



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

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

DATE: June 12, 2024

The May 15, 2024, Executive Council Breakfast Meeting was held at the New Hampshire Department of Safety Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services (FSTEMS). The Director of FSTEMS, Justin Cutting and the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal, Sean Toomey, provided the Governor and Executive Council with an update on the current statewide status of Firefighter/Emergency Medical Services recruitment and training along with an update on investigations and inspections conducted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



The New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services (NH DHHS) \$53 million dollar contract with Wellpath Recovery Solutions LLC, to provide inpatient pediatric psychiatric care and operational management at the state owned Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility, went into effect June 2022 with a contract completion date of June 30, 2024. While the contract included provisions for contract extensions, DHHS proceeded with a re-procurement process. I was fully supportive of competitively re-procuring this contract after I began tracking contract fulfillment by the vendor - with a focus on security and patient safety at the facility.

Following discussions with local stakeholders, New Hampshire State Police, Hampstead Police Department, Hampstead Fire Department, I requested information on the calls/requests for service made to these first responders by Wellpath Recovery Solutions, responsible for patient safety and internal security at the facility per contract terms. After reviewing data I received from state and local first responders - from June 2022 - November 2023 - I noted 184 calls made by Wellpath Recovery Solutions seeking assistance. Wellpath Recovery Solutions reported 40 calls. Based on my review, Wellpath Recovery Solutions failed to meet contract terms for the hiring and oversight of 24/7 security and safety staff at the facility and was overly reliant on local resources.

During re-procurement, NH DHHS opted to proceed with a sole source contract with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Hospital, to specifically provide child and young adult psychiatric behavioral health care. Presently, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center provides psychiatric care at two state-owned psychiatric facilities - New Hampshire Hospital and Glencliff Home (elderly services).

At the May 15, 2024, Executive Council meeting, I supported the two year, \$9,567,373 dollar contract with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical, which will be responsible for "inpatient psychiatric services to children, adolescents, and young adults admitted on either a voluntary or involuntary basis, as well as Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility services for children and adolescents". The Contractor will provide the following positions: Chief Medical Officer, General Medical Director, Staff Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Staff Psychiatrist, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and Behavioral Analyst".

Current staff - within 8 critical areas (non-prescribers) - will be given the opportunity to continue employment as State Employees. These staffing categories include RN/Supervisors, Safety Ambassadors, Social Workers, Pharmacists/Technicians, Admin. Support, Programming and Milieu Supervisors.

A separate contract to cover the current 175 staff positions currently filling these roles will be presented separately. Additionally, the State of New Hampshire will assume responsibility for vendor contracts for food service, laundry, maintenance - which will reduce the 15% markup Wellpath Health Solutions.

FINDINGS WELLPATH RECOVERY SOLUTIONS (November 2023)

Following discussions with representatives from the Hampstead, New Hampshire Police Department, the New Hampshire State Police, Hampstead Fire Department, and after reviewing the recent New Hampshire Youth Detention Center Public Safety Impact Subcommittee report, I am writing to present an overview of first responder response levels at the Hampstead Hospital & Residential Treatment Facility.

The information supplied by Wellpath Recovery Solutions, the clinical contractor for Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility (HHRTF), as outlined in the communication dated November 6, 2023, from the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, exhibits discrepancies when compared to data independently received from the Hampstead Police Department, New Hampshire State Police, and Hampstead Fire Department.

- The total number of Calls for Service **made by Wellpath Recovery Solutions, to the three first responder groups from June 1, 2022- November 2023: 184.***
- The total number of Calls for Service **reported by Wellpath Recovery Solutions on November 6, 2023 communication from June 1, 2022-November 2023: 40.***

	Calls for service made by Wellpath	Calls for Service reported by Wellpath (11/6/23)
	184	40
CFS law enforcement	64	26
elopement	12	11
non-elopement	52	15
EMS/FIRE	43	14
NH State Police	77	calls for service for NHSP was not delineated within the elopement / non-elopement data submitted by Wellpath in the 11/6/23 document

The cumulative volume of calls initiated by Wellpath Recovery Solutions to Law Enforcement, Fire-EMS, and State Police has reached a critical point, particularly in its reliance on Hampstead's Police and Fire/EMS services. It is crucial to highlight that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hampstead and New Hampshire State Police, effective since October 2022, clearly delineates the respective responsibilities for responding to calls for service at Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility.

The frequency of calls placed to Hampstead Police and Fire/EMS has shown a significant increase since 2021 when only 21 calls were received. Local police and fire departments express their support for the mission of Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility, emphasizing their concern for the health and well-being of patients and staff at HHRTF, as well as the 9,000 Hampstead residents they are committed to protecting.

