

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Friday, May 19, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chair

Representative Keith Erf, Clerk

Representative Jess Edwards

Representative Mary Jane Wallner

Representative Mary Heath

Representative Gerald Griffin (Alt.)

Senator James Gray

Senator Jeb Bradley

Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Senator Cindy Rosenwald

(1) Acceptance of Minutes of the April 21, 2023 meeting

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #14: It being 10:05, we'll call the Fiscal Committee meeting to order for May 19th, 2023, and acknowledge that we'll have one Senator missing and Representative Edwards will be arriving a little later. So anything on -- I'll entertain a motion to adopt the minutes from April 21st.

JAMES GRAY, State Senator, Senate District #06: So move.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13:
[Inaudible].

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion by Senator Gray, second by Senator Rosenwald to adopt the minutes as written. Any -- any further questions or suggestions? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That -- the minutes are adopted.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(2) Old Business:

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (3) RSA 9:16-a, I, Transfers Authorized:
- (4) RSA 9:16-c, I, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds:
- (5) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:

AMERICA RESCUE PLAN 2021

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (6) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:
- (7) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source, and RSA 124:15 Positions Authorized:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 3, I will note that we have Consent Calendar that goes from Tab 3 through Tab 7. And I've got requests to remove six of the items from Consent. 23 -- under Tab 3, Item 23-144, request by Representative Edwards will be arriving later. Under Tab 5, 23-153, Representative Erf. Under Tab 6, 23-146, request from the Senate. And 23-152, Senator -- from the Senate and from Representative Edwards. 23-169, Senator Rosenwald wanted removed, and 23-155, again, Senator Edwards. Are there any other ones to be removed? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adopt.

** SEN. GRAY: So move.

JEB BRADLEY, State Senator, Senate District #03: Second.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20:
Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Adopt the Consent Calendar. Motion by Senator Gray, second by Senator Bradley to -- to adopt the Consent Calendar with the notable exceptions. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? Consent Calendar with the above mentioned exceptions is adopted.

***** (MOTION ADOPTED)**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We won't come yet to 23-144 until Representative Edwards arrives; but we'll go to the next item on the list, 23-153, under Tab 5. Did I have that number right?

KEITH ERF, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #28: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. And that was -- I said 155; right?

REP. ERF: Correct [Inaudible].

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: 153. 153. 153. Excuse me. And that was Health and Human -- Health and Human Services. And I see Mr. White is here to explain. Representative Erf is recognized for questions.

REP. ERF: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. White. My question really is could you just give us a little more in-depth explanation of what this is all about? Thank you.

NATHAN WHITE, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services: Of course. Good morning. Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services. This -- to Representative Erf's point, this item is certainly a little unique. I don't think this has happened certainly in recent memory. What we're doing here, there's two key purposes behind this item. The first is to establish a new

Accounting Unit to ensure that the DSH recoupments and redistributions are done in a transparent way. So that's one action within this item.

The other key component of this is authority to accept and expend those redistributions. And so the Department contracts with an independent third party auditor that looks at the DSH -- at the DSH distributions and we've been working with that auditor. And this Accounting Unit would allow us to collect the funds and re -- from certain hospitals and redistribute to other hospitals.

We have not been able to do this because of ongoing federal and state litigation for some time. And the amounts that you see represented here, these are the audits from 2011 through 2017. The 2018 and 2019 audits are still currently under way and being finalized, and you typically see about a three-year delay with the audit process due to a variety of procedures. The audits are done again by a third party to come up with those determinations, and they're done in accordance with CMS regulations. And I will stop there for further questions.

REP. ERF: So it's basically moving money essentially from one hospital to another hospital. Is that kind of what's going on?

MR. WHITE: That is correct. So it's -- the auditors looked at the distribution amounts that were made to each of the hospitals and through that process determinations have been made that funds need to be redistributed to the other hospitals. Some were overpaid, some were under paid based on -- based on the criteria. I know that there was a question that came in relative to whether we could identify the specific amounts that went from which hospital to the other hospital. I'm still waiting to hear back from legal on a final determination relative to what would be considered proprietary financial information and what could be shared publicly; essentially, what would be subject to Right-to-Know.

REP. ERF: So, essentially, there's no new money here. This is basically redistributing those funds, those Federal funds?

MR. WHITE: Precisely. This is a net zero impact, but we just need the authority to accept those dollars and to pay those dollars out.

REP. ERF: Thank you very much.

MR. WHITE: Of course.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald for a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Good morning, Nathan. So are we going to be redistributing based on what we were doing prior to the DSH settlement or are we going to be redistributing in accordance with the DSH settlement?

MR. WHITE: So it's a very complicated history here behind all of this. And, excellent, and Meredith Telus has lived and experienced this entire history and she's here to dive right into the details for you.

MEREDITH TELUS, Director, Bureau of Program Integrity and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning. Meredith Telus, Director of Program Integrity and Quality for the Department.

Um -- I didn't -- I didn't actually have to live through the whole history, but I've been here for part of it. And I can tell you that what we have done is each year we've made payments in accordance with the settlements, but those payments are still based on interim data. So every year there's a -- every year that we've made a payment there's been a subsequent DSH audit. Uh -- and so these redistributions are to come into compliance with the amounts of Uncompensated Care based on that audited amount.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So it's a true-up?

MS. TELUS: It's a true-up. Exactly, yes. We make the payments in the year based on the settlement that's in place at the time. And then we have to true-up based on the actual amounts.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

MS. TELUS: Once the audit is complete.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Right. And nice to see you, Meredith.

MS. TELUS: Very nice to see you, Senator.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I guess the questions arose we've never seen this on the agenda before.

MS. TELUS: Correct. This is the first time we're doing a redistribution.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. And --

** SEN. GRAY: Move to approve.

SEN. BRADLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion to approve the item by Senator Gray, second by Senator Bradley. Further discussion? Any further questions? We'll come back to yours, Representative Edwards.

JESS EDWARDS, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #31: [Inaudible].

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We haven't -- we haven't --

REP. ERF: No, he wasn't. Can ask a question on this one?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: You have a question on this -- this item?

REP. EDWARDS: Yeah, go ahead. I can't find my notes. I did -- I did think I had a question but go ahead.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. All in favor say aye? Opposed no?

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Now we'll go to the item that Senator Edwards had removed in Tab 3 and that was --

REP. ERF: 144.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: 144. Again, Health and Human Services. Senator Edwards is recognized for a question. Representative Edwards.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you. I was a little reluctant to speak up there. But I -- thank you, Mr. Chair. The -- the school children of Auburn Village School say hello and send their warm greetings. Thank you for allowing me to be a little bit late to this.

Um -- I -- I understand and support what we're trying to do with -- with this item. The 1.125 million is -- is good to build out the system of care. What I think we need to start knowing, though, is when these kinds of transfers or -- or -- or new expenditures have an impact or a perceived to potentially have an impact on the E.R. boarding crisis, I'd -- I'd like to know it. I mean, in theory, every time we improve the system of care, I think we can assume that there's some in -- you know, maybe indirect benefit to eliminating the E.R. boarding problem. But what I would appreciate is if we could get as much as you can, sort of direct connection, between the new spend and the reduction in that -- the number of people being boarded. And I'm

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

May 19, 2023

thinking that that's particularly ripe and important for us because of the Court order to say we have to fix this in a year, right? And so we need to know where we're at and what we're doing and what the potential impact may be to be able to help you. So -- so -- so today on this particular item, are you able to say anything that you're competent in in terms of projecting a more direct impact on the E.R. boarding problem?

MORISSA HENN, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: Thank you, Representative Edwards. Morissa Henn, Associate Commissioner at DHHS, and welcome the opportunity to reflect on that for a moment.

Um -- you know, first, I think this item which is dealing with our children's system of care, so looking at getting kids into the right level of care to meet their behavioral health needs, whether those are able to be served in the community or require a more intensive level of treatment in a residential setting or perhaps even in an acute psychiatric setting. That's what the Department is focused on as a whole.

And so I think here when we recognized when the residential system was launched in 2021, we didn't know exactly what the level of need would be. Um -- we didn't know through those contracts whether we would have enough beds at the varying levels of the continuum. And so what this item does is allows us to -- to transfer funds, not in any way to the harm of another program, but to transfer funds to help provide that level of care for kids who need it within our residential treatment system.

At the same time, I do want to note that it does in no way harm any of the transitional housing type settings from which the funds are transferred. Those will continue. Those housing bridge and other vouchers will continue. This just allows us to put funds where we need them right now.

To the question of boarding, getting people to the level of care that they need is part of the whole prevention of Emergency

Department boarding. So when we can serve people's needs ideally in the community, in through working with schools, working with families, working with community providers, that's the best level of prevention. But we know that at times people do have episodes, whether it's in the context of a crisis or a -- or a -- or a situation escalating for another reason where they need that more intensive care.

Ideally, we want to avoid having to go through the Emergency Department at all. The Emergency Department is not the ideal place to be managing those conditions and that is what this will allow us to do, in part, is to continue identifying, screening in a standardized way those youth, but really we're doing it for the population as a whole who may require care in a therapeutically appropriate setting, other than the Emergency Department.

I'll just note finally and what, you know, welcome any follow-up questions, we just about 15 minutes ago announced as a department a bold vision called Mission Zero, which is our intention, we've been working on this for months. It is connected and aligned with the Ten-Year Mental Health Plan, but our aspiration, our commitment to achieving a zero wait list in the next two years. And so that today is actually a pretty important day, and I appreciate you asking the question so that I could mention that. Thanks.

REP. EDWARDS: So to be clear, this zero wait list, you're specifically talking about the zero wait list for the E.R. or for services to prevent somebody going to the E.R., because we have all kinds of wait lists in DHHS.

MS. HENN: Right. It's really not having people boarding in the Emergency Department, the term we use when people are waiting for more acute services, be it residential, inpatient psychiatric, or otherwise in the Emergency Department setting.

REP. EDWARDS: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. EDWARDS: So what I heard from your answer is that at this point you think this item is going to help create indirectly the capacity necessary to facilitate the reduction of E.R. boarding, but that there's not been any analysis specifically to figure out how to target this money with the direct objective of reducing the E.R. boarding. You -- you -- if that's not a fair summary let me know. But -- but to go on, you just mentioned getting a zero wait list in two years. I think the Court order says one year. So we have a bit of a challenge in terms of timing. Are you -- are you all able to accelerate and meet the Court order?

MS. HENN: I can't speak to issues related to litigation. But what I will say is that there are many things that will be implemented even in the next few months, and we're continuing to review the Court order and the implications of that for our work.

REP. EDWARDS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald for a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Department is asking us in Senate Finance to extend the deadline for spending \$6 million of housing, but also to appropriate another 11 and a half million dollars of system of care funds. Does this million dollars affect either of those two asks?

MS. HENN: That's a great question. So this funding will actually cover the increased level of residential needs in the current biennium, whereas the funding you're referring to, which includes the possibility of increased rates for residential care to meet, you know, what we have learned is the requirements under our current workforce needs and complexities. That would be for the next biennium. So they are related, but this is really covering the -- the current period, the current time frame.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And just the housing. I mean, you're transferring money out of housing that you've asked us to extend the deadline. Does that mean it won't be \$6 million of housing we're extending [Inaudible] be five?

MR. WHITE: No. Those -- those funds are separate. One of the challenges that we've had is I believe the rental vacancy rate in New Hampshire is less than 1%. Um -- so those funds have not been able to be utilized which is why they're available here based on current projected spend. They won't be used this year. These funds are within HB 1.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. I'll entertain a motion.

REP. ERF: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further question. Representative Erf.

REP. ERF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you. So I come from a rural area, and I'd just like to understand specifically how this might actually work out, and I'll acknowledge upfront my wife happens to be an EMT so that's where I get this knowledge from. They have mental crisis occasionally, oftentimes with children, but also adults and their natural -- what they -- all they can do is basically transport to the hospital. Typically, Concord Hospital but also the Manchester Hospitals. So in that instance how would this be handled so that they didn't wind up getting admitted to the hospital?

MS. HENN: Hm -- that's a great question. So I think one of the -- one of the elements we've been working on as part of our Ten-Year Mental Health problem is building out a comprehensive crisis system. You're probably familiar with the 988 phone line for people to call, as well as the mobile crisis teams that now can be deployed, working hand-in-hand with first responders to help meet people's needs in the community, often de-escalating them on the spot as opposed to even having to bring them to an emergency setting.

We're also building out crisis stabilization, which is the place to go besides the E.D., as a way for people to get care they need and oftentimes move on from there. At any one of those levels in the community it may be identified, and we now have the partnerships and the assessments and the support that, in fact, a youth, because what we're talking about here is our residential treatment system which is for young people, may have clinical needs that -- uh -- that require a stay of a matter of weeks in a therapeutic residential setting, but they don't necessarily need to go through emergency or hospital settings. And so that's where that opportunity to divert and to meet their needs would lie.

REP. ERF: [Inaudible].

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. ERF: Okay. So I think perhaps either I'm not explaining my question accurately or you're missing the point. The issue, I think, is you have a service. This is in Weare.

MS. HENN: Hm-hum.

REP. ERF: They have no knowledge of anything you just mentioned. And while I am familiar with that, with the things you just mentioned, I'm not the person that's helping our ambulance service learn about them.

So the reality is what happens -- oh, and I don't think anybody in Weare, I shouldn't say anybody, but most people would probably not be aware of any of those services you just mentioned and know to dial whatever. They would call the ambulance. Typically, they might even call the police. Police might be the first on-scene, then the ambulance show up, and they're -- all they can -- all they know to do -- I don't mean to say all they can do in terms of what's offered, but all they're aware to do is to transport to the hospital.

So how is that situation going to be resolved? Are you going to do things with the hospitals or you're going to do things with training for the -- the smaller departments across the state or what?

MS. HENN: Yeah, we're doing all of the above. And I think this is the beauty and the challenge of having something that is virtually brand new all rolled out within the past year, year and a half, is that it takes time. We have had incredible levels of consultation at all levels of municipal government, stakeholders, people with lived experience, mental health providers, but we have more to do. And, actually, with the support of Fiscal, we're launching a communications campaign to do just that, to make people aware of the resources and places to call.

Obviously, if someone's in imminent risk of harm, we want people to call 9-1-1. We don't want people to hesitate to do that. We just want to expand the tool box to provide other options. So appreciate your -- the personal experience you're bringing to this. We have much more work to do; but part of it is just the inherent newness of the systems we're building.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. ERF: So is there any thought to working with the hospitals as well so even if everything falls apart as far as before that point, so they get to the hospital to interdict at that point, is there a plan to try to coordinate that?

MS. HENN: That is happening to an extent in a number of hospital settings. Our Community Mental Health Centers partner with many hospitals in a number of regions. There's no region that is cookie cutter. You know, it's different in every place. Where we're identifying youth that can be or adults for that reason who can be discharged with supportive services in the community. That happens all the time. Um -- and, in fact there's even efforts, you know, I haven't mentioned this explicitly; but, you know, within our residential treatment system, which is

now allowing people to go who are -- who otherwise had to go through DCYF previously, had to have an actual founded allegation of abuse or neglect to access services without not only having to go to the hospital or having to stay in the hospital, but without -- without having to go through the Court system, which is also -- uh -- brings a number of complexities.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further questions on item number 23-144?

** REP. EDWARDS: I move the item, sir.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. Representative Edwards moves the item. Senator Rosenwald seconds. Is there any further discussion on FIS 23-144? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item --

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(No audio 29:01-29:20)

REP. EDWARDS: Uh -- thank you, Mr. Chair. Uh -- I understand that this is -- this is probably a good item and I'm going to vote for it. I just would like to know a little bit more about some detail. It's not included in the write-up.

This is -- this is retroactive money. It says, or retroactive spending because of an oversight and getting it spent, I think. But, in any case, it's a good -- it's a good spend. And it's supposed to go to support services to eligible infants, toddlers, birth through two years who demonstrate a developmental delay. I'm good with all of that. I just -- um -- with \$1.2 million, are you able -- oh, hi, Miss Hardy. How are you?

MELISSA HARDY, Director, Division for Long-Term Supports and Services, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning.

REP. EDWARDS: I'm just -- I'm just curious if we can be a little bit more specific about who these checks will go to. What kind of provider in a specific description as possible. Because I -- I -- I don't resist this. I just want to be able to help communicate that this is going to happen.

MS. HARDY: Sure. Good morning. I'm Melissa Hardy. I'm the Division Director for Long-Term Supports and Services. Um -- so there's three contractors that are involved in this item. One is Mason Incorporated, which is about \$250,000 for the development and implementation of a public awareness campaign for early supports and services, which is currently already out there and worked on it and approved by the Governor. So that is out there for early support outreach.

