



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

PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 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

I Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting Statement

II Attendance

III Discussion Items:

- 1:10 PM - 1:15 PM NH Hospital Association Vice President, Steve Ahnen

IV Follow Up Discussion on:

- 2nd Round of GAP funding
- Funding for education IT needs (use of remaining Broadband funds)
- Tabled Motion: NH Snowmobile Association

Next Scheduled Meeting

Adjourn

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * * * *

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: The GOFERR Legislative
4 Advisory was created by Executive Order #2020-06. That
5 order is publicly available on the Governor's website.

6 Today's meeting is an official meeting of the
7 Board. It is open to the public and will be run in a manner
8 compliant with RSA 91-A.

9 Today's meeting is also being recorded. Should
10 you be a speaking participant and not wish to be recorded,
11 you may disconnect now. The recording from today's meeting
12 will be transcribed and posted on the GOFERR website.

13 My name is Taylor Caswell. I am Director of the
14 Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery, and I
15 will facilitate today's meeting.

16 Since the Board is meeting by phone, under RSA 91-
17 A, there are some initial logistics that we need to
18 establish. First, each of us must state our names, where we
19 are located, and who is with us in the room. I'll start.

20 My name is Taylor Caswell. I'm the Director of
21 the GOFERR, here in the GOFERR office at One Eagle Square in
22 Concord. In the room with me is Joe Doiron, Lisa English,

1 Nancy Smith, and Rhonda Hensley.

2 President Donna Soucy?

3 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy. I am at my
4 office in Manchester, New Hampshire, and I am alone.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Steve Shurtleff?

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

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

9 CHUCK MORSE: Chuck Morse. I'm in my office in
10 Atkinson, New Hampshire, and I am alone.

11 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

12 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I'm at my office
13 in Merrimac, and I am alone.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Lou D'Allesandro?

15 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: This is Senator D'Allesandro.
16 I'm at in my home in Manchester, and I am alone.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

18 MARYJANE WALLNER: This is Maryjane Wallner. I'm
19 in my car in Hanover, New Hampshire, and my husband is with
20 me.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Senator Reagan, have
22 you joined us?

1 JOHN REAGAN: Yes. Senator Reagan, in my office by
2 myself.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Erin
4 Hennessey?

5 ERIN HENNESSEY: This is Erin Hennessey. I'm at
6 home in Littleton and I am by myself.

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

12 Finally, before we begin today's presentations,
13 please remember to use 5* if you would like to ask a
14 question.

15 In addition, presenters are asked also to hit 5*
16 when their turn comes up, as that allows us to identify your
17 line and unmute your line.

18 I will note that the last time the Board met was
19 on Wednesday, August 26. And at that time you asked to hear
20 updated reports from the Mascoma Community Health Care, and
21 you have been provided this report for your review.

22 You should have today's agenda in front of you,

1 and to kick us off this afternoon, I think we have Steve
2 Ahnen to join us and give us an update from the Hospital
3 Association.

4 STEVE AHNEN: Great. Thank you. Can you hear me?

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes.

6 STEVE AHNEN: Great. It's a pleasure to be with
7 you today. I shared with the GOFERR staff a PowerPoint
8 presentation as well as an Excel spreadsheet, which I trust
9 all of you have.

10 This is an update from the files that we've been
11 providing to you over the last several months, which we --
12 you know, pledged to continue to do throughout the pandemic,
13 and we will continue to do that.

14 I won't go through the full PowerPoint
15 presentation -- that's something that we've been through
16 before, but I really want to focus in on slides 7,8 and 9,
17 which really highlight the financial impact. But, again,
18 happy to discuss anything that you'd like.

19 So let me just start briefly. You know, the
20 pandemic has obviously -- as you all know, had significant
21 implications for every sector of the economy, and it's
22 certainly been the case for hospitals.

1 The financial challenges have been significant.

2 As you recall back in March, when hospitals and health
3 system around the country paused all nonurgent, elective
4 procedures in anticipation of the surge of COVID patients,
5 that had a significant financial implication on hospitals
6 across New Hampshire.

7 And since the beginning of March through the end
8 of September, hospitals have seen a reduction of about \$516
9 million dollars in revenue. And that's been offset -- and
10 we're very pleased with that -- in federal and state grants
11 over \$300 million dollars.

12 But when you look at the totality over that period
13 through the end of September, we're still looking at
14 statewide \$200 million dollars in losses, which are simply
15 significant.

16 And as we look out into the next several months to
17 the end of the year, absent any additional federal or state
18 relief, those losses will potentially mount to another \$100
19 million -- close to another \$100 million dollars before the
20 end of the year. Those losses are simply -- you know,
21 staggering, and really unsustainable.

22 We appreciate all of the support that we've

1 received, but we know that as we move forward, we're going
2 to continue to need help to help our hospitals ensure that
3 they can continue to be there for their patients and
4 communities in this tremendous time of need. Hospitals have
5 been working to reduce expenses.

6 One of the challenging aspects of all this is that
7 -- you know, the cost of acquiring PPE and the like has
8 risen astronomically. And while the supply chain has
9 improved over the last several months, it certainly has not
10 been -- that challenge has not been solved.

11 And the hospitals are spending -- you know,
12 significantly more on the same PPE that they have been --
13 you know, purchasing over the years -- you know, multiple
14 factors of increase. And that's not going to change -- you
15 know, certainly, anytime soon.

16 You know, all hospitals have been affected by this
17 pandemic. Certainly, the hospitals in the southern tier of
18 the state have seen the vast majority of COVID patients, and
19 certainly have -- certainly need significant support to help
20 them shoulder that burden. But that doesn't mean that all
21 hospitals haven't suffered significant financial losses as a
22 result of the pandemic.

1 And we certainly recognize that we're going to
2 need to continue to work together, and partner with all of
3 you, with the Governor and his team, with the federal
4 delegation and the federal government, to ensure that we are
5 able to continue to serve our patients and communities in
6 the months and years to come.

