

**Sullivan County NH
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 3, 2010**

**Place: Remington Woodhull County Complex, 14 Main Street, Newport NH 03773
1st Floor Commissioners Conference Room**

EFC Members Present: Representatives Suzanne Gottling, John Cloutier, Beverly Rodeschin, and Philip "Joe" Osgood.

EFC Members Absent: Representatives Jim McClammer (later entered meeting at 8:39 a.m.)

Other Delegation Members Present: Representatives Carla Skinder and Raymond Gagnon.

Public Present: Community Alliance Human Services Executive Director - Barbara Brill, Turning Points Network Executive Director - Deborah Mozden, Sunapee Selectman - Stephen White, and Communities United For Substance Abuse Prevention Coordination - Liz Hennig.

The EFC Chair, Rep. Gottling, opened the meeting at **8:37 a.m.**

Rep. Rodeschin moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Aug. 23, 2010 EFC meeting. Motion approved on a 3-0-voice vote with Rep. Osgood abstaining because he was absent from the August 23rd meeting.

Rep. McClammer entered meeting at 8:39 a.m.

The Chair discussed the meeting's main purpose, which was to consider revision to the present County Grants Policy. She then distributed a sheet summarizing all 10 New Hampshire Counties' current policies currently on grants in relation to their budgets (See attached sheet).

Registrar of Deeds Sharron King entered meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Rep. Gagnon suggested that we hold an informational meeting with municipal officials in the County to assess needs and work with other human services organizations, which might have some available funds to help reprioritize county grants. He cited a NH Children's' Trust Fund reassessment that was recently done.

Rep. McClammer supported Rep. Gagnon's suggestion, and added that we ought to do a survey of the County's municipalities to assess needs. He then suggested that we might be able to have either Keene's Antioch University, or Dartmouth College help with such a survey.

The Chair discussed Strafford County's policy on County Grants. Strafford County believes that county taxpayers shouldn't be the primary source of funding human service organizations, and shouldn't necessarily make up any state funding lost due to recent State budget cuts.

The Chair asked Ms. Brill and Ms. Mozden, who were present, how long their agencies have been funded. Ms. Brill said Community Transportation has been funded for 18 years, and Ms. Mozden said Turning Points Network has been funded for about 15 years.

Rep. Skinder said by giving agencies like the ones present today county grants, Sullivan County may actually be saving taxpayers money in the long run. Said more research on agencies work and needs to be done before we cut out such grants completely.

Rep. Osgood said in principle he supports Strafford County's policy on county grants as described. But also said he supports a survey of Sullivan County municipalities to reassess their human service needs.

Mr. White complained about the county's current practice of funding just one soup kitchen in Claremont and not funding other soup kitchens in the county and pointed out a recent newspaper article about the Claremont Soup Kitchen.

Rep. Gagnon suggested that we not scapegoat any particular soup kitchen, instead and encourage all the county's soup kitchens and food pantries to work more closely together before we reassess county grants again.

Rep. Rodeschin said we should not pick on any one particular agency in servicing our county grants policy.

Rep. Osgood cited a present example of churches and other organizations now working together to provide needed human services in the Claremont, a collaboration which seems to be working.

Mr. White cautioned county about working together with educational institutions like Antioch University and cited a recent example of his experience with Antioch. Agreed with Rep. Osgood's statement about the churches collaboration working well.

General discussion continued among participants, including Rep. Gagnon.

Mr. White left meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Ms. Hennig supported an assessment of the County's human services needs by surveying municipalities and using a person from an educational institution to help with the assessment.

Among other points, she said reliable transportation is an effective way to deal with human services problems. Added that, most substance abuse is caused by posttraumatic stress disorders caused in the early years of an individuals' home life.

Rep. Skinder announced that there would be a community transportation summit on Nov. 18, 2010 at Concord's Grappone Center.

A sheet was then distributed listing the amount of funds each N.H. county now gives to local mass transit agencies. Ms. Brill then commented on this sheet. Ms. Mozden also briefly commented on the issue of county grants in general.

Rep. Skinder noted, "*It would be interesting to interview 'jail' people as to how the community failed them so we can better educate them so that they get help before getting into trouble – educate in resources*".

Rep. Skinder left meeting at 10:12.

Rep. Rodeschin encouraged meeting participants to survey their municipal welfare directors to discuss what the directors believe are the main human service needs in their particular municipality.

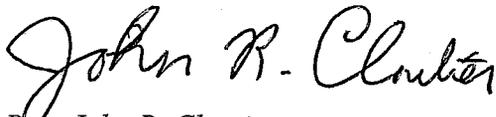
But Ms. Mozden cautioned that welfare directors are not experts on all problems like substance abuse.

Rep. McClammer left meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Discussion ensued about the date of the next meeting to discuss county grants. General consensus was that we wait until after Nov. 2nd election and consult with County Commissioners about the progress the committee has made so far.

Rep. Osgood moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a motion to adjourn the county grants meeting with the date of the next meeting to be set by the EFC Chair. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, and meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



*Rep. John R. Cloutier
Acting Clerk*