

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Vast Conference (Remote)
Friday, November 20, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

(The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.)

(1) Call In Instructions:

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10: Good morning and welcome to the Fiscal Committee meeting. My name's Mary Jane Wallner. I'm the Chair of the Fiscal Committee. And as the Chair of the Fiscal Committee of the General Court, 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, Executive Order 2020-04, as extended, 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, A, 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 the 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, 125563, followed by the pound sign.

B. Providing public notice of the necessary information of accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting telephonically. Instructions have 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.

D. Adjourning the meeting if 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 are taken during -- all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by a roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance and when each Member's name is read, the Member should state their presence, where they are, and please also state whether anyone is in the room with you during this meeting. This is all required under the Right-To-Know Law. And I'll ask Representative Weyler if he would call the roll.

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #13: Thank you. Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Wallner is here in Concord in my home and I am alone.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

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SUSAN FORD, State Representative, Grafton County, District #03: Sue Ford. I'm here alone up in Easton, New Hampshire.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #24: I am here in Peterborough. I am alone and good morning.

REP. WEYLER: Good morning, Peter. Representative Weyler. I'm in my car at the DOT in Concord.

(Laughter).

REP. WEYLER: It's the only way I could fit all these meetings together.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20: Oh, I'll tell you, that's excellent, Kenny. Excellent.

REP. FORD: Good work.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: That's dedication, Ken.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Hennessey.

ERIN HENNESSEY, State Representative, Grafton County, District #01: Good morning. I am home in Littleton and my family is in the house with me, and they'll be in and out of the room.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Dal -- Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Kenny. Senator D'Allesandro. I'm in my home in Manchester and I'm by myself. And, Kenny, be very careful because those cars move when you don't know it.

REP. WEYLER: Well, the problem is if I turn the engine off, I've got to restart the whole process again sometimes. Anyway.

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SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Take care of yourself. Take care of yourself.

REP. WEYLER: Thank you, Lou. Thank you, Lou.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Ken.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

DONNA SOUCY, State Senator and Senate President, Senate District #18: This is Donna Soucy and I am in my home in Manchester, and I am alone.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

JAY KAHN, State Senator, Senate District #10: Good morning, Representative. Present in Keene at home and wife is elsewhere in the house.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Bradley.

CHUCK MORSE, State Senator, Senate District #22: Kenny, it's Senator Morse.

REP. WEYLER: Oh, Senator Morse. I'm sorry.

SEN. MORSE: This is Senator Chuck --

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: -- Morse. I'm in my office in Atkinson, New Hampshire, and I am alone.

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REP. WEYLER: Thank you. Madam Chair, we have ten present.

(2) **Acceptance of Minutes of the October 9, 2020, and October 16, 2020 meetings**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you, Representative Weyler, for taking the roll. And we'll move on to the Agenda. And the first item, this is on the Agenda, is the acceptance of minutes of October 2nd. I'm sorry, October 9th and October 16th. One meeting was our regular meeting and the other one was the meeting when we had only audits. So do we have a motion?

** SEN. KAHN: Senator Kahn moves the minutes of October 9th and 16th.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Senator Soucy second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Kahn moves the acceptance of the minutes of October 9th and October 16th and Senator Soucy second. Any discussion of the minutes? 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 Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

(No response).

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REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro on the minutes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Am I unmuted, Ken?

REP. WEYLER: I can hear you now, Lou.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

REP. WEYLER: Vote on the minutes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes. I vote yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: I abstain.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, we have nine -- excuse me.
Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, we have nine yes, one abstention.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you, Representative Weyler. The motion passes nine -- nine yes and one -- one abstain.

(3) Old Business:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And now we'll move to Old Business. And this is an item from Department of Education been on the table. Do I -- I think I have -- is there a motion?

****** SEN. MORSE: Representative, I move take it off the table. Senator Morse.

REP. WEYLER: Weyler seconds.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Morse moves to take the item off the table, and Representative Weyler second. This is a non-debatable motion. I ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes no.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman no.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: No.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: No.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: No.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: Yes.

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I don't think you called my name. Am I right?

REP. WEYLER: Oh! You're right. You're right.
Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: No. I vote no. Thank you.

REP. WEYLER: Sorry, I read your mind.

(Laughter).

REP. WEYLER: The vote is three to seven.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: You get that way (Inaudible).

