

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 09, 2022**

**County Hall Building**  
**12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431**

**Zoom 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, HR Director May, Director of Behavioral Health, Walsh, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard  
**Guest(s):** John Round, JPG Benefits, and Liz Coppola, The Richards Group

**I. Public Comments**

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, not to exceed three (3) minutes in length.

**II. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates**

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

**III. Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item #1040: FMLA Leave of Absence for Maplewood Staff Member – K May

**Action Expected: To receive a report from the HR Director on a non-paid FMLA Leave of Absence.**

May was recognized and spoke to an employee who had been on medical leave and had run out of sick time. An eight-week non-paid leave of absence is requested.

**Commissioner Englund moved to approve the leave of absence, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #1401: County Health Plan Costs for 2023 – C. Coates, S.  
**Action Expected: To receive information from the Administrator and Director of Finance on the recommended healthcare plan for employees for 2023.**

Trombly was recognized and provided a handout that provided an overview of the various plans that have been recommended for County acceptance.


John Round then spoke to the two bids received and did an extensive overview and synopsis of the bids. He is recommending Symetra as the best choice for the County at this time. An extended discussion began, and the Commissioners asked many questions and were addressed by Round.

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11/7/2022

		Stop Loss Quotes For: <b>County of Cheshire</b> Effective - 1/1/23			11/7/2022
		HM Life Med/Rx No New Laser at Renewal w 50% Rate Cap	PartnersMGU/US FIRE Med/Rx No New Laser at Renewal w 50% Rate Cap	Symetra Med/Rx No New Laser at Renewal w 50% Rate Cap	
Proposal Based Upon: 122 Single 142 Family		Carrier:	HM Life Med/Rx	PartnersMGU/US FIRE Med/Rx	Symetra Med/Rx
264 Total		Plan Type:	No New Laser at Renewal w 50% Rate Cap	20% Dividend-Eligible	REVISED
<b>Specific Stop-Loss (med/rx)</b>					
	Deductible:	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	
	Contract:	12/15	12/15	12/15	
Monthly Rates -	Single:	\$74.70	\$68.92	\$63.75	
	Family:	\$195.84	\$200.81	\$185.31	
	Annualized Premium:	\$443,072	\$443,079.12	\$409,098.24	
<b>Aggregate Stop-Loss (med/rx)</b>					
	Contract:	12/15	12/15	12/15	
Monthly Factors -	Single:	\$896.59	\$976.83	\$1,098.54	
	Family:	\$2,151.81	\$2,627.42	\$2,417.97	
	Projected Attachment Point:	\$4,979,292	\$5,907,202.80	\$5,728,483.44	
	ASL PEPM:	\$8.48	\$8.90	\$9.04	
	Annualized Premium:	\$26,865	\$28,195.20	\$28,638.72	
<b>Administration &amp; Fees</b>					
	Med/Rx/COBRA Fee:	\$26.90	\$26.90	\$26.90	
	Broker Service Fee:	\$22.53	\$22.53	\$22.53	
	PPO Access Fee:	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	
	Total Health Management Fee:	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	
	Annual Fee:	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
	Total Annualized Fees:	\$226,954.24	\$226,954.24	\$226,954.24	
<b>Total Costs</b>					
	Total Fixed Costs:	\$696,891	\$698,228.56	\$664,691.20	
			0.19%	-4.62%	
	<b>Excess Laser Risk</b>		\$0.00	\$75,000.00	
	Total Maximum Cost:	\$5,676,183	\$6,605,431	\$6,468,174.64	
			16.37%	13.95%	
		Claims Per Projection	\$4,495,282.00	\$4,495,282.00	
		Total Cost	\$5,193,510.56	\$5,234,973.20	

All Proposals are Firm.  
 US Fire proposal includes 20% dividend on net profit from Specific. Net profit equals 70% of Specific Premium minus Specific claims paid.  
 Optum, Pareto, and Sun Life declined to quote.

**Commissioner Englund moved to accept the bid of Symetra insurance for the employee health plan for 2023, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Master Agenda Item #1042: Room Rates Charges at Maplewood Nursing Home – K. Kindopp and C. Coates**

**Action Expected: To review and discuss the current single and double room rates at Maplewood Nursing Home.**

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Coates introduced the item and said that a request had been made to consider a different room rate for shared double rooms. Kindopp then explained the current pricing, and a discussion ensued that the reasons behind the pricing decisions were not based on a room rate but a posted per-day 24X7 level-care rate based on the cost of care, not whether it was a single room or a shared room.

