



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

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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

- Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting Statement
- Attendance
- Presentation/Discussion Items:
 - NH Fisher Cats Funding & Masks
 - Mascoma Community Health Care
 - Department of Transportation
- Follow Up Discussion/Updates on:
 - Fisher Cat Funding & Masks
 - Summer Camps
 - How many camps applied
 - NH Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program Funding Status
 - Applications
 - Total amount of grants given
 - Housing Relief Program Update
 - Nonprofit Grant Program Update
- Next Scheduled Meeting
- Adjourn

1 GOFERR's office at One Eagle Square in Concord, New
2 Hampshire. With me are Rhonda Hensley --

3 HELEN CHAMPA: Helen Champa.

4 NANCY SMITH: Nancy Smith --

5 JERRY LITTLE: Shaun Thomas, and did I say you,
6 Rhonda? Rhonda Hensley. Sorry about that.

7 Senate President Donna Soucy?

8 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy. I am at my
9 home in Manchester, and I am alone.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator.

11 House Speaker Steve Shurtleff? Speaker Shurtleff?
12 Maybe 5*, Mr. Speaker?

13 STEVE SHURTLEFF: I'm in the Speaker's Office at
14 the State House, and I am alone.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

16 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Chuck Morse?

18 CHUCK MORSE: This is Chuck Morse. I'm in my
19 office in Atkinson, New Hampshire, and I am alone.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Dick Hinch?

21 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I am in my
22 office in Merrimack, New Hampshire, and I'm alone.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro?

2 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: This is Senator D'Allesandro.

3 I'm at my home in Manchester, and I'm all alone.

4 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Thank you, Senator. We're with
5 you.

6 LOU D'ALLESSANDRO: Thank you.

7 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Maryjane Wallner?

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

10 JERRY LITTLE: Senator John Reagan?

11 JOHN REAGAN: I'm in Deerfield, by myself.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, sir. And Representative
13 Erin Hennessey?

14 ERIN HENNESSEY: This is Representative Hennessey.
15 I'm in my home in Littleton, and I have three minor children
16 with me.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much. As we move
18 through our agenda today, each Board member and anyone else
19 speaking is asked to identify themselves before speaking.
20 And should you choose to take any votes today, they must be
21 done by roll call, following the process we just used.

22 Finally, before we begin today's presentations,

1 please remember to use 5* if you would like to ask a
2 question.

3 In addition, presenters are also asked to hit 5*
4 when their turn comes up, as that allows us to identify your
5 line and unmute it for you.

6 Senator Morse, do you have a question for us sir?

7 SENATOR MORSE: Yes, and thanks for being home for
8 this meeting, Jerry. I was speaking with Senator
9 D'Allesandro about an hour ago, and we were both talking
10 about we'd like to know the balance that is in the account -
11 - that you believe is in the account.

12 JERRY LITTLE: I believe the question is, can we
13 provide you with the remaining Funds of the total \$1.25
14 billion dollars of CARES Act money that was allotted to the
15 state of New Hampshire? Are you looking for the remaining
16 unallocated amount?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yes, and maybe you need to explain
18 if you're telling me the unallocated -- there might be two
19 different definitions of unallocated. Because I mean, when
20 you put \$50 million in an account, has it all been spent?

21 But I think we're looking for the total, you know?
22 If the Governor has moved out \$50 million, we should assume

1 that it's already been spent at this point, unless we want
2 to have a different meeting. But anyhow, yes.

3 JERRY LITTLE: I know the question. And I am
4 going to stall just a little bit, see if we can't get one of
5 our Finance people to join us in here. I believe that the
6 figure you're looking for is approximately \$230 million
7 dollars roughly, but I would like to get you a closer
8 number.

9 And before we drill down on that a little bit, I'm
10 going to complete reading the meeting script. That will
11 bring us in to the start of the meeting, if that's okay.
12 But we'll get back to that, I promise you.

13 SENATOR MORSE: Okay.

14 JERRY LITTLE: The last time we met was on
15 Wednesday, July 1, 2020. And you met to hear updates and
16 presentations from Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig regarding
17 the Fisher Cats, as well as BFA Director -- Executive
18 Director James Key-Wallace -- regarding the GAP Fund and the
19 possibility that Fisher Cats that might fit in there.

20 You also asked for continuing updates on summer
21 camps, the New Hampshire Child Care Recovery Stabilization
22 Program funding status, New Hampshire Housing Relief Program

1 and Nonprofit Grant Program updates.

2 Recently, we added on our agenda for today Canaan
3 Town Administrator Mike Sampson, as well as the Chairman of
4 Mascoma Community Health Center; and Peter Ferber, that are
5 going to talk to you about their concerns relative to their
6 local community health care group.

7 And then finally, Commissioner of the Department
8 of Transportation Victoria Sheehan will be joining us to
9 talk about inner city transit requests.

