

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

September 1st 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Lauer, Richards, ED Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: ASD Amero, Michael Coughlin, Andrea Gagne

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:00am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ASD Amero arrived and gave the following report: (*see attached)

ASD Amero stated that she would like to utilize Prime for Life in their Alternative Sentencing Programs. She explained that Prime for Life is a ground program to set a foundation for people who are first time offenders and need the help in learning about addiction. In order to become an instructor they need to become certified. There is training available in Warwick, RI on September 14th – 16th. Colleen Stout and Jennifer Stone would be taking this training opportunity. ASD Amero and MHC Shelly Golden are already trained. She stated that they have been able to get the training provided to them for free which is a savings of \$1,790.00. She gave the following breakdown of the costs:

Hotel Stay - \$854.28

Mileage 212 each way, 424 round trip at \$.575 - \$243.80

Meals:

4 Breakfasts @ \$12.50 - \$50.00

5 Lunches @ \$20.00 - \$100.00

4 Dinners @ \$30.00 - \$ 120.00

Total - \$1,368.08 per person

Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the out of state travel request from ASD Amero.
Commissioner Richards seconded the motion.

Discussion:

ASD Amero answered various questions from the Commissioners regarding the trip. She stated that she has the money in the budget to cover this trip.

The Commissioners voted on the motion and all were in favor.

ASD Amero stated she had another out of state travel request for five (5) Drug Court team members, to attend the New England Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts. She gave the following price breakdown:

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September 1, 2015

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Conference Registration 5 people @ \$225.00 per person - \$1125.00
Hotel Stay 4 rooms @ \$243.51 per room (2 nights) - \$974.04
Mileage 330 RT at \$.575 = \$189.75 @ 5 - \$948.75
Meals - \$375.00

Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided at conference
5 Dinners each day (3 days) @ \$25.00

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the out of state travel. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if this money was in the budget as well. ASD Amero confirmed it was.

Michael Coughlin & Andrea Gagne from Tri County Cap arrived to give an update on the fuel and electric assistance and clear up the misconception that has spread about the closing of offices. They have a model in Carroll County that has worked well for (11) eleven years with one office located in Tamworth. They thought this model would also work well in Coos and Grafton counties.

M. Coughlin explained that their smaller offices were seeing 2 -3 people a day over the course of a year. They were paying for full time staff and paying for full time offices. They have now made it so people are able to call in over the phone and apply for assistance rather than having to come into the office to apply. Numbers are up 50% by this point than at this point last year and the clients appreciate that they have a different way to get assistance. A. Gagne stated that their commitment to clients is that everyone who qualifies will get assistance. She explained that they have people who come for assistance every year and if they do not hear from someone by late September who they normally hear from they will reach out to them and ask if they need the assistance this year. When they discussed closing the offices they had the plan to tell staff first. M. Coughlin explained that once they told staff the word spread everywhere and they are trying to make sure that people know that all clients will still be served and assistance can be handled over the phone. A. Gagne stated that they are making contact with the clients letting them know that they have other ways to apply. Commissioner Richards asked if it was still based in Ashland. A. Gagne stated that the Ashland location is large enough to house the space they need and they own the building. They will eventually move to more centralized area in the county. She went on to stated that staff will be available one (1) day a week at the Tri County Cap/Headrest building in Woodsville if people want to meet face to face.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from August 25th.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from August 25th. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 679-684; 1024-1027; 1028-1030; 1032

ED Libby submitted the Livermore MS1 Form for the Commissioners to sign.

ED Libby stated that the Grafton County Farm Bureau Annual meeting is September 16th at 6:00pm. All three (3) Commissioners stated they plan on attending.

ED Libby submitted a CDBG administration Professional Services Agreement that was awarded last week to Donna Lane for Orford Senior Center feasibility study for the Commissioners to sign.

ED Libby submitted the NACO Prescription Drug Report for the month of July. She stated that there was a price savings of \$2,713.92 which is an average of \$19.67 or 32.60% with a total of fifty five (55) utilizers. The total life savings of the program is \$742,314.72

ED Libby submitted the TAN Order for the Commissioners to sign.

Commissioner Lauer stated that she has been busy with the Easton Zoning Board and the North Country Scenic Byways council.

Commissioner Cryans and Lauer attended the opening of the VA Clinic in Littleton.

Recess 9:58 AM. The Commissioners went to the Nursing Home to do a walk-through of the renovated space with Wendy Smigelski from HHS and Ron Antsy from the State Fire Marshal's office for recertification of the unit.

10:30 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D. Lauer, Clerk



GRAFTON COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

3801 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, New Hampshire 03774
Phone (603) 787-2042 Fax (603) 787-2044

Alternative Sentencing Programs Commissioners Report July 2015

Monthly Drug Court Report July 2015

Total Participants: 14
Female: 6
Male: 8
Total Prospective Client s on List: 7
Total Clients Terminated: 0

Monthly Mental Health Court Report July 2015

Total Participants: 19
Total Prospective Clients on List: 11
Total Participants Unsuccessfully Discharged: 0
Veteran Docket Participants: 1
Veterans Being Assessed for Docket: 1
Participant Graduations: 0

The MHC Coordinator is working with the GC Alternative Sentencing Director and a small group of stakeholders, to assess Grafton County's housing resources (emergency, transitional living/supported, subsidized, long-term residential). Our goals are focused on identifying resources, talking to stakeholders who work with individuals in need of housing, and to identify gaps, potential collaboration using already existing resources, and potential to improve the challenging housing situation that faces some of our most vulnerable community members.

