

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
January 24, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper, Ahern and McLeod, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Assistant Norcross

OTHERS PRESENT: County Forester Jim Frohn, Alternative Sentencing Director Mitchell, DoC Supt. Elliott

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

County Forester Jim Frohn arrived to discuss two (2) requests

Forester Frohn stated that the chief of the forest rangers approached them with a Basic Wildland Firefighter Training that they hold every year for local fire departments and would like to use the Grafton County lands to burn brush piles. He stated that this would be part of the grant that they have for the prescribed fires. The class is four (4) days in the classroom and one (1) Saturday where they would be in the field, and they would have controlled brush fires for training. It will be under the supervision of forest rangers and local fire depts.

Forester Frohn stated that they would also like to hold another chainsaw safety class on April 15th.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to allow the brush fire training and the chainsaw class at the County Complex. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Timber Sale – Forester Frohn reported that the timber sale is halfway set up. He explained that he is looking at a spring/summer timber sale for a couple of reasons. He stated that there is a lot of red maple and if they cut it now, it will sprout, and he does not want more red maple and cutting it in the spring/summer will help reduce that. He noted that during the spring, loggers are looking for jobs and he feels they will get some good bids. Pulpwood is in demand right now and the County has a lot of that. Forester Frohn stated that log prices are coming down off a high peak but are still solid prices and the pine demand seems to be good, noting that most of the sale will be pine logs.

Alternative Sentencing Director Mitchell arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

Supt. Elliott arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training at Jail – Supt. Elliott reported that they are currently hosting CIT training. This is a 48-hour training Monday – Friday. It is hosted by NAMI

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(National Alliance on Mental Illness) and there are several law enforcement officers who are discussing how to safely deescalate a mental illness crisis and get everyone on board to help the mentally ill before they go to jail.

Inmate Transfer – Supt. Elliott stated that the DoC had an inmate in their facility with medical needs did not align with what the DoC could provide so the DoC had to transfer the inmate to the Sullivan County DoC where they could meet his medical needs. Supt. Elliott explained that Grafton County does not have methadone in their MAT program and this inmate was in need of that.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to allow the inmate transfer from Grafton County to Sullivan County. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Notice of Retirement – Supt. Elliott submitted his retirement notice effective August 31st 2023. He then requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: *9:40 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and the hiring of any person as a public employee according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) & (b). Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner McLeod “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: *10:05 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner McLeod “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes

Supt. Elliott thanked the Commissioners for all of their support during his last 8.5 years as Superintendent and the rest of his years in corrections.

County Attorney arrived and requested to go into nonpublic session

MOTION: *10:10 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in

which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner McLeod “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: *10:30 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner McLeod “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to increase the assistant county attorney to Step 3 on the wage chart effective January 29th. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “no”, Commissioner McLeod “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being two (2) in favor and one (1) in opposition the motion passes.

Agenda Items:

1. NH Department of Motor Vehicles Office License for Use of Premises Renewal – CA Libby stated that the current agreement ends June 30th and the new agreement would run from July 1st 2023-June 30th 2025. Commissioner Ahern stated that he thinks that given the increase in pricing of everything, they should increase the rent. CA Libby stated that the DMV currently pays \$250 a month. Prior to that, the DMV rent was \$200.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to increase the rent \$50 a month. Commissioner McLeod seconded for discussion purpose.

Discussion: Commissioner McLeod asked what the cost per month would be. CA Libby stated that this increase would bring the cost to \$300 a month

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

CA Libby requested that the Commissioners authorize her to sign the agreement with the DMV office if they were to accept the new terms.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to authorize the County Administrator to sign the agreement with the DMV Office. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. Sign On Bonus for the Maintenance Department – CA Libby stated that Supt. Oakes would like to extend the sign on bonus that the Commissioners put in place for the Master Electrician position to the Skilled Maintenance position as well.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to offer a sign on bonus for the Skilled Maintenance Assistant position in the Maintenance Department as requested. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion and all were in favor.

3. CA Libby stated that the February 8th Commissioners’ meeting will begin at 1 PM with their mediation session and the regular BOC meeting would begin after and would include several CDBG public hearings. Commissioner Piper stated that she will be at the NACo conference the following week and returning the night of the 13th. She asked the Commissioners if they could move their meeting on the 14th to another day or meet later in the morning. The Commissioners agreed to move the meeting on the 14th to 11:00 AM.

