to the meeting.
7. This meeting is utilizing a Zoom Platform so listeners can join us via audio or audio/visual.

At 8:33 AM, the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Calcutt and Fauth to discuss Master Agenda Item #871: Semi-Annual report of the Connected Families NH project. Calcutt presented and discussed the following slide deck.



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Implementation Grant

- **09/2016-2020, currently under a one year no-cost extension**
- Community outreach, governance and sustainability
- Implement NH wraparound
- Development of in-home supports with Antioch's Marriage and Family Therapy Program



Expansion Grant

- **09/2020-2024, funding of 1 million annually**
- **Expansion of NH wraparound for the birth to 5 population**
- Development of more in-home supports
- Implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness MTSS-B



Care Management Entity

- **Started September 23, 2020, funding of 1.2 million annually**
- NH wraparound-FAST Forward
- TR-ECC (Transitional Residential-Enhanced Care Coordination) for residential care and psychiatric hospitalizations
- Referral support care coordination



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Budget and staffing update for long term sustainability

- Budget
 - \$391,830 Revenue, 10/01/2020 -12/31/2020
 - \$268,271 Expenses, 10/01/2020 -12/31/2020
 - \$494,000 Projected revenue surplus*
 - *This number is impacted by our no cost extension
- Staffing
 - 2014 one staff person
 - 2016-20 five staff
 - 2021 15 staff and growing



Current support structures

- Feedback is critical to our success
- Statewide support structures
 - Children's System of Care Advisory Board
 - State Care Management Entity meeting
 - System of Care Implementation Team
 - Shared measures
- Regional support structures
 - Governance Board
 - Care Management Team
 - Monthly Evaluation
 - Collaborative meetings with other regional initiatives



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**How does the county want oversee
this work?**

- It is important to clarify/strengthen our region-wide structures/oversight
- What do you (the commissioners) want oversight to look like?
 - What is the role of the governance board?
 - The staff are accountable to whom?
 - Enrollment, outcomes, staff turnover, etc.?



A lengthy discussion concerning the history, operations, staffing, and client profiles for the program was examined in detail. The Commissioners asked many questions concerning the program's effectiveness and the impact on the families participating in the program.

The statistics used to track the program are strongly positive, and the staff now serves the entire western portion of the state, including some key school districts. Because the program has been authorized to bill for services by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) many children and families are being provided assistance desperately needed at no cost to County taxpayers. It was pointed out that the program is self-supporting and that it is on track to generate a small surplus. This surplus could support and expand the program as the need dictates and potentially contributes excess revenue to the County general fund, which could off-set taxes.

Fauth also provided the metrics used to ensure the quality and measurement of the program's effectiveness. The Commissioners and staff came away with a better understanding of the program's positive impact on the families. Also discussed was the potential cost avoidance that can occur to towns by preventing outplacements from the local school districts that are very costly to the towns.

The Commissioners thanked Calcutt and Fauth for the presentation and said they looked forward to the program's success as the services are sorely needed throughout the state.

At 10:00 AM, Master Agenda Item #870: Semi-Annual report of the UNH Cooperative Extension was taken up for discussion.

Carl Majewski was then recognized, and he said that despite many challenges that have been dealt with over the last year due to COVID-19, the Cooperative Extension can fulfill its mission

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and service the needs of the County residents. He described the new requirements for staff to interface with their constituents using CDC guidelines regarding the use of masks, hand sanitizers, and social distancing. He said that the forestry work completed included 85 staff visits on over 5,000 acres of forest lands. He stated that there are currently over 100 youths in 4H clubs, 100 in after-school programs. He said that some clubs are meeting in person and some are meeting outside and some virtually. The total of 4H participation is just over 200. He also discussed a new "Hikes Around" project that was recently added that does trail hikes followed by activities related to the walks and is proving to be very popular. In March, the program maxed out at 25 families per hike. He said that the Nutrition Program (Food assistance) has over 600 youths and 60 adults currently served.

Majewski said that the agricultural services provided cover a wide range of assistance, including pruning, starting seeds, commercial operations, pesticides, animal nutrition, etc. Many farms are being helped during the pandemic, with training on setting up on-farm sales sites with the proper sanitation and distancing, and personal protection equipment issues training addressed.

He said that the timbering on the County farm is now complete. The Sullivan county agent is covering Cheshire until a new forester is appointed for Cheshire County. He stated that the Sullivan forester runs a program that monitors for the Emerald Ash Borer with traps and that they have been identified in Jaffrey and Marlborough.

In response to the Commissioners' question, he said that the Ash borer treatment is to destroy the tree and slow the spread. The primary spreading agent is campfire wood. Borer can fly ½ mile around the tree or up to 10 miles if the ash tree is not in the immediate area.

The move of UNH to 12 Court St. and was successful, and the facilities staff were accommodating. And the meeting went as smoothly as could happen.

Majewski said that they are seeking Commissioner to join the advisory council as a representative for the County.

The Commissioners thanked Majewski for his report, and Sheriff Rivera was then recognized.

Rivera discussed initiating a sign-on bonus for hiring personnel, especially for deputies and bailiffs. He said that the sheriff is authorized eight full-time and one 32 hour position are currently authorized. He said that the deputies' bonus would be paid out over a year based on milestones such as certification being achieved. He said that \$500.00 would be paid upon hire and another payment after passing the police academy training and another completing probation.

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A discussion of the testing procedures was had, and he said that the wash-out rates are very high. He said that currently, seven are in process, but only two have confirmed attendance for the testing process.

A discussion of the use of bonuses currently paid by the County and several problems making the payments fair to everyone were covered. It was discussed that if a program like this is to be implemented that it should be constructed so that other departments could participate if needed. The staff will investigate some alternatives and report back to the Commissioners in the next few weeks.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report:

Coates said that the Dupont group who provides management and administrative support to the NH Association of Counties, would hold the NHAC's monthly meeting on Friday.

Coates then said that the community Power Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that will set up the basis for the County's participation in the Community Power Coalition of NH is still being completed and should be available for review in the next few weeks.

He then said that the Assisted Living Facility next to the Nursing Home completed its annual state review, and no deficiencies were given. He said that this is about the third year in a row with no noted deficiencies and complimented the facilities and ALF staff.

Old Business: A discussion of a proposed grant work for Rails to Trails to be discussed next week was covered.

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 03/10/2021 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Englund moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.

General Discussion: None

At 11:34 AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d), Commissioner Englund moved to enter a non-public session to discuss the consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property, which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general Community. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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As a result of deliberations in the non-public session, a decision was made to engage a CPA firm to engage in a financial review was taken and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

At 12:05 PM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

At 12:06 PM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Reviewed and submitted by:
T. Clark, Clerk