10 We apologize for the great number of e-mails
11 you've received in the last couple of days. We want to
12 assure you that you have all the materials and enough time
13 to look at them before each call.

14 Rhonda Hensley has been doing a good job keeping
15 everybody updated. You should have received additional e-
16 mails this morning, and if you didn't receive anything just
17 let us know and Rhonda can send it to you now.

18 I think we'll begin. Senator Morse, we can
19 probably give you a closer figure, at least a better
20 understanding of the current balance. We've been joined by
21 Steve Giovinelli, who is our Chief of Finance here at the
22 GOFERR Office. He tracks all the numbers very closely.

1 Steve, Senator Morse's question was -- and I
2 believe he and Senator D'Allesandro had been speaking about
3 it today -- they were wondering how much money is left in
4 the checkbook, basically, that GOFERR has over what's
5 allocated, what's not?

6 STEVE SHURTLEFF: We've allocated a billion, and
7 we've got a quarter billion left unallocated, roughly. The
8 exact unallocated number is \$249,743,750. So we've got just
9 south of \$250 million left unallocated.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Question, Senator Morse?

11 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah, I have one other question,
12 only because I haven't seen any written documentation on it.
13 In the last couple of days, I've heard that we can use this
14 money for state budget issues. Is that true or not true?

15 NANCY SMITH: This is Nancy Smith. Senator Morse,
16 I've heard there are discussions about allowing that
17 flexibility in the -- you know, at the federal level. But
18 as far as I know, it hasn't happened yet.

19 SENATOR MORSE: Thank you.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions about the current
21 balance of available CARES Act funds in GOFERR?

22 [Pause]

1 Seeing none, I think somebody has put their phone
2 on mute. I'm hearing a lot of background noise. Then we
3 will move forward with the agenda as presented. The first
4 item up for conversation is the Fisher Cats funding and
5 masks.

6 Senator D'Allesandro, this item is on the agenda
7 at your request. Would you like to do an introduction, sir?

8 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, I would. Thank you.
9 Thank you very much, Jerry. And again, thanks for coming
10 back from your vacation to convene the meeting and to
11 facilitate the meeting, I appreciate that very much.

12 Yes. I've got two items that I've asked to be put
13 on the agenda. And the first is the Fisher Cats. And
14 that's the local Minor League Baseball team that plays in
15 Manchester, and has an affiliation with the city based on
16 dollars that are spent in terms of revenue for the park.

17 Now, Mayor Craig is on the phone also, and I think
18 can be very helpful. I'm looking to get a million dollars
19 for the Fisher Cats, for the simple reason that they don't
20 have any ability to make any money this year. The parent
21 team, the Toronto Blue Jays, has canceled all of the
22 activities in Minor League baseball. The Fisher Cats have

1 no way to raise any revenue, and yet they have significant
2 expenses.

3 They've been an extremely important partner for
4 the city of Manchester. The rental of the field is one of
5 the most significant features, because it's a financial
6 transaction.

7 But over the years, the Fisher Cats Foundation has
8 raised over \$6 million dollars and distributed that in the
9 greater Manchester area to needy causes.

10 They've opened the field during this crisis for
11 high school graduations. All of the Manchester high schools
12 use the facility for graduation. Goffstown High School used
13 the facility for graduation in order to provide some
14 entertainment. They've opened the field for the fireworks
15 on special evenings.

16 They have been a very significant player in the
17 city of Manchester -- I mean economic viability. It's a
18 wonderful presentation. It's a very easy way to take your
19 family, have an enjoyable event at the park. It's
20 affordable, it's accommodating, and they're a most
21 significant asset to the state of New Hampshire.

22 And as I say, they can't make any money. As a

1 matter of fact, if you bought tickets and you asked for
2 refunds, you'd have to get the refunds.

3 But if you've not accepted the refunds, they've
4 given you a bonus for next year, but they can't count that
5 money in as dollars gained for next year, because it'll be
6 spent this year.

7 The pressure on the team is really extreme. And
8 as I say, they're of great valuable asset, not only to the
9 city of Manchester, but to the state of New Hampshire, an
10 integral player in the social activities of Manchester --
11 great for the community in terms of what they do and what
12 they give. And they need help to survive.

13 And it's very, very significant and very, very
14 important.

15 Mayor, have I articulated the issue, what have I
16 missed? And of course the city derives the funds from the
17 rental, and that's a key ingredient in the city's budget
18 process. So if I missed anything, Mayor, could you fill it
19 in?

20 MAYOR CRAIG: Sure, I'm happy to. Can you hear
21 me?

22 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

1 MAYOR CRAIG: Okay, great. So first, Senator
2 D'Allesandro and the GOFERR Advisory Board, I just want to
3 thank you for inviting me to participate on the call today,
4 and for considering the impact that COVID-19 has had on the
5 New Hampshire Fisher Cats.

6 The Fisher Cats are a staple here in the city of
7 Manchester and our entire community. And it's been an asset
8 to our state.

9 Over the past 15 years, the Fisher Cats have had a
10 significant positive impact on our local residents,
11 businesses, and restaurants. And as Senator D'Allesandro
12 mentioned, they've contributed almost \$6 million dollars in
13 donations to area non-profits during this time.

14 And although to a certain extent expected, it was
15 devastating news when we learned at the end of June that
16 Minor League Baseball was canceled for the 2020 season due
17 to COVID-19. And as a result, the Fisher Cats will probably
18 be closed through April of 21, and they're facing right now
19 a loss of about \$5 million dollars in revenue.

20 So the city of Manchester and the Fisher Cats have
21 a long-standing partnership, and as a result, the Board of
22 Mayor and Alderman right now are considering the Fisher

1 Cats' request to defer their next payment to the city
2 totaling \$920,000.

3 As a result, the city would be short on the
4 revenue side, and we'd have to make it up on the
5 expenditures side, most likely by holding off on hiring, or
6 holding vacancies.

7 And given all of the unknowns that everyone is
8 dealing with as a result of COVID-19, it would be
9 tremendously helpful right now if we could count on those
10 two payments.

11 So it's important to note -- and some of the
12 senators mentioned -- that during this challenging time the
13 Fisher Cats really have stepped up to the plate, and I do --
14 the pun is intended. They continue to meet the needs of our
15 community by hosting many high school graduations, youth
16 baseball camps, fireworks, concerts, and more in a safe,
17 organized and professional manner.

18 We're very, very fortunate to have the Fisher Cats
19 as a member of our community. Their commitment to
20 Manchester and to New Hampshire is invaluable.

21 And again, I want to thank the GOFERR Advisory
22 Board for inviting me to speak today and for your

1 consideration of their request.

2 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro, anything else
3 you would like to add regarding the Fisher Cats?

4 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you. Can everybody
5 hear me? I think when you have something that's so
6 important to the vital economic life of the city, and the
7 number of jobs that are created, and the real complement
8 right across the board, we've got to work to try to help
9 these people.

10 This is an unbelievable situation. And I might
11 say that look at what's happening in Major League Baseball
12 as we speak. They are trying to get it going, and I doubt
13 that that's going to happen.

14 And look at the number of professional athletes
15 that are refusing or deferring playing because of the
16 effects of the virus on the teams. And think of the
17 financial effect that's going to have nationwide.

18 And here we are confronted with something in our
19 city, in our state that we can deal with, that we can help
20 with, and we have the capability to do that.

21 Now, we've helped a lot of people, as we should.
22 The \$1.25 million was given to this state of New Hampshire

1 to help people, and to help the economy recover, and to
2 sustain what we have in place. And I think this is a very
3 worthy cause that we should consider supporting.

4 I think the Mayor articulated the issue quite
5 clearly and succinctly. They're a player. They're a vital
6 player in the social fabric of our community. The fact that
7 they've raised over \$6 million dollars and donated to needy
8 organizations, that's really a tribute to the management of
9 the team.

10 And these teams work on very, very slim -- very,
11 very slim margins and the big deal for Manchester, of
12 course, is the rental of the field. And that's a key
13 ingredient in the operating budget for the city of
14 Manchester.

15 So with that, Director Little, thank you very
16 much. I appreciate the willingness of the Committee to hear
17 our thoughts with regard to this issue. Thank you.

18 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator D'Allesandro.
19 And Mayor Craig, thank you very much. I see we have a
20 question from Representative Dick Hinch.

21 DICK HINCH: Yes, good afternoon, thank you,
22 Jerry. So I have two questions.

1 Number 1, am I correct that the Fisher Cats did
2 receive \$350,000 from the Main Street Relief Fund?

3 And secondarily, it's my understanding that there
4 is some financing available to them.

5 And then my last question is, my understanding of
6 the ask for \$1 million dollars is an effort to pay the
7 property tax for this year, and has the city thought about
8 deferring that payment of the property tax in light of
9 what's going on and the need that the Fisher Cats have?

10 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Hinch, I can confirm
11 that the Fisher Cats did receive the \$350,000 maximum amount
12 available from the Main Street Relief Fund. I am not -- I
13 can't speak to whatever other sorts of financing may be
14 available to them -- possibly there's a representative of
15 the team on the phone, or somebody who can speak to them
16 about that.

17 And I think I'll let the other folks speak up on
18 the other issues as well. Does anybody -- Senator
19 D'Allesandro -- wish to speak to either of those points? I
20 think there was a question about -- Mayor Craig, there was a
21 question about whether the City of Manchester might let
22 their tax payments ride for a little bit?

1 MAYOR CRAIG: So the Fisher Cats actually don't
2 pay property taxes, it's a city-owned property. The money
3 that's owed to the city is a lease payment, and it's debt
4 service.

5 DICK HINCH: Thank you. And can that debt service
6 be deferred?

7 MAYOR CRAIG: No.

8 DICK HINCH: Are you able to explain why?

9 MAYOR CRAIG: I have our Finance Director here,
10 Sharon Wissen (phonetic), she can.

11 SHARON WISSEN: The debt service is a bond
12 issuance [00:21:12 audio unclear by the of the City of
13 Manchester, and there is no deferral for debt service
14 payments, that they are due. The bondholders expect them,
15 they copy] bonds. There's no deferment on them.

16 DICK HINCH: And the amount of the bond to be
17 paid?

18 SHARON WISSEN: The amount on the bond now is
19 about \$12.2 million, and these lease payments are to help
20 offset some of the debt payment that's due.

21 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Sharon. Any further
22 question, Representative Hinch?

1 DICK HINCH: No, that's fine for now.

2 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. We have a question from
3 Senator Reagan.

4 SENATOR REAGAN: We have a lot of confusing
5 information given us here, about \$6 million dollars of lost
6 revenue, which is not a loss, and then we have a suggestion
7 that there's 25 full-time jobs there that people won't get
8 paid.

9 But there's no details in this as to exactly
10 what's happening, and they're looking for -- I think Lou
11 asked for a million dollars, and the million dollars is just
12 to pay the City of Manchester. So I wish they had just said
13 that.

14 I could support an honest request, but all this \$6
15 million dollars and the \$12 million-dollar bond and all this
16 other stuff, they're not detailed expenditures, and I do not
17 like how they presented this.

18 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator Reagan. Senator
19 D'Allesandro, do you have a question? Senator D'Allesandro?

20 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, the \$6 million
21 dollars that I reference is the \$6 million dollars that the
22 ball club has raised for not-for-profits in the City of

1 Manchester. That's the \$6 million dollars that I mention.
2 And I think that someone from the ballpark might be able to
3 go into other financial situations.

4 But they'll produce no revenue for this year -- no
5 revenue, \$0 revenue. The Toronto Blue Jays have said no
6 Minor League Baseball. So the field lies fallow at this
7 point in time.

8 And the request is really to aid the city of
9 Manchester. Obviously, that rental arrangement is
10 significant -- obviously, and very, very important to the
11 City of Manchester. It reflects on the city's operating
12 budget. And there's the genesis of the request that I made.

13 Now, they may have received some money from other
14 sources, but what I'm aware of is the problem that they're
15 having as they exist right now, and their inability to raise
16 any money the traditional way through attendance at the
17 games and things of that nature.

18 So it would have a dramatic effect on the City of
19 Manchester. Manchester's the largest city in the state of
20 New Hampshire. We have about 10 part of the population of
21 the state.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro, I believe we

1 have Mike Ramshaw, who's the President of the Fisher Cats,
2 on the line. Would it be okay with you if we brought him in
3 at this point in time?

4 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Absolutely, Jerry. That's
5 a great suggestion. Thank you very much. Yes, sure. I
6 defer to the President of the Fisher Cats. Thank you.

7 JERRY LITTLE: Mr. Ramshaw, are you with us this
8 afternoon?

9 MIKE RAMSHAW: Hi, yes. This is Mike Ramshaw,
10 President of New Hampshire Fisher Cats. Thank you very
11 much. Can you guys hear me?

12 JERRY LITTLE: Yes. Have you heard the
13 conversation that just went on?

14 MIKE RAMSHAW: I did. Yes, I did. So I can
15 explain going back to the Main Street Relief Fund the grant
16 that we had received.

17 We did get the maximum, the \$350,000. Received
18 that on a Thursday, and then on Monday the following week
19 had delivered that to the City of Manchester to pay our June
20 rent payment of the \$420,000. So we took \$350,000 and then
21 took an additional \$110,000 from what we had here at the
22 ballpark.

1 To explain the losses, you know, essentially so
2 Major League Baseball canceled the season, which in effect
3 canceled the Minor League Baseball season, they were not
4 going to feed players to the Minor Leagues.

5 So we took 70 chances -- our greatest opportunity
6 to generate revenue during the year is gone now. And we've
7 been trying to do different things in the community to raise
8 money to just cover our expenses. You know, and
9 fortunately, we did receive the PDP loan. We kept our staff
10 on full until July 1, and unfortunately had to furlough
11 roughly half of the staff.

12 And now we're working to create the events that
13 the Mayor and Senator D'Allesandro mention, whether it's
14 movie nights, fireworks, camps; trying to stay a part of the
15 community and let people know that we're here as a resource,
16 so that we're not forgotten.

