

County Delegation Meeting
March 7, 2005

ATTENDEES: Representatives John Cloutier-Chair, Larry Converse – Vice Chair, Arthur Jillette Jr. (left at 11:15 a.m.), Brenda Ferland – EFC Chair, Peter Franklin, James Phinizy.

Rep. John Cloutier called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM at the Conference Room in the Sullivan County offices in Newport, NH.

Hé announced that a quorum of delegates was not present and thus no formal decisions could be taken.

Rep. Cloutier requested that Commissioner Nelson lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rep. Cloutier announced that in spite of the fact that a quorum was not present, we did have the County Attorney and County Administrator present, and it would be possible to discuss some topics, such as the progress of the Genesis contract and other items of interest. It was determined that the Chair had the flexibility to move the sequence of the published agenda around in order to take advantage of the fact that certain people were available to discuss certain topics.

Rep. Cloutier presented Mr. Gil del Rubio to report on progress with the Genesis Contract. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated that the progress report of February 7th would be the benchmark of how we will evaluate progress with our agreement with Genesis Corp. Since the report, there has been a reorganization of positions, including the elimination of 10 positions of Unit Aides, which will result in a savings of \$350,000.

Unit Aide positions do not qualify for Medicaid Funding. You need to have LNA positions to be eligible for Medicaid Funding. The ten people being laid off were offered the opportunity to train to become LNA's and fill those positions as they open up. As it turned out, 3 persons chose to be trained as LNA's; the other 7 will be laid off with a severance package,

The New Administrator from Genesis, John Allard, is working out a new budget, which should result in considerable savings. The County Commissioners are meeting with Mr. Allard on a regular basis.

Rep. Converse remarked that in his opinion, the savings represented by the elimination of the Unit Aides is resulting in severe hardship and a loss of morale at the County Home. Rep. Ferland took umbrage with negative statements in the report regarding home residents such as "bottom of the barrel" and "lowlife". She felt that the document should be more respectful and that the use of such language in the report, possibly indicates administrative attitude towards the residents.

Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated that we are going through a learning curve with the new administrators and we are seeing in the report the use of language you often see in the commercial field of nursing care administration. He will pass on the concerns of the delegation to the new administrators. Rep. Ferland spoke in a positive manner regarding some of the staffing changes that have been made.

Rep. Franklin spoke up quite firmly to say that he found the Report and the use of language in the Report to be absolutely disgraceful! He also indicated his strong opposition to the renaming of the County Home. He asked for clarification of the term "inappropriate referrals". Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated that County Home staff would need to be certified to handle such activities as intravenous medications to qualify the County Home for additional Medicaid Funding. Rep. Franklin read lines from the Report that particularly irritated him. He also spoke critically of the proposed construction of a Rehab Center on the County property using prisoner labor.

There was further discussion of the language used in the Report Document, and the timelines for its' release. Rep. Phinzy indicated that he hopes that there will be an increase in the number of qualified staff. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated that Genesis will assist us with staff recruitment, and we plan to set up our own training program to train LNA's.

Commissioner Jarvis indicated her preference had been that the Unit Aides being laid off should be hired for other positions such as in housekeeping, or the kitchen. She felt that the other Commissioners and the administrative staff at the Home ignored her ideas. She felt it was particularly sad, as some of these laid off employees have 17-19 years of prior employment at the Home. Rep. Phinzy asked Mr. Gil de Rubio for additional information regarding this.

Mr. Gil de Rubio explained that staff is being more spread out to give more even coverage 24/7. He also explained about problems in moving staff into different positions in the facility due to seniority and Union Rules.

Rep. Franklin brought up the question of the deficit that was mentioned by Mr. Gil de Rubio. Mr. Gil de Rubio explained that that was a figure he had mentioned representing funds needed to be raised by Taxes over and above receipts for the County Home Services. He expects significant savings this fiscal year.

Rep. Phinzey requested an explanation of how line items could be switched around to make possible a variety of personnel changes. Rep. Cloutier made a point to pass along Rep. Quimby's dissatisfaction with the language used in the February 7th Report.

Rep. Converse asked Rep. Cloutier if he had been approached about being on the County Facilities and Land Use Committee to plan future uses of the County Property? Rep. Cloutier indicated NO. Mr. Converse noted that at a prior Commissioner meeting the

Commissioners had broached this idea. A comment was made regarding the low census at this time of year.

A five-minute break was held. When everyone reconvened, Mr. Gil de Rubio discussed the activities of the Management Committee. We have received a grant to plan for an Assisted Living Program. He plans to get all committees functional within 60 days.

Rep. Cloutier appointed Rep. Franklin as the County Delegate to the Solid Waste District. Rep. Cloutier asked if those present had any questions for the County Attorney. None appearing, the County Attorney was excused. The County Website Page was discussed. It was the general feeling of those present that draft reports should not be published on the website.

Mr. Gil de Rubio requested that someone investigate the status of any tobacco bills in the State Legislature.

New Business:

The Commissioners will be holding a public hearing regarding any plans for the development of services and the budget of the County Facilities. There was an additional discussion of areas of interest for further development of County Facilities. Rep. Gales Bill for the building of a rehab center using inmate labor was also discussed. Rep. Converse indicated that Orion House group was given permission to conduct perk tests at their own expense on County property that they are interested in using as a site for an educational and residential facility. Commissioner Jarvis confirmed this, indicating her reluctance for such a proposal.

The next meeting of the Delegation will be Friday, April 29, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Jillette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Arthur Jillette
Clerk