

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Vast Conference - Remote
Friday, September 18, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner, Chair
Rep. Ken Weyler
Rep. Susan Ford
Rep. Patricia Lovejoy (Alt.)
Rep. Erin Hennessey (Alt.)
Sen. President Donna Soucy
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Sen. Jay Kahn
Sen. Cindy Rosenwald
Sen. Chuck Morse

(The meeting convened at 10:05 a.m.)

(1) Call In Instructions:

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10 and Chairwoman: Okay. Good morning. This is Mary Jane Wallner, and I'm the Chair of the Fiscal Committee of the General Court. And as Chair, I find that due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order No. 12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended pursuant to the Executive Order 2020-09, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are, one, providing public access to the meeting by telephone with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means. We are utilizing Vast Conference for this remote meeting.

All Members of this Committee and the staff of State Agencies with agenda items have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. And the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number. 1 (800) 356-8278, and the six digit conference code is 125563, followed by the pound sign.

Two: By providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting telephonically. Instructions have also been provided in the House and Senate Calendars, the Fiscal Committee Agenda, and the website of the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant.

And, C, providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please e-mail nheoc@dos.nh.gov.

And, four, adjourning the meeting. The public is unable to access the meeting -- in the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote, and let's start the meeting today by taking the roll call attendance. When each Member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law. And I'll ask Representative Weyler to call the roll.

KEN WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #13: Thank you, Madam Chair. Representative Wallner.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I'm present, and I am at my home in Concord, New Hampshire, and I'm by myself.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

SUSAN FORD, State Representative, Grafton County, District #03: Present, and I am also in my home in Easton, New Hampshire, by myself.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler. I'm in Kingston, New Hampshire, and I'm alone in this room. Others are in the house. Representative Ober. Excuse me. Representative Hennessey.

ERIN HENNESSEY, State Representative, Grafton County, District #01: Representative Hennessey. I am in my home in Littleton, and I'm alone in the room.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

PATRICIA LOVEJOY, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #36: Present. I'm at our camp in Peru, Maine, and my husband and son are in the camp.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20: Present. I'm at home in my study and I'm by myself.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

DONNA SOUCY, State Senator and Senate President, Senate District #18: Yes. This is Donna Soucy. I am at home in Manchester, and I am by myself.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

(No response.)

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn, do you hear me?

(No response.)

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13:
Good morning. Cindy Rosenwald. I'm at my second home in New York State and my husband is in the room with me.

JAY KAHN, State Senator, Senate District #10:
Representative Weyler, can you hear Senator Kahn?

REP. WEYLER: I hear you now, Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes, I'm sorry. I'm in Keene in a room by myself with others in the house.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

CHUCK MORSE, State Senator, Senate District #22:
Senator Chuck Morse. I'm in my office in Atkinson, and I am alone.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, all are present.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Representative Weyler, for calling the roll. And let's get started.

(2) Acceptance of Minutes of the July 10, 2020 meeting

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The first thing we have on the agenda today is the acceptance of the minutes of the July 10th, 2020, meeting. Are there any changes to those minutes or corrections?

(No response.)

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** SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: This is Senator Soucy. I make a motion to approve the minutes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Soucy --

REP. FORD: Sue Ford. Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Sue Ford seconds. And any -- any discussion of the minutes? Hearing none, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes. Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the vote is ten yes, zero no.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Ten yes and zero no, and we accept the minutes of this July 10th meeting.

(3) Old Business:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on now to Old Business. We have a tabled item. Seeing no -- no motion, I will move on then to --

****** SEN. MORSE: Mary Jane, this is Senator Morse, and I did press 5*. I'm not sure it's working; but in an effort to help Northeast Woodlands Charter School, I'd like to remove Fiscal Item 20-029 from the table.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, thank you, Senator Morse. Senator Morse would like to move the Item 20-029 from the table. Is there a second?

REP. WEYLER: Weyler seconds.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Representative Weyler seconds.

FALLON REED, Planning Chief, State Coordinating Officer, Department of Safety: Representative Wallner, Representative Hennessey also has her hand raised.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Hennessey, yes.

