

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 15, 2015 09:30am**  
**Commissioners Conference Room**  
**County Hall Building**  
**12 Court Street**  
**Keene, NH 03431**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Charles Weed, and Peter Graves, (Commissioner Stillman Rogers absent with notice),

**STAFF:** Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Van Wickler, UNH Cooperative Extension Administrator Roberge, Higher Education Grant Manager Sutherland, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

**GUESTS:** Westmoreland Selectman Hammond and a member of the public.

Vice-Chairman Weed opened the meeting at 9:34AM and recognized Assistant County Administrator Bouchard for the purpose of presenting the Weekly County Operations report. Bouchard reported the following items:

Bouchard said that the Commissioners Cookout, an annual event for Keene staff, has been scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> in the Grange park area adjunct to the 33 West Street parking lot. A flyer will be posted and invitations will be sent out to department heads.

Bouchard then discussed the hiking trails in Westmoreland next to the nursing home. He said that the trails have become overgrown as no funds have been available to maintain them for a number of years. As a result, the trails have become almost impassable and the link on the website for accessing the trails has been removed. Bouchard will investigate options to re-opening the trails over the next few weeks.

Bouchard then said that the parking lot expansion project at Middle and Court Streets is moving forward and a meeting with MacMillin to begin demolition of the canopy will be scheduled shortly.

Superintendent Van Wickler was then recognized and discussed the implementation of the hazardous duty pay program for the Correctional Officers (CO's) approved at last week's meeting. Van Wickler presented the policy for final review and approval to the Commissioners. Commissioner Graves expressed his hope that the program would attract more DOC CO's to consider participating on the Transport Team as both a career development step and to build up the number of CO's available for the Transport Team. **Following discussion and review of the written policy document Commissioner Graves moved to accept the hazardous duty policy for CO's as presented to be implemented immediately and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion carried with two (2) Yea's.**

Van Wickler also supplied the Commissioners with a draft of a report on the training programs for CO's at the DOC from an independent certification agency. The Commissioners will review the report and discuss options with the Superintendent in a future meeting.

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Steve Roberge, Cheshire County Office Administrator for the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension program was recognized for the purpose of presenting the semi-annual department report. Roberge discussed the history of UNH / Coop budgets over the past few years and impact that it has had on the organizational structure of the Extension offices throughout the state. He also discussed an additional After School Program request that will be made for 2016 and reviewed the County timber cut scheduled for later this year at the Westmoreland farm property. Roberge presented the following written synopsis;



**University of  
New Hampshire**  
Cooperative Extension

UNH Cheshire County Cooperative Extension  
33 West Street, Keene NH 03431  
603-352-4550

Cheshire County UNH Cooperative Extension is a partnership between the University of New Hampshire and the county government, providing a direct link between the university and the citizens of Cheshire County. As stated in NH RSA 24:10, the mission of UNH Cooperative Extension “is to educate people so that they can make informed decisions” that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

The local communities have been the center of UNH Cooperative Extension program efforts since its establishment by Congress in 1914. Cheshire UNH Cooperative Extension is one of ten county offices that link the University to local communities. People may drop in or call for information, participate in programs presented by Extension Field Specialists, or access information via the county web site: <http://extension.unh.edu/COUNTIES/Cheshire/Cheshire.htm>. We offer up-to-date information to help residents make informed choices, answer questions and help solve problems. We work to identify those issues critical to residents and to formulate non-formal education programs addressing those issues. Cheshire UNH Cooperative Extension helps individuals improve their health, helps families better manage their time and money, helps communities solve environmental or economic problems, help the food and agricultural industry keep up-to-date with developing technologies, and helps youth become tomorrow’s leaders.

**Cheshire County UNH Cooperative Extension**

**Food and Agriculture** - Carl Majewski

**Food and Nutrition** - Christine Parshall

**Natural Resources & County Office Administrator** - Steve Roberge

**Youth and Family (4H)** - Andrea Sawyer

Diane DuGray, Administrative Assistant

Cooperative Extension carries out educational programs that address the issues that are most important to Cheshire County citizens. We focus our efforts in four program areas – Food and

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Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlife, Youth and Family, and Nutrition Connections – and are available to all Cheshire County citizens via traditional classroom seminars, workshops, volunteer trainings, one-on-one site-specific consultations, emails, fact sheets, articles and other forms of media and outreach.

