

Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101



Agenda - Final

Monday, January 6, 2025

5:30 PM

The Board meets at 5:30pm in the Peter Feeney Room unless otherwise noted.

Board of Commissioners

District 3 - Chair Stephen Gorden

District 1 - Jean-Marie Caterina

District 2 - Tom Tyler

District 4 - Patricia Smith

District 5 - James Cloutier

CALL TO ORDER

SWEARING IN NEW COMMISSIONERS

ATTENDANCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[CD 25-001](#) Approval of the minutes, December 9, 2024, meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Attachments: [2024.12.09 BOCC Meeting Minutes](#)
[24-126 - State Reform - Handout](#)
[24-126 - Study - Handout](#)

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board Chair will limit comments to three (3) minutes per speaker.

CONSENT AGENDA

[25-001](#) Authorization of the Creation of a Special Revenue Fund consisting of Restorative Justice payments collected by the District Attorney.

Attachments: [2024 - Position Paper - Cumberland County DA's Office RJ](#)

[25-002](#) Authorization for the County Manager to enter into a sole source contract between Cumberland County and Health Resources in Action.

Attachments: [PP - Sole Source contract 1.6.2025](#)
[Memo on Sole Source contract 1.6.2025](#)

NEW BUSINESS

[24-113](#) 2025 Calendar Year Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Attachments: [2025 Proposed Meeting and Agenda Schedule](#)

[24-115](#) 2025 Board of Commissioners Committee Assignments

Attachments: [Committee Assignments 2025 Draft](#)

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NEXT MEETING:

Workshop - Monday, February 3, 2025

Meeting - Tuesday, February 18, 2025

ADJOURNMENT



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: CD 25-001

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Title:

Approval of the minutes, December 9, 2024, meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Background and Purpose of Request:

Review and approve the attached minutes.

Staff Contact: Katharine Cahoon, Executive Dept



Cumberland County

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Action Results

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm in the Peter Feeney Room unless otherwise noted.

Monday, December 9, 2024

5:30 PM

Feeney Conference Room, County Courthouse, 205 Newbury St, Portland ME 04101

CALL TO ORDER

County Staff:

James Gailey, County Manager
Alex Kimball, Deputy County Manager
Travis Kennedy, Director of Public Affairs
Sandra Warren, Compliance and Audit Manager
Katharine Cahoon, Admin and Special Projects
Theresa Grover, Director of Finance
Amy Jennings, Director of Human Resources

ATTENDANCE

Present: 5 - Commissioner Neil Jamieson, Commissioner Susan Witonis, Vice Chair Stephen Gorden, Commissioner Patricia Smith, and Chair James Cloutier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[CD 24-027](#) Approval of the minutes, November 18, 2024, meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Gorden requested that the minutes be amended to include Commissioner Elect Jean-Marie Caterina and Commissioner Elect Tom Tyler as Staff in Attendance as well as present in both of the Executive Sessions. There were no objections.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, that this Minutes Report be APPROVED AS AMENDED. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Cloutier requested that Item 24-126 under New Business be discussed out of order. There were no objections.

[24-126](#) Authorization for County Manager to accept the Department of Justice Grant Award to the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office for the Cumberland County Sexual Assault Kit Tracking and Testing Initiative for the amount of \$2,496,072.00

District Attorney Jacqueline Sartoris spoke on the application of the grant and introduced Assistant District Attorney Tina Panayides to implement one of the State of Maine’s first programs to do a full inventory of a backlog of untested sex assault kits. She noted that she is incredibly proud that Cumberland County will be the first County in Maine to track and do a full inventory to test kits where appropriate and then investigate and vigorously prosecute cases. District Attorney Sartoris thanked County staff for their support with the application and noted there was a lot of hard work and partner coordination.

Assistant District Attorney Tina Panayides thanked county staff for guidance with the grant process. The whereabouts of 80% of kits is unknown and only 20% of the kits are tested at the lab. She stated that she had been working with directors in the Department of Justice (DOJ) with guidance about what is needed. Specifically, a prosecutor in Cleveland, Ohio, about best practices for implementing the grant. The first step is to do an inventory, the second step is to create a tracking system. The tracking system will piggy back off of a current Lab tracking system. The third step is to test any applicable kits. She explained that “anonymous” kits were untested and held in the local jurisdictions at hospitals. Historically, if cases did not go to trial, then kits were not tested due to limited resources. However, she stated that studies show that 25% of kits have a DNA hit, there is a match to another crime, a robbery or a homicide. Handouts with statistics were distributed and attached to these minutes. District Attorney Sartoris stated that it's a three year grant that includes hiring a part-time prosecutor and one investigator. All lab test results will be uploaded and stored in the national Federal DNA database, CODIS.

