



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

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TO: All District Three Constituents
FROM: Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

DATE: May 4, 2022

The Executive Council conducted a series of meetings on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. **The Breakfast Meeting was held at a Concord child care facility** with Christine Santaniello, Karen Hebert and Marti Ilg of the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services discussing the agency's multi-phase approach during the public health crisis to stabilize the state's child care sector - a fragile industry pre-COVID.

During the pandemic, New Hampshire received five federal disbursements totaling **\$142.3 million** from four federal relief programs - Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act (**CARES**), Child Care Development Block Grant (**CCDFX**), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (**CRRSA**) and American Rescue Plan Act (**ARPA**) to support the state's child care sector.

The DHHS staff discussed strategies implemented to sustain child care during three critical periods of the public health crisis - **Emergency Phase (3/20-6/20), Recovery & Stabilization (6/20-12/20) and Long Term Stabilization, Sustainability & Capacity Building (1/1/21-current)**. Approximately \$65 million (CARES, CCDFX, CRRSA funds) was allocated to child care facilities during the Emergency and Recovery & Stabilization phases to establish an Emergency Child Care Program Staff Incentive Program, infrastructure and capacity building as well as offset income loss, COVID 19 expenses etc.

For the past 16 months, DHHS has focused on bolstering Long Term Stabilization, Sustainability & Capacity for the state's child care sector with use of \$47 million in ARPA funds, which were allocated for center operating expenses. The U.S. Treasury required that 25% of ARPA funds be allocated for staff incentives. With the median hourly rate for NH child care professionals at \$14 per hour, stipends and increases in workforce wages and benefits was essential.

To date - 87% of funds have gone to providers

486 Child Care Providers representing all 10 counties have been awarded a total of \$41,112,096

425 Licensed Child Care Centers

48 Licensed Family Child Care Homes

9 Licensed Exempt Facilities

4 Licensed Exempt Family/Friend /Neighbor Homes

\$32,973,000 has been invoiced and paid out to providers to date

486 Providers received funding with the capacity to serve over 35,525 children infant through school age 29,375 full and part time children are currently enrolled in those programs

Providers spent the highest percentage of their award on staffing expenses (regular wages and recruit/retention bonuses) and occupancy costs (mortgage/rent/utilities)

The remaining \$29 million has yet to be released and DHHS is finalizing program guidelines to follow US Department of Health & Human Services requirements.

Following the Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, the Executive Council resumed work at 10:00 a.m. in the Executive Council Chamber at the New Hampshire State House to review and vote on 100 warrant/agenda items and to approve Civil Commissions, Nominations and Confirmations, as well as Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services Nominations, Confirmations and Appointments.

The Executive Council will vote on the nominees at the next meeting of the Council on Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

INVEST NH HOUSING PROGRAM

I was the sole Executive Councilor to vote in support of accepting and expending \$100 million from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund the InVest NH Housing Program, to accelerate the availability of workforce housing in New Hampshire via Capital and Municipal grant programs. The program is scheduled to go live on Monday, June 20, 2022.

As I stated following the disappointing meeting/tabling outcome - "I will make the motion at the Wednesday, May 5, 2022 Executive Council meeting to put InVest NH Housing Program back on the table and will once again support funding this program". I am proud to report that the acceptance and expenditure passed, allowing the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and NH Housing Finance Authority to hire staff and finalize the myriad of programmatic details, terms and conditions, project selection criteria etc. - all of which must be in compliance with U.S. Treasury State Fiscal Recovery Funds rules and reporting requirements.

There is a finite window of opportunity to use these funds and time is of the essence for this program due to stringent federal deadlines to obligate and appropriate funds and the upcoming construction season.

The InVest NH Housing Program will consist of a capital grant and municipal grant programs.

Of the \$60 million obligated for the development of new multifamily rental units, \$50 million in grant funding will be available for owners and developers to assist with construction and hard costs in completing construction on multifamily/workforce projects, which are underway. In conjunction with the Bureau of Economic Affairs, The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority will allocate \$10 million from the InVest NH program. Current eligible activities, applicant eligibility, funding caps per project etc. can be found in the link below.

An additional \$40 million will be available for municipalities in the form of grant awards for workforce units built, assistance with review and modification to zoning or regulatory rules impeding workforce housing development and a demolition budget (for lot improvements/revitalization).

It's important to note that the Bureau of Economic Affairs is in the process of finalizing programmatic detail and guidelines. In the interim, the most up to date summary is available [InVest NH Housing Program](#)

HAMPSTEAD HOSPITAL

Over the past seven months I have reviewed and supported every contract pertaining to the purchase of Hampstead Hospital with the goal of full utilization of the hospital's 110 beds and bringing an end to Emergency Room (ER) boarding.