The contract with Wellpath Recovery Solutions, which went into effect May 4, 2022, stipulates (13.1.2) – The Contractor shall provide a security personnel, 24 hours a day seven (7) days a week 365 days a year, who are trained in behavioral health and incident reduction for the purpose of monitoring and providing security internally at the HHRTF.

There appears to be widespread agreement among first responders that the security personnel employed and overseen by Wellpath Recovery Solutions are deficient in both capability and adequate staffing levels to effectively de-escalate conflicts within the facility. Consequently, there is a recurring need for first responders, predominantly local police, to be called upon

to address and resolve security issues involving patients at the facility. Essentially, this implies a reliance on local police as a default security system, raising concerns about Wellpath Recovery Solutions' ability to meet the necessary standards and ensure the safety of patients and staff.

CALLS FOR SERVICE LAW ENFORCEMENT-- JUNE 1, 2022-NOVEMBER 2023

Hampstead Police Department Calls for Service (CFS)

64 CFS reflects calls solely to Hampstead PD. Does not include NH State Police or Hampstead Fire Department (see below).

Wellpath Recovery Solution HHRTF

40 CFS reflects data which WellPath "cross-checked their own facility records with State Police and Hampstead PD. Medical/EMS also included in November 6, 2023 communication

Elopement – June 1, 2022 – November 2023

Hampstead Police Department Calls for Service

12 CFS – which involved a total of 15 youth.

Wellpath Recovery Solution HHRTF

11 CFS

The November 6, 2023, correspondence includes the following - "That since additional facility and programming changes were made to prevent elopements – Police have not needed to be involved in any active elopements for the last two months". **That is incorrect.** There have been two elopements - one on October 10, 2023, and another on 10/24/23 which I was informed of during a GACIT Hearing in Hampstead.

Non-Elopement-June 1, 2022-November 2023

Hampstead Police Department Calls for Service

52 CFS – 56% classified as high risk

Wellpath Recovery Solution HHRTF

15 CFS

Fire-EMS Calls for Service June 1, 2-2022-November

Hampstead Fire Department Calls for Service

43 Medical/EMS CFS – often require police

Wellpath Recovery Solution HHRTF

14 Medical/EMS CFS

State Police Calls for Service -June 1, 2022-November 2023

New Hampshire State Police

77 CFS

Wellpath Recovery Solution HHRTF

CFS to New Hampshire State Police was not delineated within the elopement/non-elopement data submitted in the November 6, 2023, document.

May 15, 2024 Executive Council Meeting

#4 MOP 150, I, B (4): Nominations, Confirmations and Appointments

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[C](#). Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way petition for a hearing on rehabilitation or replacing the existing Red List bridges that carry Main Street over Beaver Brook in the **Town of Pelham, NH.** (2) Further authorized a Commission of

Three Persons should be appointed by the Governor and Council to hold a hearing, and shall determine whether there is occasion for the construction of the rehabilitation or replacement of the bridges and the sidewalk construction, with a suggested budget of \$880.68.

CONFIRM DATE

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

F. Authorized to amend an **American Rescue Plan Act grant to the Town of Exeter, NH** (originally approved by G&C on 5/22/23, Item #71), by extending the completion date from June 1, 2024 to April 1, 2025 to allow for more time to complete the project due to possible equipment and purchasing delays. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is involved in this time extension. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

K. Authorized to amend an **American Rescue Plan Act grant to the City of Portsmouth, NH** (originally approved by G&C on 11/22/22, Item #115), by extending the completion date from June 30, 2024 to January 31, 2025, for improvements to the Mechanic Street Wastewater Pumping Station. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is involved in this time extension. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

L. Authorized to amend an **American Rescue Plan Act grant to the City of Portsmouth, NH** (originally approved by G&C on 1/18/23, Item #76), by extending the completion date to from September 30, 2024 to March 31, 2025, for rehabilitation of the sewer system. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is involved in this time extension. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

M. Authorized to amend a grant agreement with the **City of Portsmouth, NH** (originally approved by G&C on 5/31/23, Item #131), by extending the completion date from May 31, 2024 to May 31, 2025 to complete a project to **better protect drinking water from contamination**. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is involved in this time extension. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

O. Authorized to amend a grant to the **Town of Windham, NH** (originally approved by G&C on 6/28/23, Item #196), by extending the completion date from June 1, 2024 to December 1, 2026 to remediate per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Effective upon G&C approval. No additional funding is involved in this time extension. 100% General Funds

REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hampstead Hospital & Residential Treatment Facility

#18A Authorized to enter into a sole source amendment to an existing contract, which was competitively bid, with Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Lebanon, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3/23/22, Item# 31), to add scope of services for the provision of child and young adult psychiatric behavioral health services at Hampstead Hospital & Residential Treatment Facility, by increasing the price limitation by **\$9,567,373** from \$61,544,053 to \$71,111,426 with no change to the contract completion date of June 30, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. 32% General Funds, 68% Other Funds (Provider Fees) **NOTE - \$71,111,426 includes DHMC inpatient adult and geriatric psychiatric services at New Hampshire Hospital and Glencliff.**

