



State of New Hampshire
Governor's Office
FOR
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY
(GOFERR)
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

1:00 p.m.

in

One Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

Legislative Advisory Board Members:

SENATOR	Senator Lou D'Allesandro
SENATE PRESIDENT	Donna Soucy
SENATE LEADER	Senator Chuck Morse
SENATOR	John Reagan
SPEAKER	Steve Shurtleff
HOUSE LEADER	Rep. Dick Hinch
CHAIRWOMAN	Maryjane Wallner
REPRESENTATIVE	Erin Hennessey

AGENDA

- Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting Statement
- Attendance
- Presentation:
 - 1:10 pm - 1:30 pm - Ken Robbins, President, NH Camps
- Discussion on:
 - NH Stipends for NHH workers
 - Follow up Emergency Order 48
 - Self-employed individuals and the Main Street Relief Fund
- Next Scheduled Meeting
- Adjourn

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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JERRY LITTLE: Today's meeting is an official meeting of the Board, and it is open to the public and will be run in a manner compliant with RSA 91-A.

Today's meeting is also being recorded, as we've just told you. Should you be a speaking participant and not wish to be recorded, you may disconnect now. The recording from today's meeting will be transcribed and posted to the GOFERR webpage.

JERRY LITTLE: My name is Jerry Little. I am Director of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, and I will be facilitating today's meeting.

And because the Board is being done by phone, under RSA 91-A, there are a few initial logistics that we need to establish. First, each of us must state our names, where we are located, and who is in the room with us. We're going to do that with this opening roll call:

I am Jerry Little, Director of the Governor's Office in One Eagle Square in Concord. With me are Rhonda Hensley, Nancy Smith, Lisa English, and Steve Giovinelli. We are all staff people in the GOFERR office. Senate

1 President Donna Soucy, are you with us?

2 DONNA SOUCY: Yes, this is Donna Soucy. I am at
3 my home, and I am alone.

4 JERRY LITTLE: House Speaker Steve Shurtleff?

5 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff. I'm at my
6 residence in Penacook, and I am alone.

7 JERRY LITTLE: House Leader Dick Hinch?

8 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I am at my
9 office in Merrimac, and I am alone.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Chairman Lou D'Allesandro? Senator
11 D'Allesandro?

12 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Hi, Lou D'Allesandro. I'm in
13 Manchester, in my home, and I am all alone.

14 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Chairwoman Maryjane Wallner?

15 MARYJANE WALLNER: This is Maryjane Wallner. I'm
16 at my home in Concord, and I am alone.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Senator John Reagan? Senator
18 Reagan?

19 JOHN REAGAN: John Reagan, I'm in my home office,
20 alone.

21 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Erin Hennessey?

22 ERIN HENNESSEY: This is Representative Erin

1 Hennessey. I'm at my home in Littleton with my two minor
2 children.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representative
4 Hennessey. And we received notice from Senator Morse
5 shortly before the call telling us that he was not going to
6 be able to join us today.

7 As we move through our agenda today, each Board
8 member and anyone else speaking is asked to identify
9 themselves before speaking. Should you choose to take any
10 votes today, they must be done by roll call, following the
11 process we just used.

12 And finally, before we begin today's
13 presentations, please remember to use 5* if you would like
14 to ask a question. In addition, presenters are asked to
15 also hit 5* when their turn comes up, as that allows us to
16 unmute your line.

17 So before we start, I will ask one more time for
18 Senator John Reagan if you are with us? If not, then maybe
19 you need to hit 5* to unmute your line. [Pause]

20 JERRY LITTLE: Not hearing a response, then we'll
21 move on. The last time we met was on Wednesday June 3.
22 There were a couple of items you asked that GOFERR add to

1 the agenda for discussion today, including the idea on
2 stipends for employees at the New Hampshire Hospital,
3 discussion of sports and summer camps, and a follow-up on
4 funding for Emergency Order 48.

5 And before we go to those items, we had a request
6 from Representative Wallner, I believe, to provide an
7 opportunity for Ken Robbins, President of the New Hampshire
8 Camps Association, to do a presentation for us on the impact
9 of coronavirus and COVID-19 on summer camps in the state.

10 Are you with us, Mr. Robbins?

11 KEN ROBBINS: Yes, I am.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. Thank you for joining
13 us today, and welcome. You've provided us with a handout,
14 which was provided to all members of the Legislative
15 Advisory Board in advance, so if you would like to run
16 through your presentation, please go right ahead.

17 KEN ROBBINS: Okay. Well, thank you very much and
18 good afternoon. I appreciate the opportunity to share
19 thoughts about summer camps with you today, and you'll have
20 to forgive me, because talking to a group of legislators
21 isn't what I normally do, I'm a camp director, and so,
22 usually I'm talking to campers and counselors in a dining

1 hall, or around a campfire.

2 But I do appreciate you all taking the time to
3 focus some attention on camps, which are in a real bind here
4 as summer begins in just a few days.

5 In addition to running a camp, as you mentioned, I
6 serve as President of the New Hampshire Camp Directors
7 Association. We represent the licensed youth recreation
8 camps in the state, and there are about 160 licensed camps
9 that operate every summer here in New Hampshire -- summer
10 day camps, summer overnight or resident camps.