4. HB 186 – CA Libby stated that HB 186 was the legislation the County asked for regarding the waiver for the septic system. CA Libby explained that the bill has been met with a lot of opposition in Concord. DES and Municipal Association are opposed to it as well. She stated that she, Commissioner Piper and Supt. Oakes met with DES on Friday. DES does not want another septic system out there because they feel that smaller systems are harder to maintain. DES is also concerned about the Connecticut River Water Shed and DES has many financial concerns for WW&L. It is important to DES that those types of systems maintain integrity and if the County were to pull out from WW&L, DES is afraid the other users will not be able to take the increase in their rates. The Commissioners discussed an amendment to the legislation to make the change specific to Grafton County only.

Commissioner Piper stated that she is not optimistic about the legislation passing and the important question is if the County’s rates are proportional. She wonders if DES can help negotiations between the County and WW&L. CA Libby stated that the County pays \$63,000 a year for septic out of a \$50 million budget. Commissioner McLeod questioned if the County could ask to have regular meetings with WW&L to discuss the quality of their system and have a seat at the table for their meetings. The Commissioners agreed to offer the amendment to the legislation and see where it goes. They will ask Rep. Stavis to make the amendment given the County’s circumstances

5. Commissioner Piper informed Commissioner McLeod of the Executive Committee’s decision to award \$250,000 to Mascoma Community Health. Commissioner Piper stated that it was a bipartisan unanimous vote. Commissioner McLeod stated that Mascoma Community Health would come back and ask for more. She asked what the Commissioners would have done with their request if ARPA funds were not available. Commissioner Piper stated that she has supported this request from the beginning, and this is what ARPA money is for. County government is helping a vulnerable population and this is incredibly COVID related, as their financial troubles are a direct result of COVID. Commissioner Piper stated that Rep Simon made the comment that Mascoma Community Health came to the County with a dire need and others have not. Commissioner McLeod stated that she is worried about the fairness of it all and the fact that HealthFirst and DHHS are not doing their part, which creates an unfair situation for others in

the county who may need help as well. Commissioner McLeod does not want to contribute to that situation.

Commissioner McLeod stated that Bethlehem Energy Commission wants to visit with the Commissioners in February to discuss the issues of energy. Commissioner Piper stated that the previous Board of Commissioners had met with them, but she is willing to speak with them again. Commissioner Ahern stated that there is a house committee that has been put together to look into Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel. CA Libby stated that she would set up a meeting with the Bethlehem Energy Commission for February 14th.

CA Libby stated that she needs the Commissioners to provide guidance to outside agencies as they proceed to apply for ARPA funding from Grafton County. If the County is going to offer money to communities, there has to be a program with criteria in place. Commissioner Piper stated that she spoke with Ross Cunningham from Merrimack County in October about this and asked if they were putting money into the community. R. Cunningham stated that they were, and they had guidelines in place. CA Libby stated that she would reach out to him to see what Merrimack County's guidelines are. Commissioner McLeod asked if there was any language regarding the funding that they could refer to help their discussion. Commissioner Piper stated that they have documentation on what the purpose of the ARPA funding is. Commissioner Piper stated that when the Bethlehem Energy Commission first came to meet with the Board of Commissioners the discussion was that their request would have to come out of the lost revenue category of ARPA funds and the Commissioners were being conservative with those funds at that point, but things have now changed. CA Libby stated that department heads are wondering what is happening with the requests they have submitted and as they start preparing budgets, there are items from that ARPA list that will be included in their budgets if the Commissioners decide not to fund those ARPA projects. Commissioner Piper stated that she did not intend for ARPA funds to be used for wish list items and if they were going to start looking to outside communities, if an item is needed within a department, it would need to go in the budget. The Commissioners would have to make that decision with the Department Heads, whether an item was needed or not, in order for it to be included in the annual budget. She stated that this is a discussion the Commissioners will need to have soon so they can get responses back to the department heads.

6. Social Services Discussion:

Commissioner McLeod asked questions about reviewing the social services applications: the process that the Commissioners go through and how they decide on who receives funding.

The Commissioners had a discussion regarding housing for the homeless in Grafton County, the lack of funding for this in the state and the obstacles that the homeless population faces.

12:15 PM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha S. McLeod".

Martha S. McLeod, Clerk

Alternative Sentencing

Commissioners Report November and December 2022

Directors Report:

The Director continues to participate in the Upper Valley, Plymouth and Littleton Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meetings as often as possible.

The Director regularly participates in the New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network monthly meetings.