17 I mean, if you think about it, it's going to be
18 almost 18 months without baseball -- you know, in the state
19 of New Hampshire. The Fisher Cats are definitely important
20 to the city, but the state. There's a lot of different
21 programs that we provide to give back to different
22 organizations, whether it's non-profits, youth leagues,

1 schools and camps throughout the entire state.

2 You know, so due to the pandemic and not having
3 these events that we normally would have pre-COVID, you
4 know, we're facing a loss of nearly \$5.5 million dollars in
5 revenue, with considerable fixed expenses... and then, you
6 know, the economic assistance as needed to allow us just to
7 bridge the gap to return in 2021 to be a major economic
8 driver for the state of New Hampshire for many years to
9 come.

10 This isn't a short-term, right? It's not next
11 year all of a sudden, we come back. You know, it's going to
12 take time to get over there, and we want to make sure that
13 we're able to still be in a position that we're able to be
14 there for the city and the state of New Hampshire.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Ramshaw. Questions
16 for Mr. Ramshaw? Representative Dick Hinch?

17 DICK HINCH: Yes, thank you, Mr. Ramshaw. So I
18 just want to make sure that I have my notes correct. You
19 did receive a \$350,000 max payout from Main Street, which
20 you used to pay for the June payment to the city.

21 And as I understood it, that left \$110,000. Is
22 that correct so far?

1 MIKE RAMSHAW: Correct. We took the \$350- from
2 the Main Street and then paid from what we had, because
3 we've had some partners that have been able to, you know,
4 that had confirmed that they would stick with the amount
5 that we provide -- you know, for the sponsorship that we're
6 able to keep on hand, and we used that to make the
7 difference, make the payment for the city.

8 DICK HINCH: Okay. And then, as a follow up, if
9 I'm, the ask from -- at least Senator D'Allesandro, I'm not
10 sure it's the same ask as yours -- is for a million dollars
11 to be allocated from COVID?

12 And if I understand that correctly, that helps in
13 a huge way in going towards the deferrals, or the next
14 payments that are due. Can you tell us the amount of those
15 payments and when they're due, and what the million dollars
16 then pays for?

17 MIKE RAMSHAW: Yes, sir. So the next payment is
18 due to the city in October for \$460,000. And then there's
19 another one that's due in June of 2021, also for another
20 \$460,000. So that makes up \$920,000 in total.

21 DICK HINCH: So the million-dollar ask, if that's
22 the same number you're using -- and again, I'm not sure it

1 is -- takes you through payments to the city, through next
2 June, meaning 2021. Is that correct?

3 MIKE RAMSHAW: That is correct, sir.

4 DICK HINCH: And is that how you would use the
5 million dollars?

6 MIKE RAMSHAW: Yes, sir.

7 DICK HINCH: Okay, so I guess my next question
8 back to the Mayor is, can the city do anything to offset
9 some or all of this \$920,000?

10 SHARON WISSEN: So the question is coming before
11 the Board on Tuesday whether the city can defer those funds.

12 But as I mentioned when I spoke initially, it
13 would affect our revenues negatively, and we'd have to make
14 it up on the expenditures side. And most likely the only
15 way that we would be able to do that would be holding
16 vacancies or holding off on hiring employees that are
17 needed.

18 And given all our unknowns as a result of COVID,
19 you know, we are seeing a decrease of revenues in other
20 ways, but we don't know, you know, the true impact of all of
21 this at this point.

22 DICK HINCH: But there has been significant money

1 from COVID sent to the city so far, yes?

2 SHARON WISSEN: We cannot use any of the funds
3 that have been sent to the city to cover a loss in revenue.

4 DICK HINCH: Understood. Thank you.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Other questions for members of the
6 Legislative Advisory Board relative to the Fisher Cats
7 question? We also asked James Key-Wallace, the Executive
8 Director of the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority to
9 join us for this conversation today. James, are you on the
10 phone?

11 JAMES KEY-WALLACE: I am. Good afternoon, Jerry.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Good afternoon, James. Do you have
13 anything to add to the conversation about the Fisher Cats?
14 Have you contemplated them at all in the context of the GAP
15 Fund?

16 JAMES KEY-WALLACE: Yes. I'd be happy to talk a
17 little bit about that. I should say a couple things right
18 off the bat. We are approximately halfway through the
19 application period for the GAP Fund. You know, I'm not at
20 liberty to discuss any individual's application or, you
21 know, the details therein until we're through the process.

22 But I can talk about the GAP Fund in general

1 terms, and then certainly how it affects the Fisher Cats'
2 eligibility to apply.

3 The other thing I should say right off the bat is
4 we certainly recognize the significance of the Fisher Cats
5 to Manchester and the state as a whole, and we recognize
6 really the unique circumstances that they find themselves
7 in.

8 So the GAP Fund, for those folks that don't know,
9 is a \$30 million-dollar allocation from the CARES Act
10 designed to primarily help for-profit organizations and
11 certain types of non-profit organizations, who are unable to
12 access help and relief from already -- you know, existing
13 programs that have come and went (sic).

