



County of Cheshire

33 West Street, Keene, NH 03431

Website: www.co.cheshire.nh.us

November 1, 2013

2013 Jail Inspection Reports
Director of Administration
NH Dept. of Justice
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Management report pursuant to RSA 30-B: 12,
Cheshire County House of Correction**

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the above statutory requirement, the County Commissioners for Cheshire County are pleased to submit the following report on their examination into the management, condition and security of the inmates in the county correctional facility. Following is our written report to you of the findings and actions or proposed actions on such findings, as recorded within the Public Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners, recorded at the time of the meetings.

On June 12, 2013 the Commissioners conducted their semi-annual tour and inspection of the jail in accordance with statute.

They met with the Director of Inmate Programs, the Case Manager and a mental health clinician. They reviewed an extensive report on the statistics of the variety of inmate programs offered and the attendance records thereof. They met with the primary GED tutor, David Chandler, to discuss the nature, extent and success of GED work within the jail. They then met with the volunteer Chaplain Rick Rounds and a volunteer spiritual outreach worker regarding the nature and extent of religious efforts. It was noted that in all programs, it could be difficult to have large impacts on the inmates due to the average short length of stay. The Commissioners extended their great thanks to the efforts of these people.

Case Manager Doug Iosue spoke to his work at discharge planning. Doug works with inmates for a month or two prior to discharge to increase the likelihood that they will reintegrate back into society successfully. Having the potential for employment and a place to live are central to reducing recidivism, according to Iosue. Related to housing, the Second Chance for Success housing is proving to be very successful as it has received 25 applications and is expected to be full within the next month or so.

Area Code 603

♦ **County Commissioners** 352-8215/Fax 355-3026 ♦ **Registry of Deeds** 352-0403/Fax 352-7678 ♦ **Finance Department** 355-0154/Fax 355-3000 – 33 West Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **County Sheriff** 352-4238/Fax 355-3020 ♦ **County Attorney** 352-0056/Fax 355-3012 – 12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **Alternative Sentencing/Mental Health Court** 355-0160/Fax 355-0159 – 265 Washington St. Keene N.H. ♦ **Department of Corrections** 825 Marlboro Street, Keene, 03431 - 903-1600/Fax 352-4044 ♦ **Maplewood Nursing Home & Assisted Living** 399-4912/Fax 399-7005 - TTY Access 1-800-735-2964 ♦ **Facilities** 399-7300/Fax 399-7357 ♦ **Human Resources** 399-7317/399-7378/Fax 399-4429 - 201 River Rd, Westmoreland, NH 03467

The Commissioners interviewed two correctional officers regarding their initial training for certification as well as their continuing education work.

They received a report regarding the jail's Inmate Behavior Management program that seeks to help inmates with anger management and to increase their insight about their own personality traits that tend to get them into trouble.

The Commissioners interviewed approximately 6 inmates regarding conditions at the jail. Their inquiries included questions about participation in various programs such as spiritual programs, vocational programs, parenting skills, intensive self-introspection work, and others. Some had suggestions regarding computer use, particularly with regard to being able to type documents.

The inmates reported that the officers treat them with respect and that sometimes they are strict. They said this place is run differently than other jails.

The Commissioners met with the Food Service Director, Don Nason, who reviewed the multitude of special diets they regularly prepare for a variety of needs such as Muslim and kosher meals. They inquired about the physical plant and equipment in terms of its repair and functionality. There were no current problems noted. Commissioner Zerba excused himself to attend another commitment at another location.

The Commissioners toured the facility paying particular attention to K-Block, taking time to examine the facilities and speak to several officers therein. They also visited the mechanical room containing the geothermal system and building infrastructure and met with the Facilities Manager of the jail.

At 1:25PM there being no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioners Pratt. Upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.**

Sincerely yours,

THE CHESHIRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Pratt', written in a cursive style.

John Pratt, Chairman