

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

Friday, May 1, 2020

1:00 PM

Call in info:

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

Open Reading of GOFERR 91-A Compliance Document

- Roll Call
- Presentations:
 - 1:10PM - 1:30 PM: Lisa English, Asst. Director for Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs – GOFERR Office – CARES Act and other sources of COVID related federal funds available.
 - 1:30PM – 1:50PM: Public Safety – President of Professional Fire Fighters Association, William McQuillan, and President of NH Police Association, Scott Naismith.
 - 1:50 PM – 2:10 PM: Developmental Disability Community – Director of Public Affairs Community Bridges, Sarah Aiken, and Jonathan Routhier Executive Director of Community Support Network Inc.
 - 2:10PM - 2:30PM: Department of Agriculture Commissioner Shawn Jasper, Policy Director of NH Farm Bureau, Rob Johnson
 - 2:30PM – 2:50 PM: Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edleblut
 - 2:50PM – 3:10 PM: NH Early Childcare & Education – DHHS Associate Commissioner Human Services and Behavioral Health, Chris Tappan & Deputy Commissioner DOE, Christine Brennan
 - 3:10PM – 3:30 PM: Early Learning NH – Board Chairman Scott Spradling & Executive Director, Jackie Cowell
- IV. Wrap Up
- V. Next Scheduled Meeting
- Follow-up Items

Roll Call:

- Jerry Little, Director in the GOFERR Office in Concord with Rhonda Hensley, Lisa English and Wendy Gilman
- 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, in kitchen in Manchester, alone
- Representative Mary Jane Wallner, home in Concord, alone
- Senator John Reagan, office alone
- Representative Erin Hennessey, home in Littleton with 2 minor children.

Presentations:

Lisa English, Asst. Director for Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs – GOFERR Office – CARES Act and other sources of COVID related federal funds available.

Ms. English reviewed the chart of Federal Funding Opportunities Related To COVID-19 and called out a few of those listed such as the Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with \$5 million dollars going to the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and the remaining \$2.5 million going directly to entitlement municipalities in NH.

Public Safety – President of Professional Fire Fighters Association, William McQuillan, and President of NH Police Association, Scott Naismith.

Mr. McQuillan gave an update on COVID-19 effects on Fire Fighters including: self-quarantine of over a 100 firefighters with many of them who had to go to state facilities or hotels out of fear that they may infect their families. Mental health concerns were also mentioned as well as relief for municipalities for covering additional costs due to the pandemic. Scott Naismith spoke from his office in Salem, alone, about increases in domestic disturbances, assault, burglary, and theft calls.

Developmental Disability Community – Director of Public Affairs Community Bridges, Sarah Aiken, and Jonathan Routhier Executive Director of Community Support Network Inc.

Sarah Aiken spoke from her home and she's alone. The pandemic has caused unanticipated expenses and lost revenue of \$250,000 in day services which are programs for adults with developmental disabilities. They have incurred \$450,000 to \$500,000 in significant upgrades to technology internally and laptops. They have incurred \$200,000 developing remote technical access on the laptops themselves and their internal IT structure. They have also had a significant reduction in staff.

Jonathan Routhier network represents 10 area agencies for organized health care systems for developmentally disabled and brain injury. The agencies collectively have incurred significant expenses in purchasing of PPE, medical supplies, support to services, IT upgrades and phone upgrades to allow for remote working while losing revenue in providing services and cancelled fund raising events. Some of the agencies have received funding under the PPP at a value of \$4.6 million.

Department of Agriculture Commissioner Shawn Jasper, Policy Director of NH Farm Bureau, Rob Johnson

A request on behalf of NH farmers was presented by Commissioner Jasper and Director Johnson which includes funding for advertising and tourism for NH agriculture. Covid-19 put about 2/3rd of NH dairy farmers at risk. Of the 90 or so remaining dairy farms only 21 purchased the margin protection insurance however having the insurance will not make up their losses. Without relief for the dairy farms, many of them will go out of business. The dairy industry is asking for 75% of their projected loss or \$5 million dollars minus insurance payments and policy costs and other federal dollars received.

The fruit, vegetable and ornamental farmers face increased cleaning costs, staff for monitoring customers to enforce social distancing, signage, additional labor, expansion of showrooms and cash registers for social distancing requirements. Agra tourism has lost revenue in cancelled events and farm sales. The request on behalf of this industry is \$500,000.

NH Early Childcare & Education – DHHS Associate Commissioner Human Services and Behavioral Health, Chris Tappan & Deputy Commissioner DOE, Christine Brennan

Commissioner Tappan and Deputy Commissioner Brennan gave an overview of NH Early Childcare & Education program pre and current COVID-19 and ways to recover and strengthen the program post COVID as well as an update on the Emergency Child Care Collaborative.

Early Learning NH – Board Chairman Scott Spradling & Executive Director, Jackie Cowell

Chairman Spradling and Executive Director Cowell is asking the Board to consider set up a Child Care Relief Response Grants Program to cover child care center business losses incurred from March 1st to December 31st to cover fixed costs such as heat, electric, rent etc. This an immediate need and DHHS has a structure in place to distribute \$48,420,000.

Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edleblut

COVID expenses being incurred by schools include technology: Chrome Books, software license for applications such as ZOOM and Google Hangouts, mobile hot spots for internet connectivity; transportation for assignment or meal deliveries, legal and cleaning. The request is for \$40 to \$60 million dollars for a learning management system, increased internet connectivity and expenses.

Follow up Items

There is a request for an update on the status of funds in the Health Care Emergency Fund.

Next Meeting

Monday, May 4th at 1:00 PM

Adjourn – 3:00 PM