REP. HENNESSEY: Oh, thank you. I was just going to second the motion.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you. So the motion is to remove from the table Item 20-29. And Representative -- Senator Morse motioned and Representative Weyler second. I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: No.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes. Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes no.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Senator D'Allesandro votes no.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: No.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: No.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: No.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: No.

REP. WEYLER: Madam, the vote is three yes to seven no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The vote is three yes, seven no.
The motion fails.

***** {MOTION FAILS}**

Audits:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And let's move on. The next thing on our agenda are the -- we have the three audits. And what I wanted to talk to the Committee about was having that audit day. We will have actually by then four audits. And that we were thinking that Friday, October 9th, would be a good day to have the presentations. All of these items -- all of these audits have been accepted and released and put on file, but we've not had the presentation. Would October 9th work for the Committee? I know I talked to the House about it yesterday, and they thought that would work for them. Would the Senate be okay with an October 9th date? It would be just for presentations of the four -- there are four audits.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I believe, Madam Chair, I believe we discussed it at our meeting and we thought it was okay. Now, Senator Morse, wasn't there so I don't know what his -- what his availability is, but everyone who was on the -- who was at our meeting thought the 9th was okay.

SEN. MORSE: For you, Senator D'Allesandro, I'll be there.

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SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you very much. Be great to have you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Morse. So on October 9th at 10 o'clock, it's a Friday, we will have the presentations. By then we will have four audits to be presented to us and that will be the only business we will have to do that day is just the audits. Just the presentations.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(4) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized and RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from any Non-State Source:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So moving on to the Consent Calendar. Our first tab is Tab 4, and I actually believe that -- did Senator Kahn have some questions about this one? There's only one item on this Consent Calendar, zero -- 20-172, Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Senator Kahn, did you have questions about this item?

SEN. KAHN: Yes, Madam Chair. Can you hear me?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I can. I can hear you. Could we have someone from the BEA come up and speak to us?

MS. REED: Ma'am, there is a representative from BEA with their hand raised. Your line is open, Ma'am. You can go ahead.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Great. Who's with us?

JACKIE HEUSER, WIOA Director, Office of Workforce Opportunity, Department of Business and Economic Affairs:

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This is Jackie Heuser. I'm with the Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you for being here. And, Senator Kahn, would you like -- do you have some questions you would like to ask?

SEN. KAHN: I would. And, Jackie, nice to hear your voice, at least. The question that I have is I'm trying to understand the intent of the transfer because there is staff, as well as programming dollars, moving from BEA to Employment Security from the Office of Workforce Opportunity. So I'm wanting to understand the full extent to this. Is the intent of the BEA to transfer Workforce Investment Act funds in its entirety to DES for future administration?

MS. HEUSER: Thank you for that question, Senator Kahn. No, that is not our intent. This really is an effort to integrate programs and services that have some duplication of services due to some different strategies on the federal level. But the Department of Business and Economic Affairs will continue to be the grant recipient for the federal WIOA Funds. The transfer only affects (Inaudible) located within Workforce Opportunity that will be transferred with this (Inaudible).

SEN. KAHN: That got a little bit garbled, but I think we got the gist of it. Just a line and not -- not a complete transfer. BEA will continue to administer some of the programs that it is the grant recipient of; is that correct?

MS. HEUSER: Correct, sir.

SEN. KAHN: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions?

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SEN. KAHN: No, I think that -- that helps clarify my question. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Are there others that have questions? Seeing no other questions, hearing no other questions, do we have a motion?

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

SEN. KAHN: I'll second that.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves the item and Senator Kahn seconds. Could I ask the Clerk to call the roll?

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes.
Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Senator D'Allesandro votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Senator Soucy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the vote is ten yes, zero no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Motion passes with a vote of 10 to zero. Thank you, Representative Weyler.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(5) **RSA 9:16-c, I, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds and RSA 124:15 Positions Authorized:**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Now move on to Tab 5, and this is another Consent Calendar item and there are four -- four items under this Consent. Are there any items that someone would like to pull off the Consent Calendar? Hearing none. Do we have a motion then on this particular Consent? It's Tab 5 in your -- on your agenda.