Commissioner Smith expressed gratitude for the hard work that County staff has done. She asked how long they expect the inventory to take, ADA Panayides estimated that it should take about 6 months and meet the DOJ standards. The next step of the grant cannot be completed until an inventory is completed. The DA’s office assured Commissioner Smith that they will update them with their progress over the next three years.

Commissioner Gorden asked about 90 percent of jail inmate populations that are pretrial. DA Sartoris stated that she will go before the Board of Commissioners in February to discuss the pretrial therapeutic facility similar to York County. The goal is to address substance use and mental health use disorders to reduce recidivism, the jail is holding repeat offenders where the cause for their conduct is not being addressed with the current judicial system. This is going to be demonstrated in the future with a cost benefit analysis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier
- No:** 0

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS[CD 24-028](#) Registry of Deeds - Informational Report

Register of Deeds Jessica Spaulding spoke about the filing fee changes sponsored by the Maine Register of Deeds Association. She gave an overview of the different changes going forward. The bill is being sponsored by Senator Rick Bennet from Oxford County. With passage, there would be a 65% increase in fees that would go to the County General Fund.

This Presentation was RECEIVED AND FILED.

[24-113](#) Informational: 2025 Calendar Year Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

County Manager shared that the changes to the schedule should be considered and voted on at the January meeting in 2025.

Commissioner Smith asked about scheduling 2 meetings in a month. County Manager Gailey recommended that extra meetings should be scheduled the first of the month and third Monday of the month. Commissioner Gorden stated that he supported meetings on the third Monday and agendas could be sent on the previous Wednesday. County Manager Gailey said that staff will give it their best effort.

This Order was REFERRED to the Board of Commissioners due back on 1/6/2025

[24-115](#) Informational: 2025 Board of Commissioners Committee Assignments

County Manager Gailey stated that committee appointments will also be finalized in January.

This Order was REFERRED to the Board of Commissioners due back on 1/6/2025

RECOGNIZE OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jamieson and Commissioner Witonis

Chair Cloutier stated the two outgoing Commissioners have committed years of experience and effort to shape the county. Both have had a steady and firm hand in the development and notably, there is a higher attendance at the Civic Center which benefited from the efforts of both of them in the renovation process that was undertaken after the voters approved to rehab of the facility. It's now an integral part of County government as opposed to its previous status. Chair Cloutier presented Commissioner Susan Witonis and Commissioner Neil Jameson each with a card and congratulations. He invited them to speak about their service to the County.

Commissioner Witonis thanked Chair Cloutier and noted that the moment was bittersweet for her. She served 14 years and often questioned why she became a County Commissioner with all of the challenges that were presented over the years. She noted that it was often hard because she found herself on the opposite side of the vote. After 14 years on the Board of Commissioners, she has learned a lot about County Government especially being on the Civic Center Committee for the \$31.2

million bond, she was initially very against it. However, after the bond vote her district supported it, and she jumped on board. She stated that with Commissioner Jamieson, the committee was able to advocate for certain renovations. She thanked County Manager Gailey for his leadership and thanked staff for their hard work to shape the county and make it what it is today. She looks forward to seeing the new administration building once it's complete.

Commissioner Jamieson thanked Commissioner Witonis for her kind words and named previous leaders and their contributions. He stated that his tenure was 13 years and he started drafting the County Charter in 2008 when he was elected. The charter was passed in 2010 and was one of the most notable changes to the County. The Charter expanded the Board of Commissioners from three Commissioners to five Commissioners so that each district had roughly 55,000 constituents. He highlighted other significant accomplishments which included the Cross Insurance Arena renovations, restructuring leadership positions, creation of the Public Health Department, adding a regional assessing program and the expansion of other regional programs, renovating the dispatch center and renovating the County Jail Medical Wing using American Rescue Plan Act funds. The ARPA funds have been the most significant investment in the county and reflect an investment of \$57 million that will have lasting effects for 10 to 15 years. He encouraged the public to be involved and attend meetings.

Commissioner Gorden spoke and thanked Commissioners' Jamieson and Witonis for all of their contributions. He noted that the aim of the Board of Commissioners' is to assist the public and make the future better for the county.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board Chair will limit comments to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Chair Cloutier opened public comment.

Jean-Marie Caterina, commissioner elect from South Portland, spoke. She spoke highly of Commissioner Jamieson and thanked him for his service to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

[24-116](#) Appointment Ed Getty to the County's Board of Assessment Review for a Term of 2024-2027.

This Appointment was APPROVED.