Cassie Manning, the Alternative Sentencing Case Manager is working diligently on completing trainings so that she can apply to become a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor in NH. We do not anticipate that she will be able to file her application until February of 2023. Until then the Director will continue as Director and LADC for the programs. Once Cassie is able to transition, we will begin seeking a new case manager to fill her role.

The Alternative Sentencing (AS) team met with the FIRRM (Focused Intentional Re-Entry and Recovery Movement) from the Department of Corrections to collaborate and determine how C.A.R.E (Community Assessment Re-Entry and Education) can support individuals on the second and third phases of FIRRM and beyond.

AS had a successful chart audit through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS)/ The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with no necessary plan of improvement identified.

The AS team has begun collaborative work with Dartmouth Health and BDAS for consultation and training to assist our programs in supporting participants with co-occurring disorders. The Department of Corrections staff join us for this monthly meeting. The purpose of the collaboration and consultation is at no cost to us. It offers to help improve clinical and administrative processes, workflows, hiring, training and/or supervising knowledge and skills for co-occurring care. They also offer to provide knowledge, skills training, and consultation around targeted Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) areas, provide additional consultation & training as needed or desired. They also offer to help maintain our strengths through peer-to-peer consultation.

The Director and Mental Health Court Coordinator met with the Lebanon Police Department team, including two officers, the department's Prosecutor and the Chief to review programs we offer and discuss needs in their community.

The AS Diversion/CARE team attended the NH Behavioral Health Summit in December. Some of the themes from this summit included validation that all community supports and agencies working with individuals with COD's are struggling with housing, transportation and staffing. The Sequential Intercept Model initiative is active and supported in some counties in NH already and these counties are making positive moves toward integrating teams of support and implementing change. We continue to make efforts to model this.

Juvenile Restorative Justice

Grafton County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program is to promote community-based alternatives to the formal court process that; promote positive youth development, safer communities, integrates restorative justice practices, intervenes at the earliest possible opportunity and promotes reduction in juvenile crime and recidivism.

No new updates.

Adult Diversion

Grafton County Adult Diversion Program is to hold an eligible offender accountable while providing the resources, skills, and education to reduce the risk of committing crimes in the future. This program is an alternative to prosecution and offers a defendant a chance to avoid criminal conviction and other punitive sanctions including fines, probation and incarceration.

No New Updates

C.A.R.E & C.A.R.E+

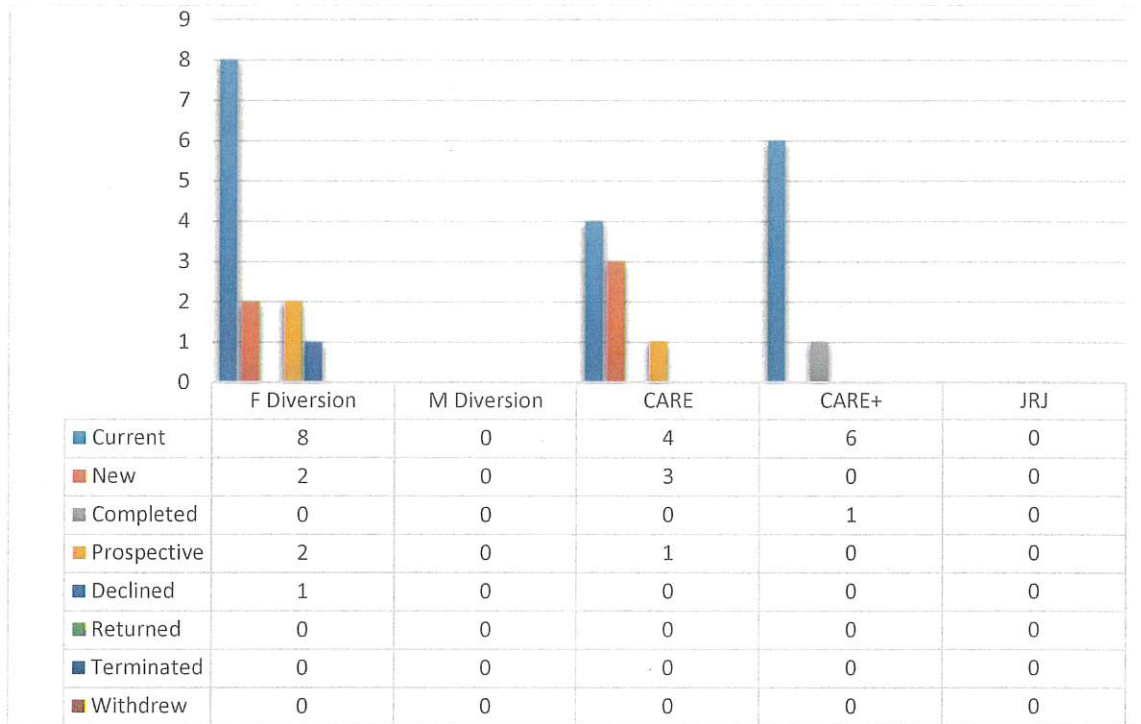
The Grafton County C.A.R.E+ Program is designed to support individuals who have been convicted and are under supervision to connect to services and stay active in a therapeutic environment. C.A.R.E+ stands for Community, Assessment, Re-Entry and Education + Supervision, the focus of this program is to assist individuals in giving back to their community while creating a successful foundation and becoming a productive member of society.