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Move Tab 5.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves the acceptance of this consent item and Representative Hennessey second. Any discussion? Seeing none, I'll ask the Clerk to call the roll.

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REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes.
Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: D'Allesandro votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the vote is ten yes, zero
no.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Consent Calendar five passes. The vote is 10 to zero.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(6) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 From any Non-State Source:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We'll move on to Consent item six. And I know -- I think there are a number of these that people would like to have removed. So if you'd like to have one removed, could you speak up and I will mark those.

REP. WEYLER: This is Representative Weyler. I had some questions, but Mike had got me all the answers so I have none I want to remove.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Oh, thank you, Representative Weyler. Any -- any other -- was there any other Members want to remove anything from this -- from this Consent? Hearing none to be removed, could I have a motion on Consent Calendar six?

**** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO**: Senator D'Allesandro moves Consent number six.

REP. FORD: Ford second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves and Representative Ford seconds the acceptance of Consent Calendar number six. This is several items on this Consent Calendar. Any discussion of any of it? Hearing none, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford votes yes.

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REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes.
Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: D'Allesandro votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the vote is ten yes, zero
no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Item passes. The vote was ten to
zero.

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*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(7) Chapter 224:217, III, Laws of 2011 as amended by 2017, 156:130 Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities:
Funds:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And moving on to number seven and this is -- hum -- one item and it's Legislative Budget Assistant, a transfer of \$600,000. And is there a discussion of this item or questions about this item? Hearing none, is there a motion?

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I would move the item.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro --

REP. FORD: Ford second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves the item and Representative Ford seconds. Discussion? Hearing none, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes.
Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: D'Allesandro votes yes.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: No.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the vote is nine yes, one no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. The motion passes, and the item is accepted with a 9 to 1 vote. Thank you.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(8) Miscellaneous:

(9) Informational Materials:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Now we move into Miscellaneous and Informational items. I know that there are a number of these that probably have questions on them. So if you -- why don't we -- why don't we start by having -- if you have a question on one of the Informational items, why don't you speak up and tell me now and I will mark them and

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we can try to go through them. The ones that have questions we can try to go through them in order.

MS. REED: Ma'am, Senator Rosenwald has her hand raised.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have questions on Items 181 and 183.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Item --

SEN. ROSENWALD: The Dashboard and rate increase report.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. 181 -- Item 181 and 183. Those are on Page 6.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Correct. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And those are Health and Human Service items.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yep. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. We'll get back to those. Are there other items that people would like to have more discussion on?

SEN. KAHN: Madam Chair, this is Senator Kahn. I'd like to -- that we spend a moment on 171.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: 171, the Office of Strategic Initiatives.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Kahn. Okay. Any other items that people would -- the informational items that people would like to have more information from the Departments? Okay. I don't hear anyone. I don't see -- Fallon, are there any hands raised?

MS. REED: I'm not seeing any other hands, ma'am.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. And -- hum -- let me just -- okay. I think that -- I think that that -- we will take this informational items. Remember, we don't need to make any motions on these. We just -- these are strictly information gathering. So let's start with information item 20-171, and I think it was Senator Kahn who had some questions about this one. Is there someone here from -- from the office?

MS. REED: Yes, Commissioner or Director Chicoine's on.

JARED CHICOINE, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives: Good morning. This is Jared Chicoine. I'm the Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you for being here. Senator Kahn, you want to ask some questions?

SEN. KAHN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. And, Mr. Chicoine, thank you for being present today. I appreciate it.

MR. CHICOINE: Sure.

SEN. KAHN: The LBA Office has been helping us understand how the allocation to expenditure differences are. And so this program, Connect New Hampshire, is one of those that has a pretty significant difference between the amount allocated, I believe that was 50 million, and the amount that -- and the amount that's been awarded, which is nearly 14 million. And so those grants, those six grants,

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went to nine towns. But I -- I know that there were other applications for those funds. And given that there's quite a lot that was not allocated from or not awarded from the allocation, did those other grants just fail to meet the criteria that was set up or what -- why -- why wouldn't all of the applications have been funded in that there's so much remaining from the initial allocation?

