

From: "Rose, Meagan" <Meagan.M.Rose@nh.gov>

To: "Rose, Meagan" <Meagan.M.Rose@nh.gov>

Sent: Tue, Jan 09, 2024 01:04 PM

Subject: Report on behalf of Executive Councilor Janet Stevens, District 3

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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: January 9, 2024

DECEMBER 20, 2023 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING State House, Concord, NH

The Executive Council met on **Wednesday, December 20, 2023**, to **review and vote on 200 agenda items** and to approve Civil Commissions, Nominations and Confirmations as well as Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services Nomination, Confirmations and Appointments.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES DECEMBER 20, 2023

NH MEDICAID CARE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT 3.0

The re-procurement of the New Hampshire Medicaid Care Management contract, which provides crucial healthcare to 180,000 residents, has successfully concluded. The \$1,004,871 contract will be fulfilled by three selected Managed Care Organizations. While I was prepared to cast my vote on this substantial contract, a motion was introduced to table the extensive 450-page document for further review.

In the weeks leading up to this decision, I dedicated considerable time to thoroughly analyze national Medicaid trends, Primary Care and Preventative Services Care models, and the incorporation of new cellular and genetic therapy drugs, which will be covered by a high-cost pharmacy risk pool. Additionally, my scrutiny extended to the examination of liquidated damage provisions, capitation rates, and program integrity objectives.

A pivotal aspect of this contract involves a significant paradigm shift, transferring healthcare decision-making authority from corporate staff to primary care providers. I fully support this transformative transition and support the proposed five-year contract. The contract will be on the January 10, 2024 Executive Council agenda.

\$1.1 MILLION FOR CLINICAL TESTING – GUIDANCE CHILD LEAD EXPOSURE

I proudly proposed the motion to secure funding for clinical testing aimed at preventing infectious diseases and **providing community support for children with elevated blood lead levels**.

Initially, the contract language for pediatric blood lead levels care only included case management and outreach education programs, lacking testing capacity. In preparation for the December 20th Executive Council meeting, **I engaged with DHHS Public Health Services, advocating for capillary testing accessibility for families concerned about lead exposure or facing testing challenges. During the Executive Council meeting, I expressed my concerns, leading to DHHS's agreement to implement blood lead level screenings at two of the state's largest municipal public health centers.**

My ongoing efforts are focused on advocating for improved blood lead level screenings for all children in New Hampshire. Collaborating with the state Medicaid Director, I successfully worked to enhance accountability measures for Managed

Concord, New Hampshire – At the November 8, 2023, Executive Council meeting, District Three Executive Councilor Janet Stevens, demanded accountability and compliance from the three **Managed Care Organizations (MCO)**, which oversee **delivery of the state’s Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to 82,462 New Hampshire children and young adults. By statute, all Medicaid-eligible children are required to receive blood lead screenings at ages 12 months and 24 months. For 2022 – only 39% of two-year-olds and 50% of one-year olds receiving healthcare coverage through Medicaid were tested for blood lead levels. Rates for all children in NH in 2021 were 60% for one-year olds and 51% for two-year olds – which represents a 25% drop in blood lead level testing since 2019.**

“The data is disconcerting and it’s imperative that the three managed care organizations overseeing the delivery of care to more than 181,000 New Hampshire residents fulfill their contractual obligation with the State of New Hampshire, uphold New Hampshire’s designation as a ‘Universal’ State for pediatric blood lead testing which mandates the testing of all children at the ages of one and two, comply with federal Medicaid rules and get the job done of protecting our most vulnerable residents. There is a disparity in blood lead level testing for children enrolled in Medicaid vs. non-Medicaid enrolled children. Bottom line – the data indicates that across the board there has been a decline in testing for all New Hampshire children. There is no safe level of lead and lead poisoning is a preventable disease. The decline and disparity in blood lead testing – unacceptable”, stressed Executive Councilor Stevens.

\$500,000 for a Phase Three Feasibility Study – Merrimack, NH Kidney Cancer Incidence.

Again, I made the motion to support this critical public health contract while taking the lead on the Executive Council in requesting additional funding to support residents with additional testing – biomonitoring.

In January of 2023 the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Division, released findings from a 10-year study – **Cancer Incidence Report – Merrimack, NH – A Summary of Data Analysis and Decision Making.** A statistically significant higher number of kidney cancers in Merrimack, NH were identified over a ten-year period when the expected number of cases was 46: **66 cases were documented. The SIR or standardized incidence ratio indicates that the amount of kidney cancer in Merrimack was 42% higher than expected.** Kidney Cancer increased by 1.2 percent a year over a 4-year span in New Hampshire with the rest of the country remaining at a stable level of 0.1%. The Merrimack increase is beyond alarming.