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: He's clairvoyant. Kenny's clairvoyant today.

REP. LEISHMAN: Keep your eyes on the road, Kenny.

REP. WEYLER: I'm not moving.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So is the vote seven -- seven no and --

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REP. WEYLER: Three yes, seven no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: -- three yeses. Okay. Thank you. And the motion fails.

*** {MOTION FAILED}

CONSENT CALENDAR

(4) 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: And let's move on to the Consent Calendar. This is under Tab (4). And are there any items on this -- in this area that we would like to take off the calendar? I don't hear anyone.

FALLON REED, Planning Chief, State Coordinating Officer, Department of Safety: Madam, I'm sorry, Senator Rosenwald has her hand raised. I'm sorry.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to remove Item 20-251 and ask a question.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Item 20-251. I will keep that one separate. Is there any others people would like to take off the Consent Calendar? Hearing none, could we have a motion on all of the items except for 20-251?

** SENATE PRESIDENT SOUCY: This is Senator Soucy. Move the balance of the items.

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey second.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Soucy moves the item and Representative Hennessey second. And I'll ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Representative Ford votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

(No response).

REP. WEYLER: I didn't hear you, Senator D'Allesandro.

(No response.)

REP. WEYLER: Are you muted?

(No response.)

MS. REED: His line is open.

REP. WEYLER: All right. Senator Soucy.

SENATE PRESIDENT SOUCY: 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: Senator D'Allesandro, do you hear me?

(Pause.)

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Can you hear me, Kenny?

REP. WEYLER: I do now. Go ahead.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Yes. Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Okay. All right, have you down as a yes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

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

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The Consent Calendar, except for that one item, passes 10 to 0. And now we'll move to Item 20-251. It's a Health and Human Service item, and I believe that Senator Rosenwald has a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I do. I (Inaudible) first paragraph of the explanation and I see that \$960,000 of this grant is still unobligated and expended and must be done so in the next six weeks. And I wanted to ask the Department if they have enough

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people lined up to be transitioned from institutions by the end of December and, otherwise, what will happen to that money?

KERRIN ROUNDS, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning, Madam Chair, and Senator. This is Kerrin Rounds. I just wanted to let the Chair know of a couple of things before I turn it over to Deb Sheetz to answer your question, Senator.

The Commissioner is unable to join us today. She has other obligations she had to attend to and Director Ribsam has been able to join us. So item -- section six does not need to be held till the end of the meeting and I'll turn it --

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay.

MS. ROUNDS: -- over to Deb.

DEB SHEETZ, Director, Division of Long-Term Supports and Services, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning, Senator Rosenwald. This is Deb Sheetz, the Director of Long-Term Supports and Services. And --

SEN. ROSENWALD: Good morning.

MS. SHEETZ: -- I wanted to explain a little bit about how the Department is working with our federal partners with the Money Follows the Person funding money.

So between 2008 and 2015, we used monies following the program -- Money Follows the Person funding to create what was known as the Community Passport Program where we worked directly with case managers, nursing facilities, and hospitals to transition older adults and people with physical disabilities and those with mental illness from institutional settings to home and community-based settings.

During that period of time, we transitioned 308 people successfully. In 2016, what we did is we took with the knowledge

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and the piloting that we built through that and we incorporated those services into our State Plan and into our CFI Waiver. So these services are now being covered through transitional case management, and through services afforded through the Choices for Independence Waiver.

So the dollars that we are currently using through Money Follows the Person are not being used for the direct transition of people but, instead, are being used for administrative purposes, because the New Hampshire Community Passport Program has been retired and has been sustained in the waivers and in State Plan.

So the administrative dollars that we have in front of you today will be used for work relative to electronic visit verification, a contract we have with the Brain Injury Association to build capacity for community-based mental health support. We'll work relative to HCBC setting requirements and eligibility coordinator. I fully expect that we will expend this remaining money by 12/31, and I am in the process of closing out and providing our close-out report to our federal partners at CMS for 12/31.

SEN. ROSENWALD: May I briefly follow-up, Madam Chair, please? So, Deb, does that mean the Department is not going to be any longer transitioning people from institutional settings to the CFI Program?

MS. SHEETZ: Oh, absolutely not, Senator. What we have done is we have made this part of our regular operations, and it is funded through our State Plan through Transitional Case Management Services and through our CFI Waiver. So from 2016 on, this is now part of our waiver services and not a separate program funded through Money Follows the Person. It's part of our Medicaid match through our CFI Waiver, and through our match through our State Plan.