7 As we've said, you know, we're really going to
8 need help to help get us through to the other side. And I
9 think, you know, that's certainly been what has been the
10 focus of this Legislative Advisory Board back in the earlier
11 part of the year, making a significant recommendation to
12 support hospitals, and we very much appreciate that.

13 And we will continue to provide updates to all of
14 you, and as we continue to see where things are headed,
15 we'll have a better understanding of what those needs will
16 be in the coming months, and we will certainly share that
17 with you.

18 So Mr. Chairman, my presentation was meant to be
19 brief today, and I'd be happy to respond to any questions
20 that you or the members of the Legislative Advisory Board
21 might have.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, Steve. I

1 think we can definitely take some questions. Senator Morse,
2 if you have any preference in 10 or 15 minutes of questions
3 here, according to the agenda we have -- any -- is that okay
4 with you?

5 STEVE AHNEN: Yes.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, great. That being the
7 case, any questions for Steve? Representative Hinch?

8 DICK HINCH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
9 thank you Steve for joining us today. So I do have a
10 question for you. So according to my analysis, in
11 aggregate, hospital net losses of \$188 million is according
12 to my math equal to about 5 percent of the expenses,
13 expenses being \$3.685 billion.

14 St Joseph's and Catholic Medical Center alone make
15 up about -- it looks like 64 percent of the current hospital
16 losses. That would be about \$120- out of \$185 million.

17 And I'm of the understanding that only 10
18 hospitals requested more funding in the last round of
19 hospital grants; that five did not have any remaining
20 eligible losses, and five received additional awards.

21 Further, it's my understanding that there are
22 still approximately \$50 billion dollars remaining in federal

1 funds to be distributed through the HHS Provider Relief
2 Fund.

3 So can you share with us what your expectation is,
4 relative to the receipt of some portion of the \$50 billion
5 dollars, and can you confirm that the calculations that I
6 have in front of me are correct?

7 STEVE AHNEN: So let me -- so the first question
8 relative to the Provider Relief Fund in Washington: We
9 understand that there's approximately \$50 billion dollars
10 that remains, although it's unclear exactly how much that
11 is, because one of the provisions that was included in one
12 of the CARES Act bills was the ability for hospitals and
13 other providers around the country to apply for funds to
14 reimburse them for uncompensated care; for those that had no
15 insurance.

16 So it's unclear how much of that will be spent in
17 that manner. So, as we know, there's roughly \$50 billion
18 dollars left. How that will be distributed in New Hampshire
19 I don't know. I wish I did.

20 That's certainly been one of the challenges that
21 we've seen over the last several months is some of the --
22 you know, funding formulas have been somewhat inexact, and

1 certainly have not always -- you know, targeted those
2 providers who certainly have borne the brunt of providing
3 COVID care in this state.

4 So I don't know the answer to that question. I
5 wish I did, and we'll know more as the federal government
6 had been using that.

7 I would also say that as we've all heard, the
8 Congress has been unable to come together on a coronavirus
9 relief package. There was some hope that they would do that
10 back in September before they left for the October recess;
11 that has not happened.

12 There is still some potential that they could do
13 more, and we're very hopeful that they will --you know,
14 after the election when Congress comes back. We're hopeful
15 that additional dollars will be put into those buckets that
16 could be spent here in New Hampshire, as well as around the
17 country.

18 As it relates to the -- you know, the specific
19 losses, I'm not prepared to go through specific -- you know,
20 hospitals. What I can say is, you know, that of the -- you
21 know, \$200 million dollars in losses, certainly among the
22 larger hospitals, those hospitals in the southern tier of

1 the state certainly have suffered, you know, a significant
2 loss of revenue as a result of the, you know, closure of --
3 you know, nonurgent, elective procedures, as has every
4 hospital.

5 And, you know, remember -- as I said, you know, in
6 my presentation -- you know, hospitals as they came into the
7 pandemic were operating at very low margins; approximately
8 1.1 percent operating margin across the state, with a number
9 of hospitals already operating in the red.

10 So as we sort of entered into the pandemic, we
11 were -- you know, at our strongest point. And then we went
12 -- you know, things went south from there.

13 So, again, I have every expectation that there
14 will be additional expenditures from the CARES Act Relief
15 Fund in Washington. I don't know what that will be. We're
16 obviously going to continue to watch this and to gauge and
17 assess where everyone is.

18 And to that extent, we will be, you know, sharing
19 that with all of you and identifying what those potential
20 needs will be as we go forward.

21 And then lastly, I would just say, you know, I
22 would hope that we would continue to work in partnership to

1 help ensure that, you know, our health care system and our
2 hospitals are able to be there for the patients and
3 communities who need them during this tremendous time of
4 need.

5 Thank you.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Senator Soucy, I show
7 you as having a question.

8 DONNA SOUCY: Yes. Thank you very much. Two
9 quick questions, actually. The first was that you had
10 identified PPE sourcing not being as much of a problem, but
11 cost being far more significant. Are there other cost
12 drivers? Other materials that hospitals are having either
13 difficulty sourcing, or that have become far more expensive?

14 STEVE AHNEN: Things like, you know, staffing are
15 an ongoing challenge -- you know, given the tremendous need
16 for whether it's nursing staff or others, those challenges --
17 - you know -- continue to grow and, you know, the cost for
18 if you don't have that employee and you have to bring in --
19 you know, agency, you know, nurses or other types of
20 providers, you know, those costs have gone up as well.

21 Again -- you know, doing everything we can to
22 mitigate those costs, but we can't eliminate, you know,

1 those costs, because we need highly skilled staff to care
2 for our patients and we need the equipment and services --
3 pharmaceuticals and the like that, you know, we've been --
4 that we need, to care for those.

5 And as it relates to the PPE, I would say -- you
6 know, again, the supply chain has certainly improved, but it
7 has not gotten to the point where, you know, we can, you
8 know, somebody can place an order today and have -- you
9 know, great confidence that that order is going to show up
10 in a timely way when they need it -- and exactly what they
11 need with, you know, the exact standards that they are
12 looking for.