11 And there are camps that are organized as for-
12 profit, and others not-for-profit. There are camps
13 affiliated with large organizations like the Y, and many
14 others are independent. And many have been around for 80,
15 90 or over 100 years. And my camp is one of those. Camp
16 Kabeyun in Alton Bay started in 1924 -- this would have been
17 our 97th summer.

18 In a normal time, spending this time with you on
19 this day would be almost impossible. Mid-June, we'd have 60
20 counselors at camp by now training and getting ready for
21 opening day a week from Saturday, when about 120 campers
22 would arrive and stay for the next couple of months.

1 I mean, we're a small camp. We're independent,
2 we're not-for-profit and this is the first summer since we
3 began that we won't open. Like so many other camps
4 throughout the state, we ran camps successfully during the
5 Depression through World War II through a polio epidemic,
6 and this year we're closed. And this is a pretty big deal.

7 I think the role the camps play in New Hampshire
8 is pretty well known. Summer camp really started in the
9 Northeast. The first residential camp for girls was right
10 up the road from me, camp Keyhonka. That's the first
11 residential camp for girls in the country. And it closed
12 over 30 years ago.

13 And in fact, there were once I think six overnight
14 camps within just a couple miles of Kabeyun, and today there
15 are three. And where those camps were once, now there are
16 houses on the shoreline. That's true throughout the state.
17 The standing in summer camp was already a challenge, before
18 COVID.

19 I shared with you some data that the American Camp
20 Association collected in 2016. They found that camps hire
21 roughly 300 full-time and 5500 seasonal employees in New
22 Hampshire every year, and camps contribute over \$100 million

1 dollars to the state's economy.

2 Now in 2008, New Hampshire Camp Directors
3 sponsored its own economic impact study. It's a little out
4 of date, but the numbers haven't actually changed that much
5 since then. And at the time, we found that camps serve
6 almost 150,000 children every year -- nearly half of those
7 are New Hampshire campers.

8 About one in every three New Hampshire children
9 over the age of 5 go to camp every year at a camp in New
10 Hampshire. 37,000 New Hampshire families send their
11 children to a New Hampshire camp, and camps are just a
12 significant part of the network of care here in the state,
13 and they are in real trouble.

14 The state guidelines for day and resident camps
15 that came out just a couple of weeks ago are extraordinarily
16 challenging. They're necessary and they are prudent.
17 Safety is every camp's first priority. B

18 But for many -- in fact, for all of us they
19 present this real dilemma. For some camps, it's the degree
20 to which following guidelines would mean changing the nature
21 of their program. That was the case for my camp. For
22 others, it's the cost of screening and testing, of modifying

1 buildings, of doubling or even tripling health care staff.

2 The cost of opening for the summer in some cases
3 actually exceeds the cost of staying closed -- and for some
4 to the point of being unfeasible.

5 Everyone's been wrestling with this for months --
6 trying to find a path to open so they can do what they do,
7 give campers the summer that they need and the summer they
8 deserve after such a devastating winter and spring.

9 So here's where we are. As of just a few days
10 ago, almost half of the licensed day camps in the state are
11 closed. Nearly all of the overnight camps are closed, my
12 camp included. The most up-to-date number is that there are
13 six resident camps still trying to open.

14 And those camps that are still trying to open, a
15 lot of them have pushed back their start dates to later in
16 the summer. Most may be unable to serve as many campers as
17 they normally do, or as many as want to attend.

18 And I suspect beyond that, some of them may still
19 end up closed. And for the campers that don't go to camp
20 this summer having already been home for months and out of
21 school, they are hurting.

22 Now, we did a quick survey of camps last week and

1 got some rough numbers of what the impact of this summer
2 will be on their operations.

3 What we found was more than an 80 percent drop in
4 gross revenue over 2019 numbers, and we think some of the
5 revenue that camps who are closed are reporting there are
6 going to be made up of deposits in tuition payments from
7 this summer that their most dedicated families have offered
8 to let them hold onto and carry over to next summer. So
9 that's not even really income for this year, for next year,
10 and it's modest.

11 And while camps that are closed are doing what
12 they can to manage their costs, many of those costs are
13 fixed. We pay property taxes, utilities, seasonal
14 maintenance, insurance and some amount of payroll.

15 So now, will camps survive this? Some will, and
16 some are really in peril. 17 percent of the camps who
17 responded to our survey said that they are either likely or
18 somewhat likely not to be able to reopen next summer. Other
19 camps are going to be relying on generosity of their
20 families, who hopefully will return next summer, who might
21 donate to fundraising campaigns or help in other ways.

22 But we know too that there are costs that we don't

1 yet clearly understand as well. We expect that COVID won't
2 be a one-summer impact on camps, and camps are already
3 working.

4 Whether they're open this summer or closed,
5 they're already working on anticipating what they're going
6 to have to change, what they're going to have to do
7 differently next summer and what the costs for that might
8 be.

9 And I think our most significant challenge is
10 this: Camps will not have the chance to recover lost 2020
11 revenue by having a strong third or fourth quarter of the
12 year, as hopefully the economy begins to recover, the state
13 continues to reopen.

