



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

(603) 271-3632 FAX: 271-3633



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

DATE: April 20, 2023

March 22, 2023 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Significant Issues

SolutionHealth

I voted in support of the Department of Health and Human Services' grant agreement with SolutionHealth, a regional healthcare system comprising Elliot Health and Southern NH Health, for the construction of a behavioral health facility which will provide 120 inpatient behavioral health beds at a soon to be announced southern New Hampshire location. The State of New Hampshire will use \$15 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist SolutionHealth defray capital costs associated with construction.

The total cost for the facility is estimated at approximately \$55 to \$60 million dollars and construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 2023. SolutionHealth is finalizing a joint venture partnership with a healthcare system which has "operated in similar markets" and provides services at "200 facilities" across the country. The location and partner for the 120 bed facility will be announced within the next month.

The Department of Health & Human Services has undertaken multiple actions to resolve the state's inpatient behavioral health bed shortage. Financial incentives were offered to every hospital in New Hampshire to assist with standing up designated receiving facility (DRF) beds for one year. The state did not enter into any agreements.

The new facility will offer 72 designated receiving beds, 24 inpatient child/adolescent beds, and 24 inpatient geriatric beds. As part of the grant agreement, SolutionHealth is required to prioritize New Hampshire patients and ensure that no less than 30% of patients admitted annually receive Medicaid.

There are presently three major state healthcare construction and or expansion projects underway in New Hampshire,, including new construction of a Forensics Hospital in Concord, renovations to several wings at New Hampshire Hospital, completion and opening of the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility at Hampstead Hospital.

(#6A Authorize to accept and expend Federal Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, in the amount of \$15,015,000, that will be used to provide capital defrayment to SolutionHealth and any associated affiliates to develop a consolidated behavioral health hospital. (2) Further authorize the allocation of the funds as detailed in the letter dated March 15, 2023. The Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee previously approved this request to accept and expend funding for this purpose on September 9, 2022. The Department held this request until it could finalize the corresponding agreement, agenda item #11A. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023.)

(#11A Authorize to award a sole source grant agreements with SolutionHealth, Bedford, NH, in the amount of \$15,000,000, to defray capital costs for the construction of a consolidated behavioral health facility with approximately 120 inpatient behavioral health beds. Effective upon G&C approval through the completion dates as specified in the letter dated March 15, 2023. Contingent upon approval of agenda item #6A.
100% Federal Funds (American Rescue Plan Act).



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Executive Councilor Janet Stevens
(603) 498-0546

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2023

Grant for \$15 million Approved for Behavioral Health Care Facility Executive Councilor Janet Stevens Advocates for Additional 120 Inpatient Beds

Concord, New Hampshire - During the March 22, 2023, Executive Council meeting, Executive Councilor Janet Stevens proposed a motion to award a \$15 million grant from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the construction of a new 120-bed inpatient facility in New Hampshire. The facility will be built and managed by SolutionHealth, in partnership with another organization yet to be announced, at a total cost of \$60 million dollars.

The new facility aims to address the ongoing emergency room boarding crisis and improve access to behavioral healthcare services for residents of New Hampshire. The construction costs will be defrayed by the state's allocation of ARPA funds, and the facility is expected to open its doors in 2024.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on New Hampshire's behavioral healthcare system and providers, making it unsustainable. The current Emergency Room boarding data highlights the urgent need to increase the capacity for inpatient behavioral healthcare. At present, 34 adults and four adolescents are boarding in emergency rooms due to the lack of sufficient inpatient beds, which is unacceptable and could potentially violate recent rulings,” said Executive Councilor Stevens

Stevens' support for the state's acquisition of Hampstead Hospital helped reduce the number of children stuck in emergency rooms for behavioral healthcare, which averaged 16 per day in December 2021.

According to Executive Councilor Stevens, “the success of the state's investment in Hampstead Hospital is an encouraging sign for efforts to improve access to mental health care for children and adolescents and underscores the importance of continued investment in this critical area and the need to build out for adult populations.”

The new facility will provide 72 designated receiving beds for voluntary and involuntary admissions, 24 beds for both adolescents/pediatrics and geriatrics populations and will result in a net gain of 81 inpatient beds in New Hampshire. The facility will prioritize New Hampshire residents and take at least 30% Medicaid.

“Staffing for the new facility is a top priority and the contract mandates a strategic hiring plan within 30 days of the final grant agreement. The contract stipulates that hiring practices must avoid impact on local providers including ‘strategies to prevent targeting and recruiting the regional behavioral health care labor pool’” added Stevens.

Construction is expected to begin in December 2023, and potential sites are being considered in several Southern New Hampshire communities with priority on access to public transportation. A simultaneous announcement on the joint venture partner and site location is anticipated within 4-6 weeks.

Executive Councilor Janet Stevens of Rye (R) represents the 266,000 residents living in District Three, which encompasses the cities and towns of - Atkinson, Brentwood, Chester, Danville, Derry, E. Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Greenland, Hampstead, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, Newton, No. Hampton, Pelham, Plaistow, Raymond, Rye, Salem, Sandown, Seabrook, So Hampton, Stratham, Windham and the City of Portsmouth.

The Proposed Design



On March 1, 2023, I presided over a hearing with the New Hampshire Health Education Facilities Authority (NHHEFA) and the leadership team of Pinkerton Academy. The purpose of the hearing was to evaluate the proposed issuance of \$7 million dollars in bonds (Series-2023) for the construction, furnishing, and equipping of a new three-story building spanning 30,275 square feet. The building will house several programs, including the Alternate Comprehensive Transition (ACT) program, the New England Center for Children (NECC), Academic Skills Resources, and Special Services for Education Success.

The ACT program is designed to support disabled students in developing functional life skills and independent living skills. Meanwhile, the NECC program is dedicated to students on the autism spectrum. Overall, the hearing aimed to make a determination on whether the proposed issuance of bonds was a sound financial decision for the involved parties.

The New Hampshire Health & Education Facilities Authority, is a 501(c) 3 organization which has issued more than \$13 billion dollars in 646 bond issues since 1971. The mission of NHHEFA is to “lower the cost of health and education services in New Hampshire by providing eligible institutions with access to high quality, readily available, low cost financing alternatives.” Bonds for the project were issued by a private placement with a 30 year maturity.

It is important to note that *“Neither the State of New Hampshire nor any political subdivision thereof shall be obligated to pay the principal of or interest on this bond, other than from Pledged Revenues, and neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State of New Hampshire or any political subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal of or interest on this bond”*.

(DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES B. Authorized to accept and place on file the Report and Findings of Councilor Janet Stevens with regard to a certain project in participation with The Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH. (Janet to request NHHEFA Document)

REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

C. Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Historic Sites to enter into an amendment to an existing contract with **Mark D. Gilman d/b/a 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 from April 20, 2023 to April 15, 2024, with no change to the price limitation. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Capital Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Behavioral Health

#9 Authorized to enter in a **sole source** contract with **The Upper Room, a Family Resource Center, Derry, NH**, in the amount of

\$221,458 for the provision of a Youth Navigator program for young adults, ages eighteen to twenty-four, per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements, who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at imminent risk of homelessness, with the option to renew for up to five additional years. Effective **retroactive to** October 1, 2022, upon G&C approval through September 30, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

Division of Public Health Services

#17 Authorized to enter into contracts with the vendors as detailed in the letter dated February 22, 2023, in an amount not to exceed **\$210,000 for reimbursement for payment of educational loans** through the State Loan Repayment Program, with the option to renew for up to two additional years. Effective April 1, 2023, or upon G&C approval, whichever is later, through March 31, 2026. **100% Federal Funds (ARPA).**

Three behavioral healthcare providers at the Center For Life Management in Derry will be reimbursed for student loans per the agreed upon 36 month contract. Each provider - two Mental Health Counselors and Masters Social Work licensure candidate - will receive \$22,500 for a total of \$67,500.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#26 Authorized the Bureau of Highway Maintenance and Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners \$150,000, as documented in the Contemplated Damage Awards List, for amounts greater than \$5,000, for the period extending from December 6, 2022 through February 5, 2023. Effective upon G&C approval.

A Plaistow resident was awarded \$60,000 for well replacement costs after deicing salt contaminated their original well.

#27 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners, tenants, and/or claimants \$223,359.80, as documented in the Contemplated Awards List, for amounts greater than \$5,000, for the period extending from February 6, 2023 through February 13, 2023. Effective upon G&C approval.

A total of \$178,358 was awarded to three businesses impacted by 4A: Kelsen Brewing (\$15,122), A-1 Fleet (\$12,470) and American Excavating (\$150,766).

