

# Kennebec County, Maine

## County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025



### Present:

Patsy Crockett, Commissioner, Chair  
Joe Pietroski, Commissioner  
George Jabar, Commissioner  
Tom Doore, Treasurer  
Lisa Bryant, Finance Director  
Frank Griffen, Deputy District Attorney Esq.  
Chris Brawn, HR Director

Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director  
Corey Goodchild, Asst. Jail Administrator  
Angela Molino, EMA Director  
Spencer McKeown, Deputy  
Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate  
Devon Parsons, IT Director  
Chris Read, Chief Deputy

Audrey Fredericks, Finance Manager  
Matthew Boucher, Register of Deeds  
Dr. Timothy Pieh, MD3 Medical Director  
Andre Cushing, MCCA President  
Scott Ferguson, County Administrator  
Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant

**Absent:**, Ken Mason, Sheriff, Meaghan Maloney, District Attorney, Shay Freeman, DA Office Administrator, , Brielle Balmer, Deputy Register of Probate, Sue LaPointe, Deputy Register of Deeds, KelLee Gray, HR Administrator, Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator

|                 | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action       |
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| Call to order   | 12:00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Minutes         | <b>Joe Pietroski, Commissioner</b> , made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5th, 2025, with the correction as noted, and <b>George Jabar, Commissioner Chair</b> , seconded the motion. Unanimous.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Approved 3-0 |
| Human Resources | <p><b>Chris Brawn, HR Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We have 3 vacancies across the County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two vacancies at the Jail, which are both tentatively filled.</li> <li>• There is one vacancy for a deputy in the Sheriff's Office.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Devon Parson, IT Director</b>, has made some updates the Acceptable Computer Use Policy, which was sent to the Commissioner in advance for review and comment. A vote is needed for acceptance.</li> <li>➤ Last week the quarterly Kennebec County Safety Committee Meeting occurred and is required as part of the Kennebec County workers' compensation discount.</li> <li>➤ MMA (Maine Municipal Association) provided a workers' compensation training last week for supervisors, which was very informative and helpful.</li> <li>➤ Edmunds conducted additional training last week and this week for Finance and HR waiving the fees.</li> <li>➤ FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) negotiations this week and an NCEU (National Corrections Employees Union) next week.</li> </ul> |              |

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|                            | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Chis Brawn, Human Resources Director</b>, will be out for surgery for 6-8 weeks starting the first week of April.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |
| <b>Treasurer/ Finance</b>  | <b>Tom Doore, Treasurer:</b><br>(See attached Treasurer's report and Finance Report)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
| <b>Sheriff/Corrections</b> | <b>Chris Read, Chief Deputy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Sheriffs' vehicle policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is under review by <b>Peter Marchesi, Kennebec County Attorney</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Several vendors are being researched for body cameras.</li> <li>➤ The current records management system is outdated and eventually will not be supported by the vendor.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chris Read, Chief Deputy</b>, received a quote to replace the current system (IMC) and the initial cost to replace the system would be approximately \$700,000.</li> <li>• This will need to be dealt with in the next couple of years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ There was a theft of generators from Consolidated Communications and two of them were recovered.</li> <li>➤ There was a discussion of the analysis done to represent the possibility of a Sheriff's Deputy replacing the contracted security detail at the Courthouse.</li> </ul> <b>Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The current population inside the Jail is 115, four of which are boarders.</li> <li>➤ The elevator service contract up for renewal and will be brought to the next Commissioner meeting for approval.</li> <li>➤ The Jail is currently 72% through FY25 with 65% of funding spent and overtime expenditure is 72% spent.</li> <li>➤ The Jail has accumulated \$130,000 in boarding revenue.</li> <li>➤ There might be one employee retiring in FY26.</li> <li>➤ The fire suppression system will need to be upgraded soon.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director</b>, stated that the fire suppression system is proprietary and will cost approximately \$74,000 but if Kennebec County is able to commit to the expenditure before the end of May, the vendor has promised to discount the service by \$10,000.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair</b>, requested that the subject be mentioned to the Kennebec County Budget Committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |        |

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| <b>District Attorney</b>      | <p><b><u>DA's Office:</u></b><br/> <b>Frank Griffen, Deputy DA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There are two trials today that include the Sheriff.</li> <li>➤ Moved up supervision fees for deferred disposition.</li> <li>➤ The lease for upstairs with the CJC (Capital Judicial Center) is moving forward.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |
| <b>Probate</b>                | <p><b><u>Probate:</u></b><br/> <b>Ronda Snyder, Register of Probate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ronda Snyder, Probate Register</b>, attended a work session for LD 505 regarding an increase in probate fees, filing requirements, and final inventory requirements to eliminate fraud.</li> <li>➤ LD 966 references confidentiality agreements for guardianships allowing healthcare workers to have access to those documents.</li> <li>➤ The Probate Court is considering the installation of an ATM to bring in a potential estimated revenue of \$3,000 a year in fees.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
| <b>Information Technology</b> | <p><b><u>Information Technology:</u></b><br/> <b>Devon Parsons, IT Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Computer Use Policy Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal government standards require specific verbiage to be added to the policy to maintain a .gov domain.</li> <li>• <b>George Jabar, Commissioner</b>, made a motion to accept the additional verbiage to the Computer Use Policy mandated by the federal government, and <b>Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair</b>, seconded the motion. Unanimous.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ IT is working with Burt's Security at the District Attorney's office on the new door.</li> <li>➤ Assessments and quotes are being obtained for the video conferencing systems of upstairs and downstairs conference rooms in the Hill House.</li> </ul> | Approved 3-0 |
| <b>Registry of Deeds</b>      | <p><b><u>Register of Deeds:</u></b><br/> <b>Matt Boucher, Register of Deeds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was a productive meeting with Finance about Deeds' bank reconciliations.</li> <li>➤ An e-mail was sent to Commissioners regarding legislation for transfer tax and fee structure schedules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hearing has not been scheduled at this time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ There is legislation for the Registry of Deeds to switch from Microfiche to archival PDFs for document records and preservation.</li> <li>➤ There is an issue with the available parking for customers at the Registry of Deeds.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |              |

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| EMA        | <p><b><u>Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency (KCEMA):</u></b><br/> <b>Angela Molino, EMA Director and Spencer McKeown, EMA Deputy Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ongoing: Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) administration.</li> <li>➤ HSGP21, HSGP22, HSGP23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (FEMA PARS) Federal Emergency Management Agency Payment and Reporting System has paused these grants to allow for implementation of the 30-day manual review process to ensure all projects are in compliance.</li> <li>• HSGP24: Implemented a 30-day manual review to ensure all projects are in compliance</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Coordinated with facilities and IT to prepare the offices for new staff, clear out the lobby for new storage cabinets, and configured the soon-to-be communications room (shelving and workspace).</li> <li>➤ GIS Planner &amp; Mitigation &amp; Recovery Planner started yesterday, 03/17</li> <li>➤ EMA attended a meeting with Tagus and area FDs &amp; PDs for the three-day exercise scheduled for June</li> <li>➤ EMA attended the Hazmat Operations Refresher Trainings in Winthrop, Gardiner and Oakland</li> <li>➤ EMA attended the HERO training virtually.</li> <li>➤ EMA is processing Tier II chemical inventory reports from hazmat facilities as is annually required as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)</li> <li>➤ Ongoing All Hazards Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THIRA/SPR compiling data and creating jurisdictional profiles, consequence analysis, and community sector impacts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
| Facilities | <p><b><u>Facilities Maintenance:</u></b><br/> <b>Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the warm weather comes facilities will be doing outdoor work.</li> <li>➤ The handicap courthouse door opener needs extra adjustments.</li> <li>➤ The final measurements are being taken for the bell tower project that will begin in the third week of April.</li> <li>➤ Facilities is working on the EOC room in the EMA building.</li> <li>➤ Superior courtroom is the only thing left to fix after the flood damage and the final phase of that repair will be pushed until after the summer.</li> <li>➤ The Green Street church has been sold to The Miracles of the Griffin. They are a nonprofit organization. The organization will be removing the trees around the church to avoid littering of hypodermic needle debris in the fallen leaves.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |

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|                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dan Brunelle, Facilities Director</b>, also spoke with the church next to 73 Winthrop Street (The Sheriff's Office) as well, and came to an agreement about removing the pine trees that the two properties share.</li> </ul> <p>➤ The retaining wall next to the courthouse handicap entrance needs to be repaired very soon. This is a safety issue.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |
| <b>Administrator</b>                 | <p><b><u>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator:</u></b></p> <p>➤ There have been less emails this week with the Kennebec County Budget Committee (115) compared to last week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been some public inquiries about the budget.</li> <li>• There was a public forum in Waterville last night for the FY26 budget.</li> </ul> <p>➤ In reference to statements made by <b>Andre Cushing, MCCA President</b>, <b>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator</b>, stated that <b>Tim Curtis, Somerset County Administrator</b>, asked for a 10-year history on MDOC (Maine Department of Corrections) to compare the department of corrections to jails in their analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information was given to them for comparison.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Monitoring Several legislative documents are being by Scott Ferguson, County Administrator.</p> <p>➤ Reviewed the Axon bid for the District Attorney's office; forwarded to the KCBC.</p> <p>➤ The FY24 audit needs discussion and further review.</p> <p>➤ The negotiations for the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) begin tomorrow. <b>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator</b>, has asked for demands from the union and signatures on ground rules.</p> <p>➤ The NCEU (National Correctional Employees Union) reopener takes place next week.</p> |              |
| <b>Old Business/ Follow Up Items</b> | <p>➤ <b>Sheriffs' Vehicle Policy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peter Marchesi, County Attorney</b>, is currently reviewing this policy.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>University of Maine Extension 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lease Agreement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lease agreement is in review with the Extension Association Lawyer.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Corrections Medical Contract:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is currently under review with <b>Peter Marchesi, County Attorney</b>, and <b>Captain Bryan Slaney, Jail Administrator</b>.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>David Crook Memorial Bench</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application has been received. This will be reviewed in Spring 2025.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Wayne tax abatement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>George Jabar, Commissioner</b>, made the motion to deny the request by Peter Smith, Wayne, for a property abatement, and <b>Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair</b>, seconded the motion, unanimous.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Approved 3-0 |

# Kennebec County, Maine

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| New Business    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Payroll audit Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The payroll audit report will be discussed in an Executive Session at the next Commissioner meeting with <b>Peter Marchesi, County Attorney</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Computer Use Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (See IT report).</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Virtual Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Devon Parsons, IT Director</b>, and the IT team have had vendors analyzing the two spaces in the Hill House for professional audio and video setups. Quotes will be provided for Commissioners and the County Administrator once they are received.</li> <li>• <b>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator</b>, mentioned that amplification should be considered by vendors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>BerryDunn-ARPA Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (see attachment)</li> <li>• <b>George Jabar, Commissioner</b>, made a motion to reassign \$11,000 in ARPA funds from the Women's Residential Program to Maine General Community Care Outpatient Counseling and ACT teams, and <b>Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair</b>, seconded the motion. Unanimous.</li> <li>• <b>NGMA (National Grants Management Association) conference Update:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Zeb Letourneau, Manager Consultant</b>, attended the National Grants Management Association Conference in Washington D.C. and used Kennebec County as an example for excellent compliance practices and community engagement with ARPA funding.</li> <li>○ The Office of Inspector General stated that there will be a big focus in compliance with federal agency audits over the next few years and there may be additional audits and scrutiny beyond the single audits that are currently required, and <b>Zeb Letourneau, Manager Consultant</b>, said that he is confident Kennebec County has stayed in compliance with all ARPA funding projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Andre Cushing, MCCA (Maine County Commissioners Association) President:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (See attachment)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Approved 3-0 |
| Public Comments | ➤ None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |
| Adjournment     | There was a motion made by <b>Patsy, Commissioner</b> to adjourn regular session at 1:59pm, and the motion was seconded by <b>Joe Pietroski, Commissioner</b> . Unanimous.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Approved 3-0 |

Respectfully Submitted: Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant

# Kennebec County, Maine

County Commissioner's Meeting  
Minutes March 18, 2025



## Treasurer Meeting Notes 3/18/2025

**General Fund Cash** \$ 2,287,555.16 : All invested in the Insured Cash Sweep account with Kennebec Savings Bank

**Investment Cash:** \$ 9,000,000.00 : All invested in the Intrafi Money Market account with Kennebec Savings Bank

Investment Cash: \$ 2,176,526.22 : All invested in Kennebec Savings Bank Managed Investment Account. Balance increased \$ 2,129.66 since the last meeting.

|                                 |                                     |               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Warrants for signatures:</b> | Payroll W# 52 Payroll/Agency Checks | \$ 649,971.41 |
|                                 | AP Warrant #53 Reg & ARPA           | \$ 420,684.99 |
|                                 | AP Warrant #53-D ACH                | \$ 45,132.88  |
|                                 | Restitution W#                      | \$ N/A        |

Correctional Psychiatric Svcs \$ 212,505.66

## **ARPA Expenditures:**

Floor Systems \$ 47,418.00 Jail Flooring

# *Kennebec County, Maine*

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|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kramer's Inc                     | \$ 17,845.00 | Backhoe                                                                                                               |
| Hammond Lumber                   | \$767.94     | Bell Tower Supplies                                                                                                   |
| Sherwin Williams                 | \$1,609.63   | Bell Tower Paint Supplies                                                                                             |
| Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry | \$19,718.72  | Ballard Center (replacement check, first one mailed was incorrect at \$21,000.00, original check returned to Finance) |
| BerryDunn                        | \$7,938.00   | Payroll Review                                                                                                        |

### Finance:

FY2024 Drafts Audit for Unity Township and Kennebec County have arrived and are being reviewed.

Finance specialists attended Maine Dept of Labor Bureau of Labor Standards Wage and Hour Division's Maine Employment Law seminar on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Finance Director/Manager will be attending in the fall.

Civil is now onboard AR and entering data into Edmunds. We are working on a couple of glitches.

Restitution needs training, bank paperwork signed, and a check scanner so that they can be onboarded for AR.

# Kennebec County ARPA Status Update

3/18/2025

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BerryDunn has completed, or is working to complete the following deliverables:

- To date, the County has received **\$13,025,714.51** in external grant project expenditures. BerryDunn is currently processing one reimbursement request and one true-up request.
  - MGMC Harm Reduction Program, Reimbursement Request: - \$5,669.85
  - Mobilize Recovery's Voices Project, True Up: - \$2,202.47
- RHR Smith Update:
  - BerryDunn is working with the County Finance Director to close-out some final discrepancies flagged from RHR Smith on the County's SEFA
  - BerryDunn provided responses to RHR Smith's subrecipient monitoring questionnaire, on behalf of the County.
- The County has obligated all its ARPA funds.

## Discussion Items:

### **Q1 FY25 Subrecipient Monitoring:**

- BerryDunn has completed accountability calls with MCH, City of Augusta, MGMC, KVFD, and Mobilize Recovery's Voices project, we've scheduled accountability calls with VOA and North River.
- BerryDunn has completed Desk Reviews for North River, City of Augusta, and Manor Gardens.
- BerryDunn and the County are scheduled to do a site visit with Manor Gardens on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

**MCH Accountability Call Update:** Anna Cooley, the Director of Donor Engagement for MCH, will be assuming the responsibilities previously held by Diana, who retired earlier than anticipated in February. Moving forward, Anna will be the primary contact for the grant. In January, there were 207 active clients, with 118 being MaineCare clients, and February's numbers are similar. BerryDunn to hold another accountability call with MCH in Q2 of 2025 to check on project progress as Anna assumes more responsibility in the role.

### **City of Augusta Accountability Call:**

- **Civic Center Roof:** The construction bid was awarded in December 2024, with the design phase already completed. Construction is expected to start in late March or early April, pending favorable weather. Bids came in under budget, ensuring all planned work will be completed, and all Kennebec County ARPA funds will be fully utilized. Once construction begins, the City expects the funds to be drawn quickly, with all ARPA funds anticipated to be spent by Q1 2026. GR Roofing was awarded the contract for the project.
- **Webster Center:** Construction is on hold until the start of the construction season, as site work, including demolition, is temperature dependent. Equipment has been ordered, and the project is expected to be completed by summer and ready for close-out. The playground equipment budget is on track, with every dollar being utilized. The project may go slightly over budget, but the City will cover any excess costs, which should not exceed \$600.

### **MaineGeneral Medical Center Accountability Call:**

- **Harm Reduction Program:** The project has been progressing steadily and is currently focused on salary expenses, averaging around \$5,000 per month. It is expected to be fully expended within the next couple of months. Billing has been occurring on a monthly basis throughout the project.
- **Women's Residential Program:** MaineGeneral Community Care's Women's Residential Facility, which was awarded \$40,000 in ARPA funds from Kennebec County in 2022, will be closing on March 7,

2025, due to declining demand for long-term residential care and financial losses. While the residential program is closing, the outpatient services, including the Outpatient Counseling and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, will continue to provide support for recovery and substance use disorders. MaineGeneral requests approval from the Kennebec County Commissioners to redirect the remaining ARPA funds toward staff training for these outpatient teams, specifically for certification as Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, to continue supporting the community.

**KVFD Accountability Call:** Construction of the new facility by KVFD has been paused due to the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) certification process. KVFD hired consultants from SMRC to navigate the certification with MaineCare and determine the type of facility they can offer. The new facility will focus on providing dental care for children, addressing a gap in Kennebec County's available services for pediatric sedation. KVFD plans to hire an anesthesiologist for this work, transitioning from a previous partnership with MaineGeneral to in-house treatment. Construction is expected to resume in spring 2025. The total project budget has increased, but the Kennebec County ARPA funding remains at \$603,000, and KVFD will send an updated budget for the total project cost. All project funds will be drawn by April 2025. KVFD would like to schedule a site visit with the County in either quarter three or four of 2025.