[24-117](#) Review recommendations for changes to the Non-Union Personnel Policy of Article V., Section 9.5; Article VI, Section 6.17; Article IX, Section 9.4; Article IX Section for authorization from the County Commissioners.

This Order was APPROVED.

[24-118](#) Amendment of the Non-Union Personnel Policy Article VI. Section 6.15 Travel and Administration Regulation #4 Meals & Travel Allowance.

This Order was APPROVED.

[24-119](#) Acceptance of up to \$79,760 in pre-approved formula rebate funds through the Federal Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Block Grant program.

This Order was APPROVED.

[24-124](#) Authorization for the Sheriff’s Office to apply for an AKC Reunite grant to pay for the 75% of the estimated \$10,000 cost to purchase of a Sheriff K-9 replacement and use the Canine Supplies account for the 25% match requirement of \$2,500.

This Order was APPROVED.

[24-125](#) Authorization for the County Manager to enter into a contract between Cumberland County and Town of Gray to provide part-time General Assistance services from July 1 2024 - June 30, 2024.

This Order was APPROVED.

ARPA BUSINESS

[24-120](#) Approval COR Office Furniture and DIRTT Modular Construction Solutions Contracts for 27 Northport building using ARPA funds.

County Manager Gailey introduced two ARPA agenda items. The first is for the modular wall systems that consists of two contracts at the 27 Northport Admin building. One contract with COR for the conference rooms and workstations for the amount of \$844,282.76 and the second contract for wall systems for \$727,254.45 for a total amount of \$1,571,537.21. Commissioner Smith commented that she supports the item that it’s a very thoughtful design and is adaptable so that it can accommodate future needs. Deputy County Manager Alex Kimball stated that he wanted to acknowledge two staff members that facilitated a lot of the design and electrical concepts, Facilities Director Bill Trufant and IT Director Aaron Gilpatric.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Witonis, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

[24-121](#) Approve and Adopt the Final ARPA budget to align with the Treasury Departments Final Rule “obligated”

Compliance and Audit Manager Sandra Warren spoke about finalizing the ARPA budget for the Treasury. All ARPA Funds are being contractually obligated and the Commissioners will need to approve the final obligated funds prior to December 31, 2025. The deadline for spending down ARPA funds is December 31, 2026. Commissioner Jamieson thanked Compliance and Audit Manager

Warren for her hard work and tracking all of the \$56 million of ARPA funds. Chair Cloutier asked about the projects with unspent funds, could they be allocated elsewhere, Compliance and Audit Manager Warren stated that they would go to a similar scope of work for interoffice or interagency contracts depending on the contract language. Commissioner Smith thanked Sandra Warren for her conscious management of the ARPA funds and for updating the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Witonis, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

24-122

Approve and Award the Commissioning Agent Bid for the Cumberland County Capital Improvements Project to Sparhawk Group in the amount of \$74,182.00.

Compliance and Audit Manager Sandra Warren spoke about the need for hiring a commissioning agent. The Sparhawk Group was selected after responding to a request for proposal. The commissioning agent will guarantee that all of the components installed in the Northport Admin building work together and function correctly.

Chair Cloutier asked Facilities Director Trufant about EV chargers, are they going to be installed? Facilities Director Trufant stated that yes, EV chargers have been purchased and will be installed at the Northport Admin Building.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

NEW BUSINESS

24-123

Authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Maine Solar Solutions for a solar array at 27 Northport Drive.

Public Affairs Director Travis Kennedy shared that the County received a Department of Energy Block Grant. The Northport Roof was selected as a site for solar panels. Maine Solar Solutions was selected based on their experience and they have proposed solar panels for the existing rooftop space and suggested expanding the rooftop space to support more solar arrays. The engineering will be coordinated through WSP to craft a proposal for roof expansion that would not exceed the grant and the 30% federal rebate credit, an estimated amount of \$114,000. Commissioner Smith asked if there was an estimate of cost savings? Public Affairs Director Kennedy stated that it was unknown at this time, depending on the rooftop build. However, he was told that there would be a guarantee that the county would see a return on its investment and then some. The solar energy that is unused will be banked and credited to

the county during the less sunny months.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

24-114

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of County Commissioners for 2025

Commissioner Stephen Gorden was nominated as Chair and Commissioner Patricia Smith nominated as Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Chair Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Witonis, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier

No: 0

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Gailey thanked Chair Cloutier for leading the Board of Commissioners for 2024. County Manager Gailey thanked Commissioner Witonis for her 14 years of service and Commissioner Jamieson for his 13 years of service to the county. He stated that he was sorry to see them go especially since they have been great supporters of staff. Both commissioners oversaw a lot of the transition of the county through different policy changes. He thanked them for their guidance with the distribution of the ARPA funds, budget development and approval and working through two and a half years of Covid. He noted that the HR Department appreciated the support for increasing recruiting efforts and purchase of new software. He thanked them for their support and trust in the county staff as they progressed.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deputy County Manager Alex Kimball recalled his first meeting participating in a Cross Insurance Arena Board of Trustees meeting with Commissioner Jamieson and Commissioner Witonis and hockey team negotiations. He appreciated how much they have always fought for the country.

Finance Director Theresa Grover reported that the finance software is being customized and she and her staff are looking forward to implementing it.

Human Resources Director Amy Jennings thanked the Commissioners for their support and her staff really appreciates it. Last year the County hired 80 new employees and this year it's close to 100, however due to attrition rates, employees are still leaving. It's a lot of work for all departments, finance, IT and facilities. Negotiations have begun for Dispatch and Corrections and in February the LEC and Corrections Supervisors negotiations will begin.

Public Affairs Director Travis Kennedy thanked Commissioners Jamieson and Witonis for their support and noted that he learned a lot about county government from them.

Commissioner Gorden asked HR Director Jennings if the average age of the workforce is lowering. HR Director Jennings said that yes, it is, more employees are seeking work life balance. Commissioner Gorden asked what the drivers are for leaving, HR Director Jennings stated that is the major reason. This is particularly true at the jail. In order to be able to offer that work life balance schedule, it would require 15 to 20 people being hired. Exit reviews have been completed for outgoing employees and she would be happy to share the results.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Smith wished the public happy holidays. She thanked Commissioner Jamieson and Witonis for their guidance and feels like she has completed her two year degree in learning about county government. She stated the transition from municipal government to county government was a huge leap but it was made possible by those two (Commissioner Jamieson and Wltonis).

Commissioner Gorden commented the MCAA is crafting Legislation for statewide jail budgets, so that 35% of total counties jail budgets will be supported by the state. This will have a significant impact on property taxes. Jails are a service of last resort, and he is looking forward to working with DA Sartoris.

Chair Cloutier thanked Commissioners for their comments. Since the passage of the Charter, he has viewed the commissioners as a board of directors, silent and supportive.

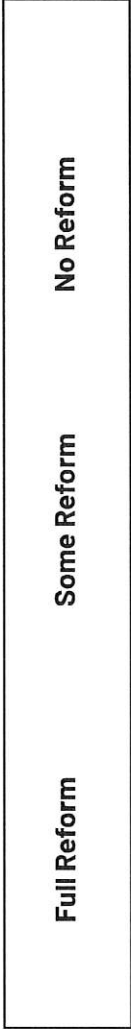
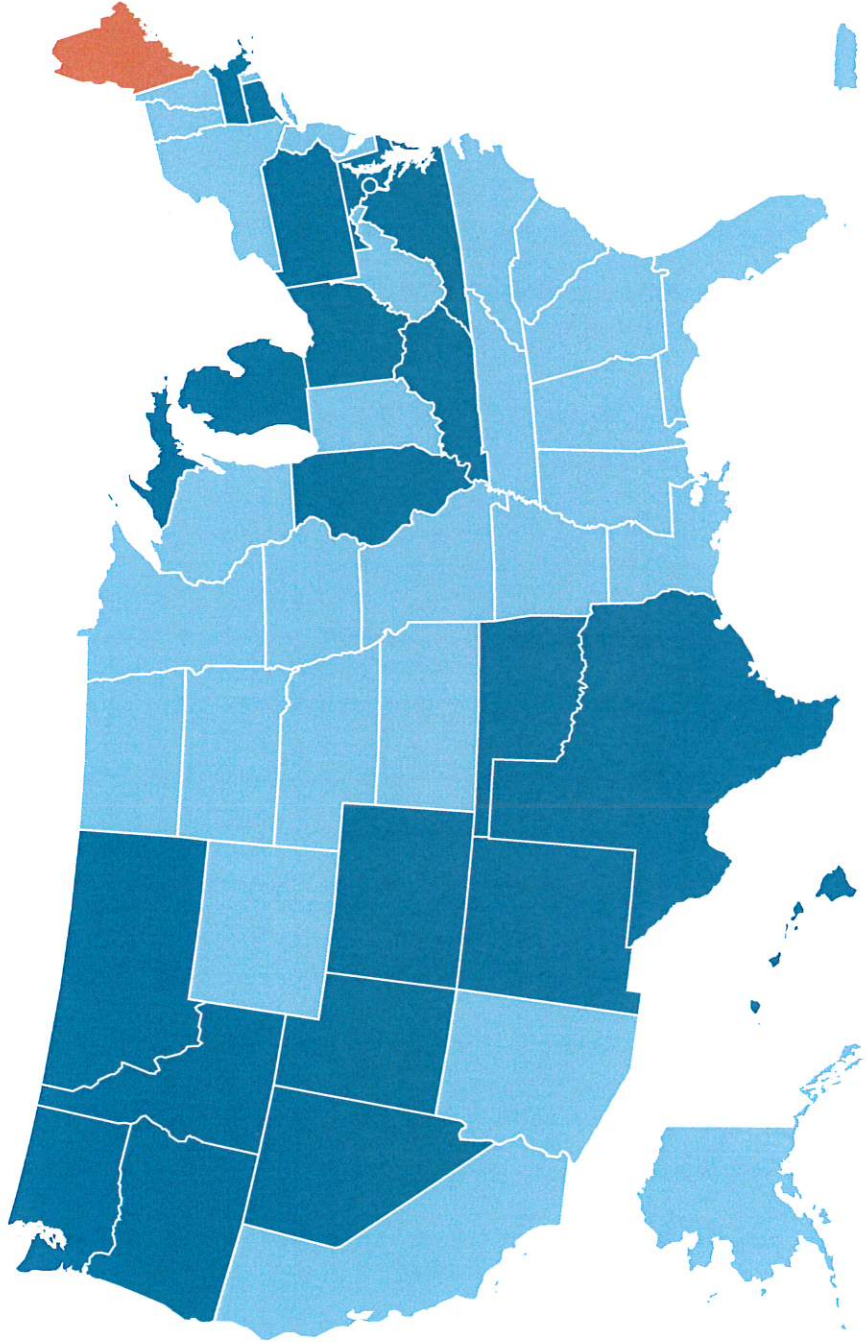
Commissioner Jamieson wished the public a happy holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. He congratulated the new commissioners, especially Jean-Marie Caterina. This has been the best public service job that he has had in his 35 years of public service.