We also have the Parent Information Center for about \$93,000 to develop and implement early supports and services, educational surrogate parent program, which is used for a lot of DCYF children whose family cannot be found to give consent for early intervention services. And --

REP. EDWARDS: Could you say their name again?

MS. HARDY: Sure. The Parent Information Center.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you.

MS. HARDY: And then finally about two -- \$200,000 for Ascentria Community Services and that's for the translation of documents into different languages so that families who English is not their primary language can have documents translated in their language for understanding.

REP. EDWARDS: Follow up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. EDWARDS: Okay. So that's about half of the 1.2 million, those three items.

MS. HARDY: Yes.

REP. EDWARDS: What -- what -- what -- what about the other half? 'Cause I'm reading that we're -- we're dealing with 1.218 million and 250, 250, and 93 is less than 600,000. So I'm just curious about the rest of it.

MR. WHITE: So this -- this is a -- the reason why you're not seeing any additional dollars here is the original requested action was for the \$1.2 million and that -- that was from the year prior. This -- this item here, the original grant ended September 30th of 2022. And so what Melissa's referring to is the new price limitations that are associated with the dollars after the extension in September of 2022, not prior to that. Because the original item, if you turn to page -- well, to the original item, this was approved in September '22 -- this was back in September of 2021. So those other dollars were previously spent within that grant period. These are the dollars after the -- these are the dollars associated with the retroactive request.

REP. EDWARDS: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Look at Page 1 of that request and you'll see the other items that add up to the 1.2.

REP. EDWARDS: Yes, sir. My curiosity was -- um -- after we approve this, what entities may be expecting to be paid some money that -- that would not be paid if we did not approve this. And -- and -- and Miss Hardy gave me a great explanation on about half of it. And I can go off-line to try to understand the rest of it, 'cause -- 'cause I -- -- I don't understand Mr. White's answer. So I don't want to belabor it. It's not worth it.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion on the item? Seeing none. Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: Um -- Senate also asked to have this item pulled and the word retroactive is the reason for that. The original item, you know, through JLCAR -- whoops -- through JLCAR on October of '21, whole thing should have been done by September of '22, and now here we are many months later. And I know that some of the testimony, you know, based on Senate -- I mean, Representative Edwards' questions touched on that. I just -- since it's a pet peeve of mine, I wanted to let you respond.

MR. WHITE: Sure. So within the Department of Health and Human Services we have financial directors assigned to each major division area. Within DLTSS about a year and a half ago we had a complete overhaul, or not overhaul, but we lost our -- a number of staff within that area, our financial director, our financial managers as well. One of the individuals had over 20 years' experience.

As a result of that, we -- we did not have the -- the -- frankly, the controls in place because much of it was memory based and all this really is tied back to the Commissioner's road map where we're looking at recruitment and -- and retention. And since that point in time the team within DLTSS has established a standardized inventory of all the grants.

This was the unique situation where normally we get a formal notice, written formal notice of award from the Federal Government. This was an odd case where we did not receive that in the sense that there was a FAQ, a Frequently Asked Questions that was put out in lieu of a notice of award. I'm not quite sure why that happened at the federal level.

Um -- this -- this is an issue from -- from my perspective, and it has -- it has been resolved. I'm also looking at this more broadly in the sense that I do have many senior staff within -- within finance that will be retiring in future years, and we have begun some succession planning, as well as further efforts on formally documenting policies and procedures. I'm a

former auditor. I'm very big when it comes to that, and I do recognize that there's a need that we will continue to work on.

****** SEN. GRAY: Move to approve.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Item Number 152, Senator Gray moves to approve. Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item is adopted.

******* {MOTION ADOPTED}

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: The last -- uh -- HS -- excuse me -- HHS item is 22-155.

REP. EDWARDS: Tab 7.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Tab 7. Recognize Senator Edwards.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Edwards.

REP. EDWARDS: I'm starting to get used to it. Thank you. Uh -- Thank you, Mr. Chair. So -- um -- I -- I'm just looking for some clarification on what the most recent thinking is relative to using -- if you -- if you look at Attachment A, the very last item, 21-100, it deals with the 1.1 million that we've already approved to accept from the Federal Government long ago. And we've been spending it down and now there's some indeterminable, from my perspective, amount of money that's still to be spent on this item. It's to be spent on multiple items.

The one that catches my eye is the one where we're going to continue our -- our previous state policy of spending federal money to provide the COVID vaccine to children. And I think given the amount of information that has come to the fore over the last year about the effectiveness of COVID and really where

that injection was best used, I want to come back and challenge a State sanctioned policy that still wants to make this COVID injection available to otherwise healthy kids. I don't think that's a state -- something we want to sanction.

So -- so my question is for that particular subset of that particular line item, are you able to tell me how much additional money would be spent to make the vaccine available to otherwise healthy kids that -- that -- that -- that if we didn't approve this, that money would not go to that purpose?

MR. WHITE: Okay. Just for clarification, Representative Edwards, can you clarify, is this Page 1 of Attachment A or Page 2, and what line, which item number?

REP. EDWARDS: I'll do that. It's the -- it's the last item on Attachment A. And the item number is listed as 21-100. And -- and when you read to the right on it, the comments section describes a number of things for which that money was previously authorized to spend on. Of those things, the only one that's given me heartburn is the part where -- where we're going to continue to spend money to make the vaccine -- I don't like the word vaccine. It's not a vaccine. But -- um -- this -- this COVID shot available to healthy kids.