14 Or, you know, those folks who had technical
15 glitches, who couldn't get through the process, or maybe
16 there was an error on their application that resulted in
17 them getting an amount that was different than what they
18 expected.

19 It's not really designed to, you know, provide
20 more relief to organizations that already received their pro
21 rata share until the Main Street Relief Program, but rather
22 catch those folks who weren't helped.

1 You know, that being said, it is designed to be
2 flexible. And, you know, there are certainly going to be
3 situations that, you know, organizations, you know, perhaps
4 like the Fisher Cats -- you know, I can't commit one way or
5 another, but you know have truly exceptional extenuating
6 circumstances that we'll take a look at.

7 From an eligibility perspective, the Fisher Cats
8 are certainly eligible to apply. It's designed to be very
9 flexible as to who can apply -- you know, the real criteria
10 are that you have to be a New Hampshire business; have at
11 least -- you know, more than one employee, it's not for a
12 self-employed individual; and that you're not permanently
13 closed, that you were in operation prior to March of this
14 year, and that you have been affected by COVID-19.

15 And they certainly ticked all those boxes for
16 eligibility.

17 It is a grant program. You know, I will say the
18 amount of the cool \$30 million is less than one-tenth of the
19 size of the Main Street Relief Program, which was a \$400
20 million-dollar pool. The maximum amount someone could
21 receive under the Main Street Program was \$350,000.

22 So you can imagine just mathematically with a pool

1 that's less than a tenth of that size the amount of grants
2 coming under that program are -- to be very candid --
3 unlikely to fulfill the \$1 million-dollar need the Fisher
4 Cats have, as much as I recognize, you know, how critical it
5 is.. just because that represents that one amount, you
6 know, a huge amount for any single entity you get out of a
7 limited amount of funds.

8 So, you know, they're certainly eligible to apply.
9 And we'll take a look at what we get, and absolutely take
10 into consideration how important they are.

11 We also have to deal with the constraints of
12 what's available in the Fund.

13 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much, James. Any
14 questions from members of the Committee for Mr. Key-Wallace?
15 Any other comments or questions from members of the
16 Committee relative to the Fisher Cats' situation? That is
17 the whole list of the folks that we have lined up to speak
18 to you today about this particular issue.

19 Senator D'Allesandro, do you have any last
20 comments you would like to make on this topic?

21 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Chairman Little.
22 I think people known clearly what the situation is. They

1 know that the magnitude of the situation as it relates to
2 the City, and the fact that this entity, unless many others,
3 has no ability to make any money. They have no chance to do
4 anything for this entire season, and there will be no Minor
5 League Baseball, period.

6 And I think that's a very different situation.
7 It's unique in that context, that they're going to have no
8 ability to provide the opportunity that they have been
9 providing to New Hampshire citizens for the last 14 years.
10 That's a rather unique situation. Hence, the need is quite
11 dire. Thank you.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. So this was
13 sort of Part A of your two-part question. The first was
14 about funding. The second part was about masks.

15 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes. Should I give you the
16 second part of my two-parter?

17 JERRY LITTLE: Please. Yes, please.

18 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I think -- and I've had
19 conversation with my colleagues -- some agree with me, some
20 disagree with me, and I appreciate that, because that's in
21 the spirit of democracy.

22 I think it's incumbent upon us to put aside money

1 for masks for people in the state of New Hampshire.

2 I firmly believe that the Governor should mandate
3 masks. If anything has proven successful in combatting this
4 virus, it's the wearing of the mask and it's the keeping of
5 distance.

6 Now, I think New Hampshire citizens have been
7 remarkably -- just remarkably -- adhering to the fact that
8 they wear masks. I think we should mandate that. I just
9 can't tell you how important I think that is.

10 And I'm in an age category of a high degree of
11 vulnerability. And I wear the mask, and I'm a -- you know,
12 I'm a touchy-feely, huggy guy, as my colleagues know from my
13 experience, or their experience with me in the Legislature,
14 and I -- you can't do any of those.

15 But I think the mask is so important, we should
16 set aside some monies to deal with that situation and ask
17 the Governor. It would be my ask of this committee to
18 support me in asking the Governor to mandate the wearing of
19 masks.

20 And I'm telling you that this thing is not over.
21 The vaccine is going to come, but it's not going to come
22 right away. They're now talking about December or January.

1 And if we've found a way to combat it, it's the wearing of
2 the mask and it's keeping our distance.

3 And it can do something -- the virtue of doing
4 this that prevents the loss of life in our community. And
5 we've lost, in this nation 150,000 people have lost their
6 lives to this virus.

7 And I think if you can combat it in some way, do
8 that. So I ask my colleagues to support that recommendation
9 to mandate masks and to set aside money, and certainly COVID
10 related, to provide masks for citizens. They've got to be
11 substantial; they've got to be reusable; they've got to be
12 washable.

