

State budget reductions could mean loss of more than \$100,000 to White Mountain Health Center

MOULTONBOROUGH — At a public meeting in Moultonborough on March 25 Commissioner Toumpas discussed the legislative process surrounding the state budget, which includes the budget for the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, that is currently being voted on in the House of Representatives.

The governor's budget presented to the N.H. House of Representatives includes a \$2 million a year decrease for two years for all of the community health centers in the state. The decrease is directly related to plans to balance the state budget.

Locally, the reduction in Department of Health and Human funds through the governor's budget would mean a \$102,000 decrease in state support for the White Mountain Community Health Center in Conway.

The White Mountain Community Health Center, unlike most of health centers in the state, is not funded by the federal government.

The state House of Representatives is expected to vote on a larger decrease in funds for the state's health centers, than the one proposed by the governor.

Toumpas said many other essential human service agencies



Pictured above at the meeting in Moultonborough are from left to right: White Mountain Community Health Center Executive Director Patricia McMurry, Carroll County Commissioner Dorothy Solomon, N.H. Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas, Merriman House Administrator Susan Ruka, N.H. Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton.

will likely find their funds significantly decreased as well, which could mean the loss of services to residents in Carroll County and elsewhere in the state.

Toumpas said he is concerned about the effect on the state's residents who need the many safety net services and who may find it difficult, if not impossible, to find those services if the House cuts reduce even further the governor's budget. He encouraged residents who will feel the impact to contact their state representa-

tives to explain what this will mean to them.

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