Commissioner Witonis said that when she started, there were three commissioners on the board and then five commissioners. She noted that she was the only female and faced multiple opinions but feels that she stood her ground on important issues. She thanked everyone.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:00pm. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.



How We Track Reform: The Six Pillars

We track the progress of all 50 states in enacting laws and policies embracing our six legislative pillars of comprehensive rape kit reform. These are criteria experts have determined are critical elements in eliminating the untested rape kit backlog once and for all.

[LEARN ABOUT OUR PROCESS](#)

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Statewide Inventory |
| 2 | Test Backlogged Kits |
| 3 | Test New Kits |
| 4 | Implement Tracking System |
| 5 | Victim's Right to Know |
| 6 | Fund Reform |
-



How We Determine and Track State Reform

We track the progress of all 50 states in enacting laws and policies that embrace our six legislative pillars of comprehensive rape kit reform. These are criteria our staff of experts—in consultation with survivors, advocates, law enforcement, forensic experts, prosecutors, and policymakers—has determined are critical elements in eliminating the untested rape kit backlog and preventing it from happening again. Read more below about our six pillars and the colors in our [interactive End the Backlog map](#). Then visit the map to see how your state measures up.

About the Six Pillars

Implement an annual statewide inventory of kits.

States must carry out an inventory of all untested kits in hospital, law enforcement, and lab possession. Federal best practices recommend a recurring annual inventory and publication of the results online. This pillar is best adopted by passing a law, but it can also be achieved through an executive initiative, like an order from a governor or an attorney general.

Mandate the submission and testing of all backlogged kits.

To achieve this pillar, states must have tested all backlogged kits connected to reported crimes, have legislation requiring it, or have a plan in place to identify and submit these kits to a lab and test them. This pillar can be achieved through legislation or action.

Mandate the testing of all new kits.

States must have established deadlines for submitting all newly collected kits connected to reported crimes to a lab and testing them. This pillar can only be adopted through legislation.

Create and use a statewide kit tracking system.

To achieve this pillar, states must establish an electronic rape kit tracking system, or have a plan and deadline for implementation in place. The system must follow the path of a kit throughout the entire process—from collection to final disposition. This pillar can be achieved through legislation or an executive directive.

Implement mechanisms that allow survivors to easily find out the status of their kits.

States must grant victims the right to receive information about their cases and the status and location of their rape kits. This pillar can only be adopted through legislation.

Allocate appropriate funding to submit, test, and track kits.

To achieve this pillar, states must allocate their own funds to help implement these pillars, with an emphasis on testing backlogged and future kits.

About Our Map Colors

No Reform

States that have not implemented any reform are represented by orange.

Some Reform

States that have adopted more than one of the six pillars are represented by light blue.

Full Reform

States that have adopted all six pillars of rape kit reform are represented by dark blue.