So, for example, in 2019 we continued to transfer 19 people. In 2020, we transferred eight people. And the COVID

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emergency didn't allow us to transfer as many people as we had hoped. And as of this October, we've transferred three people. We continue to work with case management agencies, nursing facilities, and hospitals to identify the people who want to transition, work with them to develop individual plans to do so. So we are absolutely looking to provide people the choice to be at their homes and in the community as they age or if they have a physical disability or mental complexity.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

MS. REED: Representative Wallner, you may be muted, ma'am.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Sorry about that. Trying for the background noise so it didn't affect everyone. So are there any further questions on this item? Hearing none, is there a motion?

** SEN. ROSENWALD: Approval.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: That was Senator Rosenwald moved approval of the item; is that correct?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I second the item. I second the item.

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

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

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REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE 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 are -- is ten yes, zero no.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The motion passes 10 to 0. Thank you, Representative Weyler.

(5) RSA 7:12, I, Assistants:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And let's move on now to Tab (5), and there's only one item. There's one item and this is an item from the Department of Justice.

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** REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman moves to pass.

REP. FORD: Ford second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman moves to pass the item and Representative Ford seconds. Any discussion on the item? Okay. Seeing none, I will -- or hearing none, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman votes yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

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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 10 to 0.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

- (6) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized, and RSA 14:30-a, IV Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance And Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from any Non-State Source, and Chapter 346:223, Laws of 2019, Transfer of Funds for Operation of the Sununu Youth Services Center:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And let's move on now to Tab 6. And we have three items here or two, I'm sorry, two items. One item. We're down to one item. Okay. And are there any -- any discussion of this item? Do I have a motion and is there any discussion of the item? Do I have a motion on this one?

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

MS. REED: Senator Rosenwald, go ahead, ma'am. Your line's open.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Hi. Sorry. Hum -- I did have a couple of questions for Director Ribsam, if he is -- if he is on. I noticed from the dash -- from -- not from the Dashboard but from the Dashboard that there are a number of vacancies with DCYF. I don't know if they're at Sununu, but I'm wondering if they are

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COVID related and if that is why there's a need for overtime whether CARES Act money could be used instead.

JOSEPH RIBSAM, Director, Division of Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services: Hi. Can everyone hear me? This is Joe Ribsam, Director of DCYF.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Ribsam.

MR. RIBSAM: Hi, I'm in my -- thank you. I'm in my office alone in Concord. Yeah, so SYSC we've had to change our -- kind of the way that we use the physical space in order to create smaller cohorts of youth and create a separate quarantine space. As a result of that, staffing numbers, you know, we've had to have more staff available than we would in typical times.

So I think the answer to the question as to whether there are COVID related expenses, the answer to that is yes. I think where it gets more complicated is how do we break those things out in a way that are acceptable under the terms of the federal grant, and we're actively working with the folks at GOFERR and with our fiscal staff here. I don't know if Kerrin Rounds would have anything more to articulate about that about how we might be able to transition some of those costs as -- as COVID related CARES Act costs.

It gets a little complicated because the staff who work on the quarantine unit don't just work on the quarantine unit, but they work at different places throughout the facility based on operational need on a given shift. But, yes, there certainly have been kind of increased shifts that have to be covered as a result of having to have smaller cohorts of youth and as related to having to have a separate unit to quarantine youth upon admission.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And if I could ask another question?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, go ahead.

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SEN. ROSENWALD: My understanding that we're now taking some children from Vermont and charging that state about \$1,500 a day. Just curious when that started, what that contract looks like, if it's going to Governor and Council, and where does the money from Vermont go?

MR. RIBSAM: Yes. So we are -- we are discussing with Vermont doing that. There's a, you know, I'm not sure how much I'm allowed to say during the contract process because we have such strict rules here; but this isn't kind of an open procurement in the typical way. So I'm a little hesitant to say too much, unless somebody can advise me that I'm allowed to. But we are in conversations with Vermont about that. There is an intention to bring that to G & C. The number you cited is around the number that we're talking about for the cost. And I believe, ultimately, that would also have to come before this Committee as well.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Mr. Ribsam, this is Mary Jane, and I do have a question, also. Do we have any Vermont children there at the Sununu Center presently?

