



## Community Corrections Planning Meeting Minutes January 21, 2014 6:00 pm

Members Present: Daniel Ward, David Berry, Edward Philpot, Maggie Pritchard, Brian Loanes, Gary Goudreau, Debra Shackett, and Angela Bovill.

Absent: Alida Millham, Miller Lovett, Craig Wiggin, Steve Nedeau and John Thomas.

Commissioner Philpot, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

M/Shackett, S/Loanes to approve the 11/19/13, 12/03/13 and 01/07/14 minutes as written.  
Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

The Superintendent and Ms. Pritchard met to review the Bennett report and to look for noted opportunities to impact those currently incarcerated with mental health needs. Ms. Pritchard also looked at the last couple of years of patients who also had BCC stays. She indicated that on the county jails consensus, 29 people on the list are clients of hers in the Jail. This has an impact on rates/recidivism when these patients are in the jail. Ms. Pritchard went on a tour of the Jail today and stated that the facility is not set up in a way that is ideal for a patient to get well. The only place those services can be provided are in the jail setting and they don't have proper accommodations. There is no privacy for family issues (in a therapeutic manner). Ms. Prichard has been trying to get one client into the State hospital for 3 weeks and has been told that they are "on the list". The jail is just not quipped for that level of care for these mental health patients. Ms. Shackett said that this is a nationwide problem and that mental health patients have become an issue in all jails. Since the Government shut down, jails are filled with these patients and they are not equipped to handle their needs.

Superintendent Ward gave an excellent detailed presentation reviewing the jail, capacity forecast (that was in Bennett Report) along with projections for the county population. The Bennett report was based on programming and community corrections. Without the programming, we are not able to drive the numbers down. Superintendent Ward overlaid his numbers with the Bennett report. It has been 2 or so years since the Bennett report was done and Superintendent Ward said that his projections were conservative. The female population continues to rise year after year. The programs are what drive the numbers down to reduce recidivism and re-offending. To drive down numbers, you need the programming. The cost of doing nothing, or the cost of not having the programming means we will need a new jail that will need to be much bigger in size. Currently, the jail does a great deal of programming within its confinement including, GED, licenses, vocational services, bracelet program, recovery court, ADAPT, nurturing parenting classes to name a few. Without these programs (and more) there will be a

50-60% recidivism rate in Belknap County. One size does not fit all, there needs to be lots of little pieces of the big picture.

Superintendent Ward said that the WMUR documentary that was done by Amy Covenor of Channel 9 News will air tomorrow night at 11pm news and again Saturday night around 7:40pm. WMUR spent 4 hours at the jail taping, interviewing, etc. and compiled a segment on the County Jail. This will also be posted on the website and the Intranet in an effort to be seen by all.

At the next meeting, the committee will discuss getting the message/information out on programming versus the cost of housing inmates in an effort to help educated people and for them to understand these hard facts/costs.

Adjourn: With no further business, M/Shackett, S/Loanes to adjourn at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant