

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
June 1st, 2021

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper, Lauer, Ahern, County Administrator Dorsett,  
Temporary Admin Jessica Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Curtis, Karen Testerman, Supt. Oakes, Henry Ahern (via Zoom), "iPad" (via Zoom), Scott Maslansky (via Zoom), Charlie French (via Zoom), Lt. Eric James, Det. Wayne Fortier

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Supt. Oakes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **1. Steve Curtis, Micro Energy**

At 9:04 AM, Commissioner Ahern introduced Mr. Steve Curtis and Karen Testerman to the Board. **(Please see attached biography for Steve Curtis)**. Mr. Curtis began by stating that nuclear energy is a missed opportunity for both the state of NH and entrepreneurs. There are many misconceptions from the public regarding the safety and use of nuclear fuel. Nuclear fuel is very dense and takes up a small volume, and there have been no incidents surrounding the use. Mr. Curtis presented the **attached power point presentation**, *"How NH Can Create a Nationwide Solution in Energy."*

#### Highlights:

- There is a \$40 billion fund set up for the disposal of SUNF (Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel) through the federal government, which grows about \$1.5 billion every year. NH residents have paid money into this fund and it is not being used.
- Waste is currently safely stored at each nuclear reactor site.
- NH's nuclear waste can become a valuable commodity which provides clean energy at a base load power.
- Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel is an opportunity. There is no cost to the state, an opportunity to leverage the \$40 Billion Nuclear Waste Fund and to ease public fears about Nuclear/SUNF. It is also an opportunity to generate clean base load energy for NH and to augment current & replace aging coal, natural gas, and nuclear plants. Nuclear is an ideal backup for solar power because of efficiency and continuity. Underground plants would provide clean power that is "too cheap to meter."
- There is no competition in the nuclear market right now; the industry is wide open for development.
- Benefits include reducing SUNF stockpile while producing abundant energy, reducing SUNF's final storage life to 200 years versus millions of years, the opportunity to better inform the public, NH becoming a center of excellence in clean, affordable energy for NH and the world.

Mr. Curtis added that for the first five years, nuclear waste is very hot and goes into a water pool, but it decays quickly. The longer the half-life, the more stable. It does have to be shielded during that five-year period but is easy to mitigate. Nuclear systems cannot go critical due to safety designs.

Mrs. Testerman added that the use of nuclear energy is something which could be done here in the states where-as the solar and wind industries are sourced from outside of the country.

## **2. Craig Labore, Nursing Home Administrator**

At 10:02 AM, NHA Labore presented his report on the nursing home. **(See attached Nursing Home Report).**

NHA Labore reported that the Nursing Home had resumed admissions on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Since then, they have admitted five (5) residents and had three (3) pass away. NHA Labore reported that he is having conversations regarding the visitation program. There is currently a lack of space to accommodate visitors. NHA Labore will be having a conversation with the chief of medicine to discuss how to find the right balance for the Nursing Home visitation policy. He is thinking about having specific visitation hours to allow traffic to come in and out throughout the day, but would place restrictions on this process, for example, one unit at a time. The new plan would go into effect over the next month or so, but must remain in line with federal government expectations. NHA Labore believes that from an infection prevention standpoint, the Nursing Home is in good standing. NHA Labore will put together an update on how the plan will work and provide this to the Board. He further explained that Nursing Homes are used to having very clear guidelines for operations, and the lines are not clear right now. He is trying to discern where the lines are so that there are no regulatory issues.

Commissioner Ahern mentioned that he has a television program he does every Wednesday morning, and was wondering if NHA Labore would be able to put together a little paragraph about visitation for that, as it is his best way of getting information out to his constituents.

NHA Labore also provided a brief update on the disposal of controlled substances via NEWMOA kiosks. The Nursing Home was to have a discussion on May 19<sup>th</sup>, but it turns out there is a state statute which only allows disposal kiosks to be kept in police departments. A waiver of submission has been submitted to Chief Applebee, but they are currently in a holding pattern with that project.

## **3. Signing of check registers 1224.**

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** \*10:15 AM - Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from 5/25 as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern

“abstain”; Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **5. Mask Policy**

Commissioner Piper read the new mask policy for the Grafton County Complex. This policy was sent out the same day (6/1) as a Commissioners’ memo. **(See attached Mask Policy Update).**

### **6. LPN Certificate Tuition Program Update**

At 10:24 AM, HRD Clough presented an agreement for the newly developed LPN program and explained that it was modeled after an agreement from 2005. Per the agreement, the prospective employee/student would agree to be available for full-time employment for Grafton County for 3 years if tuition is \$10K or higher, or 2 years if lower. The County would provide up-front funding for the balance of tuition after factoring in financial aid, which must be requested first. The Commissioners took some time to review the agreement presented by HRD Clough. The Commissioners had a few edits but were overall satisfied with the agreement. Commissioner Ahern would like to see a minimum grade average of C+ instead of C as the County would be making a significant investment in these folks, and he would like to see higher expectations for the program. Ultimately, he agreed with the other Commissioners that a grade C average was fair. He was also concerned about tracking class attendance, which the Commissioners agreed that some kind of documentation for attendance tracking should be added to the policy. HRD Clough will come up with a solution for this aspect of the program and follow up with the Commissioners. Commissioner Ahern had a few legal language updates including the addition of the clause “all cost of collection including reasonable attorney fees.”

**MOTION: 10:56 AM** Commissioner Ahern made a motion that the Board adopts the LPN Certificate Tuition Agreement as revised. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion, and all were in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **7. HRD Karen Clough**

At 10:57 AM, HRD Clough presented her report to the board. **(See attached HR Report covering dates of May 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>).**

HRD Clough reported that they continue to see vacancies across the board for the County, but that she is optimistic more applicants will begin to turn up once the federal \$300 pandemic stipend ends in mid-June. Commissioner Piper added that when the federal money for “essential workers” comes in, they might consider doing sign-on bonuses/benefits in an effort to acquire more candidates.

### **8. Non-Public**

CA Dorsett requested the Board go into a non-public session at 11:22 AM.

**MOTION:** \* 11:22 AM Commissioner Lauer moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

\* 11:44 AM Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now return to public session.

## **9. Other Business**

### **A. Cyber Security Audit**

CA Dorsett provided a brief update on the Cyber Security Audit. Kevin Low of SNS was currently meeting with his team to do the wrap-up. CA Dorsett will be checking in with Commissioners with Zoom meeting info.

### **B. Broadband Update**

CA Dorsett reported that the Broadband Committee in working with NCIC has received the approval for a \$5K grant, but in order to fully enact, they need an additional \$500 to make the match. The Board had previously approved \$4,500, so this would be in addition to that amount. Commissioner Lauer stated that she believes this Committee can make a significant difference to the people of Grafton County, and therefore she believes it is a good investment. Commissioner Ahern was not present when the initial decision granting the \$4,500 took place, and had concerns about the request as he was under the impression there would be no cost. Commissioner Lauer clarified that an attorney had stated there would be no cost, not the Broadband Committee. CA Dorsett confirmed that the Committee was there for the benefit of the County at the request of the Commission, and that there is a possibility that the total request amount could be allocated from ARPA funds, which he will confirm with FD Libby.

**MOTION: 11:58 AM** Commissioner Lauer made a motion to authorize an additional \$500 for the Broadband Committee. Commissioner Piper seconded.

Commissioner Ahern voted “no”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **C. Valley News Article**

Commissioner Piper reported that the Valley News had published an article on the County budget, but they did not contact the board for comment. Everything in the article was factual.

### **10. Non-Public**

**MOTION:** \* 12:08 PM Commissioner Lauer moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

\* 12:42 PM Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now return to public session.

At 12:43 PM, with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

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Omer C. Ahern, Jr.  
Clerk

For Andrew O.

**Steven P. Curtis, MHP**



Mr Curtis was a 38-year resident of Nevada with a close association to the spent nuclear fuel issue and a 15-year career with the DOE-NV. He attended his first Yucca Mountain meeting in 1981 and has been associated with the project academically and educationally ever since. As a student employee, Mr. Curtis was employed at the whole-body radiation counter for people at the Environmental Protection Agency campus at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He began his tenure at DOE-NV as a project and operations officer for the Soviet Verification Program. After the testing program ended, he was recruited into nuclear emergency response where he served as a nuclear technical team leader for Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) and Radiological Consequence Management Teams associated with the Federal Radiological Management and Assessment (FRMAC) emergency management interagency nuclear response posture. He concurrently served as program manager in such programs as NEST Research and Development, the Non-proliferation experiment, the Aerial Measuring System, the National Center for Counter Terrorism (NCCT) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Project Omega deployment to Kazakhstan in support of conventional explosives in the Deglin Mountain Soviet testing tunnels.

Mr. Curtis served in both the active duty Army and the Nevada National Guard for a combined 11 years as an Armor officer and strategic communications expert. He was responsible for all Army communications strategic testing throughout the European and Middle-East major commands. His tactical experience includes a rotation at the National Training Center as an Armor Company Commander and 7 years as a staff officer and company commander in the 1/221 Armor Battalion in Las Vegas.

After departing the DOE, he was engaged in development and integration work at UNLV and Desert Research Institute (DRI) in areas of national security. As proposal manager, he led the successful team in Nevada to secure the FAA designation as an FAA National UAS Test Site. He currently works as a subject matter expert and senior consultant to Readiness Resource Group in areas of training, exercise, counterterrorism, local responder emergency management, nuclear technology, and health physics. He has served as President of the Nevada sections of both the Health Physics Society and the American Nuclear Society and is currently working under a small grant from the American Nuclear Society Operations and Power Division to develop and conduct education seminars in Nevada for the public and for Government Officials.

He holds a BSEE and a Master's Degree in Health Physics, both from UNLV. Mr. Curtis has been active in STEM activities for schools as a 27-year volunteer coordinator for the High School Science Bowl, Co-founder of Skybot Challenge, an engineering-based competition for students in 3-D robotics (UAS) and a consistent speaker in the Clark County School District classrooms to encourage students to find their passion through continued education.

# How New Hampshire can Create a Nationwide Solution in Energy



# New Hampshire's Current Situation

**Since 1986 New Hampshire nuclear waste (Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel - SUNF) from Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) increases each year as electricity is produced there.**



- The Federal Government is looking for a state to accept SUNF for disposal (recycling with fast reactors). New Hampshire will be first in line.
- The Federal government promised a solution and invested billions of do\$\$ars since the 1970's still with no results
- Seabrook nuclear waste originally was promised to be part of this solution.
- Still no state wants to accept the nuclear waste.
- There are many public concerns about the roughly 703 Mega-Tons (MT) of SUNF currently stored at the Seabrook NPP.
- There is \$40B Congressional fund only for disposal



## Slide 2

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**KT1**

you don't want this to look like NH is consenting to accept other state SUNF

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021

# Amount of Energy Still Remaining in SUNF

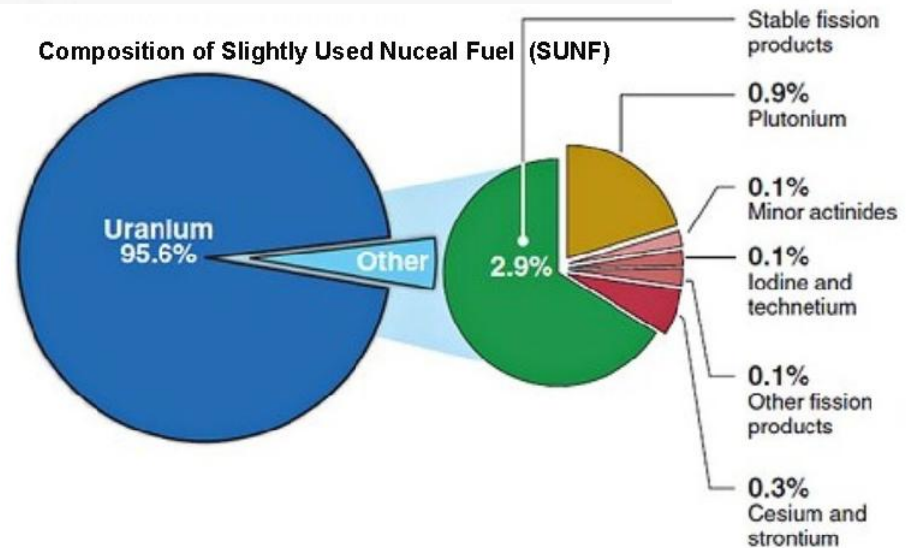
The amount of energy still available in SUNF is comparable to:

**"pulling a log out of the fireplace  
just because the bark  
has burned off"** -

*As stated by Dr. William D. Magwood, IV -  
Director-General Nuclear Energy Agency,  
Past Director of Nuclear Energy at DOE, &  
Commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission*

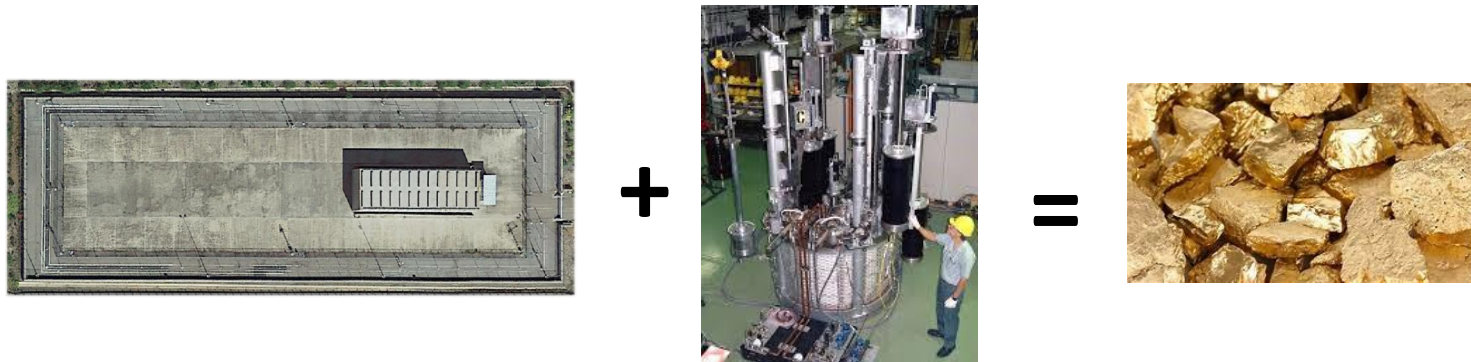


More than  
97% of Uranium  
in Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel  
(SUNF) is Recyclable Energy, while  
the remaining 3% is composed of Rare Earth Metals and other Future use materials



# New Hampshire's Nuclear Waste can become a Valuable Commodity!

*Imagine if we could use this Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel to Energize the State into the Future?*



There are Technologies that can Essentially Produce Unlimited Electricity with SUNF for several hundreds of years

***FYI*** – Based on information from Energy Information Administration (EIA) & Department Of Energy (DOE) the potential energy for New Hampshire electric usage (as of December 31, 2019) if the current 703 Mega-Tons of SUNF at Seabrook NPP was recycled in a Fast Reactor, the future estimated years of New Hampshire's Potential Energy would be roughly 479 Years

## Slide 4

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**KT2**

Can you give example of how many KWH a reactor could produce from SUNF at Seabrook

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021

**TD1**

Steve, This is your forte'

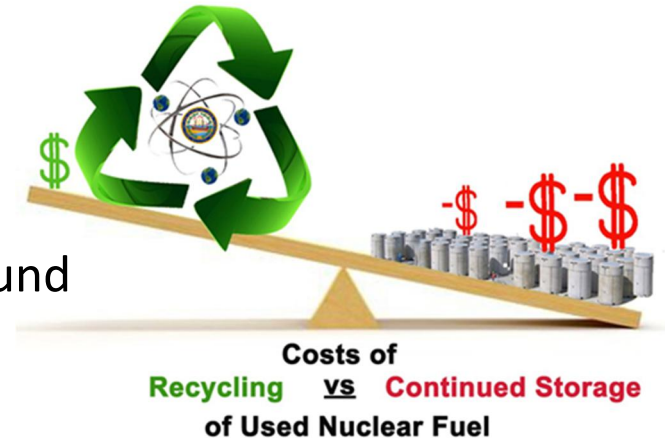
Tom Dolan, 5/29/2021

# A New Hampshire Opportunity

It is time to use that 97% Slightly Used Nuclear “FREE” Fuel to reduce New Hampshire’s risk and gain back its idle potential energy!

What conditions need to be met.

- Ease public fears about Nuclear & SUNF
- Leverage the \$40 billion Nuclear Waste Fund
- No cost to state
- Generate clean energy for New Hampshire
- Augment current & replace aging coal, natural gas and nuclear plants
- Underground plants that will be the safest of all energy plants
- Will Operate for at least 60 years to possibly well over 100 years
- Clean Power “too cheap to meter”
  - *Similar to cell phones offer unlimited talk for one low monthly price!*



## Slide 5

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**KT3**

We are north going to replace fossil fuels. Best that will happen is augment them.

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021

**KT4**

The 7 years may be a fact bu what NH wants is infrequent long term refueling

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021

# New Hampshire Can Own the National Solution

- **What is the solution**
  - Leverage the \$40B sitting in Federal coffers only to be used for a SUNF solution.
    - Establish research park & National Carbon Free Energy National Laboratory infrastructure
    - New Hampshire rate payers already paid over \$202 million into this fund
  - These technologies can be developed, manufactured, and sold here.
  - “Fast Reactor” can be placed on site at Seabrook to reclaim the SUNF there.
  - New Hampshire becomes first commercial producer of Fast Reactors.
    - Prototypes already exist and are proven.
    - Military small reactor research can be done here.