The Grafton County C.A.R.E program is currently in a state of modification while probation and the Alternative Sentencing staff collaborate to identify effective timelines and potential sanctions. The program is designed to support individuals on probation who need additional resources in the community, including social services, substance use or mental health treatment, medical and dental services, and life skills.

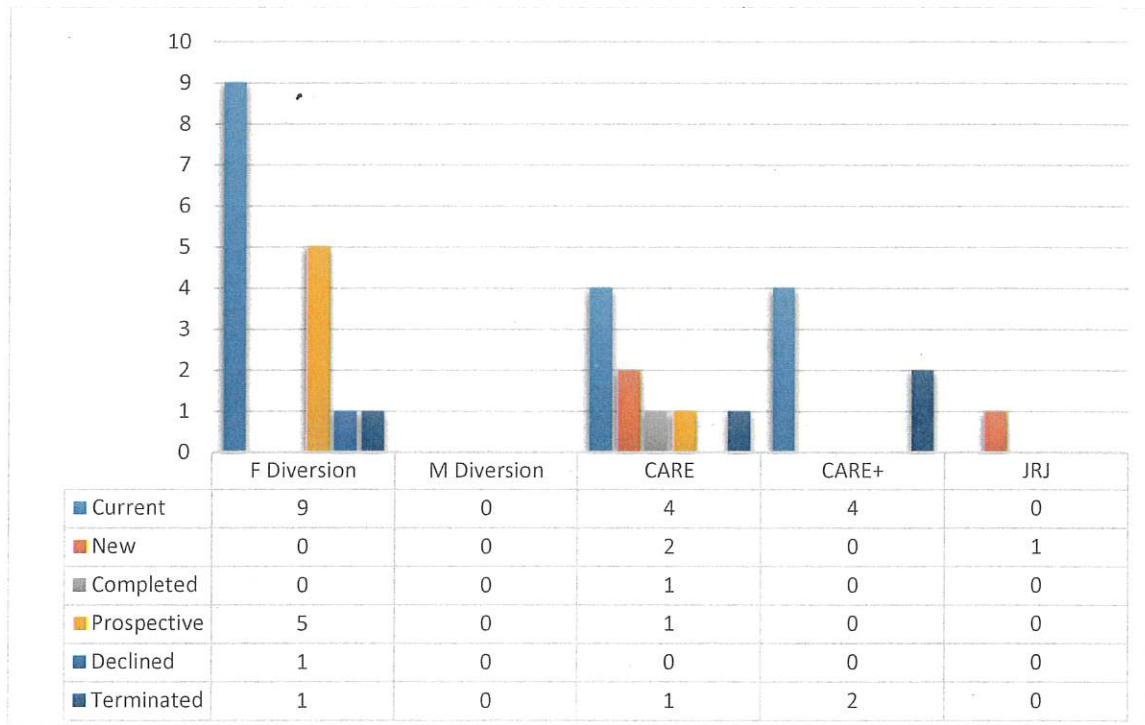
CARE and CARE+ have no new changes.

Alternative Sentencing Programs

November 2022



December 2022

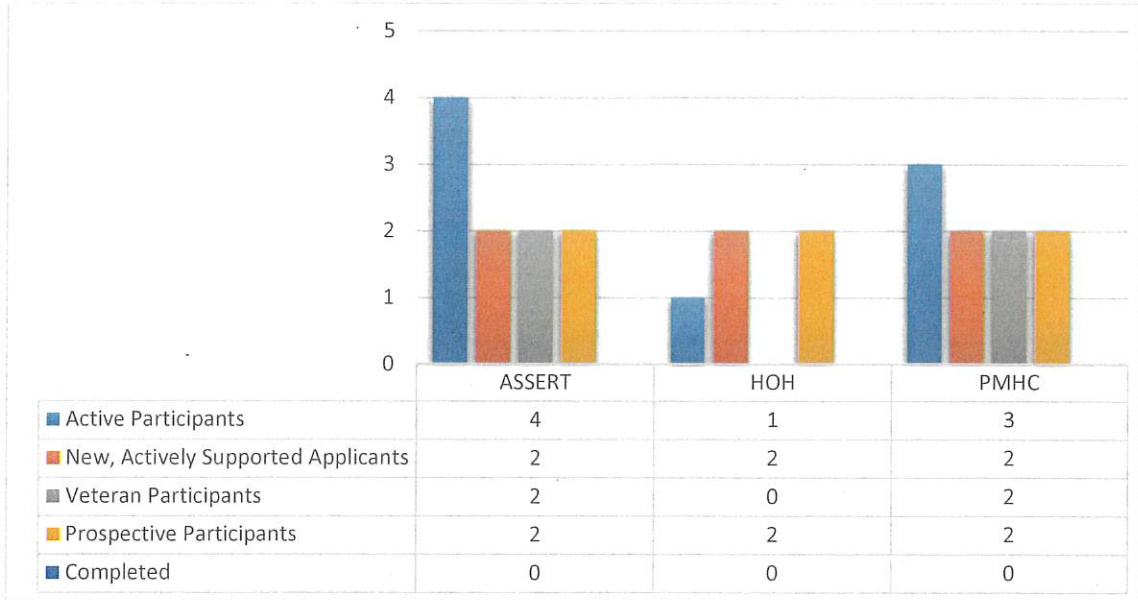


Alternative Sentencing
Commissioners Report November and December 2022

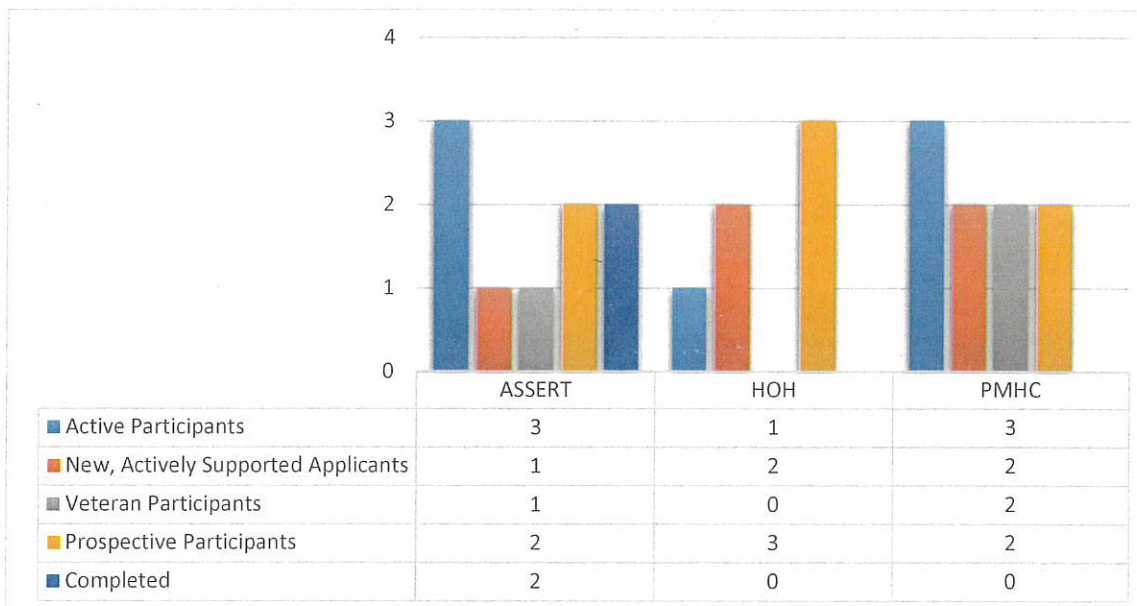
Mental Health Court

Grafton County Mental Health Court seeks to provide an effective and meaningful alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for individuals with mental illness. Our goal is to promote prompt intervention, education, treatment and recovery in order to improve the quality of the individual's life, reduce recidivism and improve community safety.

November 2022



December 2022



Alternative Sentencing

Commissioners Report November and December 2022

November 2022

In November, the Mental Health Court (MHC) Coordinator and Case Manager productively met with NH DHHS Program Directors to learn more about what social services are being offered state-wide. We want to be sure that AS and other Grafton County departments are aware of all NH resources and we have easy access to those resources. We are receiving productive support from our contacts at DHHS.