#28 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to sell 0.3+/- of an acre of state-owned land, on **Martin Road in the Town of Epping**. The sale will be direct to the abutting property owner, 46 Martin Rd LLC, in the amount of \$1,000, plus an administrative fee of \$1,100. Effective upon G&C approval.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

#51 Authorized to finalize the grant agreements using signed terms and conditions and in the amounts indicated as detailed in the letter dated March 6, 2023 totaling **\$113,272 from the approved accept and expend of \$3,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds** previously approved on November 22, 2021, to grant funds to support the **Local Restaurant Infrastructure Investment Funds Program** designed to help address workforce issues and overall restaurant safety challenges experienced by small, locally-owned restaurants across the State. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.** Sue's Kitchen in Stratham received \$15,000.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#65 Authorized to enter into a contract with **New England Water Distribution Services, LLC, Windham, NH, in the amount of \$93,658** in order to conduct leak detection surveys at 46 New Hampshire community water systems. Effective upon G&C approval through November 1, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

#71 Authorized to award a grant to the **Town of Exeter, NH in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for drinking water and wastewater utility cybersecurity improvements.** Effective upon G&C approval through June 1, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

#73 Authorized to award a grant to the **Town of Salem, NH in the amount not to exceed \$44,200 for drinking water system cybersecurity improvements.** Effective upon G&C approval through June 1, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

#84 Authorized to award a **Local Source Water Protection grant to the Rockingham Planning Commission, Exeter, NH, in the amount of \$39,980 to complete two projects to protect public drinking water supplies.** Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

#90 Authorized to award a **Lead Service Line Inventory Grant to the Town of Exeter, NH, in the amount of \$50,000 to develop**

and implement a drinking water service line inventory. Effective upon G&C approval through March 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

#91 Authorized to award a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant to the Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., Atkinson, NH, in the amount of \$50,000 to develop and implement a drinking water service line inventory. Effective upon G&C approval through March 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

#93 Authorized to award a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant to the Town of Newmarket, NH, in the amount of \$50,000 to develop and implement a drinking water service line inventory. Effective upon G&C approval through March 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

#94 Authorized to award a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant to the Town of Seabrook, NH, in the amount of \$50,000 to develop and implement a drinking water service line inventory. Effective upon G&C approval through March 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

#95 Authorized to award a grant to the Town of Derry, NH in the amount not to exceed \$1,222,000 for water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval through December 1, 2025. 100% Federal Funds. (2) Further authorize a loan agreement with the Town of Derry, in an amount not to exceed \$4,888,000, to finance water system improvements under the provision of RSA 486:14 and NH Code of Admin Rules Env-Wq 1100 et seq. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Repayment Funds.

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

#111 Authorized the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Portsmouth, NH, for a total amount of \$5,500 to update the community's Local Emergency Operation Plan. Effective upon G&C approval through August 31, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

CONFIRMATIONS

Agricultural Advisory Board

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Safety

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Safety

Commissioner, Department of Safety

Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (Business/ Industry)

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission

Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council

Independent Investment Committee

(Nonvoting member) (Professional Fire Fighters of NH)

New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights

New Hampshire Retirement System, Board of Trustees

(Employer Member Nom. by the NH School Boards Assoc.)

David L. Babson, Ossipee

Eddie Edwards, Dover

Steven R. Lavoie, Allenstown

Robert L. Quinn, Seabrook

Tiffany Eddy, Dunbarton

Antonio R. Ortiz, Amherst

Cathryn A. Harvey, Spofford

Christopher Ward, New Castle

Michael F. McMahon, Hampton

Christian Kim, Pembroke

Donald M. Roy Jr., Durham

NOMINATIONS

Board of Home Inspectors (Home Inspector)

Commissioner, Department of Information Technology

Deputy Director, Division of Motor Vehicle, Department of Safety

New Hampshire Retirement System Board of Trustees (non-member trustee)

New Hampshire Veterans Home Board of Managers (Disabled American Veterans)

New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board

Real Estate Appraisers Board

State Board of Fire Control

Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors (Expertise in needs of disadvantaged youth)

Kurtis J. Grassett, Hancock

Denis C. Goulet, Manchester

Janet L. Bouchard, Gilford

Robert E. Maloney, Holderness

Robert W. Guldner, Alexandria

Joel Ginsburg, Beverly, MA

Jonathan N. Wood, Raymond

Shawn Proulx, Dunstable, MA

Andrea E. M. Brochu, Jefferson