The challenges in accessing mental health care in New Hampshire, due in part to a provider shortage, became increasingly difficult with the onset of COVID-19. Out of necessity, parents and families of children experiencing a behavioral health crisis during the pandemic turned to ER facilities for treatment and stabilization. As the pandemic protracted, the number of children in need of treatment increased as did patient acuity. With limited capacity for adolescent inpatient psychiatric care beds, the inability to transfer patients out of ER facilities increased the average number of adolescents languishing in ER facilities surged. This was completely unacceptable.

Since October of 2021, the Executive Council has approved the acceptance and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Federal Relief (SFR) funds totaling \$50 million and approved \$13 million in financial agreements between the State and Hampstead Hospital (Trust) to acquire Hampstead Hospital. On May 4, 2022, the Council unanimously approved a two-year contract for \$52,492,793 with Recovery Solutions LLC to provide clinical and non-clinical services at the hospital, while building capacity and expanding care to include a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (level below Inpatient).

The acquisition of Hampstead Hospital must be completed by June 30, 2022, or the transaction will fail due to the U.S. Treasury deadlines for use of ARPA funds. Recovery Solutions LLC will provide clinical and non-clinical support in 14 categories with the state responsible for management and oversight (embedded). The State of New Hampshire will be responsible for daily management and oversight of the hospital via the placement of DHHS leaders in the following roles: Chief Executive, Chief Financial, Chief Operating, Chief Legal and Compliance. The facility requires approximately 160 staffers, and it is anticipated that the majority of current staff at Hampstead Hospital will remain.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERAN SERVICES
Carolyn E. Lovell, Onset, MA, to the rank of Major, NH Army National Guard.

CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

#2 MOP 150, I, B (2): Approval of Acceptances

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

#B. Authorized to accept donations of used furniture worth an estimated used retail value of \$2,985 from Select **Demo Services, LLC, Salem, NH**, for the purpose of providing furniture at various office locations throughout the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

#C. Authorized the Office of Highway Safety, to accept the donation of an educational seal belt safety public service announcement from **Evan Slater Racing, LLC, of Portsmouth**, valued at \$500.

#5 MOP 150, I, B (5): Other Items

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#A. Authorized to amend a **Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund grant to the Town of Plaistow, NH**, (originally approved by G&C on 6/10/20, item #74), by extending the completion date from

June 1, 2022 to December 1, 2023 for water system improvements. **Additional time is required to complete capital infrastructure improvements for the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection project. \$5.8 million was approved for the project on May 11, 2020, and to date \$4.6 million has been spent on this critical infrastructure project. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#D. Authorized to amend a Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund grant agreement with the City of Manchester, (originally approved by G&C on 4/17/19, item #90), by adjusting the water recipient purchase dates within the agreement. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2058. **The Town of Plaistow requested a contract extension from May 1, 2022, to May 1, 2023 to finalize payment of Phase I capacity allotment of 250,000 gallons per day. To date, 100,000 gallons per day have been paid. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.**

REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

New Hampshire Hospital

#10 Authorized to enter into a contract with ABILITY Network, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, in the amount of \$251,000 for claims management services to provide electronic claims management services for NH Hospital and, upon transfer of ownership of Hampstead Hospital, **for the Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility.** Effective upon G&C approval through February 28, 2025, with the option to renew for up to 6 additional years. **100% Other Funds (Inter-Agency Funds).**

#19 Authorized to amend an existing contract with the NH Coalition of Recovery Residences, Concord, NH, (originally approved by G&C on 10/23/19, item #16), to continue providing certification and support services for recovery homes and to continue administration of a rental assistance program for NH residents who are entering recovery homes in NH, by increasing the price limitation by \$400,000 from \$1,730,000 to \$2,130,000 and by extending the completion date from March 14, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Effective July 1, 2022. **Presently, there is one Certified Recovery Residence in District Three. I am presently working with a developer and non-profit entity to complete a new facility in District Three which is permitted and approved by the locality.** 100% Other Funds (Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs).

#27 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay a property owner, tenant and/or claimant \$11,664 as documented in the Contemplated Awards list, for amounts greater than \$5,000 for the period extending from April 6, 2022, through April 20, 2022. Effective upon G&C approval. **4A Derry. Business Re-Establishment for Good Neighbors Specialty Foods**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#29 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to enter into an agreement with **Doucet Survey, LLC, Newmarket, NH,** in the amount of \$750,000 for on-call survey services for various projects and facilities located throughout the State. Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2025.