13 Again, we've improved, but we have not solved that
14 challenge. That's one of the greatest thing, as we talk to
15 our hospitals that, you know, sort of that keeps them up at
16 night. You know, they may access those types of things that
17 they will need.

18 You know, if we have a surge of patients -- if we
19 have more COVID patients -- those things are really
20 important because, you know, you have to be able to manage
21 your COVID patients, but also the non-COVID patients. And
22 we're going to have to learn how to do these things

1 simultaneously.

2 And one of the things we know we need is we need
3 to be able to -- you know, have the PPE so that we can
4 ensure the health and safety of our staff, as well as our
5 patients in the communities.

6 DONNA SOUCY: Thank you for that, Mr. Ahnen. It
7 leads to my second question -- it's actually a great segue,
8 because my second question was about staffing.

9 And I know there was a period of time in sort of
10 the peak of the pandemic when there were layoffs, and I was
11 wondering how the staff recovery reengagement process
12 overall is working?

13 STEVE AHNEN: I think as hospitals have begun to
14 bring back services over the last several months, we've seen
15 employment come back. We certainly haven't seen all of
16 those staff come back, but we're seeing a -- you know, a
17 fair number of them come back to be able to ensure that, you
18 know, we can provide all of the services that our
19 communities need.

20 And that's one of the things that I think, you
21 know, our hospitals feel very strongly about is to help
22 ensure that they bring those health care heroes back to

1 their hospitals to care for their patients.

2 DONNA SOUCY: Thank you.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Are there any other
4 questions from Mr. Ahnen? Okay. If there are not --

5 STEVE AHNEN: Well, thank you.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: -- thank you, Steve.

7 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you very much, I appreciate
8 it. And again, as always, we're happy to come back and
9 provide an update at whatever time you'd like.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, Steve.

11 Thanks very much.

12 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Next on our agenda here is
14 some discussion items. The first one that we have here is
15 the second round of GAP Funding. I believe this is a
16 follow-up conversation for me that I was not previously
17 present for. But maybe I might lean a little bit on Senator
18 Morse to help us kick off that part of the conversation.

19 SENATOR MORSE: Sorry, I -- the -- I -- I mean
20 basically what the Committee is trying to do is find out of
21 what level of funding has gone out under the category, and
22 what's on the table that may be able to be moved to solve

1 some of the problems that are on the list today, and I think
2 as we're hearing from our -- you know, local schools, I
3 think we all have concerns there too.

4 So we basically are looking to get updated on
5 where we are with the funding that were (sic) already
6 proposed.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: So thanks, Senator. We're
8 certainly able to answer any questions anybody has. Area of
9 right now, the number that we're working with in terms of
10 unallocated funds is around \$200 million. We have -- we've
11 operationalized now about 50 different programs, and we've
12 moved -- I think just over \$1 billion dollars in allocations
13 thus far.

14 So that's where we are. There is some
15 conversation, obviously, around some of the potential uses
16 for the funding going forward. We do have, of course, the
17 December 30 deadline looming. I know that there are issues
18 around business support, issues around education and others.

19 My understanding is a lot of these conversations,
20 we lean to all of you to continue having those conversations
21 and provide your input as part of your process.

22 That's a pretty quick update. I mean, we can

1 certainly drill down on any of these other questions with
2 the staff that we have here at this point. Right now, I'm
3 showing a couple of quick questions.

4 Senator, do you have -- Senator Morse, do you have
5 anything specifically on that, before we get some other
6 questions and conversation?

7 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. I think what the
8 committee's -- I understand what you just said, but out of
9 that \$1 billion, is it all out on the streets and working
10 already?

11 TAYLOR CASWELL: So the -- yes, good question. We
12 -- on the dashboard that actually we just released yesterday
13 or this morning, you can get a good sense of how much money
14 has been allocated out so far.

15 I don't have it right here in front of me, but it
16 is right in that billion-dollar category. So there are some
17 funds that are reserve funds. There are some other funds.
18 It has not yet been fully deployed, but they are allocated.

19 So in terms of getting a very specific number,
20 that can be a little bit of a moving target on a day to day
21 basis. So we've kind of gone with this -- with the \$200
22 million-dollar number as really good indicator in our view

1 as to where we stand right now.

2 Okay, I have Representative Hennessey with her
3 hand raised. Representative?

4 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you, Commissioner Caswell,
5 and welcome to your new role.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you.

7 ERIN HENNESSEY: I had actually put this on the
8 agenda for this meeting, because I just wanted to bring up
9 that I'm still hearing from different types of businesses
10 that either they've received funding or their estimate of
11 what their loss was going to be was greatly under what they
12 actually ended up losing for the year. And they're hoping
13 that they'll be able to stay in business with some
14 additional help.

15 The other thing -- I heard from a non-profit who
16 was not able to get funding. And I had sent this to be
17 distributed. They're Turtle Ridge, and based out of
18 Franconia. And they support use and adaptive sports
19 programs.

20 And they -- what they do is they offer scholarship
21 opportunities to different sports programs. And it's one of
22 their funding mechanics. And they were declined for non-

1 profit funding. And so, they were hoping that there would
2 be another round of GAP Funding that would allow them to
3 apply for support for their programs that they offer.

4 So just in general, what I'm hearing is there's
5 still a bit of a need out there, both in the for-profit and
6 the not-for-profit arena. And I'm hoping that there would
7 be a second round available at some point.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, I think those are excellent
9 points, representative. And of course I think that it's
10 been expressed pretty publicly that business and non-profit
11 support is an area where we are definitely seriously looking
12 at what the options are for the remainder of the -- a
13 portion of the remainder of the resources.

14 Okay. Senator D'Allesandro?

15 SENATOR D'ALLESSANDRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Just a follow up on what Senator Morse said: When will we
17 know definitively of the allocations that have been made,
18 what has been spent, what's left added to the \$200 million
19 so that we could redeploy some of that money. I think
20 that's a key ingredient, as December 30 is coming a lot
21 faster than we realize. Days pass very, very quickly.