MR. RIBSAM: No. There's currently no Vermont children there. There was one situation over the summer related to interstate compact for juveniles where they were in a crisis situation and we agreed to temporarily take that youth for a short period of time prior to his 18th birthday. Part of Vermont's challenges -- I'm sorry.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Well, I was going to ask, I wondered, we aren't there yet, but we're getting closer to getting to the Dashboard. When you show the number of youth that are at Sununu, when you show that on the Dashboard, are you including -- does that number include any children we have there from out-of-state?

MR. RIBSAM: Yeah. As I said, there was one child over the summer so that child would be included in the Dashboard. But -- but at this moment, there aren't any, right. So there

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wouldn't be any right now within the -- on the Dashboard. I do think it's important and we, you know, the Dashboard is one piece of data that you look at. There's other -- there's other reports that we share with folks and share with the Office of Child Advocate, and we can talk about how to share that information with this Committee, if the Committee is interested. And what we're talking about that if we were to move forward with this partnership with Vermont to help them out, that we would be able to break out those youth so that we don't get confused about the number of youth actually within SYSC from New Hampshire.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. I think that would be very helpful in the future if we're going to -- if we are going to have children from out-of-state there, would be helpful to know how many were from out-of-state and how many were in-state. Thank you. Any further question? I hear -- I hear no further questions. So thank you, Mr. Ribsam, for joining us. And do I have a motion on this item?

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Was that Representative -- was that Senator D'Allesandro?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes. I'll move the item.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves.

REP. FORD: Ford second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Representative Ford second. And I'll ask Representative Weyler to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

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REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE 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, we have ten yes, zero no.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The motion passes, 10 to 0.

(7) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for

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**Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from
Any Non-State Source and RSA 7:12 Assistants:**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And moving on to item seven, and this is an item from the Department of Justice. Do we have any -- does anyone have questions on this item? Hearing none.

** REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman moves approval.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman moves approval.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Do we have a second?

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Senator Rosenwald second. Any discussion of the item? Hearing none, I'll ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

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SENATE 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, we have ten yes, zero no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The item passes 10-0.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

- (8) **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 206:33-b, Transfers From Fish and Game Fund:**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on to item eight, and this is an item from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Questions about this item? I hear -- I hear no questions.

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro (Inaudible) the item. Do we have a second?

SEN. KAHN: Kahn seconds.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Kahn second. Discussion of the item? Hearing none, I'll ask the Clerk to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Ford yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE 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.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Representative Weyler. The vote is 10 to 0 and the item passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(9) Miscellaneous:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And now moving on to our last item on the regular calendar is item nine from the State Treasury. And do I -- are there questions about this item?

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

REP. FORD: I'll second, Ford.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves the item. Representative Ford second. Discussion? Seeing none, I'll ask Representative Weyler to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

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

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REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

SENATE 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: Thank you. The item passes. Ten approve the item and none in opposition.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(10) Informational Materials:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And moving on now to Informational Materials. If you would like any of the Informational Materials to be further explained, let me know which one and we'll mark them, and we'll have a discussion about them. Any items that people would like to discuss?

SEN. KAHN: This is Kahn. Be interested in a discussion briefly on 20-36 regard --

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: 20-36 and that's -- yes. Okay.

REP. WEYLER: That's 236.

SEN. KAHN: It is Protective Worker Stipend Program.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: 236. Okay. And other --

MS. REED: Senator Rosenwald also has her hand raised.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: I had a few questions on the HHS Dashboard.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay, and that is 233. Any other Informational item that people would like to have discussed? Okay. So let's -- we don't have to vote on these so let's just move right in. Let's start with 233 which is the Dashboard. And Representative -- Senator Rosenwald, would you like to start out --

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes, thank you. My first question is about SNAP. I see that our caseloads are still down between 8 or 10% and I'm wondering how the Department is reaching out to former enrollees to help them re-enroll?

MS. ROUNDS: Hi, Senator.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Do we have someone --

MS. ROUNDS: Sorry about that. Senator, this is Kerrin Rounds. Chris Santaniello was unable to join us this morning. She's working on a homelessness project this morning. I can certainly take that question to her and get back to you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Great, thank you. I also have a question about the Community Mental Health Centers. I notice that a number of children served at the CMH is down. We keep hearing that the children's E.R. boarding crisis is up and wonder if the

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Department sees those two things as related. And, further, I've seen reports that there's some children being turned away from Hampstead Hospital, and I wonder where those children are going if they have behavioral issues?

MS. ROUNDS: So the first question would be a question for Katja Fox, I believe. I'm not sure if she's with us this morning. Fallon, do you see her?

MS. REED: Yep, one moment. Let me just open up her line.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

MS. ROUNDS: And the second question would be for Heather Moquin at New Hampshire Hospital and I believe she's on the line.

MS. REED: Katja's line's open.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. I think Senator Rosenwald has a question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes. I'm wondering what the relationship is to the children's E.R. boarding, the Wait List growing for children in E.R.'s for mental health crisis, and how that relates to the declining caseload for children at the Community Mental Health Centers?

MS. ROUNDS: Katja, I think you're still on mute. I still can't hear her. There must be a technical difficulty there. Fallon, I'm not sure if you can -

MS. REED: Yeah, Katja's line's open, unless she's muted on her end; but I also just opened up Heather's line. So I'm not sure if Katja wants to try again.

KATJA FOX, Director, Division for Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services: Hi! It's Katja Fox,

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Director of the Division for Behavioral Health. I was on another call so I'm sorry, multi-tasking, and so I missed the question.

SEN. ROSENWALD: The question is I noticed that the children's caseload at the Community Mental Health System which had been up in the 7,000's is now in the 6,000's less per month, at the same time that the number of children on a Wait List for inpatient beds at Hampstead has been rebounding back to -- to kind of more concerning numbers. And I'm wondering what the Department feels is the relationship between fewer children being served in the communities and more children waiting for a bed; but, also, we've heard that there's some children being turned away from Hampstead Hospital, and I wonder if you could just elaborate on that.

MS. FOX: Okay. Thank you, Senator. Some of it I can answer, some of it I cannot. And if Heather Moquin is here from New Hampshire Hospital, she could talk specifically to the Hampstead Hospital piece.

We are monitoring the numbers and working very closely with our providers on children services, as well as adult services, and we know that there was an actual increase, as you indicated, with the number of children that were being served by the Community Mental Health Centers. I will need to follow-up with our Bureau Director, Erica Ungarelli, and with our centers to find out what they believe to be the reason why there has been a drop-off since that initial surge.

HEATHER MOQUIN, Chief Executive Officer, New Hampshire Hospital, Department of Health and Human Services: Hi! Can you all hear me? This is Heather Moquin at New Hampshire Hospital.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. MOQUIN: Oh, good. Just to follow up on the second part of that question. The approach that we have taken for referrals that are declined for Hampstead is that the Department is working with either the hospital, the ED director or the family

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directly to increase supports if they are needed emergently in the home or sometimes there needs to be a review to see if there's residential placement needs, even temporarily. And so Erica Ungarelli has been working very closely. I can't speak for her, but often I'm making those connections to her and the Department so that we can support those individual cases. And that approach really is the same as it was for New Hampshire Hospital when New Hampshire Hospital needed to decline an admission.

SEN. ROSENWALD: So are these children who would be going to the PRTF?

MS. MOQUIN: Potentially, yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Okay. And, Madam Chair, I have just two other questions, if I could. One is on the DD Wait List. There's not a report for the first few months of Fiscal Year 2021, but there is for the ABD Wait List, and I wonder if the Department could just follow-up with us on the DD Wait List. And then I've one other question.

MS. ROUNDS: Hi, Senator! This is Kerrin. I definitely had a formatting error there. I think, as I mentioned the last Committee meeting, those spreadsheets have become a bit unruly and we're trying to work that out. So I definitely made an error there. But Deb Sheetz could speak to the numbers if you want to hear them now.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Now or in follow-up.

MS. ROUNDS: Okay.

MS. SHEETZ: So Senator -- Senator Rosenwald, it's Deb Sheetz once again. Just to give you an update of what you will be receiving is as of 9/30/20, all State Fiscal Year '21 Quarter 1 A's and B's were funded for the Developmental Disability Waiver. There were 85 people who needs enhancement for services that were waiting on the Wait List, but as of November 6th those

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individuals have been funded as well. In addition, for the ABD Waiver and the In-Home Support Waiver, all people are fully funded and there are zero people waiting for services.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And, finally, Madam Chair, on the shelters and institution the Department report on in less services. I know we've had a real crisis going on in Manchester. And I noticed that in September the caseload in the shelters is -- looks like 62% of capacity. Prior to September's that caseload was 90 -- 95 and 93 percent capacity. So I wonder if the Department could just give an explanation of why we are not putting people in the shelter capacity that we have when it's getting cold?