**Cheshire County UNH Cooperative Extension Annual Summary Educational Programs**

Public Workshops / Educational Events	49 events, 1665 attendees
One-on-one Site Visits (forestry & agriculture)	142 visits, 11,423 acres
Community Partnerships & Collaborations	67 collaborations or projects
Assistance to Towns	23 towns
Phone/email/walk-in	2452 contacts
Soil Tests	88 tests
E-Newsletter Distribution	832 households
Afterschool Program Enrollment	800+ total youth
4-H Clubs	20 clubs, 250 youth
Active Volunteers	240 volunteers

Commissioners Graves and Weed thanked Roberge for his report and then recognized Higher Education Program manager Sutherland who presented a review and report on the activities and successes of the program at Franklin Pierce and Keene State College.

Sutherland presented the following program overview as part of her report;

**Partnership for Success II Grant Status Update**  
**Franklin Pierce University and Keene State College**  
**June 30, 2015**  
**Overview**

The Partnership for Success II Grant was received from the State of New Hampshire Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) in November 2013. This grant has had two coordinators with the new project director coming on board in April 2014. She is a certified prevention specialist as required by the State of New Hampshire Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services for anyone working in this field, she holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership, and is a board certified human services practitioner. The project director sits on the Franklin Pierce University campus in the student affairs department two days a week and at the County office the rest of the time. Keene State College does not have available office space for the project director to sit on their campus.

The county has received a one-year no-cost extension that will end in the culmination of this grant on June 30, 2016.

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**So, What Is the Problem?**

Alcohol and drug use are common on college campuses. The problem is that tensions exist in and around the campus and community setting when alcohol is consumed at an intoxication level. It creates tensions among students when out-of-control behaviors occur in the resident halls, on and off campus. It is not only harmful to these relationships but also to any academic success that students are trying to achieve. Although many students believe it is a rite of passage and that they should be able to drink, it can create harmful situations where students can get injured, arrested, and/or taken to the hospital for over intoxication.

- According to the 2012-2013 National Survey of Drug Use and Health, the most recent NSDUH available, 49% of NH's 18-25 year olds reported binge drinking in the past 30 days. This rate is the third highest in the country and much higher than the national average of 38.7%.
- For pain reliever abuse, 10.5% of NH young adults reported this behavior in the past year, and 10% of young adults reported illicit drug use other than marijuana.
- NH's rate of 10% for 18-25 year olds reporting regular illicit drug use is *the highest in the country* and is 1.5 percentage points higher than the next closest state (Rhode Island, 8.6%) and higher than the national average of 6.9%.
- There were five times greater the number of heroin-related deaths in NH in 2014 than there were in 2008.
- Consequently, alcohol and drug misuse cost NH more than \$1.84 billion in 2012 in lost productivity and earnings, increased expenditures of healthcare, and public safety costs. (<http://www.new-futures.org/sites/default/files/Summary%20Report0.pdf>)
- Among 18-25 year olds in 2008-2009, New Hampshire had the highest rate of past month alcohol use of any state (75.12%), a rate statistically higher than the national rate (US: 61.51%). Moreover, New Hampshire young adults aged 18-25 were significantly more likely to report having had five or more drinks in one day ("binge drinking") in the past month (51%) than their peers nationally (41%). More than half of NH young adults aged 18-25 report binge alcohol use in the past month.  
(NH State Epidemiological Profile of Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health March 2012  
[http://nhcenterforexcellence.org/pdfs/NH%20SEOW%20Profile\\_SM\\_2.pdf](http://nhcenterforexcellence.org/pdfs/NH%20SEOW%20Profile_SM_2.pdf))

The focus of this grant is to assess and identify ways of reducing the problems surrounding the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol and prescription drug misuse on the college campuses. The County of Cheshire is following, as required by BDAS, the Strategic Prevention Framework Model that

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consists of assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation of both FPU and KSC campuses. Monadnock Voices for Prevention (MVP) is working with the Media Collaborative in Keene and The Ledger in Peterborough focusing on social norming with both campuses and in the community.

**Components of The Strategic Prevention Framework Model include:**

**Assessment** activities were conducted using baseline instruments to understand current behaviors and attitudes relative to AOD use. Appreciative Inquiry, Appreciative Interviewing, Deliberative Dialogue, and other inquiry methods to assess gaps, barriers, assets and resources. The assessment phase also included reviewing the existing policies and procedures relative to AOD expectations and consequences of violations.

