

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
County Hall Building
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

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, Department of Corrections Superintendent Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s):

At 8:32 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, Wozmak, Englund, and Clark, responding as "present."

At 8:38 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Public Comment: None

Master Agenda Item #951: 2022 Group 1 Recertification Request – Department of Corrections. D. Iosue was recognized and asked the Commissioners to authorize his request to Recertify the submitted list of Correctional Officers Group 1 retirement system.

Following a short discussion, Wozmak moved to authorize the recertification of the Correctional Officers for the Group 1 State retirement system and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #952: SAMHSA Emergency Management Services (EMS) Training Grant Application was then taken up for discussion.

Bansley explained that the grant was \$200K with no match for an EMS training grant for one year. She said that training for ten Firefighters and up to 378 other personnel (including 40 County EMS employees) in the county would be offered at no cost, along with hiring a training coordinator under the proposed grant.

Coates asks if the County can claim the establishment of a regional training hub that the State could then fund as an official State training site. Wozmak spoke to the possible outcomes and said that there might be opportunities for the training to continue, but the details needed to be worked out as the training was established. He said that one of the goals is to attract new personnel to the EMS field to continue to build the number of trained personnel in the region.

Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the submission of the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #952: NH DHHS Regional Level Rural Transportation Equity Project – S. Bansley

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Bansley said that a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grant is given to the county to pass the funding on to service providers such as Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council (MRCC). The primary purpose of the grant is to hire a regional transportation manager, and that position will be fulfilled by a staff member at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). She said that the program hopes to extend the services beyond the initial grant through other funding services.

Following a detailed review and discussion, Commissioner Englund moved to accept a \$530,000 grant and make a sole source contract with SWRPC for \$240,000 to manage the project (\$140,000 from this grant and \$100,000 from this DOT5310 budget).

Approximately \$341,818 will be subgranted to organizations within the community for transportation equity projects as selected by the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #954: Semi-Annual Report – Drug Court – A. Welsh
Action Expected: To receive as informational a semi-report from the Director of Behavioral Health on the status of the Drug Court program.

Welsh was then recognized, and excerpts of the presentation follow:

Graduations and Terminations since June 4, 2013
Medication Assisted Treatment Data

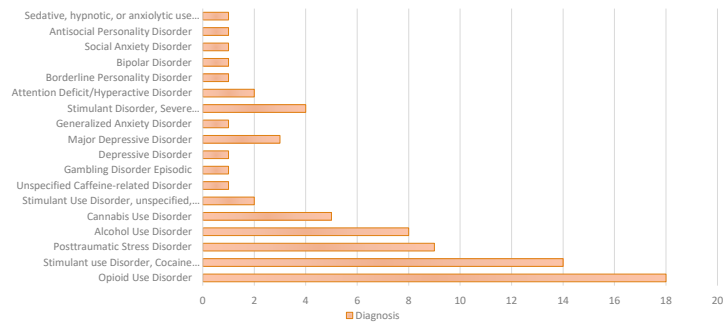
GRADUATED	TERMINATED
36 graduates	44 terminated
20 males	30 males
16 females	14 females
On MAT: 23 yes/13 no	On MAT: 19 yes/25 no



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Mental Health Diagnoses of 2021 participants



Cheshire County Treatment Current Curricula

Treatment was fully in person until 12/23/21:

All aspects of treatment have been in person; we switched back to telehealth temporarily on 12

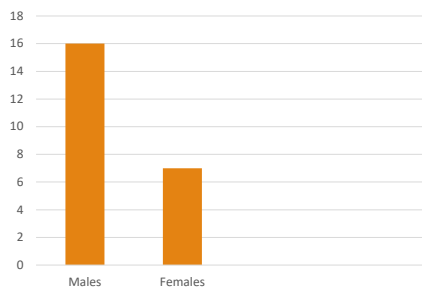
- Seeking Safety Group (trauma)
- Moral Recognition Therapy (criminal thinking)- Thinking for Change
- Anger Management
- Mindfulness
- Gender Based Groups
- Individual Therapy
- Yoga on Wednesdays now at Mudita with Cassandra still volunteering her time
- Relapse Response Group
- Process Group
- EMDR – both clinicians trained and offering EMDR during individual treatment sessions
- Case Management 1 to 2 times per week also increased