MS. ROUNDS: Chris Santaniello would also be the right person to follow-up on that. So I will ask her to give you a call with an answer to that question as well.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you very much.

(Music is playing in the background.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I don't know who has the music on but maybe we could --

SEN. ROSENWALD: Start dancing.

MS. REED: Yep, I think someone's put on hold and I'm trying to close it down, so bear with me one moment.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Thanks, Fallon.

MS. REED: Okay. We should be all set, Madam.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you. This has been an interesting -- this has been an interesting day for some reason.

(Laughter).

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So are there further questions about the Dashboard? Hearing no further --

SEN. KAHN: Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, yes.

SEN. KAHN: I wanted to understand in Table 6 relative to Sununu Youth Center, and the populations that are served by it, the good news is the census numbers are down. We talked about Hampstead a little bit. I'm wondering with the committed youth population how is between Sununu and Hampstead, I mean, is there some possibility that there's overlap in the services provided?

MS. ROUNDS: Is Joe Ribsam still on the line or Heather might be able to answer that question.

MR. RIBSAM: Hi, this is Joe Ribsam, DCYF. I'm still in my office in Concord. I assume you can hear me.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. RIBSAM: Yeah, I think they really are discrete programs, although certainly I would venture to say all or nearly all of the youth that we serve at SYSC have behavioral health challenges, which is why we have now a full-time psychologist and a part-time psychiatrist working on individualized programming for each of the youth that come into the facility. But I do think they are discrete programs that meet discrete needs, right. That's why SYSC -- youth that are committed to SYSC are there as a result of delinquent behaviors whereas youth who enter Hampstead Hospital are there because they are perceived to be a danger or are found to be a danger to themselves or others. I don't know if Heather would want to add anything to that.

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MS. MOQUIN: Yeah. This is Heather at New Hampshire Hospital. I would agree with Joe. They are -- there has not been overlap that I'm aware of between the kids in these two populations.

MR. RIBSAM: There have been a couple occasions over the years, both with Hampstead and previously with New Hampshire Hospital where there were youth at SYSC who presented, you know, as enough of a danger to themselves or others to be relocated temporarily to a hospital setting, and then to be returned to SYSC after stabilization. That doesn't happen frequently, but it has happened on occasion. But I do think SYSC services are less acute from a, you know, a treatment perspective than what you'd receive in a hospital setting.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions about the Dashboard? Okay. Hearing none, then let's move on to Item 20-236, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Relief. And I think, Senator Kahn, did you have questions about this item?

SEN. KAHN: I had a question, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Is there someone here available?

TAYLOR CASWELL, Executive Director, Department of Business and Economic Affairs: Yes. Senator, I'm Taylor Caswell, Commissioner of BEA and also Director of GOFERR.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Caswell. Senator Kahn, questions.

SEN. KAHN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Commissioner. The type of worker at a health care facility served by this, I think the point that me is that front line workers are hard to distinguish what is meant in that and, clearly, the powers and demands and the stress on the long-term care facilities it stretches up and down the totem pole. So I -- constituents here locally don't know the difference between who is and not covered in this program.

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MR. CASWELL: So, Senator, I think with this specific program this was aimed -- I believe this item here, was specifically for frontline child protective service workers, probation officers, and some other social workers at HHS. I would point out, though, that we've had other long-term -- other sort of, I guess you could qualify as frontline wage stipend programs for in the long-term care industry. I think also in the first responder. There are two or three programs that were designed to have some applicability to wage enhancement in order to address some issues we were having with workforce retention during the initial periods of COVID. Does that answer your question?

SEN. KAHN: Well, hopefully. I think, Madam Chair and Commissioner, I probably can take conversation with you off-line to talk about the bridge in the long-term care facilities.

MR. CASWELL: Absolutely. Be happy to do that, Senator.

SEN. KAHN: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Great. Thank you. Any further questions on this item? Okay. Seeing none. There is no questions. Are there any other items that anyone has -- would like further information on from the informational item?