13 I know that we have some masks in our household
14 that we got -- we got them actually from Alex Ray, who's
15 done a wonderful job of distributing masks free to people
16 that we wash and reuse, and they've been very, very helpful.

17 But Chairman, that's my request. And that's for
18 the health and safety of every person in the state of New
19 Hampshire. It -- I just cannot express that need with
20 enough emphasis, and with enough commitment.

21 You know, we've all had friends pass away because
22 of the virus. My wife just had two of her classmates at

1 Manchester High School West die at the Villa Crest just last
2 week -- husband and wife died within a few, just a few days
3 of each other.

4 But wearing of this mask -- wearing of a mask --
5 is so essential to protecting the life and safety of
6 individuals. So I bring that forward. I thank you for
7 giving me the opportunity to express my opinion on this. I
8 thank my colleagues for listening. I just think it's very,
9 very important. Thank you.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator and sorry for
11 your loss. And I apologize. I read the request about masks
12 as funding and masks for the Fisher Cats. I thought it was
13 a related request, but I -- so I apologize.

14 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: That's okay.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Did not mean to shut off too soon
16 the discussion about the Fisher Cats issue, but understand
17 that it's a separate, very important --

18 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

19 JERRY LITTLE: -- issue.

20 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

21 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Hinch, do you have a
22 question?

1 DICK HINCH: Yes, I do. So I read this as tied
2 into the Fisher Cats as well, and candidly it's been a while
3 since I hugged Lou, but I think it's inappropriate for us to
4 as part of the GOFERR conversation to tie together an
5 allocation for masks to a mandate forcing the Governor to do
6 it statewide.

7 This does not have my support, I will not vote for
8 it, and as Lou said in the beginning, people will agree with
9 him; some people will disagree with him. You can put me in
10 the disagreement column.

11 I think it's inappropriate for us to -- as members
12 of the GOFERR committee to use this as a mechanism to force
13 the Governor's hand on mandating masks for the state of New
14 Hampshire. Thank you.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you.

16 DICK HINCH: If I could just say I respect
17 Representative Hinch's comments. I think he has a right to
18 say -- obviously, anything he wants, and we always agree to
19 disagree.

20 But I think it's incumbent upon me as a member of
21 this committee to talk very candidly and very forwardly
22 about the \$1.25 million dollars that given us to deal with

1 COVID-related issues. And if the wearing of the mask isn't a
2 COVID-related issue, I don't know what is.

3 I'm just asking the Governor to make it mandatory;
4 I'm not demanding anything from the Governor. I'm asking
5 him to do something that I perceive of as in the best
6 interest of every citizen of the state of New Hampshire.
7 And I think that's my job, and that's -- as a member of this
8 committee, as a member of the Legislature, and as a citizen
9 of the state of New Hampshire.

10 And that's my reason for bringing it forward here.
11 I don't have another place to bring it forward. Thank you.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. Are there any
13 further questions about the Fisher Cats? I'm sorry to mix
14 those two issues together that way. One last chance for
15 folks to have a comment about the Fisher Cats? If not,
16 we're going to move momentarily to discussion about Mascoma
17 Community Health Care.

18 [Pause]

19 I'm not seeing any hands raised. We will come to
20 a closing I guess at this point on discussion about New
21 Hampshire Fisher Cats. Thank you everybody for
22 participating in that conversation, and we will now move

1 onto the next item on the agenda, which is Mascoma Community
2 Health Care, and I believe we have several people with us on
3 the line relative to the discussion of Mascoma Community
4 Health Care.

5 We have Town Administrator Mike Sampson from
6 Canaan, I believe. We may also have Mr. Thurber, Peter
7 Thurber -- representing the organization.

8 And then I think we also have waiting in the wings
9 Steve Ahnen from the New Hampshire Hospital Association, who
10 after will give us an update for status on the health care
11 situation in the state of New Hampshire.

12 So I'm not sure who anticipates going first, Mr.
13 Sampson or Mr. Thurber. I see Mr. Sampson has his hand
14 raised, so sir welcome, and thank you for joining us.

15 MIKE SAMPSON: My appreciation also to the
16 Legislative Advisory Board. I'm going to turn the
17 microphone over to Peter Thurber, who is the Chairman of the
18 Board of Directors of the Health Center first.

19 PETER THURBER: Thank you very much.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Go right ahead.

21 PETER THURBER: This is Pete Thurber, Chair of the
22 Board for Mascoma Community Health Care. I'm just going to

1 give you a quick overview of who we are, and Mike will give
2 a little bit greater detail on our financial situation as
3 well.

4 But again, we appreciate the opportunity to
5 present to the Board today what our current situation and
6 what our current need is, as we try to navigate this
7 pandemic, as many of our colleagues in health care have been
8 doing for the last several months.