**Capacity Building** brings a diverse group of stakeholders together that will be engaged in the assessment and planning activities, and will identify what training, staffing, and other capacities will be needed to be committed to implement strategies selected.

**Planning** activities included appreciative inquiry and deliberative dialogue-framed meetings that brought together representative stakeholders of campus community (parents, students, Greek life (KSC only), health/counseling services, faculty, residential life, administrators, community-at-large). Risk and protective factors (individual, community, school, and peer) were determined on both campuses.

**Implementation** of evidence-based programs and environmental strategies that were carried out included PhotoVoice, BASICS, Life of an Athlete (FPU only), Social Norms/Social Marketing, and Drug Resistance Strategy Project.

**Evaluation** is an on-going process that will evaluate all evidence-based programs and environmental strategies throughout the course of this grant.

**Cultural Competency** to ensure programs, policies, and strategies address local conditions and needs.

**Sustainability** to guarantee changes are institutionalized and will be continued beyond current funding.

**Strategic Prevention Framework Logic Model Outcomes**

**SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES:** A diverse representation of students, parents, campus, and community members are to be engaged in the assessment, capacity building, and planning activities. Campus staff have been trained in the assessment, capacity building and planning methods.

Assessment data (surveys, AI's, DD's, and policy review, etc.), will be analyzed by stakeholder representatives at each campus. Behaviors, attitudes, populations, and contributing factors are being prioritized. Assets, resources and best practices are being identified and prioritized according to fit and feasibility. Concurrent to planning, prevention activities (PhotoVoice, BASICS, Life of an Athlete, Social Marketing, and Drug Resistance Strategy Project) will be carried out.

A strategic plan based on assessment, capacity building and planning will be developed, disseminated and endorsed by administrative decision-makers on each campus; resources to sustain planned strategies will be identified.

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**INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES:**

There will be an increase of:

- Awareness of the campus alcohol and drug policy.
- Perception of risk of harm of regular binge drinking and prescription drug misuse.
- Accuracy of perception of peer and social norms.
- Perception that there are resources available to help if a student is experiencing a problem.
- Implementation of evidence-based policies, practices and programs.
- Committed resources to sustain planned strategies.

**LONG-TERM OUTCOMES:**

**Decreased past 30-day:**

- Use of alcohol among students on KSC & FPU campuses.
- Binge drinking among students on KSC & FPU campuses.
- Misuse of prescription drugs among students on KSC & FPU campuses.

An extended discussion of the program and how it has affected the student populations at the two schools began and Sutherland discussed the extension of the program for an additional twelve (12) months that started on April 13<sup>th</sup> of this year. She discussed the various elements of the programs and the efforts underway to bring information and education through on-campus peers groups on the dangers of alcohol and other drug abuse.

The Commissioners asked a number of questions about how the programs worked and the successes and problems that are encountered. An extended discussion of the need for the programs began and Sutherland provided a recap of the growing problems of alcohol abuse on New Hampshire college campuses.

The Commissioners commended Sutherland for the work being done and recognized both the need and difficulty in making the programs successful.

Director Trombly was then recognized and said that a new employee benefit program was being considered to help some employees who would prefer to have a high deductible medical savings program as an alternative to the County medical insurance program. Following a short discussion it was agreed that a representative of the IPG insurance firm would attend a future meeting to discuss how the program might work.

Trombly then stated an audit of the County retirement program by the New Hampshire Retirement system had recently completed and the auditors awarded the County program an A+

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overall.

Trombly then said that the State has notified recipients of State grants that due to the state budget impasse, grant funds normally paid by the state to the Counties for various programs and projects will have to be carried by the Counties until the budget is passed at which time the Counties will be reimbursed by the state.

Trombly said that a new Wage and Classification RFP is being prepared and should be available sometime next week. She also said that the 2016 budget process would begin shortly and that a budget schedule would be sent out.

The Commissioner's then reviewed the Weekly Census report.

**Commissioner Weed then moved to accept the Weekly Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.**

**The minutes of July 8, 2015 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.**

**At 11:39 Commissioners Graves moved to enter a Non-Public Session - pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c); to discuss a matter, which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, without that person having requested an open meeting.**

**As a result of the deliberations in nonpublic session, no decisions were made and no vote taken.**

**The Commissioners unanimously voted to return to public session at 12:12PM.**

**At 12:14PM 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 two (2) Yea's.**

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk