

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
June 27th 2023

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

OTHERS: Kaela Tavares, Alternative Sentencing Director Mitchell, Ed Wargo – SNS, Supt. Elliott

Commissioner Ahern called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations CDBG Project Mid Grant Public Hearing – Kaela Tavares, Grant Administrator

Commissioner Ahern noted that an informational document was available.

Commissioner Ahern stated that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$350,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons. The Public Hearings will comment on the following:

3:03PM Commissioner Ahern opened the Public Hearing on the Progress of the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations CDBG Project

K. Tavares stated that the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations Business Technical Assistance grant draws to a close on June 30, 2023. The grant required a minimum of 10 jobs be created and filled by persons of to moderate income. 9 of these jobs will come from the provision of TA, while (1) additional job is required because one (1) Regional Development Corporation utilized the consultant fund to provide additional TA. Currently we are in the process of documenting the jobs needed to fulfil this annual grant. A full report, will be provided once documentation has occurred, and will include information about the types of jobs created, whether they include health insurance, the wage levels, etc. based on documentation from the RDCs.

Commissioner Ahern asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

3:06 PM Commissioners Close Public Hearing

Ed Wargo, SNS arrived and requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: * 3:07 PM Commissioner McLeod moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life to RSA 91-A: 3, II (i). Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Ahern called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner McLeod “yes”. Commissioner Ahern stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

*3:28 PM Commissioner Ahern declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod 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 Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Ahern called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner McLeod “yes”. Commissioner Ahern stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

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

Volunteer Parenting Class – Supt. Elliott stated that this class will start after July 4th and a graduation will be held August 3rd.

Operation Impact Recognition – Supt. Elliott stated that he wanted to publically recognize Cpl. Balch for his outstanding service out in the community.

Sheriff Stiegler arrived for the opening of the bids for the sale of two (2) used cruisers.

The Commissioners opened bids for the following two (2) 2018 Utility Vehicles.

	VIN: 1FM5K8AR3JGC43205	VIN: 1FM5K8AR3JGA99980
Yousef Dabbagh	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,600.00
Richard Woolsey	-	\$ 7,777.00
East Coast Classics Sales	\$ 5,726.00	\$ 5,726.00
Bayridge Motors	\$ 5,389.00	\$ 5,589.00
Thomas Maciejewski	\$ 7,550.00	\$ 8,750.00
Liberty Motors	\$ 4,288.99	\$ 4,259.99
Christopher	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to accept Thomas Maciejewski's high bids of \$7,550.00 for VIN ending in 43205 and \$8,750.00 for VIN ending in 99980. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

Forester Frohn & S. Sherman arrived to have a conversation with Commissioner Ahern regarding the prescribed training burns they will be conducting.

Commissioner Ahern expressed concerns about the prescribed burns after what he has seen in Canada. He stated that he would rather not put this facility at risk by having any fires on the complex. All it takes is one person to have a bad day for a fire to spread.

Forester Frohn explained that this program is part of the grant currently in motion that the Commissioners signed and agreed to do. This is a training exercise with vetted people. These training burns are going to be highly supervised with Forest Rangers on site, equipment, water etc. Forester Frohn explained that fire lines put in place prior to the burn. He noted that the local Fire Warden signed the permit, which that tells him this is not a major concern. If it is under the controlled conditions, it should not be an issue but if the conditions are a concern that day, they will shut the burn down.

Forester Frohn stated that to address Commissioner Ahern's concerns, what is happening in Canada is not happening here. He explained that it has been raining and therefore the conditions are not dry. The forests in Canada are different, they get very dry and they have deep fuel in the ground for a fire to spread, unlike here. There are many things preventing this controlled burn from spreading. Commissioner Ahern stated that almost every resident at the nursing home has a family and they are concerned about what happens at the County. Forester Frohn noted that there is a large firebreak in Route 10, which would prevent the fire from spreading across the road to the complex.

S. Sherman explained that he is the Chief of Forest Protection for the State of NH and he has been on the phone with his counter parts in Quebec, sending Rangers to Canada to help with those fires. He stated that it is a different ecosystem in Canada than they have here in New Hampshire. He stated that what they are proposing is part of the basic wildland training for local firefighters on how to respond to wild fires. He explained what the training involves is four (4) nights of class and then the firefighters will go out into the field. They will practice digging fire lines, they will then work with patrol personnel and learn how the pumps run on water tanks and backpack tanks. The piles will then be lit on fire and the firefighters will continue digging lines and improving the fire line. He explained that this training gets these firefighters close to the fire and they go in and break piles apart and dry mop, which is where they scrape down the wood and material burning, use soil to put it out and then use water to extinguish the fire completely. S. Sherman stated that they would never burn on a day they felt the fire danger was high.

S. Sherman noted that in response to concerns regarding the Nursing Home, they are ordering air quality monitors as a part of this grant and will be looking at installing one at the complex so if there is a wind shift and the air quality becomes an issue the fire would be shut down. If this training burn were unable to take place here, they would have to move it to their location in Lancaster, which is not ideal. He stated that they do everything possible to ensure things go off safely. It is as controlled as a fire can be.

Commissioner Ahern asked how many people would be staying after to ensure the fire does not reignite. S. Sherman explained that typically with these burns they do not have anyone stay after. He added that part of the training is that these firefighters are being training on how to extinguish a fire. They will not leave until they know that fire is fully extinguished and the ground is cool to the touch with their hand. S. Sherman invited the Commissioners to attend the training burn.

Commissioner Ahern thanked Forester Frohn and S. Sherman for coming. He stated that they answered his concerns and he would consent to go ahead with the training.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner Ahern asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the June 20th meeting. He had a few edits.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to approve minutes from the June 20th meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners sign check registers: 1173; 1175-1180; 2023-06.23.2023

3. Appropriation Transfer Requests – CA Libby submitted a first list of year-end appropriation transfers totaling \$647,156.00. She stated that a majority of that is contract nursing and the rest is very normal for year-end. She noted that there is enough money in each department's budgets to cover these transfers.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the appropriation transfers as presented totaling \$647,156.00 for FY23. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

4. CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: * 4:31 PM Commissioner McLeod moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c). Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Ahern called

the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner McLeod “yes”. Commissioner Ahern stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

*4:35 PM Commissioner Ahern declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the minutes from the February 28th 2023 nonpublic session. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor


MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to unseal the approved minutes from the February 28th 2023 nonpublic session. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner McLeod stated that the Long-term Care Summit would be held August 21. She stated that this is a policy summit on both in home care and facility based care. After the passage of the system of care for healthy aging, this summit will be focused on that.

4:42 PM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Martha S. McLeod, Clerk



June 27, 2023

Commissioners Report

Population: In House: 51 F Unit: 13
E Unit: 7
D Unit: 13
C Unit: 10
Intake: 8

Out of Facility: 21

Total population: 72

Intakes since 7/1/22: 1039 Male: 658 Female: 381

Community Corrections Report:

- a) Electronic Monitoring: 1
- b) Daily Work Release: 0
- c) Pre-Trial Services: 22 – 3 on GPS monitoring

Operation Impact: For the months of May Corporal Balch has done the following presentations:

5/1/2023 Wilder School	2nd, 3rd Grade	Tucker town
5/4/2023 Lisbon HS	12th grade	Mock crash
5/5/2023 Woodsville HS	11th-12th grade	ADIL
5/10/2023 Lisbon MS	2nd,4th Grade	Character, Bullying
5/11/2023 Lebanon MS	5-8th grade	ADIL, Self Esteem, Vaping

5/12/2023	Lebanon MS	5-8th grade	ADIL, Self Esteem, Vaping
5/15/2023	King street	9-12th grade	Jail Tour
5/16/2023	Lyme School	8th grade	Rx drugs, Heroin
5/22/2023	Lebanon MS	8th grade	Jail Tour
5/24/2023	JV Probation		Jail Tour
25-May	Profile School	11th-12th grade	Jail Tour
5/16/2023	Lebanon MS	8th grade	Jail Tour

ADIL- A day in the life of an inmate

the JV probation tour was a court ordered jail tour for a JV on probation

Cpl. Balch has also been working in the Jail periodically.

Community Work Detail:

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

Transports: For the months of May staff conducted 6 transports.

- 0 transport to a treatment facility.
- 2 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 –1

Level 2 –1

Level 3 - 0

Programs Department Report:

For the months of May, the Programs Department provided various services to 20 different inmates for approximately 444 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 – 0 hours

Male – 2 hours

SUD Treatment Groups: 427 total hours

Female – 73 hours

Male – 354 hours

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

General:

Volunteer parenting class starting in July

Operation Impact recognition

Are there any Commissioner concerns?



River Bend Career and Technical Director Brian Emerson (left) presents Cpl. Nicholas Balch of the Grafton County Department of Corrections with an award at the annual River Bend Awards Assembly on June 7.

COURTESY PHOTO

Grafton County guard honored at RBCTC

BRADFORD—Each year, River Bend Career and Technical Center recognizes a community member who has contributed a great deal of time, support and energy toward helping students and programs at the center.

This year's recipient of the Friend of River Bend Award goes to Grafton County Corrections Cpl. Nicholas Balch. Over the years, Balch has helped the emergency services program, criminal justice program, and the health science program providing students an overview of the correctional system, pumper and hose operations, fire scene investigation, DUI, vape dangers, and other areas. He also coordinated site visits to corrections, dispatch, probation and parole, and the Sheriff's Department.

Balch, a RBCTC alum, is on the Wells River Fire Department.

RBCTC Director Brian Emerson presented Balch the award at the school's annual awards ceremony on June 7.



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CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

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April 5, 2023

To whom it may concern;

My name is Tom Leeman and I am the Emergency Services Instructor at River Bend Career and Technical Center. The reason I am writing you is that I wanted to make sure Corporal Balch is recognized for his tireless efforts in bringing his extensive professional expertise in corrections into the classroom.

I will let you know my emergency services background is mostly focused in EMS, ski patrol, search and rescue, heavy rescue, fire, emergency management, etc. But I know where I was lacking so I sought out to illicit the help of those in the criminal justice field. I "shot gunned" many emails and sought help through the connections I had in the area. All but one went unanswered.

Corporal Balch responded quickly and has been in the classroom many times working closely with EMS/Fire and Criminal Justice. Along with those programs Health Science caught wind of what he was presenting and he has worked with that program as well.

The students respect and look forward when he is in the classroom. I know he is reaching them because they always get excited when they see him out and about in public. Corporal Balch is very personable and is able to connect with each student.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I know he is making an impact as I have had several students express interest in going into Corrections after graduation from high school since he started working with us.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Leeman".

Tom Leeman, B.S., NR-AEMT, I/C
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Corporal Nicholas Balch, Operation Impact Coordinator for the Grafton County Department of Corrections in North Haverhill, NH, recently visited French Pond School in Woodsville, as part of a school-wide guidance unit centered around bullying prevention and harassment. Operation Impact is an outreach program that offers free classes to area children in grades K-12. Presentation topics include: good decision-making, character development, building self-esteem, cyber safety and drug/alcohol prevention. Back Row (L-R): are Gavin, Evan, Corporal Balch, Tyler, Shayden and Wyatt. Front Row: Gabe, Taylor, Phoenix and Garrett. Provided by French Pond School

Alternative Sentencing Commissioners Report May 2023

Directors Report:

In May, Alternative Sentencing lost the Mental Health Court Case Manager and began the process of seeking a replacement. All staff are working very hard to maintain best practices with low staff. The current case manager has submitted her application for LADC. We also began the search for an Alternative Sentencing Case Manager to take her place once she is licensed.

Mental Health Court Coordinator, Shelly Golden completed the Emerge training. There are now two trained facilitators to support the Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Program.

Shelly Golden joined the Justice Involved Veterans Task Force which covers all of the State of New Hampshire.

Shelly Golden has continued to support and investigate SIM (Sequential Intercept Model) that the State of New Hampshire has taken on as an initiative, in support of diverting individuals with substance use disorders and/ or mental health disorders from incarceration. SIM works by identifying community resources, first responders, mental health crisis workers, law enforcement and other agencies who can support each other in accessing the appropriate supports to divert individuals toward treatment and away from the justice system.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/sim-overview>

The Alternative Sentencing Team, led by Shelly Golden has continued Stepping Up Meetings, to include all stake holders from Corrections, Law Enforcement, County Attorneys, Public Defenders, Community Mental Health Leaders, etc. to discuss the SIM process. Shelly has been accepted into the SIM train the trainer program. Each county in NH will be given the opportunity to demonstrate desired collaboration to address the growing mental health crisis in our state. If stake holders agree to commit to this process, they will be trained in SIM.

Recently the core Grafton County team (County Attorney, House of Corrections lead, Alternative Sentencing leads and Public Defenders office lead) met to discuss the ongoing and increasing need for quick access to mental health and substance use evaluations and treatment recommendations. Further there is a great need for therapeutic support for individuals with identified diagnoses. At this time there is a 6-9 month wait at community mental health centers to access services. Leaders from the House of Corrections, the County Attorney's office, and the Public Defender's office met to discuss supporting a shared mental health worker in the future.

***Alternative Sentencing Programs:**

Juvenile Restorative Justice

Adult Felony and Misdemeanor Diversion

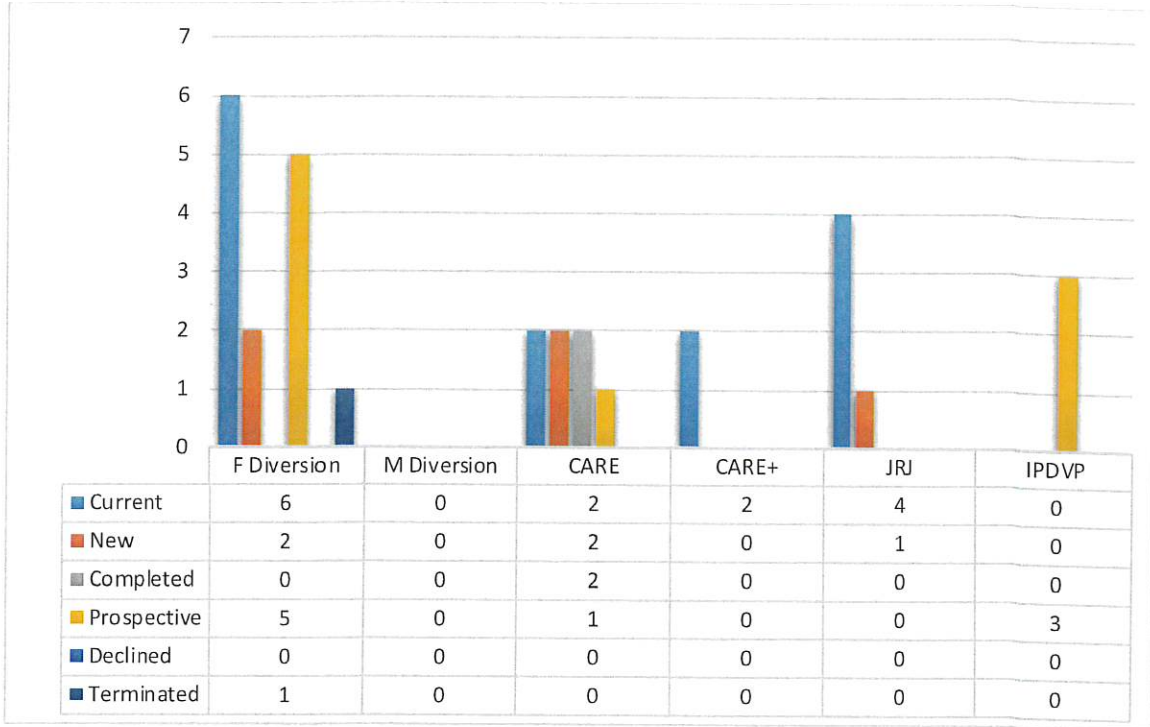
C.A.R.E & C.A.R.E+

Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Program: Emerge

Mental Health Court

Alternative Sentencing Programs

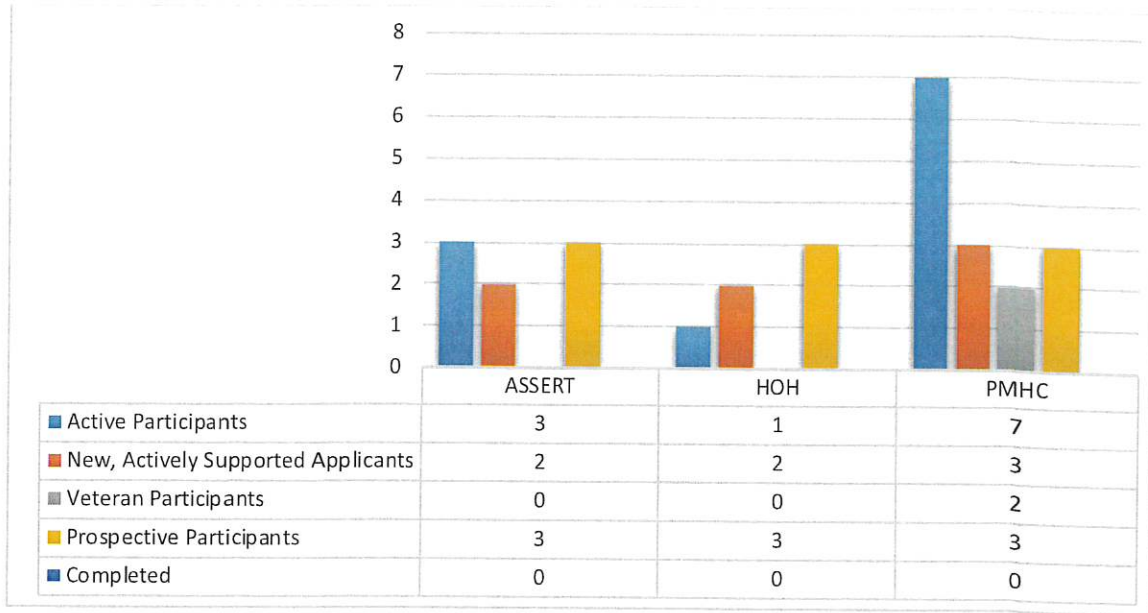
May 2023



Mental Health Court

May 2023

Alternative Sentencing Commissioners Report May 2023



Alternative Sentencing
Commissioners Report May 2023

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
JRJ	---	\$100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
AD	\$100	\$40	\$275	\$565	\$420	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MISSED	---	---	\$25	\$25	\$50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
LATE	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
+ UA's	---	---	---	---	\$50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MRT	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
CARE	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MISSED	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
+ UA's	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
BDAS	\$2912.57	\$1699.20	\$2998.49	\$2433.74	\$1442.26	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Totals	\$3012.57	\$1879.20	\$3298.49	\$3023.74	\$1962.26	---	---	---	---	---	---	---