14 The next opportunity that summer camps will have
15 to generate income is in the second quarter of 2021 --
16 April, May, June of next year. Between now and then, camps
17 continue to have these significant fixed expenses that I
18 mentioned before. Camps are going to struggle to survive
19 all the way to next summer, and we know that some will not
20 survive until next summer.

21 I 'm sure that you can hear it in my voice: Camp
22 is in my blood. I've been at Kabeyun since I was 11 in

1 1985, it's an enormous part of who I am.

2 And I imagine that's true for just about anyone
3 who is fortunate enough to have had a camp experience as a
4 child. It's a part of growing up going to camp, and
5 especially so here in New Hampshire. Anyone who's been to
6 camp or sent their children to camp or has worked at camp,
7 they know how big of an impact spending one or several
8 summers that camp has.

9 Camps provide campers and counselors with social
10 and emotional development. I don't think we've known a time
11 when that was more important. Camps promote and develop
12 essential qualities -- environmental stewardship, good
13 citizenship, self-reliance, independence, character -- never
14 more essential than today.

15 As things begin to get better, and as we come out
16 of this crisis, I believe that camps are the perfect
17 organizations to lead the effort to help our children heal,
18 help them relearn what it means to be a part of a community,
19 and help them adjust to this difficult new normal, if you
20 will.

21 Camps aren't looking for a bailout. They're
22 looking to stay strong and present, so they can continue

1 providing these critical services they've been delivering
2 for a century, and in some cases more. We know that getting
3 to 2021 is going to be a serious challenge for all camps,
4 for all of us.

5 So the help we seek is going to be put immediately
6 to use, getting ready for next summer.

7 That's what I have. I thank you, and I'm happy to
8 answer questions.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Robbins. Are there
10 any questions for Ken Robbins? Representative Maryjane
11 Wallner.

12 MARYJANE WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Little. And
13 thank you for having the camps do the presentation. I think
14 it was helpful and gives us a lot to think about, what will
15 become of some of them.

16 And I guess my question is for Mr. Robbins. And
17 that is, what would be -- what could the state of New
18 Hampshire -- especially through the fund that we have, what
19 could we do for camps? I do know that your camps I believe
20 were not able to provide for the Main Street Relief
21 programs. They were not able to apply to the non-profit
22 programs, and I think the child care program was

1 challenging, because they had not been considered emergency
2 child care providers.

3 What exactly could this group look at for camps
4 that might be helpful?

5 KEN ROBBINS: Thank you so much. I think that's
6 an excellent question. And I think that you're exactly
7 right that camps really didn't fit into any of the already
8 formed programs -- the Main Street Relief Fund, the child
9 care program -- unless they had qualified as an emergency
10 child care provider.

11 And I guess I'm not sure about qualification under
12 the non-profit fund. That one is still accepting
13 applications.

14 But I think what we are looking for is for the
15 opportunity to have the same benefit as other organizations
16 in the state have, which is assistance in moving past all of
17 the various challenges -- either being unable to open, or
18 having expenses that were directly tied to trying to open --
19 but also, you know, recognizing that camps are a very
20 different animal than most businesses in the state, because
21 of the way that revenue is generated because of the timeline
22 that it comes to camps in, and the way that it is then spent

1 throughout the year.

2 Our opportunity -- our ability to get through
3 until next year, like I said, is severely hampered by having
4 zero income years. My camp will not operate in any facet
5 this summer. We don't anticipate any revenue, but yet we
6 have on the order of half a million dollars in fixed
7 expenses that are going nowhere.

8 So if it's in the form of grants, if it's in the
9 form of help with some of those, or relief from some of
10 those fixed expenses, I think anything that takes some of
11 the impact off of these -- what is in essence a lost summer
12 -- will go a long ways towards ensuring that these camps are
13 still here next summer.

14 MARYJANE WALLNER: Thank you. I appreciate that
15 and the answer.

16 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro, do you have a
17 question, sir?

18 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, thank you, thank you
19 Jerry. Jerry, my question to the Director, the first
20 question is, if you can't reopen, and what I'm gathering
21 from what you're saying is many of these can't reopen -- so
22 the ability in any revenue has completely disappeared, is

1 that correct? They can't open, under any circumstances?

2 KEN ROBBINS: Sir, thank you. For some camps,
3 there is still a path to open, albeit at reduced capacity
4 and in a manner that they are not necessarily familiar with.

5 I think at this point most camps have had to make
6 that decision, either to forge ahead or to shut it down,
7 because so much of the spring used to be devoted to spring
8 seasonal systems online and what not.

9 So in my case, and I know in quite a number of
10 other camps' cases: Right, they are doing nothing. Some
11 camps are making an effort to operate in a very minimal
12 fashion in some way for their alumni, bringing families to
13 camp, but the challenges of operating as a residential camp
14 with the facilities that camps have doesn't go away if it's
15 not children.

16 Those challenges still exist if it's adults or if
17 it's families. There are differences, but the risks are
18 still there.