While this cancer data and report was produced because Merrimack is known to have PFAS contamination in both public and private drinking water - the January 2023 cancer report does not assess exposure history to PFAS, other chemicals or environmental carcinogens. A Phase Three Feasibility Study which will **EVALUATE POTENTIAL EXPOSURES THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXCESS NUMBER OF KIDNEY CANCER DESCRIBED IN THE CANCER INCIDENCE REPORT.** The goal is to complete the Phase Three Feasibility Study by June 2025, analyze results and decide on whether to proceed to a Phase 4 study – a full epidemiological study. I have asked that biomonitoring or blood serum testing be made available at the juncture.

REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

C. Authorized to accept donations of used furniture worth an estimated used retail value of \$625 from **Select Demo Services, LLC, Salem, NH**, for the purpose of providing furniture at various office locations throughout the Department. Effective upon G&C approval.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

L. Authorized to amend an American Rescue Plan Act grant agreement with the **City of Portsmouth, NH (originally approved by G&C on 12/21/22, Item #88)**, by **extending the end date from December 31, 2023 to February 1, 2025** to allow additional time to complete the elevation of the access road into the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility in Portsmouth. Effective upon G&C approval. This is a no-cost time extension. **100% Federal Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

N. Authorized to amend an Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund grant to Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6/1/22, Item #93), by extending the completion date from December 31, 2023 to

December 31, 2024, to secure additional grant funds from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service to complete the property transaction and close on the conservation easement. Effective upon G&C approval. This is no cost time extension. **100% Aquatic Resource Mitigation funds Piscataqua Watershed.**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Long Term Supports and Services

#11 Authorized to enter into grant agreements with the Grantees as detailed in the letter dated December 5, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$4,227,096 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Home and Community Based Services. Effective upon G&C approval through March 31, 2025. **100% Federal Funds Bell Tower Home Health Care received \$516,500 and Great Bay Services received \$516,500.**

Division of Public Health Services

#14 Authorized to amend an existing contract with Proxtronics Dosimetry, LLC, Alexandria, VA (originally approved by G&C on 11/10/21, Item #16), for maintenance and support of the Panasonic Thermoluminescent Dosimeter Reader, by increasing the price limitation by \$20,200 from \$48,900 to \$69,100 and extending the completion date from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Effective January 1, 2024, upon G&C approval. **100% Other Funds (New Hampshire Department of Safety, Bureau of Emergency Management, Homeland Security Utility Assessment Fee) Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant**

Division of Public Health Services

#17 Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with the City of Manchester, NH in the amount of \$1,134,000 for clinical testing for infectious diseases and **child lead exposure, case management services, and outreach education programs to prevent and control infectious diseases and child exposure.** Effective January 1, 2024, upon G&C approval through December 31, 2027, with the option to renew for up to two additional years. **81% Federal Funds, 14% General Funds, 5% Other Funds (Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund)**

#18 Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Trustees of Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, in the amount of \$500,000 for the **Merrimack, NH Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study** as appropriated in NH House Bill 2. Effective **retroactive** to July 1, 2023, upon G&C approval through June 30, 2025. **100% General Funds**

Division for Behavioral Health

#28 Authorized to enter into a contract with Foundation for Healthy Communities, Concord, NH, in the amount of \$1,710,000 to administer targeted Flexible Needs funding and manage the acquisition and provision of fund-specific supports and services for the NH Doorway System. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2024, with the option to renew for up to four additional years. **100% Federal Funds**

Wentworth Douglass Hospital is the primary Doorway System site for District Three.

#32C Authorized to enter into amendments to existing contracts with the Contractors as detailed in the letter dated December 6, 2023 to continue providing behavioral health residential treatment services for children, youth and young adults to meet their behavioral health needs by increasing the total price limitation by \$89,228,148 from \$189,715,897.18 to \$278,944,045.18 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Effective **retroactive to July 1, 2023**, upon G&C approval. **51% General Funds, 49% Federal Funds dependent upon eligibility of the client.** (2) Further authorize to **retroactively** amend the existing contract with Mount Prospect Academy, Inc., Plymouth, NH (originally approved by G&C on 8/4/21, Item #15), to allow the Department to make payments for shelter care services provided, by increasing the price limitation by \$39,200,757 from \$47,176,194 to \$86,376,951 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Effective **retroactive to January 1, 2023**, upon G&C approval. **51% General Funds, 49% Federal Funds dependent upon eligibility of the client.**

The Chase Home in Portsmouth received an additional \$2,399,362 in funding.

Division of Medicaid Services - CONTRACT TABLED

#33 Authorized to enter into contracts with AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Inc., Manchester, NH; Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc. d/b/a WellSense Health Plan, Manchester, NH; and Granite State Health Plan, Inc. d/b/a New Hampshire Healthy Families, Bedford, NH, to provide health care services to eligible and enrolled Medicaid provide health care services to eligible and enrolled Medicaid participants through NH's Medicaid managed care program known as NH Medicaid Care Management, in an amount shared by all vendors not to exceed \$1,004,871,237.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[#38](#) Authorized the Bureau of Highway Maintenance to **retroactively** pay **MB Tractor & Equipment, Plaistow, NH**, in the amount of **\$332,35**, for repair work performed on Kubota 4800 tractor. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Highway Funds**

[#39](#) Authorized the Bureau of Turnpikes to enter into a **retroactive sole source** invoice payment with Robert Pike Construction, Salisbury, MA for emergency repairs in the amount of \$11,197.34 for locating and fixing a broken waterline. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Turnpike Funds**
Line repair was associated with Hampton Toll Plaza

[#42](#) Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners, tenants, and/or claimants **\$22,000** as documented in the Contemplated Awards list, for amounts greater than \$5,000 for the period extending from December 1, 2023 through December 8, 2023. Effective upon G&C approval.
Derry 4A ROW \$22,000

[#43](#) Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners, tenants, and/or claimants \$163,693.49 as documented in the Contemplated Awards list, for amounts greater than \$5,000 for the period extending from November 15, 2023 through November 30, 2023. Effective upon G&C approval.
Derry 4A ROW \$130,152.

[#48](#) Authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to enter into a **sole source** agreement with **Jalbert Leasing, LLC, Portsmouth, NH**, to operate the **Dover Bus Terminal and Park and Ride lot** located at 23 Indian Brook Drive, Dover, NH. Effective upon G&C approval or January 1, 2024, whichever is later, through December 31, 2024. This is a no-cost operating agreement.

[#49](#) Authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to enter into a **sole source** agreement with **Jalbert Leasing, LLC, Portsmouth, NH**, to operate the **Portsmouth Transportation Center** located at 185 Grafton Drive, Portsmouth, NH. Effective upon G&C approval or January 1, 2024, whichever is later, through December 31, 2024. This is a no-cost operating agreement.

[#54](#) Authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to pay **Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation, Portsmouth, NH**, in an amount not to exceed **\$421,127**, to provide a portion of the non-federal funds required to match Federal Transit Administration operating. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2025. **100% State General Funds**

[#60](#) Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with **Busby Construction Co., Inc., Atkinson, NH**, on the basis of a **sole bid received of \$762,926** for culvert rehabilitation and replacement on NH 106 in Loudon, NH. (2) Further authorize a contingency in the amount of \$76,292.60 for payment of latent conditions which may appear during the construction of the project. Effective upon G&C approval though October 11, 2024. **100% Federal Funds**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

[#80](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** lease agreement with **Richard Edmunds, North Salem, NH**, for an amount not to exceed **\$84,000**, for the purpose of probation/probate district office space, located at 8 Continental Drive, Unit A, Exeter, NH. Effective upon G&C approval for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **100% General Funds**

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

[#93](#) Authorized to accept and expend **\$196,196 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** for purposes related to enhanced operations of the **Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2025. **100% Federal Funds**. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on December 15, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

[#99](#) Authorized the Division of the Arts to award a Public Value Partnership grant to **3S Contemporary Artspace, Inc. d/b/a 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH**, in the amount of **\$10,000** to strengthen their capacity for affordable diverse arts programs to NH residents and visitors. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2024. **100% General Funds**

[#108](#) Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into a contract with **SLR International Corporation, Bedford, NH**, in the amount of **\$124,900** to provide design services for a parking lot, entrance way modification, xeriscaping, and

stormwater management at Rye Harbor State Park. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2024. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#117](#) Authorized to award a grant to Rockingham County, Brentwood, NH in the amount not to exceed \$56,140 for wastewater and drinking water utility cybersecurity improvements for the Rockingham County Complex. Effective upon G&C approval through July 1, 2024. 100% Federal Funds

[#118](#) Authorized to award a grant to the Tranquility Estates Cooperative, Inc., Raymond, NH, in the amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval through December 1, 2025. 100% Federal Funds

[#120](#) Authorized to award Lead Service Line Inventory Grants to the entities, as detailed in the letter dated September 22, 2023, totaling \$75,000 to develop and implement drinking water service line inventories. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2024. 100% Federal Funds
Aquarion Water Company received \$67,750

[#125](#) Authorized to enter into a retroactive grant agreements with the entities, as detailed in the letter dated December 5, 2023, totaling \$10,855 to fund Household Hazardous Waste collection projects. Effective upon G&C approval for the period July 15, 2023 through June 30, 2024. 100% Hazardous Waste Funds
Town of Raymond received \$3,155.

[#126](#) Authorized to enter into a retroactive grant agreements with the entities, as detailed in the letter dated November 1, 2023, totaling \$27,593 to fund Household Hazardous Waste collection projects. Effective upon G&C approval for the period August 26, 2023 through June 30, 2024. 100% Hazardous Waste Funds
City of Portsmouth received \$4,265.

[#128](#) Authorized to award a sole source grant to the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, Inc., Portsmouth, NH, for a total of \$25,000, to conduct marine debris cleanups, monitoring, and education. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2024. 100% Federal Funds

[#131](#) Authorized a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan agreement with the Town of Salem, NH, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, to finance the Infiltration and Inflow and Sewer Rehabilitation Evaluation project under the provisions of RSA 486:14 and NH Code of Admin Rules Env-Wq 500 et seq. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% CWSRF Repayment Funds

[#138B](#) Authorized to accept and place on file the 2023 Annual Report of the Oil Fund Disbursement Board. CLEAN UP COSTS TO DATE FOR D3 INCLUDED

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

[#151](#) Authorized the NH Office of Highway Safety to enter into a retroactive sole source contract with the Derry Community Alliance for Teen Safety, Derry, NH, in the amount of \$9,500 for conducting public presentations for a FFY24 program about highway traffic safety (The Community Outreach & Betterment Grant). Effective upon G&C approval from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds

[#159](#) Authorized the Division of State Police to enter into a contract with Nicole L Sawyer PsyD PLLC, Exeter, NH in an amount of \$40,000, for the provision in de-escalating crisis negotiations and management of critical incidents. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2024, with the option to renew for one year period. 34% General Funds, 41% Highway Funds, 25% Turnpike Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

[#200](#) Authorized the Division of Public Works Design and Construction to enter into an agreement with JSA, Inc., Portsmouth, NH, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, for Architectural Services required for planning, design and construction of various Public Works' Projects as necessary and required by the Department. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027.

CONFIRMATIONS

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Services
Associate Justice, New Hampshire Supreme Court
Board of Accountancy (Certified Public Accountant)
Board of Dental Examiners
Compensation Appeals Board (Employer/Insurer)
Somersworth
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Independent Investment Committee
Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board (Municipal Fire Chief)
New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women Warden
Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys and Task Force, Department of Education
(Representative of the private 4-year colleges in New Hampshire)

Adam J. Crepeau, Concord
Melissa B. Countway, Alton
Lisa Athanasia, Plymouth
Mark D. Abel, Bedford
Arthur J. Beaudry,

Jeanie Forrester, Meredith
Christine Clinton, Dublin
Thomas W. Blanchette, Loudon
Sarah Provencher, Nashua
Marcie E. Vaughan, Portsmouth

NOMINATIONS

Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
Board of Licensed Dietitians
Merrimack
Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
Lakes Management Advisory Committee (N.H. Association of Realtors)
Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee (Environmental Organization)
New Hampshire Motor Vehicle Industry Board
New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board (New Car Dealer)
New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board (Rep. Consumers)
Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors
Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors
(*Experienced in promoting involvement of adults 55 years of age and older in volunteerism*)
Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors
(*Person between 16 & 25/participant in a service program*)

Patricia Tilley, New London
Courtney L. Costello,

Harry C. Brown, Stewartstown
Gail Hanson, Colebrook
Joanie McIntire, Concord
Sally Manikian, Shelburne
Donald R. Brabant, Portsmouth
Daniel J. Enxing, Windham
Nancy M. O'Brien, Stratham
Aaron R. Dupuis, Epping
Thomas J. Fencil, Nashua
Madison Hawkes, Nashua

Meagan Rose

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