

**Northampton County Council of Governments**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 24, 2021, 9:00am**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Tina Smith, Director of DCED, welcomed everyone to the call and introduced County Executive Lamont McClure.

Mr. McClure thanked everyone for participating and stated that he knows everyone is anxious for when we will be able to get back to holding meetings in person. He knows that everyone is concerned about budgets, potholes, where the next warehouse is going, etc. Mr. McClure looks forward to continue moving the County into the future.

Mr. McClure discussed how small businesses are the lifeblood of the County (employment, taxes, etc.). He announced that the County will be receiving about \$60 million with the American Rescue Plan and suggested that this could help us reinstitute the Small Business Grant program. He then read a list of each municipality in the County and the total dollar amount that each one's small businesses received in the Small Business Grants that were awarded last year. Mr. McClure is supportive of offering this program again, along with providing more money to Grow NorCo, Hotel Tax and EMS grants.

Tina Smith introduced and read a brief bio on the first presenter; James Miller, LVHN Vice President of Operations and Perioperative Services.

**Presenters:**

- **James Miller-LVHN:** He announced that LVHN's new facility, Hecktown Oaks, would be opening in 99 days. Jim then shared a PowerPoint, providing highlights and pictures of the new facility that will be located right off Route 33, between Hecktown and Newburg Roads. This facility is greatly needed as studies show that nearly one-third of residents seek inpatient care at LVHN and the population of 65 years and older is growing significantly. The facility is strategically designed for expansion and growth to meet the needs of our community as it grows.

Some features highlighted of the full service LVHN Hecktown Oaks:

- A separate Emergency Room for children
- Additional 30 private inpatient rooms by November, 2021
- Cancer Center partnered with Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute
- Infusion area in Cancer Center will provide 14 private bays for patients, to include 55-inch televisions and a full window with views to the Healing Garden outside.
- Health Center will provide a Rehabilitation Pool for therapy.
- Indigo Clean Lights, which will activate when room is empty and will kill bacteria.
- Anti-Bacterial Paint on walls and air purification in elevators
- Open stairwell to encourage use of stairs

- Tina Smith-2021 Grant Schedule & Updates:**  
Announced the 2021 Grant Schedule (Attached). She also mentioned the current COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program through The Rising Tide. This grant-funding program is open until June 15, 2021 or until funding runs out. Tina stated that if there were any questions on the grant schedule and programs, please feel free to reach out to DCED.
- Frank Brooks – C-Med Program:**  
Shared a PowerPoint of the County’s C-Med program that helps prevent tenants from becoming homeless by providing 12 months of rental and utility assistance. The County has Tenant Navigators who act as case managers and help walk the tenants and landlords through the application process. Rapid Re-Housing provides emergency financial assistance to eligible at-risk residents avoid homelessness and utility shut-off. Frank stated that these programs have served about 1,500 NC residents and 700 landlords.  
Mark Hartney posed the question if this program can help homeowners. Frank answered that a program is being worked on for this assistance.
- Mark Hartney – Housing Plan Update:**  
Northampton County will be conducting a housing needs assessment to identify the most pressing housing needs in the county & its municipalities. The county has engaged a consultant to conduct this study. We will be sending out to municipalities later this week. The study should be completed by the second or third quarter of this year.  
Mark then introduced Megan Beste from Rep. Susan Wild’s office.
- Megan Beste – Legislative Office Update**  
Megan announced that Rep. Wild will be participating on the March 24, Northampton County Virtual Town Hall Meeting regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Megan stated that municipalities should be receiving their funds in about 60 days. Large municipalities (with populations of at least 50,000) will receive funds directly from the Treasury Department. Smaller Municipalities (with a population fewer than 50,000) will receive their funds from the state. Megan offered to send Tina information on the plan that she can share with everyone.

**Adjournment:**

Tina concluded the meeting with a reminder for tomorrow’s Virtual Town Hall Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. She asked that anyone interested in attending should contact Dawn Tomaino in DCED. She again thanked presenters and everyone for participating in a virtual CoG meeting, with hopes that we will be able to meet in person next quarter.