Learn
More

Spread
the
Word

Advocate

Support
Our
Work



END THE BACKLOG

Testing Rape Kits Saves Communities Millions of Dollars

Testing every rape kit connected to a reported crime makes communities safer. And, as research proves, **testing every kit also saves communities money.**

In 2016, the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University analyzed the cost of testing backlogged rape kits in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Factoring in the cost of testing kits and other related expenses, the study calculated the overall cost effectiveness of testing 4,347 unsubmitted kits, engaging survivors, investigating every lead, and prosecuting cases. The study found that:

- Each kit tested produced an estimated net savings of **\$5,127** to the community.
- Cuyahoga County **saved \$26.48 million** by testing 4,437 backlogged kits, investigating every case, prosecuting offenders, and preventing them from committing future crimes.

In 2019, Dr Paul J. Speaker of West Virginia University conducted a study that demonstrates enormous economic returns for communities that invest state dollars to test kits swiftly.

- The study shows that processing every rape kit could be one of the most effective uses of state funds.
- Testing backlogged rape kits can produce an astounding **65,000% return on investment (ROI)**.

Other analyses show that testing rape kits produces positive returns on investment. Researchers have estimated that testing every rape kit could save states more than **\$400,000 per averted assault**. Additional research has found that adding the DNA of just one offender to DNA databases provides **savings to society that may be as high as \$20,000 per submission**.

Research is now confirming what cities and states around the country have already discovered: testing every rape kit and thoroughly investigating every reported rape is financially beneficial for communities. As more sexual assault cases are pursued, more offenders are apprehended and future crimes are averted. **Investing in testing backlogged kits and pursuing justice today will lead to safer communities and significant savings tomorrow.**

Learn more at endthebacklog.org or contact us at policy@joyfulheartfoundation.org.



Testing Rape Kits Stops Serial Rapists

As of November 2023, testing backlogged rape kits and following up on leads in only two cities—Cleveland and Detroit—has resulted in the identification of more than **1,320 potential serial rapists**. These serial offenders have committed crimes across at least 40 states and Washington, D.C. They have not just committed rape—many have been linked to other violent crimes, as well.

The following case studies illuminate the fact that **rapists are often serial offenders** and that DNA is one of the best tools we have to keep communities safe.

Case Study: Seattle, Washington

In 2015, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) surveyed law enforcement agencies and announced a backlog of 5,881 untested kits across the state. The Attorney General's Office reported 6,460 untested kits in 2018. Washington legislatures enacted laws to test the backlogged and the new kits, establish a sexual assault survivors' bill of rights, and create a tracking system. As of September 2018, there were 658 registered users through the pilot tracking program.

Cold Case Conviction

Darin Lamont Bolar had two child rape convictions from 1993. He is linked to a string of violent and sexually aggressive crimes involving both child and adult victims, domestic violence, second degree robbery, third degree theft, and fourth degree assault and obstructing a police officer. A rape kit taken in 2007 from a 14-year-old survivor was tested in 2017, matching his DNA from earlier sexual assault crimes.

Bolar was not convicted in 2006-2008 groping attacks, as the rape kit was not tested until 2017. He was convicted in 2014 for domestic violence assault and now is charged with sexual assault for the 2007 rape case.

Case Study: Virginia Beach, Virginia

In 2014, the State of Virginia enacted a law that required law enforcement agencies to report the number of untested rape kits in their possession to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS). The report found that there were at least 2,269 untested rape kits in the state. Through an award from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the state began testing its backlogged kits, leading to over **80 matches to DNA profiles** that were already collected.

Cold Case Conviction

In 1984, Ruben Carroll Slade raped two women over the span of three weeks. Both women submitted to rape kits, but their kits went untested for 30 years. In 2014, when the kits were finally tested, DNA found in the rape kits matched Slade's profile that was already in the database for another crime. On February 5th 2018, Slade pleaded guilty to the crimes, and later that year was sentenced to serve two concurrent life terms for two counts of rape. Like many serial rapists, He also has prior convictions for robbery, five counts of burglary, three counts of grand larceny, shoplifting and probation violation.

Cleveland, Ohio

In 2011, the Ohio Attorney General launched the Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative, which incentivized law enforcement agencies across the state to submit all untested kits in storage to the state crime lab. The lab has tested 7,025 kits from Cuyahoga County alone, resulting in the identification of **850 serial sex offenders**. One rapist has been linked to **17 victims**.

Cold Case Convictions: Cleveland

Former Lake County probation officer Nathan Ford has been linked to at least 15 rapes since the early 1990s. Ford was first convicted of raping seven women and one child in 2006. In 2015, newly analyzed DNA evidence from untested rape kits connected Ford to an additional 7 rapes.