22 And as a result of that, it would be important for

1 us to know -- people who have asked for some monies -- for
2 example, the Mascoma Community Health Center.

3 And I was going to make a recommendation that
4 Senator Morse and I have had conversation, and we -- could
5 we create a subcommittee of he and I to look into Mascoma,
6 because they have a demonstrated need? And there seems to
7 be some confusion as to what their application was, and why
8 their application was denied.

9 So I think that is one item that I would like to
10 suggest that we set up a committee on, and we look into
11 that, and then get back to you ASAP.

12 But indeed, the primary situation: With FEMA
13 declining to support remittance on items, our education
14 entities are in deep trouble, because they've expended these
15 monies with the full intention that they would be reimbursed
16 by FEMA. But that's not going to take place; that's
17 something I think we have to discuss today, how we're going
18 to handle that.

19 But getting a handle on what's spent, what's been
20 allocated, what's been spent, and what's remaining is very,
21 very important.

22 And the other thing is when a person applies, or

1 when an entity applies, what's the process by which the
2 application is reviewed? I've had a number of complaints
3 from people whose applications have been denied and they
4 don't know why. So those are my queries. Thank you.

5 And I ask that something be set up with Senator
6 Morse and I to look at this Mascoma Community Health
7 situation, because from what I understand looking at their
8 numbers, they're in pretty desperate need at this point in
9 time, and that's a service that affects the lives of a lot
10 of people.

11 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you, Senator. A couple of
12 questions in there. I think the first one with regard to
13 the funding levels and the lapses and so forth, given my --
14 I'm going to claim new guy status on this one, because
15 there's a lot of detail in there that predated me. I'm
16 going to ask Joe Doiron, our Deputy here, to give you a
17 little bit of is it on that question, to start.

18 JOE DOIRON: Good afternoon, Senator. As Director
19 Little on the last call mentioned, on the last call, that we
20 are -- it's an ongoing process as we look -- if you look at
21 the weekly dashboards, you'll see three columns: Allocated,
22 Extended, Remaining. You'll see, you know, of course the

1 allocated amounts versus the expended, you know, being a
2 little higher.

3 As money is given to different agencies or
4 entities to administer these programs, there's of course a
5 drawdown.

6 So we're working with those entities and having
7 good communication to see, you know, as numbers go out and
8 as numbers come back in, where the spends are so that we can
9 provide that to the lab.

10 Jerry Little mentioned that we should have a
11 better idea going into October. So, you know, the second
12 and third week of October. We're just working with these
13 folks. I mean we're still getting, you know, agreements
14 finalized and everything with different programs.

15 We have -- as Director Caswell mentioned -- about
16 fifty programs and funds. So we're, you know, trying to do
17 our due diligence to get the information to you all very
18 quickly. But we also want to provide actual written
19 numbers.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: And I would say Senator Lou, with
21 regard to the question on people and the process that's used
22 to review these, it does to some degree depend on the

1 program how they're being reviewed. But in every case,
2 applicants who have been denied should be given reasons for
3 their denial.

4 And if that's not the case, I would be happy to
5 get those names from you, and we would make sure that that's
6 taken care of quickly. So I would make that point as well.

7 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Thank you.

8 Taylor Caswell: You've very welcome.

9 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: So my other point about --

10 Taylor Caswell: We're here.

11 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: -- this is about the Mascoma
12 Community Health Center. They have been before us, and
13 evidently from what I hear a mistake was made. They're in
14 need. So is it possible to set up a subcommittee with
15 Senator Morse and myself? I think both of us have heard
16 from Mascoma -- to look at them and to find what's their
17 real -- what's there?

18 And I know that their perception is they're in
19 pretty desperate need, and they'd have to close shop if
20 something wasn't done. So what about that?

21 Taylor CASWELL: -- I think that sounds well
22 within your ability to do. If that's how you and Senator

1 Morse want to proceed, we'd certainly be willing to work
2 with you on that.

3 DICK HINCH: Mr. Chairman, this is Dick Hinch. So
4 that we can make this proper, I would move that we designate
5 a subcommittee consisting of Senator Morse and Senator
6 D'Allesandro to look into the Mascoma Community Health
7 Center issues.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Is there a second to that?

9 SENATOR REAGAN: Reagan, second.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Any discussion on
11 that motion? If not, we can take a vote. Senator Soucy?

12 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

14 [Pause]

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: We'll come back to him. Senator
16 Morse?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yes.

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

19 SENATOR HINCH: Yes.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

21 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Yes.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

1 MARYJANE WALLNER: Yes.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

3 JOHN REAGAN: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

5 ERIN HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: And going back to Speaker
7 Shurtleff?

8 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yes.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. So that motion
10 passes. So we'll move forward with that motion to establish
11 subcommittees and look at the Mascoma situation. All right.
12 Going back to the discussion on -- our previous discussion.

13 I think I had -- Senator Soucy had a question in
14 that regard. Senator, do you still have your question?

15 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes. Certainly, I echo the
16 sentiments of our Finance Committee Chair, Senator
17 D'Allesandro. I do think there is a growing frustration,
18 and I certainly grant you the "new person on the call"
19 status today.

20 But just understand, there is a concern because of
21 the urgency to spend the money, and I think all of us are
22 fielding requests from organizations that felt like they

1 didn't have the opportunity to cure if their applications
2 were found sufficient.

3 One of the questions that's been posed to me is
4 how we are dealing with multistate organizations and PPP
5 loans. The issues of forgiveness and what's allowable,
6 given that some organizations are multistate seems to be
7 rather concerning. And I wondered if you could give us any
8 is it, or anyone on the team could, as to how that's being
9 addressed.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator, on the PPP issue, I
11 believe that's a federal program. The SBA administers that.
12 I'm not familiar with any specifics on that program.

