

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND TREATMENT AND RECOVERY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 30, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the York County Commissioners' Meeting room at the York County Government Building

Present: Matt Leach, York County Fire Chief's Association, Commissioner Clark, Tori Arsenault-Smith of Milestone Recovery, Jen Ouellette, York County Clinician, Sheriff William King, District Attorney Kathy Slattery, Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont, York County Manager Greg Zinser, York County Deputy Manager, Linda Corliss

1. **WELCOME-** County Manager Greg Zinser gave a brief update of what has been worked on. Back in March we developed a continuum of care. From there it became an exercise in how we take programs into the building and what it would look like. He added that a lot of time has been spent discussing the budget. This is a massive facility that will require about 80 people to run. Most likely it will happen in phases, explained County Manager Zinser. MaineCare is needed to make the program viable.

The budget with operational costs and reimbursement costs is complicated and prepared in draft form with 75% utilization. We will not get full MaineCare reimbursement, stated County Manager Zinser.

Sometime in December we will be getting our first check from the Opioid lawsuit settlement. We are slated to receive 6.2% that is estimated to be between \$100,000 to \$180,000 over the next several years, said the County Manager. He continued that the Commissioners will need to decide where to put it. It cannot be used for building the facility.

2. **MINUTES-** Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes as amended. Rick deRochemont seconded the motion. Vote- unanimous.
3. **REVIEW OF BUILDING DESIGN-** County Manager Zinser gave an overview of the drawings for the Public Safety training and Recovery Center facilities. He added that these are two important ARPA money investments.

County Manager continued that he is waiting on building estimates. \$6 million is the estimated cost for all of site work.

County Manager Zinser informed all that he has had meetings with Gordon Smith from the Governor's office regarding obtaining funding and there are more meetings to come. The County Manager relayed that he told Mr. Smith that we need a commitment of money over a couple of years. He added that Gordon Smith said the possibility of an administration change is a consideration right now.

County Manager Zinser stated that we are also talking with others. Earmark spending for congress has been successful on the training side with \$1.5 million for simulators and other training equipment.

He continued that we put in for outfitting the buildings in the amount of \$1.9 million and sent it over and we were told we could potentially have \$1.9 million for construction. This is "on the

table” and has made it through the first three hurdles. The downside is everything is happening all at once and we don’t know the prices yet, explained the County Manager.

Tori Arsenault- Smith asked if people from other counties will be accepted at the recovery center. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that we haven’t gotten that far yet but, most likely for York County only.

Sheriff-King suggested maybe have people come from other states who can privately pay. County Manager Zinser agreed that this would be an opportunity to make some money to help operate the facility. He added that we are hoping to stay away from private insurance carriers, but that he does think we can take private pay.

Matt Leach asked what is the low end of people you can take to the highest? Clinician Jen Ouellette replied that the occupancy is 8%. County Manager Zinser explained that each program is separately licensed. It doesn’t take this program to run this program.

Jen Ouellette added that each program has to have their own budget. County Manager Zinser stated that the outpatient program will make money but it will be turned right back in to run the facility.

As we move forward, we believe we will be successful in tracking enough employees, commented the County Manager.

Sheriff king asked Jen Ouellette how will she keep this filled? Clinician Jen Ouellette replied that Maine Care approval is based on income. Therefore, she explained, the key is if any MaineCare change happens, we have to be on top of it. We have built our model with 80% being MaineCare.

County Manager Zinser went on to explain that each pod will have an administrative person that will get stats. This is data intensive as the money is so compartmentalized. Money needs to be used appropriately. Some money, he continued, will be subject to non-income people, people with no insurance. We have to draw down on bed days for each person that we’re asking to use the block grant for.

County Manager Zinser stated that we need to figure out how can we engage in those types of contracts that cover gaps like the jail MAT program.

4. REVIEW OF BUDGET DOCUMENT, BUDGET UPDATES IN GENERAL-County Manager Zinser explained that the document presented is based on 75% occupancy.

Tori Arsenault- Smith stated that Milestone is always at capacity. People are looking for detox and long-term recovery. She continued that the issue we are having at detox is currently Narcan and Suboxone are not responding. The drug being used is a newer fentanyl. Methadone is what is responding and then to Suboxone. Will methadone be utilized at the recovery center? Clinician Jen Ouellette replied, no. She continued that it is a tool and she is aware of that. Methadone is a straight opioid and therefore there are a host of regulations to be a methadone prescriber and provider. I have no experience in this and it is heavily regulated. Storing on-site is also an issue. Suboxone can be ordered and stored on site, she explained.

Tori replied that Jen is correct but would there be room for discussion for in-patient only?

Jen responded that she has coordinated with methadone clinics. They would have to transport to another facility that deals with this and back to the clinic.

County Manager Zinser asked if Nasson does methadone? Jen Ouellette replied that they do not.

Sheriff King stated that the methadone clinic we used is by the airport in Portland. Maybe partner with them, he suggested.

County Manager Zinser replied that he is all for it but in the past, conversations regarding the use of methadone with the town resulting in them being adamantly opposed.

It is needed in some instances but keeping it on site may be a problem. We will explore, stated the County Manager.

York County Clinician Jen Ouellette added that this would require separate staffing accreditation.

County Manager Zinser stated but maybe we could work something out with the jail pharmacy. Tori Arsenault-Smith stated that this could be just for in patient detox with no one coming from the outside. Just to transition to suboxone.

Matt Leach asked does the facility lend the flexibility to introduce something like this later on?

Sheriff King stated that he believed the town's concern was people driving in daily to get their methadone. This is different. County Manager Zinser stated that he will talk to Jen further.

County Manager Zinser informed all that an individual has been brought on to help with the Alford Grants.

D.A. Kathy Slattery asked if the training and recovery centers will be brought on together?

County Manager Zinser responded that yes, all put together at the same time.

He continued that there will be an RFQ for construction bids so there will be a construction manager on site. He added that he hopes to go out to bid for that in another month. He will seek approval from the Commissioners to do so.

Sheriff King asked about the septic for these facilities.

County Manager Zinser explained that in the feasibility study to bring sewer from Sanford, the cost is \$4.5 million. The interior systems to bring sewer to the buildings have not been designed yet. I am not necessarily in favor of public sewer, stated County Manager Zinser. We already have sewer on site and could perhaps do it cheaper with a private sewer.

Commissioner Clark stated that there is a three-member board of selectmen in Alfred and there may be a different Board next year. Maybe we should have an ambulance at our training center?

County Manager Zinser replied that part of this may be that we have enough money to buy one. Commissioner Clark spoke in reference to political push back from the Town and stated that he understands that you don't want your town overburdened. He added that Alfred is not completely without reason to be concerned.

Commissioner Clark continued that in regards to the discussion of whether or not the recovery center will be open to people from other counties, if there are empty beds, fill them but on the other hand, York County towns will want their people allowed in it always. He added that he is

more concerned about staffing the center.

5. **NEXT MEETING-** It was decided to choose a date to meet again after more documents are available for discussion.
6. **ADJOURN-**Meeting adjourned.

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