MR. WHITE: So I -- I don't have that specific information available at this point in time. I'd have to go back and dig into that and work with the Public Health team to get that exact information. Um -- this -- this request it mirrors the FIS 23-166 and 167 in a sense of --

REP. EDWARDS: I understand --

MR. WHITE: -- carrying those funds forward. I don't believe they're -- at this point in time if you needed to wait until you had that information, I don't believe there would be any negative impact to tabling. I'm not suggesting that, but I'm just putting that out there because I'm assuming that may be the next question.

REP. EDWARDS: So this -- I haven't talked to our Senate colleagues on this, Mr. Chair. But I -- I would like to have us table Item 21-100 only so that we can get some additional information, because I think it's important for the State to go back and revisit the policy, the efficacy, the safety of providing this to our children. So -- our healthy children. So -- so -- so I'd like to make that motion and maybe have some discussion, 'cause I don't know where other people are on this.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. So the motion is to adopt the item with the exception of --

REP. EDWARDS: 21-100.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: -- 21-100.

REP. EDWARDS: Which -- which will be tabled and, hopefully, there's a second.

REP. ERF: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And a second by Representative Erf. Further discussions? Senator Gray.

SEN. GRAY: Certainly, I think that there's other vehicles that we can use to express our opinion to the Department. I don't see holding this up to do that. And, certainly, I'll vote against the -- all of the items on there, but I will vote against tabling motion.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion?

REP. EDWARDS: May I get clarification on what the Senator just said? Did I understand that he would be open to tabling the whole item but not just one line item of it?

SEN. GRAY: No, sir, I support the whole thing.

REP. EDWARDS: Okay. I misunderstood. Thank you.

SEN. GRAY: And that there are other vehicles that we can use to express our opinion to the Department about how these funds should be used. And parents that -- that want their children vaccinated, we should vaccinate them. Parents that don't want their children vaccinated, we should not vaccinate them. So that's where I stand.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion.

REP. EDWARDS: I think Senator Bradley.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley.

SEN. BRADLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Department has, and I'm not sure how they've testified in front of the House Health and Human Services Committee, or even Division III, but certainly because I've asked this repeatedly in Senate Health and Human Services. There's no move, no thought of a move by the Department, unless something has changed in the last month to try and add the COVID shot as a mandatory vaccine. I think that's the right policy. It should be up to the parents' discretion. And the Department, to the best of my knowledge, and the Commissioner's nodding, thank you very much, there's no change in that position. So I'm happy if this policy or this Fiscal item goes through and should not be tabled.

REP. EDWARDS: So -- so thank you, Senators Gray and Bradley. I appreciate the wisdom, and I don't really disagree with you. I -- I -- I -- I do not want the State of New Hampshire to be creating an implied warranty that this is a safe and efficacious drug for healthy children. I just don't want to be associated with that policy. So as a -- as a personal professional matter, I'm going to vote to table this line item just so that I'm on the record that way.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion? The motion before us is to accept FIS 23-155 with exception of Item 21-100, which will be tabled until we have further information.

SEN. GRAY: Are you able to divide the question?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Motion to divide.

SEN. GRAY: I'd like to take the tabling part first.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. And we'll vote first on whether we table 21-100. All -- we'll do this by a hand -- you want to do a --

REP. ERF: No, no, no, no, no. Do your way.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. All those in favor of tabling 21-100, please raise your hand. Three. All those opposed? One, two, three, four, five. Okay. That is defeated.

***** {MOTION FAILED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Now we move to acceptance of FIS 23-155 in total.

****** SEN. BRADLEY: Move.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion by Senator Bradley, second by Senator D'Allesandro to accept the item. We'll do again. Raise your hands if you agree. Okay. Six. Opposed? Three. It passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. Now moving on to the other items that have been removed. The next one we'll address is from the Business and Industry, 23-146 under Tab 6.

TAYLOR CASWELL, Commissioner, Department of Business and Economic Affairs: Good morning. Taylor Caswell, Commissioner, Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And someone from the Senate wanted to have questions on this one. Have that down request from the Senate to remove 23-146.

SEN. GRAY: Um -- my notes don't show any Senate poll on that one.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay.

SEN. GRAY: That it was --

SEN. ROSENWALD: Oh, I did have a question.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I did. Calling it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Sorry, I'm taking them out of order.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. Um -- I'm -- two questions really. How much ARPA funding is still unallocated, and will this project be competitively bid or is GOFERR looking at a sole source contract?

MR. CASWELL: So first just for clarification. I'm on the left-hand side of the table. So I'm Commissioner of BEA here. When I go over there I'll be the GOFERR.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay.

MR. CASWELL: But just a light way of saying that this is an item through BEA. So -- um -- your first question was -- um -- regarding the availability of GOFERR -- of ARPA funds, right? So in that regard, we have reached, I think, a point where the amount of obligated funds that have flowed

through this Committee and through Governor and Council have reached the extent of the Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation that we had from the Federal Government, which is \$994 million.

Um -- there are remaining funds that continue to be spent by agencies across State Government -- uh -- and there's also a number of requests that remain in the pipeline of funds to be used under the Fiscal Recovery Fund. So while we have reached the end of the point where we can obligate additional funds -- um -- that are sort of not -- have not previously been obligated, there will be -- continue to be a churn of funds that are either reallocated or other situations where we might need to reallocate before the deadline of December 2024.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. My second question was is this contract going to be competitively bid?

MR. CASWELL: So, as you know, we -- we -- we had a competitive process for the plan that was developed that has led us to this point. Um -- that took a lot less time than we had anticipated, and the robust -- the robust level of information and strategy that has been put into this effort led us to the conclusion that we would like to amend the contract that we are currently operating under to continue to work with the vendor that developed the plan.