Ford is serving 138 years in prison for his 2006 convictions. Since the launch of the Ohio Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative, Ford has been linked to 14 additional assaults.

Detroit, Michigan

In 2009, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office discovered **11,341 untested rape kits** in a Detroit Police Department storage facility. In June 2021, Detroit ended its known backlog and tested all the 11,341 kits, resulting in at least 3,121 DNA matches and the identification of **842 suspected serial sex offenders**. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has obtained 250 convictions, and DNA from the testing of these kits has been linked to crimes committed in 40 states and Washington, D.C.

Cold Case Convictions: Detroit

In 2003, DeShawn Starks sexually assaulted two women in Detroit. Both women submitted to rape kits, but their kits were not tested and their cases were not investigated until a decade later. In 2013, Starks sexually assaulted two more women in Detroit. Both women submitted to rape kits, and their kits were tested, and the DNA hit linked the case to another crime. Ten years after Sparks' 2003 crimes, Detroit tested all of these kits as part of its backlog elimination initiative, and DNA linked Starks to both crimes. Had the kits been tested following collection, at least two sexual assaults could have been prevented. Sparks is currently serving a sentence of 45-90 years in prison.



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: 25-001

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Agenda Item Request:

Authorization of the Creation of a Special Revenue Fund consisting of Restorative Justice payments collected by the District Attorney.

Background and Purpose of Request:

Requestor: Jacqueline Sartoris, District Attorney

Please refer to the attached memo.

Funding Amount and Source:

Fees collected and existing General Fund budgeted funds

Effective Date if Applicable: 2025

TO:	Board of County Commissioners
FROM:	Jacqueline Sartoris, District Attorney
DATE:	12/31/2024
SUBJECT:	Restorative Justice Account

Requested Action:

Approve the creation of a Special Revenue Fund to receive Restorative Justice payments from defendants and make reimbursements for Restorative Justice (RJ) sessions to nonprofit RJ practitioners.

Background & Purpose of Request:

Our existing RJ program is paid for entirely by the County. Other national models require payment from perpetrators of harm to offset these costs as part of taking accountability and supporting an important program. We will be charging only those who are not indigent for this program, and it will be available for all appropriate cases regardless of ability to pay.

The fee will be paid prior to the session being conducted. The fee will then be used to pay the nonprofit restorative justice practitioners who have organized and presided over the agreed-upon restorative justice sessions. This account will not result in a net increase of resources to the County, but will likely ultimately allow the program to be expanded without additional County resources, provided we succeed in having restorative justice become more cost-neutral to the County.

The Special Revenue Fund will enable us to have people who cause harm (usually they will be defendants, although some will be accused of but pre-criminal charges) pay a fee for restorative justice services as part of taking accountability for their actions. The fund will enable us to track costs and payments, and help ensure we are charging an appropriate amount to potentially cover most of the costs of this program.

Funding Amount and Source:

Fees collected and existing General Fund budgeted funds

Effective Date:

Immediately

Attachments:

None.



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: 25-002

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Agenda #:

Agenda Item Request:

Authorization for the County Manager to enter into a sole source contract between Cumberland County and Health Resources in Action.

Background and Purpose of Request:

Requestor: Liz Blackwell-Moore, Public Health Department

The Health Resources in Action is equipped to provide the type of consultation we need in the short timeframe. Given the narrow scope of the work and the urgent timing of the project, we are asking for the authorization of a sole source contract of \$30,000 to Health Resources in Action.

The Public Health Department needs to hire a consultant to make substance use data findings accessible to non-public health professionals, and then plan and facilitate three in-person engagement sessions with the community-based organizations to identify and prioritize the most effective prevention strategies for the populations of focus. The project must be completed by June 30, 2025.

Please refer to the attached memo for more detail.

Presentation: no

Funding Amount and Source:

\$30,000 from the Maine Prevention Network Grant

Effective Date if Applicable:

1/06/2025



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: 25-002

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Agenda #:

Agenda Item Request:

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Please refer to the attached memo for more detail.