Division of Economic Stability

#19 Authorized to amend existing contracts with the Contractors as detailed in the letter dated April 24, 2024, to provide statewide coverage for workforce development services focused on assisting current, transitioning, and former participants of the New Hampshire Employment Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families participants in obtaining career advancement support services and opportunities that will assist them in achieving

continued upward economic mobility, ultimately mitigating the cliff effect and reducing the need for public assistance in additional services areas, as a result of a Request for Proposal, by increasing the total price limitation by \$2,936,485 from \$4,923,889 to \$7,860,374, with no change to the contract completion date of June 30, 2026. Effective upon G&C approval. 83% Federal Funds, 17% General Funds

Southern New Hampshire Services was awarded an additional \$1,429,253 in funding for a total of \$4,527,795.

Division for Behavioral Health

#21 Authorized, on behalf of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, to amend an existing contract with **SOS Recovery Community Organization, Inc.**, Rochester, NH (originally approved by G&C on 1/22/21, Item #23), to continue providing Family Support Coordinator services, by exercising a contract renewal option by increasing the price limitation by \$220,000 from \$335,000 to \$555,000 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2024, upon G&C approval. 100% Other Funds (Governor's Commission Funds)

#24 Authorized to amend existing contracts with the Contractors as detailed in the letter dated March 29, 2024, for the provision of Recovery Oriented Step-Up Step-Down programs for individuals 18 years of age or older, with long term and/or severe mental illness, by exercising contract renewal option by increasing the total price limitation by \$4,000,000 from \$4,000,000 to \$8,000,000 and extending the completion dates from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2024, upon G&C approval. 100% General Funds

Connections Peer Support Center - Portsmouth was awarded an additional \$800,000 in funding for a total of \$1,600,000 for residential peer-based care.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#34 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with **C.W. Sliter & Sons, LLC d/b/a CWS Fence & Guardrail Co.**, Andover, NH, on the basis of a low bid of \$1,276,275.00 for guardrail repair of damaged beam guardrail in the Central and Eastern Turnpike system and Tier 1 roadways within Districts 5 and 6. Effective upon G&C approval through December 5, 2025, unless extended by the Department in accordance with the Standard Specifications. 34% Turnpike Funds, 66% Other Funds (Betterment)

Blue Star Highway (Route 95), Eastern Turnpike (Route 101) and Spaulding (Route 16)

#36 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter a contract with **Continental Paving, Inc.**, Londonderry, NH, on the basis of a low bid of \$6,382,910.86, for roadway resurfacing in twenty-one Towns in District 6. Effective upon G&C approval through September 27, 2024, unless extended by the Department in accordance with the Standard Specifications. 100% Other Funds

#43 Authorized the Bureau of Highway Design to enter into an agreement with **BETA Group, Inc.**, Lincoln, RI, for an amount not to exceed \$372,205.50, for signal coordination and control. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. 100% Federal Funds

Deliverable is optimized signal coordination/control on Route 125 in Plaistow

#45 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into an agreement with **John Turner Consulting, Inc.**, North Hampton, NH, for an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, for construction engineering and inspection services for various transportation projects located throughout the State. Effective upon G&C approval through March 31, 2027.

#46 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay property owners, tenants, and/or claimants \$42,052.20 as documented in the Contemplated Awards list, for amounts greater than \$5,000 for the period extending from March 26, 2024 through April 1, 2024. Effective upon G&C approval.

Derry 4-A \$33,150

#48 Authorized to accept and place on file the Bureau of Right-of-Way's Contemplated Awards List for amounts less than \$5,000, for a total of \$30,681.41 for the period extending from January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024.

Derry-4A \$11,823.00 Plaistow-Kingston \$9780.00

[#51](#) Authorized the Bureau of Bridge Design to amend a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., Manchester, NH (originally approved by G&C on 12/22/21), for the replacement of the existing **Red List bridge carrying NH Route 1A over Hampton River in the Town of Hampton, NH, by extending the completion date from June 30, 2024 to December 31, 2028.** (2) Further authorize to increase the fee by \$973,612.31 from \$1,991,660.55 to \$2,965,272.86. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOODS

[#73](#) Authorized the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee to enter a grant with **Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, Epping, NH, in the amount of \$30,000,** for the Mallego Brook Headwater Project in the Town of Barrington, Strafford County. Effective upon G&C approval for the period of July 1, 2024 through April 30, 2026. 100% Other Funds

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[#82](#) Authorized to enter into a retroactive amendment to an existing sole source contract with **Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc.,** Manchester, NH (originally approved by G&C on 9/21/22, Item #63), for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, by extending the completion date from March 31, 2024 to June 30, 2024, changing the amount of the program from \$1,375,947 to \$806,433.94, and changing the scope to authorize **one time supplemental payments of \$742 to eligible customers that applied for the program by March 31, 2024 totaling \$459,298** within the updated price limitation of \$806,433.94. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% Federal Funds

PEASE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

[#85](#) Authorized the Division of Ports and Harbors to amend a Fiscal Committee Item (originally approved by G&C on 6/15/22, Item #80A), to repurpose **\$110,589.00** - the remaining funds from the completed **Hampton Harbor floating docks project and extending the end date from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025.** Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on May 17, 2024.

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

[#95](#) Authorized to retroactively accept and expend a grant award from the **Association of Food and Drug Officials, Milk and Shellfish Grant Program** in the amount of \$7,283, for the purpose of obtaining an unmanned aerial vehicle to assist Conservation Officers with surveying and monitoring both open and closed shellfish aquaculture sites. Effective retroactive to July 1, 2023, upon G&C approval through June 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on May 17, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

[#103A](#) Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into a contract with **Powell Enterprises NH Corporation, North Hampton, NH, in the amount of \$23,999.84** to perform Beach Grading at Wallis Sands State Park. Effective upon G&C approval through May 24, 2024. 100% Other Funds (Agency Income)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#110](#) Authorized to enter into a contract with the **Rockingham County Conservation District, Brentwood, NH, in the amount of \$61,850, for the Coastal Resilience at Odiome Point State Park** on the Little Harbor shoreline project. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2025. 100% Federal Funds

[#111](#) Authorized to enter into a sole source agreement with the **Rockingham Planning Commission, Exeter, NH, for a total of \$15,000,** to provide planning and outreach technical assistance to coastal communities. Effective July 1, 2024, upon G&C approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds

[#119](#) Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the **Town of Plaistow, NH, totaling \$949,982, for partial funding of one Fire Truck replacement.** Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2027. 100% NH Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds

[#124](#) Authorized Kimberly K Gerrich Revocable Living Trust to perform work on Great Bay in Greenland, NH.

[#126](#) Authorized Marilyn Page Revocable Living Trust to perform work on Great Bay in Greenland, NH.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[#149](#) Authorized to enter into a subgrant with the **Hampton Police Department, Hampton, NH, in an amount not to exceed \$37,000, from the American Rescue Plan Act**, for the purpose of supporting municipalities and state agencies with activities related to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds

[#152](#) Authorized to enter into subgrants with the subrecipients as detailed in the letter dated April 18, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$720,127, from the Federal Victim of Crime Act Grant for the purpose of providing services to victims of crime. Effective upon G&C approval or July 1, 2024, whichever is later, through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds

Rockingham County Attorney's Office received \$50,000.00 and City of Portsmouth Police Department received \$24,739.00 for Victim Advocate Services

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

[#164](#) Authorized to amend an existing contract with **Bouchard Painting Inc., Derry, NH (originally approved by G&C on 5/18/22, Item #111)**, for painting services on an as needed basis by exercising a contract renewal option by **increasing the price limitation by \$40,000 from \$175,000 to \$215,000** and extending the completion date from May 17, 2024 to May 17, 2025. Effective upon G&C approval.

CONFIRMATIONS

Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation (Employers)
Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
Aviation Users Advisory Board (Corporate Aviation)
Board of Nursing (RN)
Board of Nursing (APRN)
Commissioner, Department of Employment Security
Division for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board
Enhanced 911 Commission (Representing the Disabled Community)
Lottery Commission
New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, Housing Finance Board
(Real Estate – Selling or Renting)
New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, Housing Finance Board (Public Member)
New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank
New Hampshire Real Estate Commission (Public Member)
Professional Standards Director, Department of Corrections

Thomas Boucher, Bedford
Joshua K. Marshall, Canterbury
Steven F. Hyde, New Durham
Bette Bogdan, Chichester
Joshua D. Dion, Bedford
George N. Copadis, Manchester
Mark A. Rolon, Loudon
Paul Kelley, Seabrook
Erle B. Pierce, Concord
Sarah Marchant, i, Brookline

Michael F. Scala, r, Rochester
Paul Mansour, Bridgewater
Stuart T. Arnett, Concord
Christopher H. Pingree, Bow

NOMINATIONS

Community College System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees (General Public)
Director, Division of Educator Support and Higher Education, Department of Education
Executive Branch Ethics Committee
Justice, New Hampshire Circuit Court
Justice, New Hampshire Circuit Court
Justice, New Hampshire Circuit Court

Katharine Bogle Shields, Canterbury
Stephen M. Appleby, Auburn
Samuel H. Martin, r, Dover
Michael A. Beausoleil, Bennington
John T. Katsirebas Jr., Epsom
Jason R. L. Major, Concord