MR. CHICOINE: Hm-hum. So I can tell you that disqualified -- well, I should start with the total. So we received, in response to the RFP, we received 31 proposals for various projects. Thirty-one projects, I should say. Sixteen were awarded, 14 were disqualified, and one that received a conditional grant award withdrew their proposal. And I can tell you that, obviously, the reasons under the current process that a proposal would be -- that there would not be an award made is because they did not meet the minimum qualifications of the RFP.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further question.

SEN. KAHN: I -- I assumed that those -- those applicants were informed of what criteria they failed to meet?

MR. CHICOINE: They were informed that they were indeed disqualified, and were given the option to reach out to us in that we would make time available to explain to the applicant why they were disqualified. And we have had applicants request that information. So we absolutely provide that to an applicant that was disqualified.

SEN. KAHN: And if I could ask one further? You don't --

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

SEN. KAHN: Do you anticipate any further awards being made from this fund?

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MR. CHICOINE: So I don't believe so. And, Senator, one of the -- as you know, one of the challenges with this, with the CARES Act funds, is that these projects because the Federal Law would need to be completed by December 15th and we would need to pay for those projects by the end of December, December 30th. So in looking at the timeline, I anticipate another RFP being issued. Obviously, it would be a decision of the Governor's Office; but I think with the timeline that we're working with it would be very difficult.

SEN. KAHN: I agree. Thank you for answering my question. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. CHICOINE: Absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Are there further questions? I do have -- I have a question. Could you just give me an example of what some of those disqualifying -- why someone would be -- why one would be disqualified?

MR. CHICOINE: Sure. One would be if they did not meet the minimum requirement of being able to complete the project by December 15th. That would be one example. And also, you know, applicants are required to submit a list of unserved properties. So we had to actually have a list of properties that would be served and there were other -- other qualifications.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I have a better understanding. Are there any further questions concerning this information item? Hearing -- hearing no other questions, thank you very much for coming up and speaking with us. And we'll move on now to -- we have -- we don't need to take any action on any of these items. So we'll move on to Item 20-181. This is a Health and Human Service item and this is the Dashboard.

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And I think Senator Rosenwald has some questions about this one.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I do, Madam Chair. Thank you very much. I have a couple of questions.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Sure.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And I'm going to try and pull it up on my computer at the same time.

First, I have a question. I noticed that the SNAP caseload is down very sharply, about 5,000 cases from over the summer. I know that the extra federal assistance for unemployment was counted -- had to be counted towards income eligibility. So I kind of understand why the caseload's down. But yesterday it was reported that the new six-week \$300 extra federal assistance has been exhausted, and so the average unemployment check in New Hampshire is back to \$240 a week where it was pre-Pandemic.

And so my question is, will those 5,000 people who lost their SNAP benefits, will they be automatically re-enrolled in the program so that they'll start receiving food assistance right away or what is the process?

KERRIN ROUNDS, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services: I believe Chris Santaniello is on the line and she can answer those questions for you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

MS. REED: Go ahead, your line's open.

CHRISTINE SANTANIELLO, Department of Health and Human Services: Hi, there. This is Chris Santaniello from the Department of Economic and Housing Stability. Thank you, Senator Rosenwald, for your question.

