

County of Cheshire

12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431
www.co.cheshire.nh.us

October 11, 2015

Jail Inspection Reports
Second Semi-Annual Report
County of Cheshire
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.

At 10:46AM the Commissioners adjourned the public portion of the in progress Commissioner's meeting to conduct the second 2015 semi-annual Department of Corrections inspection as required by RSA 30-B: 12.

The Commissioners began the inspection by briefly attending a training class being held in the training room for Correctional Officers (C.O.'s). The class was on the safe use of holds and restraints for obtaining compliance during acting out incidents.

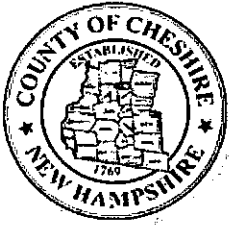
At 10:56AM the Commissioners entered one of the multi-purpose rooms to conduct interviews with the staff and inmates with the purpose of providing a safe environment for both groups to express their candid views on the operation of the facility.

The first interview was with "K" a female C. O. who discussed the impact of staffing levels on morale and the amount of overtime needed accomplish tasks such as federal inmate transports. She said that she has worked in all of the pods and central control and is satisfied that the training she has received has been adequate. She stated that she is a certified officer that was trained at the in-house academy. She said that a strong sense of mission among the C. O.'s exists within the ranks and that many of them share a strong bond and close relationship.

At 11:09 the second interview with staff began with "F" a male C. O. who has been at the facility for approximately five (5) years. He said that he received his certification from the in-house academy and

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 - 12 Court 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 - 33 West 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



County of Cheshire

12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431
www.co.cheshire.nh.us

that he thought the training was more than adequate. He spoke of the turnover of C. O.'s the facility is experiencing and said that he believed that in large part it was that new employees came into the environment with an unrealistic expectation of the environment and those that cannot adapt soon leave. He said that even his own entry into the job was stressful at first but with training and experience it makes the job easier and more enjoyable. He also stated that being able to talk about problems and issues with mentors to better understand how to succeed in the environment proved to be very helpful to him. When asked for suggestion to improve the operation of the department he said that more mental health services for the inmates would be beneficial as would more Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC) staff.

At 11:18 inmate "N" a male, was interviewed. In response to questions from the Commissioners he said that he gets along with almost everyone and that he has about another five (5) weeks to serve before he is released. He went on to say that it is his hope to be able to enter the military and in 4-5 years become certified as an Army Medic. His eventual goal is to move to California to become an EMT. He said that the biggest lesson he has learned from his incarceration is to "stay away from the party crowd" and to stay away from alcohol. In response to a question about his perception of the C. O.'s he said that most of the inmates have a perception that all C. O.'s are bad but that is not his outlook as his father was career Military Policeman in the Army.

At 11:39 inmate "L" a female was interviewed. She said that she is from Rockingham County and is being held in Cheshire County because of a lack of facilities in Rockingham. She said that she has been told multiple times by the inmates in her cell block that she is very lucky to have been placed in the Cheshire County facility instead of one of the other County's facilities. She explained that she is possibly eligible for Electronic Monitoring (EM) release soon and that she is very much looking forward to being reunited with her family.

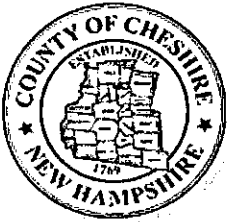
At 11:50 inmate "L" a male was interviewed. He said that he has been in the jail for four (4) months on drug and burglary charges. He explained that his family support system are his grandparents. He went on to say that he is a high school graduate and that he was deeply into drug abuse before he came to jail. He said that because of eating regular healthy meals that he has gained fifty (50) pounds in the last four (4) months. He also said that he gets along with the C. O.'s and doesn't have any problems with the staff. He then said that he was hoping to be able to participate in the work release program if he is offered the opportunity.

At 12:02PM the Commissioners ended the interviews and began a tour of the facility by visiting "D" block that was locked down for maintenance work.

At 12:10 the Commissioners entered "R" block and heard from the accompanying C. O. about how the work release program and electronic monitoring programs work. After inspecting the housing the Commissioners stopped at the Classification office at 12:13PM and heard about the procedures used to assign incoming inmates to the proper holding areas and how the interview process is conducted in order to ensure that an inmate is properly placed.

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 - 12 Court 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 - 33 West 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



County of Cheshire

12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431
www.co.cheshire.nh.us

At 12:17PM the Commissioners entered "F" block and spoke with inmates. The C. O. described how the block was arranged and operated and the Commissioners observed the noon time meal being served.

At 12:29 the Commissioners entered the Booking area and learned about how inmate intakes are conducted and how the booking area works with local police and State police departments processing their arrests.

At 12:35PM the Commissioners entered the Medical department and met with the Mental Health manager and the on-shift nurse. A short discussion of the how the department operates was had and a visual inspection of the facilities occurred.

At 12:39PM the Commissioners entered the staff dining area and stopped for a lunch break during which impressions of the visit were discussed.

At 1:12PM the Commissioners returned to the Executive Conference and resumed the public meeting.

We trust that this report will comply with the intent of the statute requiring inspection of correctional facilities by the County Commissioners. Please feel free to contact this office or the Superintendent of the County House of Correction, Richard Van Wickler, if you have any questions regarding this report.

As we say in each of these reports, we continue to be proud of our facility, its management and the dedicated service of the correctional officers and support staff.

Sincerely yours,

THE CHESHIRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Stillman Rogers, Chairman

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 - 12 Court 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 - 33 West 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