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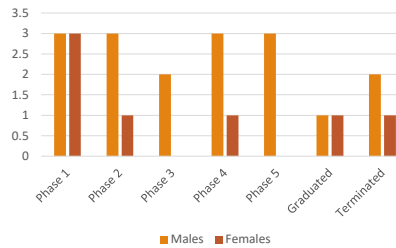
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Demographics: Gender and Phase

GENDER

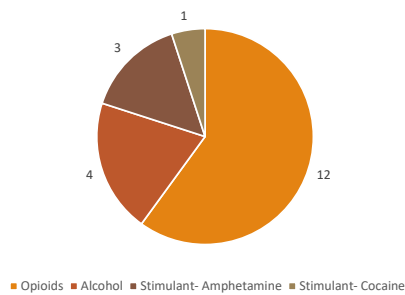


PHASES BY GENDER

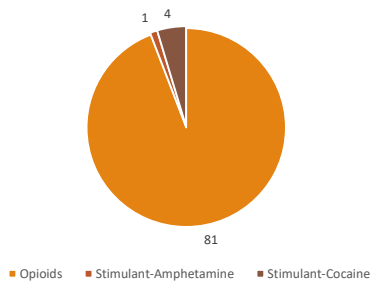


Primary Drug of Choice Comparison

PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE 2021



PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE 2013-2020



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Overdose Data for New Hampshire

2021 Drug Death Data 1/1/2021— 9/16/2021		2011	201
Total confirmed drug intoxication deaths ¹ 201	201	2012	163
Total confirmed deaths involving fentanyl	139	2013	198
Total confirmed deaths involving heroin	4	2013	342
Total confirmed deaths involving methamphetamines	27	2015	444
Total confirmed deaths involving cocaine	20	2016	486
Total suspected drug intoxication deaths 'pending toxicology' ²	83	2017	490
		2018	471
		2019	415
		2020	417

¹Note that the sum of the confirmed deaths involving each drug exceeds the total number of confirmed drug intoxication deaths as many drug intoxication deaths involve multiple drugs. Conversely, the drug(s) implicated in the cause of death may not represent all drugs detected by toxicology testing. ²'Pending toxicology' means that the death may be due to drug intoxication based on circumstances, scene investigation and/or autopsy findings but the final determination also depends on the results of toxicology testing. It can take up to 2 to 3 months to finalize the death certificate following a suspected drug intoxication death.

Conclusion: Key Takeaways

- CCDC following Best Practices
- All curricula evidenced-based
- Implemented Contingency Management Program to enhance treatment
- Increased incentives to sanctions ratio in 2021
- Increased graduation rates
- Expanded access to MAT
- December 12, 2021 received BJA Grant to hire a full time recovery coach to expand peer support services
- State received federal funding for a 3 year recidivism study



The full presentation can be found here: <https://co.cheshire.nh.us/wp-content/uploads/Departments/BehavioralHealth/PDF/Cheshire-County-Drug-Court-Semi-annual-Presentation-1.19.2022.pdf>.

The use of NARCAN by Police and Fire departments was discussed at length. A review of the Friend of Drug Court program began, and former program participants' potential use as support personnel was covered.

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The Commissioners asked a host of questions about the program, participants, and services. In detail, a tangent discussion of the NH Connected Families staff's work with school-age children to prevent at-risk kids from making bad choices was covered.

The Commissioners commended Welsh on her presentation, and at 09:56 AM, Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the Executive Committee Budget Hearings are resuming on Monday and that the City of Keene Delegation meeting is also scheduled to be held at 6:00 PM.

Coates said that a Zoom call with the NH Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) program would host a call on the final rules for the federal fiscal recovery funds that remain available.

Coates said a Zoom call with Henry Lipman of NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to follow up on a previous meeting concerning transportation companies that provide services to nursing homes would be held at 4:00 PM Monday the 24th.

Coates then read from the following communication from the Cheshire Medical Center concerning COVID in County.

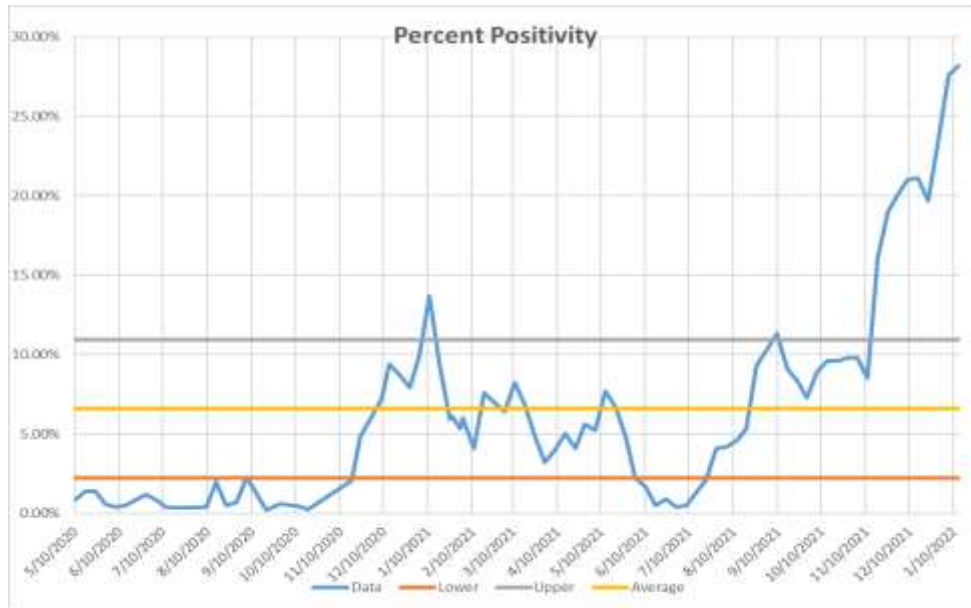
IP Update Week of 1/17/22

Total Tests Collected / Percent Positive: (per eDH)

	Detected	Not Detected	Grand Total	% Detected
12/17/2021 - 12/23/2021	289	1,172	1,467	19.7%
12/24/2021 – 12/30/2021	291	947	1,238	23.5%
12/31/2021 – 1/6/2022	338	887	1,225	27.6%
1/7/2022 – 1/13/2022	325	828	1,153	28.2%
Grand Totals since JAN2021	4,417	35,474	38,891	11.1%

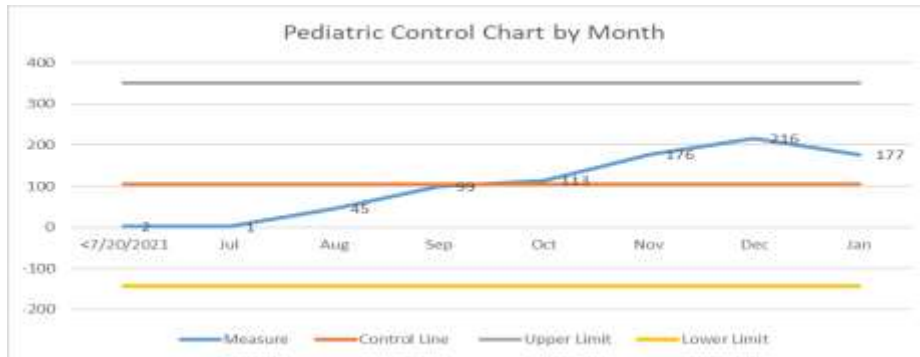
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Symptomatic vs. Asymptomatic Tests Collected – 23% asymptomatic, 12% symptomatic, and 65% unknown for 1/7/2022 – 1/13/2022.