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We had a number of applicants on Friday that we processed, not -- that people that did apply in-between and we did not count the new unemployment allotment. And so I don't have right now the numbers of people that increased; but we do suspect that those numbers will go up. And all of our communications with the individuals that we support, we have told people to re-apply. I can't give you a blanket answer as to whether or not people automatically get enrolled. It depends when they came off of SNAP, because there have been some gaps in there. So we are working to do outreach and we're working with partners, such as New Hampshire Legal Assistance and New Hampshire Employment Security, 'cause they have information also that they share with people.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So it's not an automatic re-enrollment? There has to be --

MS. SANTANIELLO: It would depend on when the person's appli -- when they came off of SNAP. So I can't give you a blanket yes or no, because some people came off much earlier in the Pandemic.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. Thank you

MS. SANTANIELLO: You're welcome.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Madam Chair, I have a question about the Bureau of Developmental Services caseload.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And I noticed that this caseload which is usually very stable and predictable was all of a sudden down 40% in-between June and the start of the new Fiscal Year in July and that really caught my attention. And so I'm wondering why the caseload is all of a sudden down 40% and how -- and if any of the Fiscal Year 20 appropriation lapse and how much of it. Just shocked by a 40% decrease

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in the number of people with developmental disabilities getting served in one month.

LORI SHIBINETTE, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: So this is Commissioner Shibinette. So most of the decrease that we've seen is in the ESS Program, which is the Early Supports and Services Program. And the reasoning for that was that families did not want clinicians and providers coming into their home during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Is Early Supports and Services, is that early intervention?

MS. SHIBINETTE: Hum -- yes. I don't know that it's exactly the same program, but it's exactly what you're thinking it is. It's usually for younger -- younger children that need earlier supports due to a DD condition.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So that could account for a 40% decrease in one month?

MS. SHIBINETTE: I'm not sure that accounts for the entire decrease; but we saw a substantial decrease in that population being served year over year because -- and the reasons that we were given was that the families did not want people coming into their homes for kids that perhaps had underlying conditions that put them higher at-risk for negative outcomes for COVID. So they didn't want clinicians coming into their home.

I know that we've seen a tremendous drop in that population being served year over year, mostly during the Pandemic. So I can -- that -- that's what we're attributing the drop to and we expect that once the Pandemic subsides and we have a vaccination that we will see those numbers go back up.

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SEN. ROSENWALD: So when I look at the chart though, the Early Supports and Services caseload looks like it's down maybe 2500, but the unduplicated Developmental Services between June and July dropped by 5,000 people. So about twice that. So I guess I'm still confused about what exactly was going on. And, also, I mean, if people didn't want providers coming into their home, would we have seen that over the spring as well, rather than just between June and July.

MS. SHIBINETTE: I can -- I can get a more specific breakdown for you. Either the unduplicated numbers includes the numbers from ESS in that total. So that's certainly part of it. But, you know, reasons why you're seeing it more in the summer than in the school year, part of it could be some of those kids could be receiving use of services through their School District, and then we see that drop in the school -- in the summer months. But I can have Deb Scheetz, who is not on our call today, break that down further for you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: That would be helpful. And the second part of my question was did some part of the Fiscal Year appropriation for BES lapse and, if so, what was that lapse amount?

MS. ROUNDS: Hi, Senator. This is Kerrin Rounds. So because that's a dedicated account, non-lapsing, continuously appropriated account, nothing lapsed out of it. The funds that were not spent carry over into Fiscal Year 21. I can get you what that number was. I want to say it was something around \$20 million in total funds, but I -- it may be less or more than that because of that reduction in caseloads.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Can you get it to Mike Kane so he can distribute it to all of the Fiscal Members?

MS. ROUNDS: I sure can do that.

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SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you very much. Thanks, Commissioner. Thanks, Kerrin.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions on the Dashboard?

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes, I have one more question, if I could. And that was I know that this week you were opening some of the transitional housing beds at Philbrook and we had, I think, renovated up to -- for 16 beds. Did all those 16 beds open or, if not, how much -- many?

MS. SHIBINETTE: So the 16 beds are open. We moved five clients over this week. We will move five additional over on Monday, and then the remaining by the end of next week, early the following week.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Great. Thank you very much.

MS. SHIBINETTE: Yep.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Senator Rosenwald. Any further questions? I have a question if there are no other -- if other Members don't have one at this point. I've had a couple of people ask me about the status of the Mobile Crisis Unit contracts and how that's moving along. I wondered if we might be able to get some information about that.