Presentation: no

Funding Amount and Source:

\$30,000 from the Maine Prevention Network Grant

Effective Date if Applicable:

1/06/2025

Memo to the Commissioners

December 19, 2025

From: Liz Blackwell-Moore

Subject: Sole source contract to Health Resources in Action

Recently, a staff member hired under the Maine Prevention Network grant left the Public Health Department. Another staff member hired under the same grant is going on FLMA for the birth of a child. Given the recently loss of staff capacity, the public health department has to pivot quickly to ensure we meet the deliverables of the Maine Prevention Network grant by June 30, 2025. To meet the deliverables, we are undertaking a “Community Based Participatory Research and Action Project” in which we work with immigrant-led community-based organizations to co-design population specific prevention strategies with a focus on youth who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and/or live in immigrant families. Without the additional staff members, the Public Health Department needs to hire a consultant to make substance use data findings accessible to non-public health professionals, and then plan and facilitate three in-person engagement sessions with the community-based organizations to identify and prioritize the most effective prevention strategies for the populations of focus. The project must be completed by June 30, 2025. The consultant must be able to lead in-person engagement sessions in February and March and must have expertise in community engagement related to tobacco and substance use within immigrant communities.

In 2023, Health Resources in Action (HRiA) was awarded a contract through a competitive RFP process to provide the Cumberland County Public Health Department training and technical assistance on community engagement and addressing health inequities in support of the development of prevention workplans that will positively impact communities with the greatest barriers to health. Through that initial project, HRiA gained a deep understanding of the Public Health Department’s complex prevention work and our workplans. They also have the staff experience to lead a community based participatory action project within communities of color. They are really the only organization equipped to provide the type of consultation we need in the short timeframe. Given the narrow scope of the work and the urgent timing of the project, we are asking for the authorization of a sole source contract of \$30,000 to Health Resources in Action.

This project would be funded by the Maine Prevention Network Grant.



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: 24-113

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Agenda #:

Agenda Item Request:

2025 Calendar Year Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Background and Purpose of Request:

Requestor: Katharine Cahoon, Executive Dept

Please see the attached schedule that outlines two different meeting schedules for approval. One schedule is for the second Monday of each month and the other is for the third Monday of each month.

This item will be presented for approval at the January 2025 Board of Commissioner meeting.

2025 County Commissioner Schedule - Proposed

Month	Meeting Type	Date of Meeting 2nd Monday	Date of Meeting 3rd Monday
Jan 2025	Meeting	Mon Jan 13, 2025	Mon Jan 13, 2025
February	Meeting	Mon Feb 10, 2025	Tue Feb 18, 2025
March	Meeting	Mon March 10, 2025	Mon Mar 17, 2025
April	Meeting	Mon Apr 14, 2025	Tue Apr 22, 2025
May	Meeting	Mon May 12, 2025	Mon May 19, 2025
June	Meeting	Mon June 9, 2025	Mon Jun 16, 2025
July	Meeting	Mon July 14, 2025	Mon Jul 21, 2025
August	Meeting	Mon August 11, 2025	Mon Aug 18, 2025
September	Meeting	Mon September 8, 2025	Mon Sep 15, 2025
October	Meeting	Tue October 14, 2025	Mon Oct 20, 2025
November	Meeting	Mon Nov 10, 2025	Mon Nov 17, 2025
December	Meeting	Mon Dec 8, 2025	Mon Dec 15, 2025
Jan 2025	Meeting	Mon Jan 12, 2026	Mon Jan 12, 2026
Meeting location is subject to change, please check schedule to confirm if you're attending.			



Cumberland County

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Position Paper

File #: 24-115

Agenda Date: 1/6/2025

Agenda #:

Title:

2025 Board of Commissioners Committee Assignments

Background and Purpose of Request:

Review and assign Commissioners to the respective Committees to represent the County for 2025.

This item will be presented for approval at the January 2025 Board of Commissioner meeting.

Staff Contact: Katharine Cahoon, Executive Dept

2025 Commissioner Committee Assignment

Committee	2024 Assignment/ 2024 Alternate Proxy	2025 Assignment / 2025 Alternate Proxy
Cross Insurance Arena Board of Trustees	Commissioner Witonis	
CCRCC Board of Directors	Commissioner Smith/ Commissioner Witonis	
Coastal County Workforce Board	Commissioner Cloutier	
Cooperative Extension Services Board of Trustees	Commissioner Smith	
Maine County Commissioners Associations Risk Pool	Commissioner Gorden/ Commissioner Cloutier, County Manager Gailey	
Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) United Way	Commissioner Jamieson/ Travis Kennedy	
County Grant Oversight Committee	Commissioner Witonis	
Cumberland County Public Health Council	Commissioner Cloutier	
Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District	Commissioner Smith	
Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)	County Manager Gailey/ Deputy Manager Kimball	
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	Commissioner Cloutier	
Metro Regional Coalition GPCOG	Commissioner Smith/ County Manager Gailey	
Municipal Oversight Committee – CDBG/HOME	Commissioner Jamieson/ Commissioner Witonis	
Maine County Commissioner Association	Commissioner Gorden/ Commissioner Cloutier	

Agenda Item: 24-115

Date on Agenda: 12/09/2024