I think there are a number of reasons for that -- um -- not the least of which is the expertise that they bring to the table, and the relationships that we've developed among nine or ten different agencies to get us to this point. But as you know, Senator, we're also under a time constraint with the use of the ARPA funds.

So -- um -- we want to be able to continue the momentum of this project, which I think is very substantial and a significant investment to improve the relationship between State Agencies and our business community, all of which was in the item. And I think we did actually send over the -- the full report that we had from the vendor that is over a hundred pages

long. So -- um -- I don't expect that you've been through every bit of that; but I think given the time constraints, and given where we stand in this process, our hope is to amend that contract.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

REP. ERF: Question.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Erf for a question.

REP. ERF: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, yes, thank you for sending that report. That was awesome. Did not have a time to read through the whole thing, but did have some time to peruse it. And if I could, I'd like to just get you to give some more details specifically regarding release one.

First of all, it's a four-month period of time apparently. I'd be curious when it -- when that starts. But, more importantly, I'd be curious. I've read through kind of the things that you're expecting there. If maybe you go in a little more depth in terms of what the expectations would be of businesses like my own. I've done a lot of stuff through the website over the last year, and it's gotten better; but it's still very hard to find things. Even as a State Rep it's quite hard to find. I don't mean specifically your stuff, but the website in general. But if you could speak to the release one part of this project, I'd really appreciate it.

MR. CASWELL: Sure. So -- um -- again, I think this is -- this potentially represents a pretty bellwether change in the way that the State interfaces with businesses, particularly small and medium size businesses. Our hope with Phase 1 is to consolidate the resources that are currently available across all the State Agencies that have a direct relationship with the business community, and right now that represents nine State Agencies. Um -- and to be able to bring a new functionality to the way -- to the type of interaction that businesses can have with those agencies on-line.

So the first phase really is defined as what we call minimum -- minimum viable product and working with Department of Information Technology, we would be centralizing a website that would allow businesses to be able to access permitting, registrations, filing, licensing, and various numbers of support services directly on-line. We would drastically improve the search and navigation functionality of that under Phase 1, and we would begin the process of something that I think it sounds small, but is actually a big deal in my view, which is a checklist for individual businesses to know what are the things that you either are required to do or you have access to or that you are eligible for. Um -- that would be tailored effectively for those businesses and that first step.

The second phase is where it starts to get really cool because we're going to be able to have individual identifiers for businesses. So for your business, you would have one identifier that would go across all State Agencies and would, among other things, I think really improve, for example, our procurement system. So if you're a business in a certain line of -- in a certain sector and there are State contracts that are being offered within that period, you would have notifications when those RFPs are issued. So those are the sorts of functionalities that we're working towards and the type of functionality that we're hoping to be able to accomplish in a period that is not going to exceed 18 months is, to me, a pretty -- pretty exciting prospect.

REP. ERF: And when would you expect Phase 1 to start?

MR. CASWELL: Probably as soon as we have all of our final approvals in place. So we'll come from here, and we'll go to Governor and Council on May 31st, I believe, is the -- is the next meeting. So at that point shortly thereafter. If, you know, as I mentioned to Senator Rosenwald, we're able to continue the relationship with the vendor, we would start immediately.

REP. ERF: Thank you very much.

MR. CASWELL: Hm-hum.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Further discussion on the item?

** SEN. BRADLEY: I'll move the item.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley moves the item, and Senator Gray seconds for Item 22-150 -- no, 20 -- 23-146. Further discussion? And let me note that Representative Griffin is now the fifth vote on the House side replacing Representative Edwards. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? Motion is adopted.

*** **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Move lastly to Item 23-169 on Tab six, Governor's Office of Emergency -- he's going to move his seat -- Emergency Relief and Recovery, and that was a request by Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: That was mine. Thank you. Um -- so I understand that we're getting \$9 million more of ERAP funds that our federal delegation was able to secure. Am I correct that we had to return almost \$19 million of ERAP-1 funds?

CHASE HAGAMAN, Deputy Commissioner, Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery: Senator, good question. Chase Hagaman, Deputy over at GOFERR. Yes, that's accurate, a little less than 19 million was returned under ERA-1. This is ERA-2. But also under ERA-1 there was a reallocation process much like this one where the State received about, I think, between 12 and \$15 million back of basically what had been clawed back from it. And then under this process, this 9 million is being sent to the State, also part of the reallocation process under ERA-2. So the State had applied for about \$44 million last October and this is the amount that was sent to us.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So this is going to the -- half of it about is going to the Affordable Housing Fund. Is that going to support only Affordable Housing and what is the period of affordability that will be required?

MR. CASWELL: So that amount -- yes, we would transfer that to New Hampshire Housing, who administers the Affordable Housing Fund. All of the funds would be used in accordance with the rules for their Affordable Housing Fund, which I believe is an affordability at 50 percent of AMI or below.

SEN. ROSENWALD: For how long?

MR. CASWELL: I think -- do you know the answer to that? I mean, I think it's individual based. It depends on the program. So they use those funds in -- for example, to -- to subsidize programs under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program or under other programs that they administer, and those all may have different types of affordability restrictions and times. But I can say pretty -- with a lot of confidence that all of the programs that New Hampshire Housing administers have significant time frames for the affordability requirement, and in some cases it's 90 years.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Any further questions on the item? Senator Rosenwald moves to approve 169, and Senator Bradley seconds. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The motion is adopt -- (No audio 58:29-58:36)

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(8) RSA 21-P:23 Highway Fund Surplus

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: First item is 23-170, Department of Safety, 887,000. Any questions on the item?

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Move the item.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald -- excuse me -- Senator D'Allesandro moves to approve. Is there a second? Senator Rosenwald seconds to approve Item 23-170. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(9) RSA 198:15-y, III Public School Infrastructure Fund

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Next item is under Tab 9, 23-164, Office of the Governor again.