13 SENATOR SOUCY: Well, if I could -- certainly.
14 And I didn't mean how the committee was dealing with
15 dispensing the PPP, but as part of my understanding is that
16 what they have -- what organizations have received from PPP
17 has factored into decisions, such as for GAP Funding and
18 others. So that was more what the question was. I should
19 have explained more thoroughly.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: So basically, Senator, all of
21 their COVID spending is deducted when we go through the
22 Business Support programs and make the final assessment on

1 the grant amount.

2 So there's various components to that, it has to
3 do with revenue thresholds and so forth, but there's also an
4 assessment done of other programs and other funding that has
5 been received by the applicant as part of the final
6 decision.

7 And the exact one is program specific.

8 SENATOR SOUCY: Sure. So to the extent that
9 someone still has questions, perhaps -- well, I know one of
10 them was a health care entity. Perhaps that's something
11 that Senator D'Allesandro and Senator Morse could also look
12 at, is the instance of entities that are multistate that may
13 have been receiving different amounts towards their state --
14 federal state operations. Do you see what I'm saying?

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes. And I would also say,
16 Senator, if there are -- again, specific organizations that
17 you'd like us to look into, by all means get those to me or
18 anyone on our team, and we will look into that and get back
19 to you, as at least a starting point.

20 SENATOR SOUCY: I appreciate that, thank you.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, Senator.
22 One of the things, Senator, you mentioned about moving the

1 money out the door, I will say that as I came into this
2 position now about two weeks ago, we've made it quite a
3 point to make sure that we are moving as much money as
4 swiftly as we can out the door.

5 And I think we're pretty well complete with the
6 GAP Fund and with the Nurse Fund, and we've made very good
7 progress on a number of other programs, and kind of getting
8 people in gear to get those resources out the door.

9 And in large part that's done in order to be able
10 to get to the point and get that good number, in terms of
11 what the lapses might be and what other resources might be
12 necessary out of the reserve funds, so that when we do come
13 back and give you guys a good assessment here, that it's as
14 accurate as possible.

15 So -- and we've got multiple jobs here, which is
16 obviously to keep an eye on the funds that are here, but to
17 also adequately get those funds out the door and deployed
18 into the hands of people that need them as quickly as we
19 possibly can, and efficiently. And that plays not just to
20 their benefit, but also to the benefit of our ability to
21 give you the answers you're looking for.

22 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: You bet, Senator. I have Speaker
2 Shurtleff with a hand raised.

3 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Well, Commissioner, welcome to
4 this group. It's good to have you with us. Commissioner, I
5 just wanted to go back and talk about the Mascoma Community
6 Health Center for one more moment.

7 I thank Senator D'Allesandro for bringing up the
8 idea of the subcommittee to look at the needs of Mascoma,
9 and apparently there was a problem with their application.
10 Instead of getting the \$300,000 they were looking for, they
11 got \$6500.

12 My concern right now is that from what I've heard
13 from them, November 1 they're going to have to lock their
14 doors, because they're going to run out of funding. And
15 that means 4300 patients are going to look for new health
16 care providers in the Canaan area. And we know what
17 transportation issues there are in our rural parts of the
18 state.

19 I don't know how long it's going to take for the
20 Senators to come up with the recommendation to come back to
21 us, and I don't know how long it's going to take once our
22 recommendation is made, and if we should make a motion how

1 long it's going to take the Governor and the CARES funding
2 to be cut for Mascoma.

3 So I would make a motion that this group recommend
4 to the Governor that they provide \$100,000 to the Mascoma
5 Community Health Center so that they can keep their doors
6 open past November 1, and allow this community to look and
7 see if they need further funding from CARES. So that would
8 be my motion, to allocate \$100,000 to Mascoma to keep them
9 functional past November 1.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. That's a motion. Do we
11 have a second on that motion?

12 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Second that motion.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: So we'll move to discussion. One
14 thing I might mention -- thank you for that -- Speaker
15 Shurtleff -- one area that I think I might suggest is that
16 if Senator D'Allesandro and Senator Morse wanted to move
17 swiftly on their own analysis of the Mascoma situation.

18 And I think we've all had an opportunity to look
19 at least briefly at the materials that we went around, I
20 would be happy to engage immediately with the two of them to
21 give the feedback from our staff here on the GOFERR side of
22 the equation, and there is a side of that story, that I

1 think would get us toward a quick resolution of this, maybe
2 even within a couple of days, if that was amenable to the
3 committee.

4 Because I just want to be clear that from our
5 standpoint--

6 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Sure.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: -- you know, we've had an
8 opportunity to look at and review that there has -- you
9 know, we haven't treated this, we haven't treated Mascoma
10 any differently than any other applicant that we've had in
11 this category.

12 And I haven't myself had a chance to go too deep
13 into it, but from what I can see, from what was provided to
14 the GOFERR organization, the current award amounts are
15 correct. If there's further discussion to have on that, I'm
16 certainly always willing to have that conversation.

17 But I think I just want to make it clear that
18 there's no difference in how their application has been
19 treated than any other application we've received.

20 And the -- I think the idea of having Senator
21 D'Allesandro and Senator Morse have a subcommittee look into
22 that is a great idea, and we would be very willing to work

1 with them on a very short timeline to accommodate the goal I
2 think of that.

3 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you, Commissioner. Based
4 on your proffer, I would withdraw my motion for the
5 \$100,000. I think there probably may have been problems
6 with their application to GOFERR, and the fault may not lie
7 with the state of New Hampshire and maybe those that filled
8 out the application.

9 Apparently, they're all volunteers in the Greater
10 Canaan area. So trouble may have happened in that
11 application that it could have been on the side of the
12 applicants.

13 But with your comment on expediting this, I would
14 withdraw my motion and hope that we act on this quickly, so
15 that a great health care facility for our folks in Southern
16 Grafton County can remain open.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. I would welcome that,
18 Senator. I mean Speaker, I'm sorry.

19 SPEAKER SHURTLEFF: That's all right.

20 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: This is Senator D'Alessandro.
21 I think it was the intention of Senator [00:40:15 audio
22 unclear] -- ly as possible on this particular request,

1 because of the urgency of the request.

