

6th Meeting of Behavioral Health and Treatment and Recovery Committees

February 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Richard Clark, County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss, District Attorney Kathy Slattery, City of Sanford Executive Director Sanford Housing Authority Diane Small, York County Clinician Jennifer Ouellette, Kennebunk Police Chief Robert Mackenzie, MDOC Recovery Program Coordinator Tori Arsenault, Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont, Sheriff William King

1. **Welcome-** County Manager Greg Zinser welcomed all and explained the circulated (building) plans will be part of the discussion today.
2. **Review of draft minutes of August 30, 2022-** Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Deputy Manager Linda Corliss seconded the motion. Motion passed with Chief Mackenzie and Diane Small abstaining.
3. **Review of Building Design-** Jen Ouellette explained that the ground floor is where there will be heavy activity to include the large community space utilized for 12 step peer recovery, short term recovery, conferences, IOP and outpatient treatment. So, there will be daily traffic. The second floor will consist of the halfway house and long term programs in theory. Jen added that she likes this design and is very excited about this building. Everything from the beginning that we identified has been put in.

County Manager Zinser informed the committee that we are now working with food vendors in a non-committal fashion from quality and pricing perspectives.

4. **Update on permitting process-** County Manager Zinser informed all that the Alfred Planning Board was generally in favor of the training facility and that the bulk of questions were about the recovery center. He added that it went generally not bad. While he was not present Deputy Manager Corliss and Facilities Manager de Rochemont as well as Fire/EMS Administrator Roger Hooper were and relayed that there were concerns about the number of beds. We explained we already have a facility over there. The County Manager continued that there were some concerns that this type of business does not allow for this (# of beds). We have an alternate plan B. As well there were concerns about frontage. We believe that is a non- problem. Lastly, there were septic and water concerns. County Manager Zinser added that there were a lot of questions surrounding how it's going to operate, i.e. funding, etc. We will answer as we understand that it's a big project.

Deputy Manager Corliss commented that they were overall supportive of it.

Facilities Manager deRochemont commented that the County Manager had hit all of their concerns. He added that another concern they had was traffic and people wandering the neighborhood.

The County Manager explained that housing was lifted from the original proposal. Selectmen many months ago honed right in on housing. We opted at that point to pull housing out to not compromise the other two buildings, explained.

We are working with Sanford Housing, explained County Manager Zinser. The Commissioners set aside \$500,000 for designing, etc. We are still committed to finding a place for housing. The County Manager continued that, in fact, he and Diane had a fruitful conversation with a realtor yesterday and we may have some leads on some property centrally located in Sanford.

5. General Discussion/member comments-County Manager Zinser stated that transportation is also a topic and that maybe we will purchase a couple of vans.

He continued that there have been conversations with State people regarding Mainecare and other topics. The settlement funds are coming in. Right now, York County has \$500,000 in the bank but we won't get anymore (payments) for another 5 years, explained the County Manager. County Manager Zinser informed committee members to cover shortfalls, he anticipates talking to the AG's office as they have control over 20% of the money. There is also a recovery council. We have \$32 million dedicated to these projects right now, explained the County Manager. Commissioners had general conversations several months ago about the use of the settlement funds. It was decided to put them in a reserve account for now and we will probably use them for operational costs.

Sheriff King stated that he was curious about the York County cities and towns that received (opioid settlement) money and whether or not there is any appetite to approach them?

County Manager Zinser replied that there was some conversation about that at a meeting he attended last week.

Chief Mackenzie asked if there was a target amount for building costs(of the recovery center)? County Manager Zinser replied, around \$16 million was the number given to us by our contractor but that doesn't include site work. He continued that the Board recently set aside at the remaining ARPA funds and we have the CDS request for \$2 million. Therefore, we have about \$15 million in cash right now set aside for this.

County Manager Zinser informed all that the test borings were positive and that this is great news for foundation work.

Chief Mackenzie suggested that perhaps we have a meeting with Biddeford to show how this will affect the York County communities. He continued that he thinks all the municipalities are planning what they are going to do (with the funds) now.

County Manager Zinser responded that he agreed and that he thinks we need to sit down with the town/city managers.

County Manager Zinser informed all that we hope to break ground by the fall of '23.

County Manager Zinser explained that this will center will be primarily substance abuse. Our goal with this is to have multiple points of entry- diversion, observation bed approach, law enforcement or EMS finds someone who needs help, general public. The Center is meant to be barrier free.

Tori Arsenault from MDOC recovery program asked if Medicare will be accepted? York County Clinician Jen Ouellette responded that she has limited experience with that but understands that it is a big process and you have to be accredited. MaineCare will give us some revenue.

Jen Ouellette continued that perhaps some York County city or town may purchase a bed.

Chief Mackenzie replied that he would think city managers would want to be a part of this.

There was a discussion of perhaps obtaining sponsors and creating a Foundation.

Sheriff King added that having a place for detox will take a lot of pressure off the hospitals and crisis centers. MDOC Recovery Program Coordinator Tori Arsenault commented that her organization would drop people off at Maine Medical Center as there was nowhere else to take them and there is a lack of time and beds at hospitals.

Sheriff King stated that he liked Jen's idea of "buying" beds.

- 6. Next Steps-** County Manager Zinser stated that at the next meeting he will modify the draft agreement that was created for other building. We will also discuss the following: Development Director, creation of a Foundation, and any design changes. He asked that committee members brainstorm on possible ideas.

Commissioner Clark commented that perhaps we should hire someone that knows how to raise money. Social media is a big segment of getting the message out there, stated Commissioner Clark.

- 7. Schedule next meeting-** Monday, Feb. 27th at 9:00 a.m. in the EMA Training Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.