



County of Cheshire

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

July 31, 2015

Jail Inspection Reports
First 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 12:05PM the first semi-annual Department of Corrections inspection by the County Commissioners for 2015 began with an overview by the DOC Superintendent of training and a discussion of staffing.

At 12:12PM The Commissioners met with the Safety and Security department staff and reviewed safety and security incidents over the past six (6) months. The staff provided information on how investigations were conducted and reviewed cases that are currently being investigated.

At 12:31PM The Commissioners entered the Booking area and the Superintendent provided an overview of the activities and functions of the department. Superintendent Van Wickler discussed the use of the booking area by the local State Police barracks and some of the County's Police Departments. He said that the State Police Troopers and PD's were glad to have a safe and secure booking area to process arrests and that the program to open up services to outside agencies has been very well received.

At 12:35PM the Property room was visited and the Commissioners were informed of how inmate property is handled and stored.

At 12:46PM the Commissioners visited the Video Arraignment room and witnessed an arraignment in progress.

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♦ **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



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At 12:53 The Commissioners entered F Block and began a question and answer session with the inmates about the program for Stress Management and Emotion Regulation that was in progress. A request by one of the inmates for a privacy partition in the female holding cell area of the new courthouse in Keene was discussed and will be followed-up with the State Administrative Office of Courts.

A request for more daily activities for Federal inmates was received and will be investigated by the Commissioners.

At 1:05PM The Commissioners entered the Medical department and discussed the operation of the department with staff and reviewed how inmate medications are handled in the facility.

At 1:11PM The Commissioners entered R Block and spoke with staff and inmates about the facility and asked for suggestions for improvement. The reception and classification process was reviewed by the Superintendent at the request of the Commissioners.

At 11:19PM The Commissioners visited the Facilities department and reviewed the on-going program for the re-configuration of various components of the HVAC system and the automated controls for the various units. A discussion concerning the original commissioning of the building was had with one of the Facilities staff and the history of the building was reviewed.

At 1:36PM The Commissioner entered the D Block and met with inmates and discussed the use of the video visitation system. A request was received by the Commissioners for more frequent drug rehabilitation programs from one of the inmates. He said that the existing programs while good were too infrequent and that he thought that more staff resources would be needed to run the requested additional sessions. He said that many of the inmates found the programs to be very beneficial.

In discussions with the Superintendent following this meeting with the inmates, a discussion was held about rehabilitative services. The Superintendent agreed that such services as are available are strained and limited by budgetary constraints. The Commissioners intend to further investigate the possibility of enabling further drug rehabilitation services at the Department of Corrections.

At 1:49PM the Commissioners entered the kitchen area and spoke with the kitchen manager regarding the kitchen staffing, the use of inmates for meal preparation, and food costs.

At 2:01PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Graves moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Rogers and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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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

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