2 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you, Senator.

3 CHUCK MORSE: [00:40:30 guessing who's speaking;
4 new Director isn't prompting speakers to identify
5 themselves.]

6 CHUCK MORSE: -- Yean, I'd just like to throw my
7 two cents in. I did hit this 5*, I'm not sure about what's
8 -- I spoke with Senator D'Allesandro about this issue. I
9 didn't want to have this whole meeting go into a four-hour
10 meeting, but I talked to the committee about, you know, the
11 benefits of doing it as an hour meeting.

12 I assured him the only discussion was how do we
13 handle getting together, whether it's in person or a call.
14 I will make myself available just to get through the
15 process, and I do think Taylor understands [00:41:14 audio
16 unclear] they just want to understand the process.

17 And I dealt with Gary and Taylor many times.
18 They've explained it to me -- you know, that these people
19 can call, so we can review it, so we can them -- so they
20 understand it better.

21 I suggest that they deal with Mascoma. I think
22 Lou and I can get together, bring in the right people and

1 determine, you know, if our committee wants to go and do
2 something.

3 But what I'm concerned about -- and let me make
4 this clear -- I don't want to become the Review committee
5 for everyone because, like the Senate President said, we're
6 getting calls from a lot of people.

7 I mean, and a lot deeper conversations than I
8 would understand about their financials, and I certainly --
9 I don't have any problem looking into this one.

10 They went to a high level of detail to present to
11 us, much like the hospital, and I think we do have to figure
12 out how we're going to handle the hospitals in the future,
13 but probably not today.

14 But I'll work on Mascoma with Lou this week and,
15 you know, whatever we decide on in our last thing setting up
16 the next schedule, you know, I'll live up to it.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you.

18 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Thank you, Chuck.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Thank you, Senator.

20 I have a hand raised from Senator Reagan.

21 SENATOR REAGAN: My only question was, is the
22 problem that's Mascoma's problem is not COVID related?

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm sorry, you broke up on that.

2 Could you just repeat the question, Senator D'Allesandro?

3 SENATOR REAGAN: My curiosity was, was Mascoma's
4 problem not COVID related? So I'll leave that up to the
5 other two gentlemen to decide.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. We'll make a note,
7 too, of that question, Senator, and make sure we take a look
8 at that as well. Any other questions from members of the
9 Committee. Oh, I'm sorry. Representative Wallner?
10 Representative Wallner? Is she -- I had -- I showed a hand
11 raised there.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: I'm sorry. I'm in the
13 car, so I lost connection there for a little while.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Uh-huh.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: The question I have is as
16 we move forward, we have allocated almost a billion dollars
17 of funding, and we know some of it is not being drawn down
18 as rapidly as we thought: has there been any discussion
19 with federal government about what happens when we reach
20 December 31, what happens to any funding that is left at
21 that point? Have those discussions taken place, or have you
22 gotten any advice?

1 [00:44:52 SPEAKER UNIDENTIFIED]: Hi,
2 Representative, I think -- the question I heard is that has
3 there been any discussion with the federal government with
4 regard to what happens to funds that are left as of December
5 30? Is that right?

6 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes, that's correct,
7 exactly.

8 SPEAKER UNIDENTIFIED: 'Sorry. You're breaking up
9 just a little bit. But -- so yeah, obviously this is a big
10 question. And it's a question that we -- in a conversation
11 that we are integrating into all the decisions that we are
12 making right now.

13 And I think as far as, you know, my earlier
14 comments about making sure that we are able to deploy and
15 move those resources out is also in part to avoid any
16 potential issues with that deadline being held firm on
17 December 30.

18 I would note it's the thirtieth and not the
19 thirty-first, that that's obviously a big part of the
20 thought process, both as it relates to existing programs and
21 getting those deployed, but also in terms of
22 operationalizing new funds, and the ability to be able to

1 move those now that we are at the end of September.

2 So with regard to that, though, I think there is
3 an expectation that funds that do not -- that have not been
4 expended, or have not been expended for the purposes that
5 are very clear within the CARES Act, that those will
6 ultimately have to go back as it stands right now. So we
7 want to get those done.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: You're very welcome.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes, I think it would be
11 good if we continue to inquire of the federal government
12 about those funds, about the leftover, if there are any, how
13 we might very rapidly get the funds out. Thank you.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. All right. Any other
15 questions from the committee on that subject? All right.

16 ERIN HENNESSEY: Commissioner, this is Erin
17 Hennessey.

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: Sure.

19 ERIN HENNESSEY: I'm just having a difficult time
20 hearing. Could you just remind people to put their mute on?
21 Thank you.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes. [00:46:58 from

1 transcriptionist: Me too, thank you Erin!] I will echo
2 Representative Hennessey's request that everyone -- if
3 you're not speaking, please put yourselves on mute. It
4 makes it a little easier to hear.

5 Okay. So the next item that we have on our agenda
6 today is regard to funding for education IT needs. And I am
7 told that this is a subject that Senator D'Allesandro
8 inquired in regard to.

9 And again, I believe there's some conversation
10 that is due to follow up on previous conversations. You'll
11 again have to forgive me for not having been a participant
12 in the previous conversations, but certainly willing to
13 facilitate any discussion on that subject, Senator.

14 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: As we know, education has been
15 given a significant financial burden to meet with the
16 reestablishment of education, K-12. Additional expenses
17 have been occurring at a very rapid rate.

18 There was a time when FEMA was going to take care
19 of the spent. FEMA sent a notice out for all of the
20 supervisory unions that FEMA was not going to cover these
21 expenses. The expenses are still occurring.

22 Now, in the City of Manchester, the expenses are

1 in the millions of dollars, and I'm sure my colleagues,
2 having spent time with their school districts, know that
3 these expenses are being incurred in order to facilitate
4 either the hybrid situation or the virtual learning
5 situation. These expenses have to be covered.

6 So my suggestion was we take the unexpended monies
7 that were allocated for Broadband, transfer those, and allow
8 the communities to access those funds to cover the cost that
9 they have incurred because of the COVID situation, and
10 bringing their schools back. And that's something that's --
11 that's on an ongoing basis.

12 You just -- so, kind of, that's a quick summary of
13 where we're at. And I venture to say that everyone on this
14 call has received a call from their school district about
15 the cost incurred and about that notification from FEMA that
16 those costs were not going to be taken care of by FEMA.

17 So my suggestion remains that we find the money to
18 reimburse for these COVID-related expenses. And that the
19 one fund that seems to be available is the \$50 million that
20 were set aside for Broadband, which I don't think is
21 entirely depleted. And we take those monies that have been
22 unexpended and make them available to the schools.

1 I mean that's as briefly as I can state the case.

2 And if there are questions, I'll be happy to address them.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm seeing Senator Soucy with a
4 question.

5 SENATOR SOUCY: Yeah. It's actually a question
6 for my colleague, Senator D'Allesandro. The way the wording
7 of the agenda is, it would appear that the suggestion is to
8 limit the transfer of those funds just for IT, but based on
9 your comment, Senator, those funds could be used by school
10 districts to supplement what was intended, such as PPE or
11 other things that we thought were covered by FEMA, is that
12 correct?

13 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Yeah, that's correct, Madam
14 President. All of those expense that were COVID-related,
15 that were previously going to be reimbursed by FEMA.

16 SENATOR SOUCY: Okay.

17 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Yes.

18 SENATOR SOUCY: Thank you.

19 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: You're welcome.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, Senator.
21 Senator Reagan?

22 SENATOR REAGAN: I have 11 towns and a

1 commensurate number of school districts, and I haven't heard
2 a problem relating to this from any of the schools in my
3 district.

4 And some of the schools are accumulating surpluses
5 from all the expenses that they are not incurring, because
6 they've locked the children out of the schools.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Thanks Senator.

8 SENATOR MORSE: Yes, the -- like Senator Reagan, I
9 [00:52:06 audio unclear Salem did have to say]; however,
10 when they went through their budget process, they were using
11 what they expected from FEMA. They did two things: One, I
12 think they -- in their new budget, they directed money back
13 to the taxpayers, and they basically were expending.

14 So they have told me they have a shortfall and
15 they're going to have to go back and rearrange the deck.

16 I'm just curious, because that's not what the
17 question was on the agenda today. Taylor, maybe there's a
18 way at our next meeting that you could present to us where
19 the schools are at in the state of New Hampshire.

20 I do agree there's been a huge savings in a lot of
21 the districts because of the busing and heat, light and
22 electricity -- everything. I mean, you know, no substitute

1 teachers, all kinds of things.

2 But I just -- I guess the fact that FEMA is not
3 involved -- maybe we start with why aren't they involved?
4 And maybe there's been people working on solving that, I
5 don't know. Because that's originally what this committee
6 thought was going to happen, to be honest with you.

7 So maybe we can put that on the agenda next time,
8 and you could tell us how it's being worked out. Because I
9 did hear from Salem, which is my biggest committee. And, you
10 know, it's an issue now, because they planned on what they
11 thought they were getting.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Senator. Of course we
13 would be very willing to put together a discussion for our
14 next meeting, particularly as it relates to the state of the
15 education funding, at least from our perspective, for the
16 Committee.

17 We can definitely add that on the agenda for next
18 time. I can certainly talk to you about some others that we
19 might want to be have part of that conversation. All right?

20 Any other questions on this subject, or is there
21 any action? Okay. If there's no further discussion on that
22 issue, we can certainly move on to our next item. Okay. So

1 the next item has to do with the Snowmobile Association. I
2 believe this is Representative Hennessey on a tabled motion?

3 ERIN HENNESSEY: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: To bring funding to the New
5 Hampshire Snowmobile Association. Is That accurate,
6 representative?

7 ERIN HENNESSEY: Yes, thank you. So last -- just
8 for everyone's review -- last meeting we heard from Dan
9 Gould, and my understanding is of the 101 clubs throughout
10 the state, only a few received funding from the GAP Fund.
11 We were waiting to find out if they were -- if a lot of the
12 clubs were going to receive funding, and if there was still
13 going to be a need.

14 So I know in their initial act that we received
15 last meeting was over \$500,000 relates to several different
16 categories. And my hope is we can give a little -- initial
17 funding to them to get the grooming and repairs done before
18 the snow flies, with the hope that more funding would be
19 available later on if some of it frees up.

20 So with that, I will make the motion that we
21 recommend the allocation of \$154,000 of CARES Act funds to
22 the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association to distribute to

1 their clubs to cover the cost of annual maintenance related
2 to grooming -- and that's grooming equipment -- and that is
3 because they were not able to raise funds because of COVID.
4 Their fundraisers were canceled this year.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you,
6 Representative. Is there a second to that motion?

7 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch, I'll second that
8 motion.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. And could you just,
10 Representative, restate the motion one more time for the
11 record?

12 ERIN HENNESSEY: Sure. We recommend the
13 allocation of \$154,000 of CARES Act funds to the New
14 Hampshire Snowmobile Association to cover the cost of annual
15 maintenance and represent on trail grooming equipment.

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Thank you. Wanted to
17 make sure I had that correctly. Is there any discussion on
18 this motion? If not, well, I guess we'll go right to the
19 roll. Senator Soucy?

20 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

22 SPEAKER SHURTLEFF: Yes.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

2 SENATOR MORSE: Yes.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

4 SENATOR HINCH: Yes.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

6 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: No.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm sorry, Senator. What was
8 your vote?

9 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: No.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: No.

11 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Correct.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you. Representative
13 Wallner?

14 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: No.

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

16 SENATOR REAGAN: Yes.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HENNESSEY: Yes.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. So that vote had two no,
20 sir, and the rest were yesses, so that motion passes. Very
21 good.