** SEN. BRADLEY: Move the item.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley moves to approve, Senator D'Allesandro seconds on 23-164. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** (MOTION ADOPTED)

(10) Chapter 91:17, Laws of 2021, Judicial Branch, Transfer Among Accounts and Classes

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Next item is in Tab 10, 23-173, under the Judicial Administrative Office of the Courts. Any questions?

** SEN. GRAY: Move to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves to approve the item. Senator Ro -- Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Is there any further discussion on 23-173? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(11) Chapter 91:70, Laws of 2021, Department of Corrections, Transfer Authority, and RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Under Tab 11, Department of Corrections, Item 23-156. Any questions on the item?

** SEN. BRADLEY: Move the item.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley moves to approve, Senator Gray seconds to adopt FIS 23-156. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(12) Miscellaneous:

(13) Informational Materials:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Will now recognize the Legislative Budget Assistant, Michael Kane.

MICHAEL KANE, Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Sure. Um -- before we get there, Representative, there are two late items, action items.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you very much. Let's move on to the late items.

MR. KANE: Sure. We have 23-175 with Department of Health and Human Services, followed by 23-176, which is Fish and Game.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We'll take up Item 23-175, a late item from Health and Human Services, requesting to extend some earlier approved funding. Any questions on the item? Representative Erf has a question.

REP. ERF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Going back to my last time I spoke with you, could you just go into some detail about what this -- what's happening here? Thank you.

MR. WHITE: Sure. In this item, we are requesting to reallocate ARPA funds that were previously approved for another purpose. Um -- the reason that we're requesting to reallocate these funds, they have approximately four point million dollars, is the Department over the -- over the past period of time has been working with DAS and an architect to design the forensic facility. That design was finalized, and the bid was put out by Public Works. Two bids came back. It's a request for bid. So in that case if they meet the bare minimum qualifications and they have the lowest bid, then they are awarded the -- the winner under -- under State Law. And the bid -- the bid amount that came back was higher than what was originally anticipated.

I -- the Commissioner from the Department of Administrative Services is here, but as many of us are -- are well aware, the construction industry has seen year over year cost increases and that's the reason why, it's one of the key reasons why the bid came in higher than previously anticipated when this process started several years ago.

REP. ERF: And where did the funds, the \$4 million come from?

MR. WHITE: Sure. So the Department previously put an item forward. I believe it was in December of 2021. This was a point

in time when we were seeing a significant increase in individuals being admitted to the hospital.

At that time, Executive Order 2021-12 was issued, which directed the Department to take all steps and measures necessary to try to mitigate the number of individuals that were in the hospital, open up those beds for individuals. We had set aside approximately \$9 million for ambulatory surgical centers to take individuals from the hospital and to be able to reimburse them for any potential cost that they would incur that weren't covered by third party insurance or Medicaid.

The Department was able to -- to move individuals to other facility types and these funds ended up not being needed for that purpose and so they were available. And so when we're looking at the ARP carry-forward dollars that you saw in FIS 165 and FIS 166, 167, we identified these as available for potentially with your approval for the purpose of funding the forensic facility hospital construction.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: One more.

REP. ERF: And when do you expect to start construction and finish construction?

LAURIE WEAVER, Interim Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: Laurie Weaver, Interim Commissioner, HHS. Construction, once the bid is awarded, will start as soon as the bid is awarded, and anticipated time lines there are a lot of things that need to happen. Uh -- right now we're looking at finish -- starting right away and finishing sometime around the beginning of early '25.

REP. ERF: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Um -- does the Department have a projection of the operating costs that we'll see that I guess will occur during the upcoming biennium?

MR. WHITE: Sure. So the -- in the Agency Request in the State Fiscal -- for the State Fiscal Year 26-27 Budget you will see our -- our request for that. When we initially looked at the potential cost there for this prior budget, we were hoping that -- that the hospital may be open by that point; but it will not be for a variety of factors. We do anticipate somewhere in the vicinity of \$20 million, but I think it's too early to tell. I think initial, if I recall, initial staff estimates were somewhere in the vicinity of 165; but, again, it's a 24-hour facility. There may be contracted costs, depending on how we staff the facility and what the specific needs are.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Just one more.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Is that \$20 million per year?

MR. WHITE: Twenty million dollars per year, likely a vast majority of that being General Funds. We are investigating other options to see if there are federal dollars available to leverage.

Um -- the Department has already started a -- a project team on this with a project manager. Um -- much of the work for opening is being looked at now. What contracts will we need to go into effect prior to opening? What is the staff onboarding look like? What are the policies and procedures that we need to develop in advance, and this work is actively under development and you will see the request come through in the 26-27 Budget.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Just one more, if I could?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: One more.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I think I heard the Commissioner say looking to open it in early '25.

MS. WEAVER: Correct.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So don't -- will we not need a budget?

MS. WEAVER: We will need a budget. We will have to start to recruit if we open it at the beginning of '25, and it has a potential opening of July 1st of that year. We'll be working to recruit then and looking at the Operating Budget for the next -- the following biennium.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Next biennium.

MR. WHITE: Um -- yes, and I believe what -- what we're looking at to the final construction to be somewhere in -- in mid -- mid 2025, which -- which would be into State Fiscal Year 26, just to clarify, yes.

MS. WEAVER: Sorry for not being clear.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro moves approval on 23-175.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Second from Senator Gray. Is there any further discussion on the item? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of approval say aye? Opposed no? That item is adopted.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Next item, late item is one seven -- 23-176, New Hampshire Fish and Game, accept and expend 522 million 837 Federal funds from American Rescue Plan. Any questions on the item?

****** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Move the item.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

REP. ERF: I think it's 522,000.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: What did I say? Five hundred twenty-two thousand.

REP. ERF: You said million.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Excuse me. Dealing so much with millions. That's outside your department. Five hundred twenty-two thousand. Thank you for the correction. Item's been moved and seconded. Further discussion?

REP. ERF: I'm sorry, who moved it?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro. Senator Rosenwald second.

REP. ERF: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Seeing no -- seeing no further discussion. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item is adopted.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: And any item -- any questions on the information items that Committee Members wish to have answered?

REP. ERF: [Inaudible] want to call LBA. I think now you want to call LBA; right?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yes. Now we wish to call Legislative Budget Assistant, Mr. Kane.

MR. KANE: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Michael Kane, the Legislative Budget Assistant for the State of New Hampshire.

Pursuant to Fiscal Committee rules, prior to filling any position in our office, we do require Fiscal Committee approval. I would like to request the approval to fill two performance auditor positions. We've been lucky to find two individuals who have accepted their offer pending the approval by Fiscal to fill.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro moves to approve the hiring and Senator Gray seconds. Further discussion from the Committee Members? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Opposed no? Thank you, Mr. Kane. That is approved.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

MR. KANE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. I do have a question about the HHS substance use disorder -- um -- spending. I just have a question about --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Item 23-160.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Well, I'm not -- I think it's 160. I think it's 160, but it's information that LBA separately made available. It must have come from the Department. I do have questions.

MR. KANE: Yes. Sorry, Senator. It is related to 23-160. The Department -- Department did send Excel spreadsheets of the information contained herein, but that is the proper item.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

May 19, 2023

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Do you have a question from the -- from the division?

SEN. ROSENWALD: I do. If they're here.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Mr. White.

REP. ERF: Senator.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So it seems like for the current Fiscal Year or -- or, I'm sorry, the biennium, which is ending about six weeks, we've had -- um -- 17 and a half million dollars about for the Governor's Commission. But what is obligated but not yet spent is not -- is almost \$10 million and with there only six weeks left. So do all those bills come in after the close of the biennium? 'Cause these funds, as I understand it, are obligated. Contract in an obligated but more than half of the biennium spend has not yet been spent with only six weeks left.

MR. WHITE: Sure. And I apologize. Just to clarify, what document are you looking at? It's not clear to me.

REP. ERF: I believe it's Tab 15 of the spreadsheet you sent us.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Um -- I think it's from a spreadsheet that the Department sent an Excel form but --

REP. ERF: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: There's -- LBA put it into a different look.

REP. ERF: No, it looks just like that.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Oh, okay. LBA printed it and put it on my desk.

REP. ERF: That was nice of them.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Very nice. So there's this nice blue line.

REP. ERF: Well, there it is.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Very nice blue line and I'm looking at the top third where the Governor's Commission had \$17.6 million for the biennium; but what's contracted but still unspent as we're almost at the end is just under 10 million.

MR. WHITE: Sure. So -- um -- the way that -- where to start. So the Governor's Commission the funding appropriated to them is continually appropriated and non-lapsing. If we have a contract that's encumbered, those -- those funds would carry forward into the next biennium if they weren't spent. So when we enter into a contract, we may enter that, you know, six months into the year, something along those lines, maybe a year. It could be a two or three-year contract. There could also be amendments associated with these contracts.

June -- two Governor and Executive Council meetings in June we typically send through several hundred amendments and contracts during that period of time. We -- we do about 800 amendments, contracts annually, typically the May, June months are when you do see a significant amount of volume occur at G&C. And -- and so while this may show up like this, what will happen in the next several weeks will probably produce a very different result than what you're looking at there.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. Thank you. Could -- could we just ask that you share the updated result with us?

MR. WHITE: Sure. In State Fiscal Year 24, so for the July meeting which is when you would see the difference.

SEN. ROSENWALD: When you have it. When you have it.

MR. WHITE: Sure.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

MR. WHITE: Absolutely.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(14) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Thank you. That's just an informational item so we don't need a motion on it. So we come down to the date and time of the next meeting for the Fiscal Committee. There's been a suggestion for 23 June, because of conflicts on -- on the 16th likely. Is that -- is that a problem with any of your schedules?

SEN. GRAY: I had the UNH Board of Trustees that day.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: That's a whole day thing?

SEN. GRAY: It's the morning thing.

SEN. ROSENWALD: It looks like Health and Human Services Oversight also is that morning.

SEN. GRAY: I missed that because of this, so.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yeah, I did, too.

REP. ERF: [Inaudible] 16th. [Inaudible]. That's the beginning of the COC week. The following -- the earlier Friday is the beginning of the Committee of Conferences.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: The 16th is out.

SEN. BRADLEY: I mean, I think anything while we're potentially in Committees of Conference --

REP. ERF: I think we've had to -- okay.

SEN. GRAY: So starting at 1 o'clock on the 23rd?

REP. ERF: Oh, that works.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Could we not do it in the morning?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: One o'clock will work.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Oh, but that's all day, right?

SEN. GRAY: Well, usually on the Friday they end for noontime.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay.

SEN. GRAY: For travelling back.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Which is the 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: 1 p.m. on the 23rd. All right. That will be the next Fiscal meeting. All right. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So move.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Anybody second it?

SEN. BRADLEY: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. All in favor say aye? We are adjourned. Thank you very much.

*** **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

(Meeting adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the YouTube video/audio recording of the Fiscal Committee meeting on Friday, May 19, 2023, and has been transcribed to the best of my professional skill and ability.

Cecelia A. Trask, RMR, CRR
NH Licensed Court Reporter #00047

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

May 19, 2023