MS. SHIBINETTE: Hi, it's Lori. So the Mobile Crisis RFP we expect to be releasing in the next seven to 14 days, next week to two weeks. They're developing it now. We just released an RFP on the remaining transitional housing monies and beds, and so then our next phase is mobile crisis, mobile crisis for kids, and a variety of other children's system of care RFPs that we're in the final stages of.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. When would you anticipate those contracts would be awarded?

MS. SHIBINETTE: So the -- if the RFP goes out in the next two weeks, you're probably looking at closing them four to six weeks from then. So probably they would be awarded maybe the end of this year or early 2021.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you for that information. Any further -- any further questions for the Department around the Dashboard?

SEN. KAHN: Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: I just wanted to follow-up in that I didn't quite hear that answer to the Mobile Crisis Center. I thought I heard that the notice of application was -- that that's already out?

MS. SHIBINETTE: No. So right now we are -- the RFP that's already out is for additional transitional housing. What we'll have a series of mental health and behavioral health -- children's behavioral health RFPs going out in the next two weeks to include some Mobile Crisis RFP.

SEN. KAHN: Okay. Stay tuned. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Any further -- any further questions around the Dashboard? Hearing no further questions about the Dashboard, let's move on to Item 20- 183 and Senator Rosenwald also asked to have this one removed.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Well, I just wondered if the next time (Inaudible) issues this report whether they might be able to split out the amount of the rate increase separately from the total provider payments spike.

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MS. ROUNDS: Hi, Senator. This is Kerrin Rounds. I'll let Henry speak to this, too, but we -- we went round and round on how we might be able to do that. And because -- because of the way the reports are run, it's a little difficult to do that without just sort of backing into the number which may not be the exact number. But I'll let Henry speak to more specifics.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

HENRY LIPMAN, Director, Bureau of Medicaid and Business Policy, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning, Senator. Thank you for the question. This is Henry Lipman, the Medicaid Director. We'll work to try to give you the type of angle you're trying to look at on it. Also, we have the complexity of both the Granite Advantage and the general standard Medicaid Program.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes, I think that would be helpful because for the Granite Advantage Program we'll be -- we might be -- I think we will be looking at transfers from the Liquor Fund.

MR. LIPMAN: We'll -- we'll try to get something for you and the Committee through the Legislative Office so everybody can take a look at it.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you very much.

Audits:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions around this item? Okay. Hearing no further questions. I think that was all -- I think that was the last item that we had questions about. And we do have -- we do have the Department of State -- State of New Hampshire, Department of Safety, Division of State Police Audit, which we will hear a presentation on November -- on October 9th with the other

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three. But today we need to accept that item, and I believe that the Clerk has a motion around that item.

****** REP. WEYLER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move we accept the report, place it on file, and release in the usual manner. And if you'll permit me, I'd like to have a few comments.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: I appreciate the fact that we now have an acronym page and that the spelling out of each acronym is in the text two or three times. That's a big help when I go to read these audits that I don't have to keep searching for what the acronym stands for, and I thank the LBA for going back to that in the way that they had always done in the past, but then they left it out of a few audits. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. The Clerk moved that we accept the audit and place it on file. Is there a second to that motion?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I'll second that motion.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro second. And I ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Weyler votes yes.
Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Lovejoy.

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REP. LOVEJOY: Lovejoy votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Senator D'Allesandro votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, the votes are ten yes, zero no.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Motion passes and we will place that one on file. And on October 9th, it's a Friday, at 10 o'clock, we will have the presentation of the four audits that we have placed on file over the last several months, and this one included.

(10) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Our last item is the date of our next meeting. And Mr. Kane has suggested that we have it October 16th, Friday, and that that will give the Departments enough time to get items ready for us, if need be. Does that meet with everyone's approval?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

REP. FORD: That works.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: It works for everyone? Great. So our next meeting will be October 16th, our regular meeting will be October 16th at 10 o'clock and look forward to hearing all of you.

Any further business to come before the Fiscal Committee? Hearing none, I will adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

(The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcription from my shorthand notes from a Vast Conference audio on said date, to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRR
State of New Hampshire-LSR #47

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