22 Let's see. Going to our agenda, the next item we

1 have on here is to decide on our next scheduled meeting. And
2 again, I think that there are some options here. I believe
3 we've been running on a monthly meeting schedule, which
4 we're certainly happy to continue. Are there any other
5 thoughts from members of the Committee on the meeting
6 schedule?

7 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Well, I think with the urgency
8 of the Mascoma situation, we should be meeting -- if we're
9 just meeting for that particular item, we should meet
10 expeditiously. Senator Morse and I can get that done maybe
11 by the end the week, so we meet next week and go over this
12 situation.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. I see
14 Senator Soucy has her hand raised?

15 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes, I had the same concern. I
16 think we should do a regular monthly meeting, but I do think
17 we should meet next week to deal with that item. And I
18 think we do have to have a presentation from the schools.
19 So if we get a limited agenda with just those two items.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Is there any other
21 discussion on that item?

22 SENATOR MORSE: Taylor, why don't we -- I mean, if

1 everybody -- we don't have to check the schedule right now,
2 but if Tuesday afternoon seems to work, I think we could
3 come back on the sixth, and then I think do our monthly
4 meeting on the twenty-seventh if that works.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: That can work for us, Senator, if
6 that works for everybody.

7 SENATOR MORSE: The only thing I want to caution
8 people about, because I heard from a bunch of you, the
9 agenda today -- it's [01:00:24 audio unclear], you know,
10 let's do it ahead of time so that we're not -- you know,
11 like, I don't have a problem coming back about education on
12 the sixth, if it can be put together.

13 But let's not come back with some other things,
14 because if we can keep the meetings to an hour, I think
15 maybe we can accomplish something like building
16 subcommittees and things like that.

17 Because the level of detail that we need to make
18 the decision I think needs to be done outside of the call.
19 I think that's an important part of it. But if we can come
20 back on the sixth and come back on the twenty-seventh, I
21 think that works for me and hopefully everyone, so.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. I see

1 Representative Hinch has his hand raised.

2 DICK HINCH: Yes. I just want to point out that
3 on the sixth at 2:00, Senate President Soucy, later Morse,
4 Speaker Shurtleff and myself will be tied up at 2:00. So if
5 we're able to do it at 1:00, if that works for people's
6 schedules, because -- again, at 2:00 the four of us will be
7 tied up.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Duly noted. Thank you,
9 Representative. So I'm hearing that we would like to have
10 the committee come together on the sixth at 1:00 p.m.? And
11 that we would also schedule -- for the purposes of the
12 review of the -- Senator D'Allesandro and Senator Morse's
13 looking into the Mascoma situation, and that we would also
14 keep to our regular scheduled meeting of the twenty-seventh
15 did I hear? of October for our regular meeting.

16 And we'll come up with a time, but probably in
17 that same time frame somewhere, to discuss. And we will
18 include the education discussion on that at that time. If
19 that works, we'll just go with that.

20 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Great. Could also have the
21 second round of GAP Funding discussed at that time?

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Absolutely.

1 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: On the twenty-seventh?

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: I think we'll have some pretty
3 good information to discuss at the point, and hopefully
4 we'll have enough information as well, Senator, to get more
5 into some of the exact numbers we're seeing as to what's
6 remaining within the CARES Act funds that we were --

7 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: That would be great. That
8 would be great.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right?

10 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Perfect. Yep, perfect.

11 TAYLOR CASWELL: Great. Okay. Any other issues or
12 questions anybody wants to raise? Senator -- I'm sorry,
13 Representative Wallner, I see your hand raised.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes, thank you. I get
15 concerned about the date of the twenty-seventh. I mean,
16 that only leaves us two months. There are still a number of
17 areas that we haven't made any decisions about -- the
18 hospitals being one of them. And if on the twenty-seventh
19 we only really have two months until the funding is supposed
20 to be spent down.

21 And I know how long it has taken once we have made
22 a decision to allocate funds to a certain area. I know

1 that it has taken several weeks then to get the providers of
2 those services in contracts and to get the money out to
3 them.

4 So I'm concerned that we really -- when we wait
5 until the twenty-seventh of October, and then we're getting
6 into holidays, if we wait that long to hear from some of
7 these groups who feel that they still have gaps in funding,
8 I would like -- I would really like to see us either have a
9 heavier agenda on the sixth or an additional meeting to
10 start to look at some of these areas and to take votes on
11 some of them.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Representative. Would
13 you want to move the education conversation to the sixth,
14 and have that prior to the twenty-seventh and leave the
15 other items that we discussed for the twenty-seventh, would
16 that work?

17 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: I think that would be a
18 good discussion to have on the sixth. I think that would be
19 a decision that we would be able to make on the sixth.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good.

21 DICK HINCH: Commissioner Caswell, this is
22 Representative Hinch again. Again, I heard Representative

1 Wallner's request.

2 But again, I want to point out that 2:00 Senator
3 Soucy, Senator Morse, Speaker Shurtleff and myself will be
4 in another meeting at 2:00. So if we make the agenda too
5 heavy, then we're going to have an issue with bumping into
6 the next meeting.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Would it be possible to
8 start at noon on the sixth?

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: That can work for my schedule.
10 It depends on everybody else.

11 SENATOR MORSE: I'm fine, if that works.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. So what I'm hearing
13 is we'll do 12:00 now on the sixth, and we will add a
14 discussion on education to that conversation.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you, I appreciate
16 that.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: You're very welcome,
18 representative. Okay. This is a reminder to everybody to
19 mute their phone, we're getting some feedback. Okay. So
20 with that I think that's the end of our regular agenda. One
21 thing we would require I think is to -- on the motion that
22 passed from Representative Hennessey with regard to the

1 snowmobiles to please get us the written request over.

2 Again, I'm being told that's how this process
3 works. So we'll use the usual process if something comes
4 over to Rhonda, right?

5 Okay. So if there's nothing else, I think we've
6 reached the end of our agenda. Well thank you, everybody.
7 We'll look forward to talking to you on October 6.

8 COLLECTIVE: Thanks.

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12 [End of Proceedings]