December 2022

NEW NH MHC Guidelines

<https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/inline-documents/sonh/mental-health-courts-guidelines.pdf>

Above, are the recently completed and released New Hampshire Mental Health Court Guidelines. NH Mental Health Courts throughout the Circuit and Superior Courts operate with slight differences depending on the resources available in each county. As a result of requests from the Mental Health Court Coordinators, and as a result of a legislative effort to study Mental Health Courts, Judges Nadeau and Ashley convened a working group to devise these guidelines. In addition to Judges Nadeau and Ashley, the working group included Alex Casale, State-Wide Treatment Court Coordinator, Shelly Golden, Grafton County Mental Health Court Coordinator, Blair Rowlett, Strafford County Mental Health Court Coordinator, Tom Velardi, Strafford County Attorney and Amy Beaton, Public Defender, Rockingham County. The group spent the last year reviewing Mental Health Court standards in other states and came up with the attached guidelines. It is important to note that unlike felony drug courts, there are no national standards that govern the operation of Mental Health Courts, but the programs share obvious components. We also consulted with the Council on State Governments to assist with national research.

We want to emphasize that these are only aspirational guidelines to provide comprehensive information about how to run a successful Mental Health Court. These are NOT standards or requirements and until the Legislature fully funds the operation of Mental Health Courts, we know that many courts will not have the resources necessary to implement components of these guidelines. This is a positive step forward for NH Mental Health Courts.

Grafton County is experiencing a staffing shortage in the human services and mental health treatment field, and also a shortage of housing/shelter resources and emergency financial assistance to assist homeless individuals access safe short-term and long-term housing. These specific factors are making the stakeholder-collaborative work we do within Mental Health Courts far more challenging these days and we are running into many dead-ends that we use to be able to find solutions to. We continue to reach out to DHHS and other state agencies to pull in as many resources as we can to Grafton County to be sure our needs are known.

Alternative Sentencing
Commissioners Report November and December 2022

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
JRJ	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$100	---	\$125	---
AD	\$705	\$375	\$730	\$525	\$225	\$310	\$794	\$460	\$100	\$1115	\$150	\$140
MISSE D	---	\$25	\$50	---	\$25	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
LATE	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
+ UA's	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$50	---	---	\$100	---	---
MRT	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$35	---	---	---	---	---
CARE	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MISSE D	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
+ UA's	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
BDAS	\$1445.04	\$1970.53	\$2410.99	\$1745.75	\$3008.97	\$3756.92	\$3429.21	\$3169.73	\$2474.24	\$1704.42	\$3200.79	\$3179.21
Totals	\$2150.04	\$2370.53	\$3190.99	\$2270.75	\$3258.97	\$4066.92	\$4308.21	\$3629.73	\$2674.24	\$2919.42	\$3475.79	\$3319.21



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Commissioners Report

Population: In House: 57 F Unit: 20
 E Unit: 11
 D Unit: 11
 C Unit: 9
 Intake: 6

Out of Facility: 22

Total population: 79

Intakes since 7/1/22: 617 Male: 387 Female: 230

Community Corrections Report:

- a) Electronic Monitoring: 2
- b) Daily Work Release: 0
- c) Pre-Trial Services: 15

Operation Impact: For the month of December Corporal Balch worked Jail shifts to help cover facility needs. He will resume OPI on a limited basis sometime in January.

Community Work Detail:

Sergeant Griffin has been assisting the farm and covering jail shifts.

Transports: For the month of December staff conducted 7 transports.

- 0 transport to a treatment facility.
- 3 medical transports for inmate medical needs/doctor's appointments.
- 4 courtesy rides home for inmates being released that could not find a ride for themselves.

FIRRM Program

2 current participants

Level 1 –

Level 2 –

Level 3 - 2

Programs Department Report:

For the month of December, the Programs Department provided various services to 21 different inmates for approximately 473 hours. These services include SUD groups, individual counseling and HISET. The majority of these hours came from the following services broken down below.

Individual Counseling: 2 total hours

Female – 2 hours

Male – 0

SUD Treatment Groups: 466 total hours

Female – 155 hours

Male – 311 hours

Mental Health Report: For the month of December there were four psychiatric clinic days with a total of 58 patient encounters.

General:

CIT (crisis intervention team) training at Jail

Inmate transfer

Notice of retirement

Non Public session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (a) (b)

Are there any Commissioner concerns?