Pediatric Control Chart:



State Data for Cheshire County: Our State transmission is **substantial** with Cheshire County at **substantial** as well, with a percent positivity of **13.9%** and **1,633.7** new cases per 100k over 14 days, as of 1/14/22. With college campuses resuming their surveillance testing, we expect to see the State’s percent positivity lower due to the mass of tests being collected. These large numbers of tests collected by our higher education dilute the State’s percent positivity. **Currently, the state**

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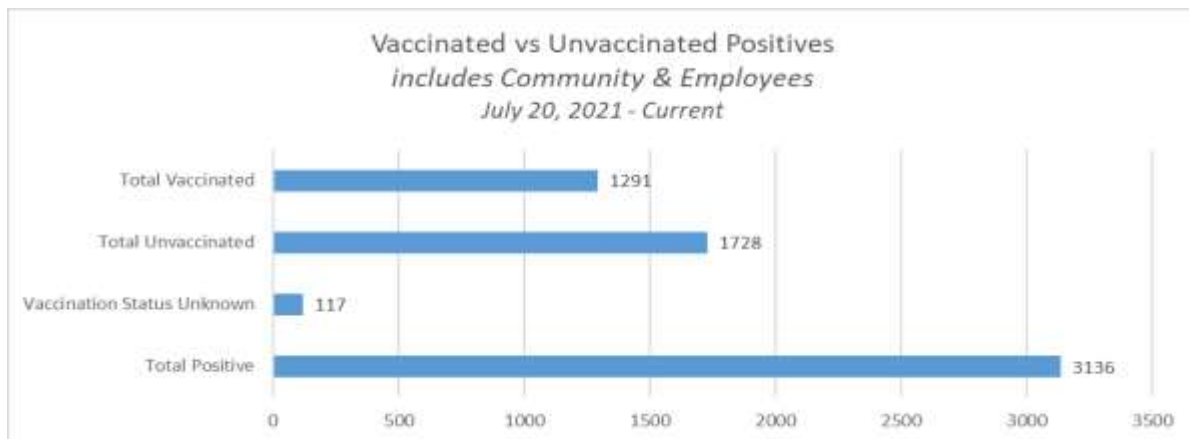
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is reporting the state-wide percent positive at 22.2% with 2,496 new cases per 100k over 14 days.



Visitor Status: RED

Positives Compared to Vaccination Status (as of 1/1/22 this data includes community positives and employee positives only. Historic inpatients will remain.) **41.17% vaccinated / 55.10% unvaccinated / 3.73% unknown**



Inpatients (7 day average, age range, and vaccination status) **32.96% vaccinated / 60.00% unvaccinated / 7.04% unknown**

12/31/21 – 1/6/22: total of 171 active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of 24 patients per day. This week we had 20 newly admitted, with ages ranging from 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and

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80+; **5** of which were fully vaccinated, **11** were not vaccinated, and **4** had an unknown vaccination status.

1/7/22 – 1/13/22: a total of **163** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **23** patients per day. This week we had **19** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79**, and **80+**; **9** of which were fully vaccinated and **10** were not vaccinated.

Coates said that the recently upheld vaccine mandate that is in effect for medical facilities, including the nursing homes, is being dealt with at the nursing home. He said that two dietary employees and three nurses are waiting for the supreme court ruling and must make up their minds to either leave their positions or obtain the vaccine.

Coates then reminded the Commissioners that the NHAC meeting would be held at Primex at 10:00 this Friday, both in-person and on Zoom.

Coates then related that Harrisville has opted to join Regional Prosecutor run by the County Attorney's office, and Marlborough is rejoining the program following the retirement of their local town prosecutor.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 01/12/2022 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: Commissioner Clark related his testimony at the State Legislator yesterday for HB 265 relating to countywide community power aggregation programs.

Commissioner England said that he is bothered that Police departments do not administer NARCAN. First responders could administer the NACAN and possibly save someone's life instead of waiting for an EMS unit to respond. A short discussion about the choices made by the individual police departments to administer or not administer the NARCAN began.

At 10:22 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter RSA 91-A:3, II(d) 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 and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, no decisions were made, and no vote was taken.

At 11:24 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

11:25 AM, 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.

Recorded and edited by:
R. Bouchard
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark
Clerk, Board of Commissioners