#32 Authorized the Bureau of Highway Design to enter into an agreement with the University of Maine, Advanced Structure and Composites Center, in the amount of \$20,000 for manufacturing of a culvert outlet diffuser for use at a proposed rehabilitation of a culvert carrying **Rocky Hill Brook under NH Route 85 in Exeter.** Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2022. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#40](#) Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with **Busby Construction Co., Inc., Atkinson, NH**, on the basis of a single bid of \$658,775 for Turnpike drainage rehabilitation in Dover and Merrimack along the Turnpike System. (2) Further authorize a contingency in the amount of \$32,938.75 be approved for payment of latent conditions, which may appear during the construction of the project. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2022. **100% Turnpike Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD

[#57](#) Authorized the State Conservation Committee to enter into a grant with **Southeast Land Trust of NH, Exeter, NH**, in the amount of \$10,000 for the Killam-Hog Hill Brook in the Town of Atkinson, Rockingham County. Effective upon G&C approval through April 30, 2024. **100% Other Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

[#68](#) Authorized the Division of the Arts to award Public Value Partnership grants to the Nonprofit Arts Organizations listed in letter dated December 29, 2021, in the amount of \$53,250 to strengthen their capacity for affordable diverse arts programs to NH Residents and Visitors. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2022. **3S Art Space and Strawberry Banke Museum - located in Portsmouth - received a total of \$21,000.100% Federal Funds.**

[#69](#) Authorized the Division of the Arts to award an American Rescue Plan grant to Arts in Reach, Portsmouth, NH, in the amount of \$6,000 for Salary support at their after school interdisciplinary arts program for adolescent girls in Rockingham and Strafford Counties. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2022. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#71](#) Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Historic Sites to enter into an amendment to an existing contract with **Riverbend Masonry, Exeter, NH**, (originally approved by G&C on 11/22/21, item #76), to repair and restore a historic seawall at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion by extending the completion date retroactive to April 15, 2022 through April 20, 2023. **100% Capital Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#73](#) Authorized to enter into a contract with **Robert Gibbons, Portsmouth, NH** for a total of \$111,000 for the operation of the state-owned mobile pump out boat. Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#74](#) Authorized to enter into a sole source agreement with SOLitude Lake Management, LLC, Little Rock, AR, in the amount of \$21,940, for the purpose of controlling aquatic invasive plants in **Country Pond, Kingston/Newton, NH**. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2022. **100% Lake Restoration Funds.**

[#75](#) Authorized to approve Tidewatch Condominium Association's request to amend permit file # 2021-02976, (originally approved by G&C on 1/26/22, item # 86), to perform work on Sagamore Creek in Portsmouth. This amendment is required as the width of the fixed pier was incorrectly documented as four feet instead of six feet.

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

[#90](#) Authorized the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to enter into a grant agreement with the **Southern NH Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District, Windham, NH**, in the amount

of \$22,400 for activities that increase State and local effectiveness in handling hazardous materials incidents. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

TABLED ITEMS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner (Tabled at G&C Meeting 4/20/22)

#11A TABLED – The Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Gatsas, voted to table the request to enter into a sole source contract with Wellpath Recovery Solutions, LLC, Nashville, TN, in the amount of \$52,492,793 for the provision of child and young adult psychiatric inpatient behavioral health services at Hampstead Hospital. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2024, with the option to renew for up to 1 additional year. 26% Federal, 6% General, 68% Other Funds. (Hospital Revenue & Transfers from Other Agencies).

CONFIRMATIONS

Adult Parole Board
Assessing Standards Board
Board of Nursing
Director, Division of Municipal and Property, Department of Revenue
Midwifery Council
Milk Sanitation Board
New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights
New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Authority, Board of Directors
Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors

J. Kirk Trombley, Durham
Robert L. Edwards, Antrim
Wendy Stanley Jones, Greenland
Samuel T. Greene, Jaffrey
Elizabeth Gaby, Concord
Bethany Hodge, Hindsdale
Adrienne Evans, Concord
Susan Slack, Effingham
Allyson Snell, Concord

NOMINATIONS

Assessing Standards Board
Assessing Standards Board
Assessing Standards Board
Assessing Standards Board
Assistant Commissioner, Department of Revenue Administration
Commissioner, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Community College System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees
Director of Operations, Department of Information Technology
Director, Division of Libraries, State Librarian
Mechanical Licensing Board
New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Authority, Board of Directors
State Conservation Committee
State Conservation Committee
State Conservation Committee
University System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees

Robert J. Gagne, Manchester
Joseph W. Lessard Jr., Salem
David K. Marazoff, Westmoreland
Loren J. Martin, Boscawen
Ora M. LeMere, Nashua
Sarah C. Stewart, Manchester
(Health) Nick Toumpas, Rye
David Heafey, Londonderry
Michael York, Goffstown
Christian E. Fiore Sr., Raymond
Bridget C.G. Freudenberger, Colebrook
Donna L. Hepp, Belmont
Robert Larocque, Concord
Peter T. Throop, Keene
Peter T. Paul, Dover