Audits:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Hearing none, then I think we can move on to the audit, and I would look to have Representative Weyler make a motion -- make the standard motion to place this on file, and then we can have a presentation at a later date of these people. I think a lot of people here want to get back to the Governor's Budget meeting. And we could put this on file and take it for a later date. Does that meet with everyone's approval?

REP. LEISHMAN: Sounds good.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Any objections to doing that? I'm going to ask Representative Weyler to do his standard motion.

** REP. WEYLER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move we accept the report, place it on file, and release in the usual manner. And I guess we have a roll call on that.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And yes we do. You're working hard today, Ken.

REP. WEYLER: I'm ready. I need a second.

REP. FORD: Second, Ford.

REP. HENNESSEY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Weyler made the motion and Representative Ford second. And I will ask Representative Weyler to call the roll.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Votes yes.

REP. WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Leishman yes.

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

REP. HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro.

(No response.)

REP. WEYLER: Senator Soucy.

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SENATE PRESIDENT SOUCY: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: Senator Morse.

(No response.)

REP. WEYLER: Representative Wallner.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. WEYLER: All right. We have eight yes. Want me to try and see if Senator D'Allesandro or Senator Morse is still here?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We can give it a try and see if they were muted.

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

REP. WEYLER: Thank you.

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

REP. WEYLER: I have it, Lou. Thank you.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, thanks.

REP. WEYLER: Senator -- Senator Morse.

(No response.)

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MS. REED: It looks like we lost his line. He might have had to jump off.

REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, we have nine yes, zero no.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Motion passes 9 to 0, and we will take that audit up at a future -- at a future date.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(11) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: This is our last meeting of this Fiscal Committee. In December there will be a new Fiscal Committee appointed. So I just wanted to say thank you to -- to all of you who served on the Fiscal Committee as I've been the Chair. I've really -- I've enjoyed working with all of you. I think we -- I think we've worked well together. We haven't always agreed, but I think we've done it in an agreeable way. And I want to thank the LBA for all the work they do to make sure that this runs smoothly. There's a lot of materials that they help us get ready and Mr. Kane and his staff make this a smooth -- really a smooth operation.

And the other person that I really want to thank that I don't think I thank -- we can thank enough is Fallon who when we ended up going remote she has made this work for us. I think we were probably the first Committee that actually met remotely, and Fallon has really helped us make this work and I want -- I want to give her a big thanks for that work.

There are some Members that will not be returning. Two of the members will not be returning to the House and that's Representative Ford and Representative Huot who was one of our substitutes in the House. They will neither of them be returning to the House. And Representative Hennessey is going to be moving over to the Senate. So I want to thank all of them for their

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service, and I really have enjoyed chairing the Fiscal Committee. It's been a great two years and thank you very much.

REP. WEYLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. FORD: Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. HENNESSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: If I might, Madam Chair?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, yes, of course.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: If I could. Just a kudos to the Chair for a great job. Kudos to Kenny for being the outstanding Clerk. He never misses a number no matter where. And to all of the Members of the Committee, thank you so much for your due diligence and hard work, to the LBA and to Fallon who's a miracle worker to be honest with you. Thank you so much. Miracles are made every time there's a meeting like this. But to all who serve, thank you so much. It's been the most difficult period in all of my years as a Member of the Legislature. And the Legislature's come through with flying colors in terms of working hard to make things happen. And, again, my thanks to the Chair and to the membership, all of you for your service, your good work, and I wish you all the best. Stay safe and stay healthy, stay happy. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and, please, keep the dream alive and well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. REED: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Senator D'Allesandro. And I thank you to you for being the Vice-Chair and a big thanks to Representative Weyler for clerking. I know clerking is not an easy job and he did a great job. And all of the roll calls made it even more difficult. So thank you so much for taking on that job.

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I will move to adjourn the meeting. And, Mr. Kane, I can't remember if we set the date or we were going to just wait for the new Committee to set the date of the next meeting.

MICHAEL KANE, Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: That will be the new Committee will set the date of the new meeting on Organization Day.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Great. So when the new Committee is named, then they will set the date for the next meeting. People should watch their calendars for the next meeting date. At this point --

REP. LEISHMAN: Kenny, don't miss your exit.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Take care everybody.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: -- I'll adjourn the meeting. Thank you. That's all I have.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, everybody. Thank you, Peter.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thanks.

REP. LEISHMAN: You, too, Lou.

(The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.)

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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 on said date and the VAST Conference recording, 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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