**Mobilize Recovery's Voices Project Accountability Call:** As of January, most staff have transitioned away from the ARPA funding, leaving Courtney as the sole staff member on the project. She is currently working on a report detailing the project's data and results, including its impact on the Kennebec County population. This report has been sent to BerryDunn. The Good Samaritan Training and Youth Program will continue to be funded through the remaining grant. Courtney expects all expenses to be paid down by the end of summer. Staffing expenses have decreased, and Courtney's monthly expenses are under budget, which may allow the program to extend beyond June. Project activities, including the Youth Program, Good Samaritan Training, and Door Canvassing, are continuing through other grant programs after the ARPA funding has been expended. The organization was recently awarded a two-year \$500,000 grant from the Maine Recovery Council to expand its community and public health services, as well as open an Access Center on 53 Water St. in Augusta.

**NGMA Conference Update**



## **MCCA PRESIDENT'S GOALS-Andre Cushing**

1. Strengthen our communications and working relationship with partner organizations such as (MMA, MSA, MACCAM, City & Town Managers) share goals, policy positions and participate in working groups on issues of mutual interest. Likewise, have a more prominent position interacting with legislators, municipal officials and those who can assist in county government delivering the services we offer to the citizens of our communities and state.
2. Seek opportunities to assist municipalities and UT to collaborate and find more effective ways to deliver the mandated and required services that local and county government is providing to our communities and citizens.
3. Grow awareness and opportunities for Maine County Commissioners to lead on key issues that make an impact on our counties and services. (Law enforcement, corrections services at the county level, 911 call centers, Emergency Management, Registry of Deeds & Probate, oversight of unorganized territories)

As I attend NACO and visit other states I see the services and benefits that county government can offer. While we must respect the strong tradition of home-rule that was established in Maine and other New England states, this model for rural communities is resulting in many challenges. Counties can be a resource to help, and some counties are starting to explore options in a number of areas. Workforce, mandated actions and reporting, and rising costs are factors that are raising great challenges. This is straining municipalities trying to fill positions and manage costs, one solution is regional collaboration, no longer should geopolitical boundaries impede the proper delivery of services. We can do better and be more effective together.

There is strength and value in cooperation. MCCA will provide future opportunities to gather local and county officials to share ideas, best practices and to build stronger relationships.

EVENTS- There has been some discussion about enhancing the July in person meeting, with a social component, potential speakers on issues of interest and additional training in light of the many new commissioners who have joined us in the last two elections.

March 13, 2025

Re: MaineGeneral Community Care Subrecipient Grant Agreement: ARPA Funds

MaineGeneral Community Care's Women's Residential Facility was awarded \$40,000 in ARPA funds from Kennebec County in 2022. While much progress was made utilizing these funds in alignment with the approved scope of work, we are writing to notify the Kennebec County Commissioners of a significant change that impacts this funding.

In January 2025, the governing body of MaineGeneral Health made the difficult decision to close the Women's Residential program, effective March 7, 2025. As treatment has evolved and the need for long-term residential care has declined, we've seen a reduction in the number of residents. Additionally, reimbursement rates have declined. As a result, the program has been running at a loss for years. Prior to the closure of the facility, we worked closely with the current residents to help them find the support they need to continue their recovery, including immediate access to MaineGeneral Community Care's Outpatient Counseling team.

The team at our Women's Residential facility was grateful for the support of the County as this funding allowed us to support activities that promoted community reintegration and healthy coping skills for residents, as well as the development of staff skills and competencies.

While our Residential Facility is no longer operational, our MaineGeneral Community Care Behavioral Health teams, including our Outpatient Counseling and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team is continuing to provide similar services. These teams also provide support for recovery, substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders; however, these services are outpatient, and they serve both men and women, i.e. a broader population.

We understand the scope change we submitted in December to use the remainder of these ARPA funds for new and ongoing staff certification as Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors was approved. This education would still be extremely beneficial to our outpatient teams serving residents living in Kennebec County with substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions.

It is with the news of the Women's Residential Program's closure and this additional information in mind that MaineGeneral Community Care requests approval from the Kennebec County Commissioners to utilize this funding for staff training for our MaineGeneral Community Care Outpatient Counseling and ACT Teams so we can continue to meet the needs of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Ashley Tetreault**

Director of Grants

MaineGeneral Health

[Ashley.tetreault@mainegeneral.org](mailto:Ashley.tetreault@mainegeneral.org)

207-626-7236