19 And I think because of summer camps' approach to
20 safety, and the priority that they put on the safety of
21 their communities, that went a long way towards, you know,
22 once seeing the guidelines and what it would take to ensure

1 safety, towards camps saying, "This can't be done this
2 year."

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: So thank you for that
4 answer. So we have really two basic categories: One, those
5 that can't open up, and two the ones that can open up, but
6 in a different manner.

7 And when I looked at the numbers that you
8 presented in the package of material that you sent; the
9 payroll \$32 million dollars, operating expenses \$88 million
10 dollars; capital expenses \$17 million dollars; visitor
11 spending \$7 million, the question is: In looking at both
12 categories, in the category that they can open, you'd be
13 looking for some sustainability of money -- grants,
14 whatever, to sustain them, so that they could open up in the
15 future? We don't want them to go out of business, and I
16 don't think you want them to go out of business.

17 So if you look at the sustainability question,
18 that falls into one category, and the operational costs for
19 those that will operate in a different manner are in another
20 category. And what kind of money are you looking for in
21 each one of those categories?

22 KEN ROBBINS: Well, that's an excellent question,

1 sir, and I'm afraid I don't have numbers, per se. I think
2 it would take a more significant dive into what each -- you
3 know, how each camp looks at their ability to sustain.

4 You know, I think it's probably a safe
5 generalization that -- well, no, I don't want to go -- I
6 don't want to make generalizations.

7 I think that's something that we could easily
8 enough generate by reaching out to our camps and having them
9 break it out into those kinds of categories -- what is the
10 impact to your payroll; opening, not opening or opening in a
11 modified capacity?

12 It's very different by camp. And I think that's
13 what makes it challenging from our end is that no two camps
14 are alike. The way that they staff, the balance of seasonal
15 versus year-round staffing, the type of property that they
16 operate on, whether they are lakefront, whether they are
17 inland -- I mean, I don't, like I said, we're not -- camps
18 aren't looking for a bailout. They understand that they are
19 having to manage their costs in a way that they have never
20 had to do before.

21 What they are looking for is to avoid the scenario
22 where either they cannot open next year, or they are unable

1 to open at the capacity that will be needed for next year.

2 I really find that -- I really feel like the need
3 for camps is only going up, as we emerge from this.

4 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I don't think there's any
5 question that your premise is correct. The mental health of
6 the children who have been locked up really since March is
7 problematic -- very -- and those that needed a reprieve or
8 recreational opportunity like a camping experience I think
9 is an essential point.

10 And given the numbers that you've given, that's a
11 tremendous number of people.

12 So I wonder if you could over a period -- and
13 Jerry could probably come up with a request on both of those
14 sides -- the sustainability side, and the modified
15 operational side, so that one would ascertain what you're
16 looking for in terms of help, in order to keep this going.

17 Because I do believe that it has an enormous
18 impact on our state, and certainly on our communities. I
19 have grandchildren that go to these camps, these camps have
20 been canceled, and the kids are very upset because they go
21 there, they interact, they create friendships, they create
22 relationships.

1 And it's a real life experience for many of these
2 kids, particularly when they've been almost cloistered for
3 the last number of months.

4 So if possible for you to do something like that,
5 I think it would be helpful in terms of the decision-making
6 process in terms of addressing your needs.

7 KEN ROBBINS: Thank you, sir, and we will do that
8 just as quickly as we possibly can, which should be quickly.
9 And I thank you for -- I think you put it as eloquently or
10 more so than I could have the need and importance of camps,
11 so thank you for that.

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Oh, you're welcome. Thank
13 you. Thank you, Jerry.

14 JERRY LITTLE: You're welcome, Senator. Thank you
15 very much. We're going to go to Speaker Shurtleff first.
16 But just quickly, before I do that, Mr. Robbins, with
17 Senator, in reference to time period, the CARES Act limits
18 use of funds that the GOFERR is distributing to the period
19 March 1 to December 30, 2020. Any impacts of the
20 coronavirus on your operation from March 1 to December 30,
21 2020?

22 Speaker Shurtleff?

1 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you, Jerry. Thank you,
2 Mr. Robbins. It was a wonderful presentation, and I'm a
3 proud former alumnus of both Camp Fatima and camp Carpenter,
4 and have fond memories of both of those camps.

5 I wonder -- first of all, [two-part question]: Do
6 you have any anticipation of how many either overnight or
7 day camps might not be able to survive this pandemic and
8 come back next year?

9 KEN ROBBINS: You're asking actual numbers, not
10 percentage?

11 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Okay.

12 KEN ROBBINS: I think -- well, I mean, we -- when
13 we surveyed our -- we sent our survey to all of the -- you
14 know, currently or formerly licensed camps in the state, and
15 that's about 160 -- we heard back from 74 of them, and I'm
16 grabbing that number right now. I believe the number that
17 said it was likely that they would be unable to reopen:
18 four camps, nine somewhat likely.

19 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Okay. So, you know, I'm not
20 sure how to extrapolate that to all 160 camps exactly. But
21 I think about -- I mean the loss of one camp is tragic here
22 in the state. You know, as I mentioned before, three camps

1 in the town of Alton all closed in the 1980s, and I know
2 having spoken to folks in Alton now, they recognize that
3 tragedy.

4 And it's now written -- you know, it's part of the
5 Alton town plan to preserve these spaces, because of the
6 value that they have, not just to the town and having green
7 space, but --

8 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Sure.

9 KEN ROBBINS: -- opportunity. And so, one camp
10 lost is tragic.

11 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yep.

12 KEN ROBBINS: The possibility that I'm hearing
13 here that 13 out of 74 are saying, "There's a possibility
14 that we don't open this year, we're done forever" -- that's
15 terrifying.

16 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yep. And the second part of my
17 question, have you heard of any other state that was able to
18 come up with a program to provide relief to the day camps
19 and overnight camps?

20 KEN ROBBINS: That's a great question. I have
21 not. I will say that I haven't gone looking for that
22 information.

1 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Okay.

2 KEN ROBBINS: But I sure will.

3 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Okay, that's great. Well, thank
4 you so much.

5 KEN ROBBINS: Thank you.

6 JERRY LITTLE: Are there any further questions for
7 Mr. Robbins? I don't see or hear any. With that, I want to
8 just turn to Lisa English on the GOFERR staff. She's been
9 doing a little research about some of the questions Mr.
10 Robbins raised. Lisa?

11 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you, Director and members of
12 the Committee, of the Board. So I just wanted to clarify,
13 summer camps that are for-profit were eligible to apply for
14 the Main Street Relief Fund.

15 And similarly, non-profit summer camps are --
16 being a summer camp does not exclude you from eligibility
17 for the New Hampshire non-profit Emergency Relief Fund. And
18 applications for that process are open until June 25, so I
19 encourage any eligible non-profit to apply for that program.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Any questions for Lisa? Seeing
21 none, thank you very much Mr. Robbins for joining us and for
22 the wonderful presentation, thank you.

1 KEN ROBBINS: Thank you so much, I really
2 appreciate the time.

3 JERRY LITTLE: We will move on with our agenda to
4 discuss items that were raised during the last meeting. The
5 first item on our agenda is a stipend program for workers at
6 the New Hampshire State Hospital.

7 Shortly after the last Legislative Advisory Board
8 meeting ended, we did an outreach over to Commissioner
9 Shibinette at the Department of Health and Human Services.

10 And in fact, she was in the process of putting
11 finishing touches on a request direct to the Governor's
12 Office to see whether or not stipends would be extended to
13 all employees at the New Hampshire Hospital. We have not
14 heard an official response to that request.

15 At this point in time, the indication is that that
16 is probably unlikely, but we don't have an official thumbs
17 up or thumbs down on that.

18 Any questions about that particular issue? Seeing
19 none, the next issue on the agenda is follow up on -- I'm
20 sorry, Representative Wallner, do you have a question about
21 the New Hampshire Hospital stipend program?

22 [Pause]

1 JERRY LITTLE: Do you have a question,
2 Representative Wallner? Maybe 5*, unmute?

3 MARYJANE WALLNER: Yes, I do. I'm sorry. Am I
4 muted. I don't think so.

5 JERRY LITTLE: No, go right ahead, Representative
6 Wallner. We can hear you.

7 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay, thank you. I wondered
8 what you thought the timing was in finding out about whether
9 or not the employees at New Hampshire Hospital would be
10 included in the stipend program?

11 JERRY LITTLE: I honestly from here, on this side
12 of Main Street, have no idea what that timing might be.
13 That's a Governor's Office decision.

14 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay, thank you.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions? Okay. We'll
16 move onto the next item, which is follow-up on Emergency
17 Order 48. Emergency Order -- or is that Executive Order?
18 I've just -- oh, Emergency Order 48 had to do with guidance
19 on providing IEPs for students during the era of remote
20 learning and other issues.

21 We reached out to Commissioner Edelblut
22 immediately following the last LAB meeting, and he responded

1 with note that his department has shortly before we had our
2 last call reports of a million dollars of state level
3 activity funds, specifically to assist with our work.

4 And in addition either that day of our last
5 meeting or momentarily after that, \$33.9 million dollars of
6 CARES Act funds were passed along to schools, and maybe used
7 to meet the requirements of Emergency Order 48.

8 Any questions about that item on the agenda?

9 Seeing or hearing none, I will move onto the next item on
10 the agenda, which is self-employed individuals and the Main
11 Street Relief Fund.

12 As you probably know, the Governor announced the
13 initial results of the application phase of the Main Street
14 Relief Fund yesterday afternoon in his press conference at
15 3:00.

16 He also during his press conference at 3:00 said
17 that it had certainly come to his attention that there was a
18 significant number of applicants to the Main Street Relief
19 Fund that did not qualify because they were either self-
20 employed, or sole proprietors...

21 And that the plans to work on another program,
22 whether it's going to be Main Street Relief Fund 2.0 or

1 something entirely different, we are unaware that he will be
2 proposing a program to provide some sort of additional
3 support to self-employed and sole proprietor businesses.

4 I would simply follow that with the statement that
5 one of the very first things that was done through this
6 entire effort that's now being done by GOFERR -- and I think
7 it actually happened before GOFERR was officially created --
8 was extension of unemployment benefits for self-employed
9 individuals, which also made them eligible to collect an
10 additional \$600 a week from the federal government.

11 And the position had been all along that it was
12 self-employed individuals received assistance in that manner
13 prior to any other sector of the business community.
14 Nonetheless, the Governor is looking at a follow-on program
15 to address their needs.

16 So I have questions from Representative Erin
17 Hennessey?

18 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you, Director Little.
19 Thank you for adding this to the agenda. And I'm really
20 happy that the Governor has agreed to extend funds for the
21 self-employed individuals.

22 The main reason why I wanted this added to the

1 agenda is for those self-employed individuals that are not
2 the ones working from home as a travel agent or consultant,
3 or the ones that have a brick and mortar type of
4 establishment on -- perhaps even on a Main Street, as we do
5 here in Littleton... where they have overhead costs of rent
6 and leased equipment that they have to pay in addition to
7 their home expenses that unemployment insurance doesn't
8 cover.

9 So I'm happy to see that these individuals will be
10 getting some relief. So thank you very much.

11 JERRY LITTLE: You're welcome. Thank you,
12 Representative Hennessey. Senator D'Allesandro, do you have
13 a question, sir?

14 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Chairman Little.
15 What I've -- I've received a number of calls from
16 constituents who were sole proprietors, and they believed
17 that they were sort of misled in terms of the availability
18 to get something from that Main Street money, so I'm glad
19 that that's going to be relooked at.

20 These people -- these sole proprietorships
21 certainly are in the same situation as other businesses are.
22 So I think clarity and the fact that these people will be

1 given an opportunity should be brought out by somebody, and
2 I'm not sure the Governor was quite clear in terms of that.

3 I got a call this morning from one of my
4 constituents who was in that category, who was in the
5 process of writing a letter to the Governor. I said, "Well
6 wait, because I think the Governor has come out with some
7 new thoughts with regard to this situation."

8 So if those could get out to people, I think that
9 would be extremely, extremely helpful. This is an area that
10 was not clearly understood, obviously.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Further questions
12 regarding self-employed individuals and work from the state?
13 Seeing none, that is the full list of the prepared agenda
14 items. Are there any other items that anyone would like to
15 raise while we're here?

16 Representative Maryjane Wallner?

17 MARYJANE WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Little. I had a
18 call yesterday from an area agency -- I think we had a
19 presentation by them in one of our meetings -- and I
20 wondered under what category could they apply for
21 assistance.

22 There seemed to be some misunderstanding about

1 what they were or were not eligible for under -- I mean
2 probably not the Main Street Relief Fund and not the child
3 care, I'm not sure about the non-profit -- but there were
4 some questions about whether or not they were going to be
5 eligible for any assistance?

6 JERRY LITTLE: So Representative Wallner, that's
7 an issue we'll probably have to look into before we try to
8 time that. If you can give us any detail about what
9 particular service the area agency is delivering, it might
10 help us determine which of the programs they would fit into.

11 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay. Do you want me to
12 forward that information to you?

13 JERRY LITTLE: That would be good. My sense, my
14 understanding is that area agencies can deliver a spectrum
15 of services, and I'm --

16 JAMES WILLIAMSON: I think you're correct.

17 JERRY LITTLE: -- so I think it would help us to
18 know what the services are they're provided to their
19 community, before we could really steer them in any
20 particular direction.

21 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay. These are the agencies
22 that work with resident people in our state who have

1 developmental disabilities. Remember we had a presentation
2 by them, and they talked about in the North Country, where
3 the area agencies did not receive the PTP grant from the
4 federal government, and that they were facing a real
5 shortage for payroll? We had a presentation by them. And I
6 will follow up with more information.

7 JERRY LITTLE: So these are -- we're not talking
8 residential facilities; these are organizations that are
9 providing in-home care?

10 MARYJANE WALLNER: It's a mix, it's a mix. It's a
11 mix of things.

12 JERRY LITTLE: So I don't want to be held to this,
13 but it looks as though possibly they fit within the
14 definition of long-term care. But again, I think we need
15 more details before we could give you a solid answer that
16 we'd want to stand behind.

17 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay.

18 JERRY LITTLE: I mean, people shouldn't be
19 waiting, however, because the deadlines for applying to many
20 of these programs are rolling along.

21 MARYJANE WALLNER: Right. I think that's why they
22 called me.

1 JERRY LITTLE: So Nancy Smith, our General
2 Counsel, is with us, and she's been looking something up
3 while we're chatting here. What do you have, Nancy?

4 NANCY SMITH: Representative Wallner, the
5 definition that has been given to long-term care as to who
6 is eligible are residential skilled nursing facilities,
7 assisted living facilities, home health care agencies and
8 other congregate residential living facilities that provide
9 health care services to the elderly that are licensed by the
10 HHS under RSA-151 and regulated by a series of New Hampshire
11 administrative rules that include HEP 803, 804, 805, 809,
12 822, 823, and 824.

13 So if they are licensed under 151 and regulated
14 under any of those administrative rules, they should
15 qualify. That is in the FAQ on our website.

16 MARYJANE WALLNER: I think probably one of the
17 issues there and there are a lot of technicalities about
18 what you just read, but one of the issues may be that their
19 clients are not all elderly.

20 And I think their clients are a range of age
21 adult, but not necessarily older adults. I will forward you
22 their concerns.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Good. Lisa?

2 LISA ENGLISH: I just want to emphasize the fact
3 that the long-term provider out of the health care system
4 relief funds, the deadline for those applications is on June
5 19, which is in two days.

6 So I just urge folks to take a look at the GOFERR
7 page. That gives you access to the application link, and
8 you should also be able to find an e-mail, which I'll give
9 you very quickly here, for the long-term care provider
10 application. It's ltcrelieffund@dhhs.nh.gov.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. That was Lisa English.
12 Thank you, Lisa.

13 Any further questions, Representative Wallner, or
14 are you all set?

15 MARYJANE WALLNER: No, thank you. Thank you, I
16 appreciate it.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. Senator D'Allesandro,
18 do you have a question, sir?

19 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you. Thank you,
20 Jerry. We -- in the process our discussions -- we talked
21 about dollars for the university system and the community
22 colleagues. And both have announced that they will be

1 reopening.

2 And when I look at the criteria for how money
3 could be spent and looking at testing, testing students,
4 faculty and staff, isolation, care, enhancing online and
5 remote learning and modifications necessary for on-campus
6 social distancing.

7 I think with the decision by the systems to come
8 back with the opening of the campuses, we should relook at
9 the money that we gave them. That's a very costly situation
10 to prepare for their reopening, and we want the reopening,
11 because it's a vital part of our a) of the educational
12 experience, and the economy for New Hampshire. I would hope
13 that we would take another look at further helping the
14 publics.

15 We did a great deal for the privates, I think the
16 Governor should be commended for the \$10 million they gave
17 to the privates, they certainly needed it, but I think the
18 publics need a little bit more -- particularly the
19 University of Keene and Plymouth, which are going to reopen,
20 and they're going to have on-campus learning, and preparing
21 for that is an expensive situation. So I would hope that we
22 would look at that in our next meeting.

1 Thank you.

2 JERRY LITTLE: You're welcome. Thank you. So
3 I'll write that note down, that you would like that
4 discussed at your next meeting. Which unless there are
5 other questions or comments, or anything else that somebody
6 would like to raise, a different topic, we're at the point
7 when we discuss when you would like your next meeting to be.

8 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Well, that's a good
9 question Jerry, particularly where Senator Morse is not on
10 board. And did Senator Reagan come on board?

11 JERRY LITTLE: I do not see him listed on our
12 board. If you're with us, Senator Reagan and calling in
13 from another line you might hit 5*, which will notify us
14 what line you are on. But I do not believe that Senator
15 Reagan is joining us. I can see that I have a question now
16 from Representative Hinch.

17 DICK HINCH: I would -- just if I could finish,
18 Jerry, I would think we should meet on Friday. The items
19 that we talked about today are very important, and we should
20 be addressing them. So my thought would be we meet Friday
21 at 1:00, unless there's a significant problem by the
22 Chairman of our group, Senator Morse.

1 I don't know why he isn't on today, but obviously
2 it had to be important, otherwise he wouldn't have missed
3 it. So I think we've got to keep going on these things, we
4 can't let them slide.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Comments?

6 LISA ENGLISH: Well, I would agree that there is a
7 bit of urgency. I think we just need to check in with
8 Senator Morse and Senator Reagan on their availability as
9 well.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Will do. Okay. Representative
11 Hinch, do you have a question, sir?

12 DICK HINCH: Yeah, I was going to -- thank you, I
13 was going to also say I think we -- before we set a date, we
14 should check with Senator Morse and Senator Reagan, I do
15 have a conflict on Friday, so I was going to make a
16 suggestion of something like next Wednesday.

17 But again, I think it's prudent to have Senator
18 Morse as the Chairman opinion on this, thank you.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, sir. Any further
20 questions or comments? Senator D'Allesandro, are you
21 amenable to the idea of next Wednesday?

22 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I'm certainly -- am I off

1 mute?

2 JERRY LITTLE: Yeah, we can hear you.

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: You can hear me?

4 JERRY LITTLE: Yes, sir, yes.

5 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, I'm amenable to
6 anything that the group is amenable to. I just think that
7 we're in a period where these things are needed. And our
8 ability to deal with these things efficiently and
9 effectively as a preeminent situation. But I agree totally,
10 we want everybody in on the discussions.

11 And it's important for Senator Morse, it's
12 important for Senator Reagan, and Representative Hinch. I
13 mean, it's important. But we made a commitment to be on
14 this committee so that we could serve the public. And we've
15 got to serve the public.

16 We're getting calls all the time from people who
17 either have ambivalence about what's been stated, who have
18 questions about how they can do certain things. So I mean
19 we have to do what we have to do, that's all I'm saying.
20 And I think we've got to do it.

21 Look at we've had a tough legislative session. We
22 don't meet, the Legislature doesn't meet, we're doing

1 everything virtually. We're putting a lot of pressure on
2 the public, and they -- we need to be responsive to public
3 needs at this time.