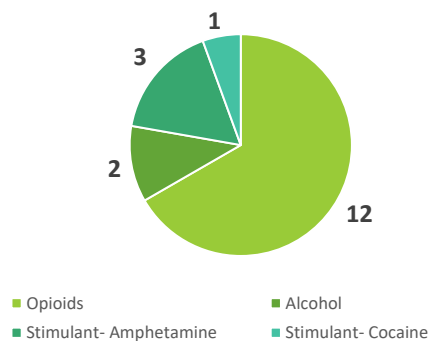
Following extended discussions, the Commissioners decided to maintain the present cost structures and rates but to better explain to the public the pricing structures in a way that removes possibly confusing language about the provision of services.

Master Agenda Item #1043: Semi-Annual Report – Drug Court – A. Welsh  
**Action Expected: To receive, as informational, a report from the Director of Behavioral Health on the operations of the Drug Court.**

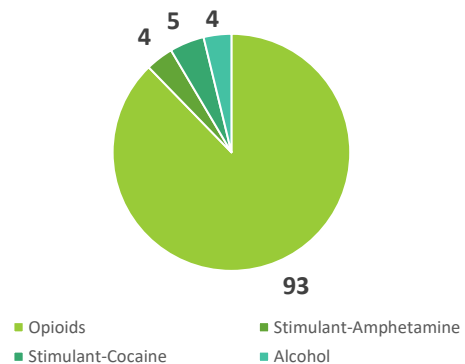
Welsh was recognized and provided the following a handout to the Commissioners. Excerpts from the handout follow.

### Primary Drug of Choice Comparison

**Primary Drug of Choice 2022**



**Primary Drug of Choice 2013-2021**



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## NARCAN and Overdose Rates Keene

Data from Fire Chief Mark Howard/ Pending 2022 Rates of Narcan Administration from Chief Farquhar	Data from KPD Chief Steve Russo/Steven Stewart/Joel Chidester
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- 2014 - 51
- 2015 - 53
- 2016 - 85
- 2017 - 74
- 2018 – 62

- 2019 - 26 showing from Jan 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> (Jul – Dec data not available)
- 2020 - 46
- 2021 - 47
- 2022 - data currently unavailable as of 11/22, reports 6 overdoses from last weekend update forthcoming

2019: 10 Overdose deaths

2020: 83 Overdose (OD) Calls for Service (CFS), Nine deaths

2021: 78 Overdose (OD) Calls for Service (CFS), 12 Deaths

2022: YTD 69 Overdose (OD) Calls for Service (CFS) Seven deaths (several pending toxicology)

## Confirmed Overdose Rates for Cheshire County and Keene, NH Data

### Overdose Deaths Cheshire County 2022

12 deaths in Cheshire County for 2022, 90 toxicology reports across the state still pending, and Cheshire County has seen a recent spike in overdoses.

(The graph to be updated when data is available.)

Overdose deaths in Cheshire County 2021 up to September 15, 2021 (DATA PENDING)

### Causes of Death



- Fentanyl
- Fentanyl and other drugs
- Non opioids
- Other drugs

\* Data provided by Kim Fallon, Chief Forensic Investigator, Office of Chief Medical Examiner

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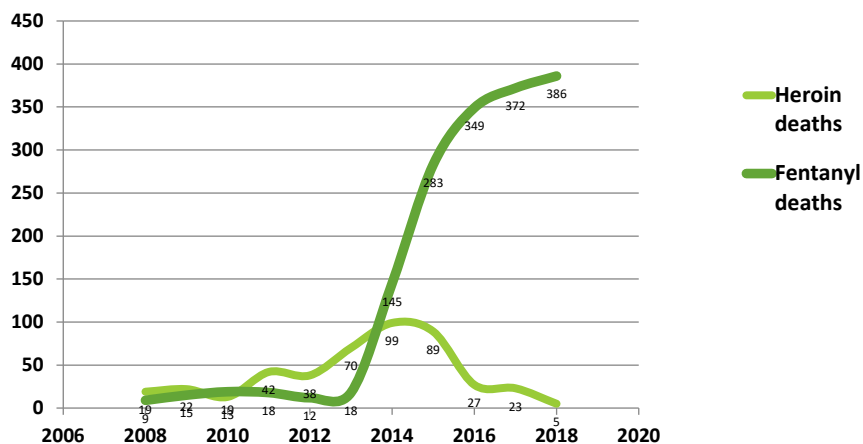
**Friends of Cheshire County Recovery Courts 2022**

**Achieved non-profit status**

**Donations made in 2022:**

- ❖ 8 gift cards of \$40 each to Hannaford's to supplement the UNH Nutrition Class
- ❖ Bikes, bike locks, and helmets
- ❖ Provided meals to participants when they had surgery and/or COVID
- ❖ Paid for pizza party for graduate
- ❖ Paid for two graduations
- ❖ Donation of \$1,000 by board member
- ❖ Reinstatement of license \$125 for a participant
- ❖ Furniture from Penelope's \$215.50

**Heroin and Fentanyl Deaths  
in New Hampshire**



Slide courtesy of Kim Fallon from the NH Medical Examiner's Office

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## Overdose Data for New Hampshire

2022 Drug Deaths Jan. — Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>		2012	2021
Cocaine and other drugs	6	2012	163
Fentanyl and other drugs	135	2013	198
Fentanyl, cocaine and other drugs	21	2013	342
Fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other drugs	34	2015	444
Fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine and other drugs	2	2016	486
Methamphetamine and other drugs	5	2017	490
Methamphetamine, cocaine and other drugs	1	2018	471
Other opioid and other drugs	9	2019	415
Other drugs	14	2020	417
Unknown drugs	3	2021	381 as of 4/22 (not finalized)
Pending toxicology	105		
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>		

### Conclusion: Takeaways

- Cheshire County Treatment Court (CCTC) following Best Practices
- All curricula are evidenced-based and are now being offered at The Doorway
- Increased graduation rates
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, hired a new case manager
- July 7<sup>th</sup> hired full-time recovery coach/peer support being supervised by SOS Recovery
- State received federal funding for a 3-year recidivism study results will be shared when released
- Name changed to Cheshire County Treatment Court
- BJA site visit October 24<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> very positive review; waiting on final report
- Pilot project with Keene Housing- Pathway Home
- Recent email from the parent of a graduate: X is doing well. We are so grateful that he was allowed to participate in Drug Court and stayed the course to finish.
- Savings to taxpayers. The cost of one year in the Cheshire County Department of Corrections is approximately \$35,000, and the cost of one year of treatment in the Cheshire County Treatment Court is \$21,936. A savings of \$13,064 per individual, including the additional cost of a peer support person.

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She stated that the name of the Drug Court had been changed to Cheshire County Treatment Court. She reviewed the statistics for the last ten years and discussed the number of terminations and graduates.

Welsh answered numerous questions about the operation of the Drug Court / Treatment Court and will provide some further information requested by the Commissioners at the next semi-annual review in 2023.

The Commissioners thanked her for her very complete report. The full slide deck for the presentation will be available on the County website.

**IV. County Administrator**

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

Coates said that he and Commissioner Wozmak would attend the Fitzwilliam Select Board meeting on Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, to discuss a number of topics and to bring the Select Board up to speed on the current activities of the new EMS department.

Coates said that a request from the Keene Sentinel on the number of Right-to-Know requests was completed and sent this week.

Coates then said that the final budget review for 2023 would take place at next week's Commissioners' meeting that will be held at the Nursing Home.

Coates then related that the garage doors are being installed at the EMS buildings and should be ready to be tested and certified for use early next week.

He then reminded everyone that a FirstNet meeting would be held tomorrow morning at 10:00 to review coverage issues and to have our numerous questions answered by the senior management and engineering staff of the New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine AT&T FirstNet team.

He then said that he has met with the NH Association of Counties management team from the Dupont group that supplies the NHAC with management and operations services in anticipation of the County hosting next year's annual conference. He said that he decided that the best option was to use the Doubletree hotel in Manchester as it is in a central location in the state and has a large number of dining and service options available, unlike the Keene area, which would be challenged to accommodate the large crowd that attends these meeting. It would also offer an enhanced venue for

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meeting with vendors that would otherwise probably not be possible in other locations.

Coates said that the Sheriff's department is moving ahead with body cameras, and should they should be available for use by the end of this year.

Trombly said that the ambulances had been certified by the state as ready for use as of yesterday, and paperwork for federal billing would be submitted for reimbursement shortly.

**V. Old Business**

**VI. New Business**

**VII. Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for November 09, 2022, and the Minutes of November 02, 2022. Commissioner Englund Clark, Wozmak

**VIII. Calendar**

Action Expected: Accept the calendar as informational and make necessary changes/additions.

**IX. General Discussion for Commissioners**

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

**X. Nonpublic Sessions**

**At 11:05 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) to discuss the consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation, has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.**

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

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

**At 11:24 AM, the Commissioners moved to return to public session.**



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**XI. Adjournment**

At 11:25 AM, there being no other public business to discuss, Commissioner Wozmak moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. 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