Halls of Hope/Lebanon MHC recently solidified plans to begin a Veteran's Docket under Halls of Hope. Judge Bamberger and Clerk, Pam Kozlowski are excited to work with us. We're all thrilled, as is Mike Owens. Mike Owens will be providing veteran cultural competency with our team, including Judge Bamberger, on July 21st from noon - 1pm at the Lebanon courthouse.

Monthly Juvenile Restorative Justice Report July 2015

Total New Participants for CADY Central: 1

Total New Participants for GCJRJP: 1 (3 cases transferred over)

Total New Participants for VCDP: 7

GRAFTON COUNTY

STATE ACCREDITS JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM

Program Aims To Keep Youthful Offenders From The Traditional Justice System While Holding Them Accountable

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

NORTH HAVERHILL, N.H. — After two years at Grafton Superior Court, the Juvenile Restorative Justice Program has now received accreditation from the state, bolstering a program that supporters and staff say saves taxpayers dollars and helps keep youth offenders out of the criminal justice system.

The program focuses on Grafton County youth who have committed minor offenses and works with them as they make amends and restitution

for any harm they caused to a victim, the community, family members or themselves.

Diverting first-time offenders from the traditional juvenile justice system, the aim of restorative justice is to hold youth accountable while addressing their at-risk behavior and preventing future involvement with the criminal justice system.

It was accredited by Judge Edwin Kelly, of the N.H. Judicial Branch of Family Division.

"Youth go through a program where they are drawn back into their communities and where they are shown what is acceptable behavior and what is not and held accountable for their ac-

tions," said Juvenile Restorative Justice Coordinator Colleen Strout.

"If they don't complete the program, they get referred back to the referring agency and can be prosecuted," she said. "It's not a free pass."

The program takes approximately three months and the process includes interviews with parents and victims. Unlike the traditional court system, the victim is involved and sits down with the juvenile to talk about the impact of the offense, said Strout.

"It can be an intense and emotional process," she said.

See *Diversion*, Page A6

Diversion

Continued from Page A1

The Grafton County model was modeled after Vermont programs that had been prevalent in Vermont for many years, she said.

Prior to the program's introduction in northern Grafton County, it had been run through Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY) in Plymouth, but CADY staff often had long drive times to the northern part of the county, in such towns as Bethlehem.

The distance cost time, resources and money, said Strout, and CADY began running into fiscally difficult times.

Advocating to keep it going, Lincoln Police Chief Theodore Smith contacted Grafton County Attorney Lara Saffo, telling her the program works, and Saffo in turn obtained grants for restorative justice and eventually brought it to Grafton north, said Strout.

In addition to meeting with the victim, the youthful offenders also meet with a panel to discuss what happened, what they were thinking

at the time and what they need to do to make it right, she said. They sign a contract offering to make amends, return with proof and meet again with the panel.

"Then their record is clean," said Strout. "We can look back on their record through two years through the court to see if they offend again."

Re-offenders are few.

While the program is new in Grafton north, CADY's numbers show a recidivism rate of less than 7 percent, she said.

Since 2013, the restorative justice program has been run out of Grafton County's alternative sentencing programs, which also includes county drug court.

Common offenses committed by youth in the program are property crimes, shoplifting, assault, cyber-bullying, and minors in possession of alcohol.

"The juveniles are responsible for any reimbursements for any property damage," said Strout.

Referrals are also made for counseling and education, such as substance abuse education.

"There are many components to the process," she said.

Between July 2013 and July 2014, 89 people in the county were clients of restorative justice, which saw an uptick to 106 clients between July 2014 and July 2015.

For the Juvenile Restorative Justice Program to continue in Grafton north, it had to be accredited as a court-accepted program, said Strout.

Panels are done in the community where the juvenile has offended, and community members are used for the panel.

"People who are interested are welcome to contact us," said Strout. "We do a training process for them. It usually takes a couple of evenings and then they get called as needed."

Criminal records can sometimes prevent juveniles from getting college loans or scholarships, she said, but completion of the program wipes that record clean and paves the way for a productive future.

Money is saved by juveniles never having to go into court, as most would have to go into a court no fewer than five times for a crime, she said.

We would like to utilize Prime for Life in our Alternative Sentencing Programs. A training is available in Warwick, RI on Sept 14-16, 2015. Colleen Strout and Jennifer Stone would be taking this training opportunity. (Lucille Amero & Shelly Golden are already trained.) We have been able to get the training provided to us for free, a savings of \$1790.00.

Prime For Life Training

Hotel Stay	\$854.28
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Mileage 212 miles each way 424 Round Trip at \$.575	\$243.80
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Meal	\$270.00
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4 Breakfasts @ \$12.50	\$50.00
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5 lunches @ \$20.00	\$100.00
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4 Dinners @ \$30.00	\$120.00
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Total	\$1368.08 per person
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**New England Association of Drug Court Professionals
Annual Conference
Marlborough, Massachusetts**

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Total \$3422.79