

Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery  
(GOFERR) Legislative Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 29, 2020  
1:00 PM

**Call in info:**

- Dial the call in number: 1-800-356-8278
- Enter the 6-digit conference code: 389388

**Agenda**

- Open – Reading of GOFERR 91-A compliant guidance
- Roll Call
- Presentations from Education & Nonprofits:
  - 1:10 M - 1:40 PM: CCSNH – Charles Ansell, Chief Operating Officer
  - 1:40PM – 2 PM: Independent Pharmacy Association – David Rochefort owner of Eastern States Compound Pharmacy
  - 2:00 PM – 2:20 PM: National Association of Chain Drug Stores – Bruce Berke
  - 2:20 PM - 2:40PM: Dental Society - TBD
  - 2:40PM – 3:00PM: The New Hampshire Optometric Association – Dr. Scott Huffer
  - 3:00 PM – 3:30: Public Safety: Fire Marshall Paul Parisi, Christopher Stawasz of AMR
- Next Scheduled Meeting
- Follow Up Items

**Roll Call:**

- Jerry Little, Director in the GOFERR Office in Concord with Rhonda Hensley, Kate Spiner
- President Donna Soucy, - home in Manchester, alone
- Speaker Steve Shurtleff – cabin in Bethlehem, alone
- Leader Chuck Morse, office in Atkinson, alone.
- Leader Dick Hinch, office in Merrimack, alone.
- Senator Lou D'Allesandro, Manchester in kitchen, with his wife
- Representative Mary Jane Wallner, home in Concord, alone
- Senator John Reagan, home office alone
- Representative Erin Hennessey, home in Littleton with 2 minor children.

**Presentations from Education and Non-Profits:**

Community College System of New Hampshire Charles Ansell, Chief Operating Officer – He is in his office in Concord, alone. He reviewed his presentation entitled 'COVID Impacts, Relief Needs for Program Completion and Workforce Training'. Support for program completion and tuition relief in the near term will be critical to enable students to complete their

education. Costs for *Back to the Lab* and *Socially Distanced Learning* Cost estimate: \$2,500,000. *Strategic Tuition and Educational Assistance*, CCSNH's *Fast Forward* program, partners with: NH Employment Security and NH BEA. Tuition assistance, in complement or substitution of unemployment benefits, is roughly \$27,500,000. Academic Advising and Technology integration with DES to share labor, student and job-seeker data is \$1,950,000.

Independent Pharmacy Association – David Rochefort owner of Eastern States Compound Pharmacy is requesting a total of \$585,000 to include special design/engineering controls in customer and employee contact and work areas; technology improvements to enhance customer and pharmacy access and communication; delivery enhancements; PPE; and staff development. He is in his office in Littleton and alone.

National Association of Chain Drug Stores – Bruce Berke. The National Association would like to offer their drug stores and pharmacists as resources for COVID-19 testing centers. USHHS Secretary Azar authorized pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests, including serology tests, to rapidly expand access across America. This association is asking the Governor to issue:

1. An executive order that waives any impeding rules and restrictions to effectively support pharmacies to roll out end-to-end testing broadly across all communities they serve.  
or
2. A Statewide Standing Order that permits New Hampshire pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests, without the need for additional protocols or other physician authorization.

NH Dental Society, Executive Director Mike Auerbach, Dr. Laurie Risoto,

Representatives of the dental industry stated how COVID-19 has affected them including: closing of offices, layoffs and increases in infections because of lack of preventative care. Some dentists have reached a point where they could open with proper equipment, but it is costly and smaller firms don't have the funds to purchase the appropriate PPE. The Dental Society's proposal is for the establishment of a Dental Practice Pandemic Fund with an initial amount of \$40 million dollars for grants for PPE and equipment with a maximum grant of \$25,000 for immediate needs.

President New Hampshire Dental Hygienist Association, Myra Nikitas

She discussed concerns weighing on the safety of opening dental offices too soon. Hygienists don't feel safe going back to work and they propose a 4 Phase implementation.

Phase 1- NOW Through May 15, 2020

Dentists may preform emergency/urgent care procedures only

Phase 2- May 15-May 31, 2020

Dentist may preform essential services.

Phase 3 June 1-June 15 2020

Dentist may perform Non-essential services to low risk patients only.

Phase 4- June 15- June 29 2020

All elective procedures allowed for all patient categories.

President, the New Hampshire Optometric Association – Dr. Scott Huffer

Roughly fifteen percent of NH Doctors of Optometry have chosen to close their offices until they can re-open safely. Members of the Association are reporting 80% loss in revenue and have had to furlough many employees. The members feel that additional payroll assistance and low interest or forgivable loans or grants would help as well as funds to assist with combining practices. Dr. Huffer also mentioned that funding for public awareness is critical.

Public Safety: Fire Marshall Paul Parisi, Regional Director, Christopher Stawasz of AMR

Marshall Parisi enlisted the input of the following Fire Service leaders for this presentation: Chief Robert Buxton, President of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs, Captain William McQuillen, President of the Professional Firefighters of NH, Chief Deb Pendergast, Director of the NH Fire and EMS Academy, and President Glenn Davis of the NH State Fireman's Association. The pandemic has exacerbated the current difficulty in recruiting firefighters. Additional safety protocols have been put in place but some firefighters have had unprotected exposure to COVID-19. Municipalities are overspending their budgets to keep the services operational while implementing safety procedures. Mental health of the responders is also a concern. They request setting up a fund where municipalities could get grants to cover costs.

Regional Director Stawasz of AMR detailed the challenges they have faced during the pandemic. They include but are not limited to: difficulty in obtaining PPE and maintaining the supply chain; obtaining COVID testing resources; increased staffing for EOC; and paying quarantine time for employees.

**Take Aways**

Senator Lou D'Allesandro would like information from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores about a plan to implement becoming testing centers for COVID-19 and making it a high priority.

**Adjourn – 3:30 PM**