**Slide 6**

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**KT5**

Say "like" a nuclear fast reactor

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021



# The New Hampshire Benefits of this Solution

- **What are the Benefits?**

- Reduce SUNF stockpile while producing abundant energy
- SUNF is recycled from 3% to more than 95%
- SUNF's final storage reduced to 200 years vs Millions of years
- Informs public & anti-nuclear activists to lay fears to rest
- Provider of Technology – New Hampshire becomes the center of excellence in clean energy for the world
- Carbon Free & Nuclear National Laboratory, Research Park & Education
- Affordable energy for New Hampshire

## Slide 7

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**KT6**

It is worth say in 200 v millions of years but people won't care because it is too long.

Karen Testerman, 5/28/2021

# Where do We Start?

- We need two things
  - Small project office
  - Angel Investor
- State new business office to endorse
  - Allow private business to solve the problem
  - Transition project office to long-term management
  - Focus on future manufacture and export

# Grafton County Nursing Home Commissioner's Report: June 1, 2021

## Census

Medicare: 5  
Medicaid: 83  
VA: 1  
Hospice: 0  
Private: 20  
Total: 109

## FY '21 Budgeted Census:

Medicare: 4  
Medicaid: 94 (Daily rate= \$198.33)  
VA: 2  
Private: 23

## Monthly Admissions/Discharges

Admissions: 5  
Deceased Residents: 3  
Discharges: 0

## Other Topics:

- 1) COVID-19 Update: Visitation Program
- 2) Update: Disposal of Controlled Substances Pilot Project with NEWMOA

# Memo

To: Grafton County Employees

From: Andrew Dorsett, County Administrator on behalf of the Grafton County Commission

Date: June 1, 2021

RE: Face Mask Policy Date: May 28, 2021

On May 13, the CDC Guidance on mask wearing changed, no longer recommending that masks be worn in most indoor and outdoor settings. At their May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commissioners determined that mask wearing on campus is to be at the discretion of the individual, excepting the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections who would continue to follow the policies implemented by their respective Department Heads. In addition, Elected Officials may require the wearing of masks in their closed areas.

We understand that some employees may wish to continue to utilize a mask and will provide them at in-office locations based on the current availability of face masks.

Grafton County Human Resources Report  
 Karen Clough, Human Resources Director  
 June 1, 2021

**HR Activity Report (05/03/2021-06/01/2021)**

• ***New Hires***

Department	#	Position(s)
Nursing Home	3 (2 FT, 1 per diem)	1 FT Social Service Director, 1 FT Staff Development Director, 1 PD RN
Corrections	1 (1 PT)	1 CO

***Separations***

Departments	#	
Nursing Home	7 (3 FT, 2 PD, 2 PT )	1 FT LNA, 1 PD RN, 1 PD LNA, 2 PT Dietary Aide, 1 FT Unit Aide, 1 FT Laundry Aide
Sheriff's Dept	1 (1 FT)	1 FT Deputy
Maintenance	1 (1 FT)	1 FT Skilled Maintenance Asst.
DOC	1 (1 PT)	1 PT CO
Farm	1 (1 FT)	1 FT Farm Assistant

***Reasons:***

- Resigned personal reasons/no reason- 3
- Termination – 1
- Career change -
- Dissatisfaction-
- New job – 3
- Relocated –
- School – 2
- Retirement – 1
- Not meeting Per Diem Requirements - 1

- ***Status Changes/ dept transfers: 1 FT Housekeeper to FT Dispatcher, 1 PT CO to FT CO, 1 PT Housekeeper to FT Housekeeper, 1 FT Maintenance Asst. to Skilled Maintenance Asst. FT***

***Active Leave of Absences as of June 1, 2021***

Department	#	
Nursing Home – Nursing	18	(14 are intermittent, 12 for self, 6 for family)
Nursing Home – Non-Nursing	5	(5 are intermittent, 4 for family, 1 for self)
DOC	3	(1 intermittent, 3 self)
Maintenance	2	(1 intermittent self, family)
Sheriff's Dept.	2	(2 intermittent family)
Farm	1	(1 intermittent self)
County Atty's Office	1	(1 self)
Cmsrs. Office	2	(1 intermittent, 2 self)
HR	1	(1 intermittent self)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>35</b>	

**Scheduled to orient 06/02**

**Current Jobs posted/advertised**

- LNA's (17.05 FTE's vacant)
- RN/LPN (12.15 FTE's vacant combined)
- CO's
- PT Housekeeper
- RN House Supervisor

MDS Coordinator  
Farm Assistant  
Maintenance Assistant

OTHER BUSINESS –