4 We have \$1.25 billion dollars that must be given
5 out and must be spent by the 30th of December, and indeed
6 it's our responsibility to give advice to the Governor and
7 get his consent to get this money spent properly, where it
8 does the most good for the people of the state of New
9 Hampshire. That's all I want, and any time we can get
10 together to do that I'm amenable to doing that. Thank you.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, sir. Any further
12 questions or comments?

13 [Pause]

14 JERRY LITTLE: Then, if I understand your
15 direction to me correctly, you would like me to reach out to
16 Senator Morse as Chairman of this group and figure out which
17 date he might prefer the next meeting -- whether it is day
18 after tomorrow Friday, or a week from Tuesday next Wednesday
19 -- and I will work with him to set up your next date?

20 When that happens, the issues you would like to
21 talk about are additional monies for the university system
22 of New Hampshire and the community college system of New

1 Hampshire, and is there a second issue? Any other issues
2 you want on that agenda?

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I think the campers were
4 going to get back to us with their needs, what their
5 requests were, and I think you were going to look into the
6 Maryjane situation, and you were also going to get back to
7 us about the New Hampshire Hospital stipend. Those were the
8 items that I jotted down.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. We'll do our best to
10 have a response to you about whether or not there's going to
11 be a stipend for New Hampshire Hospital officially, and
12 answer that. But as I mentioned, what I understand is it's
13 not likely.

14 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner, your hand
16 is up, ma'am? Representative Wallner? Maybe 5* to unmute?
17 Yes, Representative Wallner? You may be on mute,

18 Representative Wallner, you've raised your hand.

19 5*?

20 MARYJANE WALLNER: Sorry. Sorry.

21 JERRY LITTLE: We hear you.

22 MARYJANE WALLNER: For some reason, I keep hitting

1 5* and I unmute myself, or mute myself. I just want to go
2 back to -- again, to the area agencies, and maybe have a
3 little more discussion about that. I will try to get more
4 information about what the issues are there.

5 But I do know we had a presentation by them, and
6 they seem to have had a number of issues facing them.

7 And I wanted to try to figure out where if they
8 can't be included in the long-term care funding, where could
9 they be included? And I know time is running out here. The
10 sooner we can have that discussion the better.

11 JERRY LITTLE: I think Lisa English has some
12 additional information for you.

13 LISA ENGLISH: I do, thank you. I have the
14 opportunity -- I heard from HHS over the last couple of
15 minutes -- area agencies generally would not fall under the
16 long-term health care fund. Home health agencies are, and
17 those are those licensed under the provisions that Nancy
18 mentioned.

19 So that means the area agencies would fall under
20 the general health care system relief funds, and not the
21 long-term care funds.

22 So this is obviously something we will continue to

1 look into, but I just wanted to clarify that since I heard
2 back from HHS so quickly.

3 MARYJANE WALLNER: Thank you. That's good to
4 know. And when the general health care deadline is?

5 LISA ENGLISH: So I think for supplemental -- so
6 let me see what kinds of information or what other
7 additional health care system relief fund opportunities
8 there will be?

9 So we'll continue to look into it, but right now
10 the deadline is that it's a long-term care fund. So not
11 directly responsive to your question, but let me see if I
12 can find out any additional information.

13 MARYJANE WALLNER: Okay. Thank you very much.

14 JERRY LITTLE: Any other questions or comments? I
15 don't see any. You all know how to reach us if you do have
16 anything that you would like us to add to the agenda for the
17 next meeting, which we will check with committee Chairman
18 Senator Morse on, to see if he is this coming Friday at 1:00
19 or a week from today next Wednesday works for him and
20 Senator Reagan.

21 Senator Shurtleff, had you asked us -- excuse me,
22 Speaker Shurtleff, had you asked us --

1 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Fine. Kind of an insult to the
2 Senate, but Jerry I thought I sent you and Rhonda an e-mail
3 last week, but being IT challenged, there's no telling where
4 it might have gone.

5 But I mentioned I received wonderful e-mail from
6 Dick Goldberg, New Hampshire Charities, about the work the
7 Governor's Non-profit Emergency Fund that Dick, along with
8 the representatives of CDFA and New Hampshire Center for
9 Nonprofits is administrating, and I wondered if we could
10 have them join us at one of our meetings to talk about the
11 work they're doing with non-profits?

12 JERRY LITTLE: Certainly, we can do that.

13 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you.

14 JERRY LITTLE: You're welcome. We'll try to
15 arrange that for the next meeting. And I think that's about
16 it. I don't see any other hands going up. So I'll give you
17 one last 10 second opportunity to raise your hand and let us
18 know if there's anything else you'd like to discuss or have
19 added to the agenda?

20 And as soon as we're done here, I'll reach out to
21 Senator Morse to find out about whether he would prefer this
22 Friday or next Wednesday?

1 All right. Well, seeing no hands going up, we
2 will call this meeting of the Legislative Advisory Board to
3 a close at 1:59 p.m. Thank you all for joining us. Have a
4 great afternoon.

5 COLLECTIVE: Thank you.