9 So we are a 501c3 community health center. We
10 have medical and dental here in our facility. This is a
11 13,000 square foot facility that we built in 2016. We built
12 it from grassroot efforts that began in 2014. We opened our
13 doors in June of 2017 and just celebrated our third
14 anniversary.

15 In that time, as we have built our medical and
16 dental practices, this facility was built to accommodate a
17 large number of people from our five towns in the Mascoma
18 Valley; which is Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton and
19 Orange.

20 But we serve patients from the additional
21 surrounding 34 towns as well. Our patient panel is
22 currently 3800 patients, which is approximately 35 percent

1 of the population in our catchment area. We are a very
2 important resource for our community as far as health care
3 goes.

4 This is a health professional shortage area for
5 medical, dental and mental health professionals. We have no
6 doctors or dentist in these five core towns. If people want
7 to get to health care, they have to travel half an hour into
8 Lebanon, or they have to travel half an hour into Plymouth.
9 We are right in between.

10 About 30 percent of our population of 10,400 --
11 again, are patients here. And we have a very high rate of
12 uninsured. We take in all comers -- people with insurance,
13 people without insurance -- and as of right now, about 13
14 percent of our total catchment area is uninsured.

15 And right here in Canaan, where we are located, 17
16 percent are uninsured. 490 of those patients are Medicaid.
17 479 are Medicare. That's about 25 percent of the total
18 patient population.

19 We operate on a sliding scale, which means that
20 for people who are uninsured or underinsured, we operate
21 much like a federally qualified health center. We opened
22 from the very beginning as a federally qualified health

1 center look-alike; VFQHC look-alike. And we've been
2 operating in that way with the intention of becoming a
3 federally-qualified health center.

4 We currently employ 19 individuals. 85 percent of
5 them come from the five communities that we work in here.
6 We have two half-time physicians; a Nurse Practitioner,
7 Physician Assistant, a Dentist, Dental Hygienist and two
8 Dental Assistants providing most of our work.

9 We have approximately 45 percent of our patients
10 who are low-income, and another 9 percent are moderate or
11 higher.

12 And on the FQHC front, we had been in negotiations
13 to work towards that QHC status that would have hopefully
14 occurred this summer in June. But due to the pandemic,
15 we've had to delay that work with all of the benefits that
16 come from that for up to another year.

17 So while we have been growing significantly over
18 the last three years faster than most other places of our
19 size have grown, we have really been working off of our own
20 revenue. We've been working off of donations coming in from
21 the community.

22 We're going to hear more about -- again, what our

1 financial situation is in a moment. But I just want to say
2 that the community support of this project has been
3 fantastic.

4 And I also wanted to remind the citizens from the
5 very beginning, grassroots effort in the community of what
6 this community determined they wanted to see in health care.
7 We have no support from larger health systems and
8 organizations, other than some donations that have come in
9 to help us along the way.

10 So while we have struggled with COVID, we are
11 going to tell you a little bit more about where we sit
12 finally. And we're looking for some assistance. And I'll
13 turn it back over to Mike Sampson.

14 MIKE SAMPSON: Thank you for this opportunity.
15 Both Peter and I are volunteers. I'm a volunteer Finance
16 Director for the Health Center.

17 So what has COVID-19 done to the Mascoma Health
18 Center? Well, because of stay-at-home instructions and
19 fear, our patient visits, like many other facilities,
20 dropped almost immediately by 50 percent.

21 Our revenues as a result dropped off well in
22 excess of \$230,000 in March, April, May and June. And we

1 still continue to lose money.

2 Between -- we anticipate that the loss between
3 July of this year and the end of June next year will be
4 about \$620,000. Our total operating budget is between \$1.4
5 and \$1.6 million dollars as we grow.

6 In spite of all of that, our population is still
7 growing by 80 to 90 new patients a month. And at a point
8 where COVID hit us, we were struggling to break even on a
9 cash basis. We had sufficient earned income, and revenues
10 in the health industry are slow to put it mildly.

11 So we were coming up with a basis to reach a cash
12 basis, and we had two strategies. The first was to merge
13 with the federally qualified health center, so that we could
14 add the benefits of being a federally qualified health
15 center. That would have immediately brought in about
16 \$400,000 in cash and benefits to Mascoma's cash flow.

17 Second, looking out for ourselves and trying to
18 maximize our efficiency and effectiveness, we worked to
19 increase internal cash flow this year by about \$400,000.
20 That was to come from another 100,000 patients.

21 As you heard, we're still bringing them in at the
22 rate of 80 or 90 a month. That would have generated an

1 additional \$200,000 in revenue.

2 We also needed to add a fifth day to the dental
3 practice because we had a form of backlog. And that would
4 have generated net after hiring additional personnel \$90,000
5 a year.

6 And finally, by having full utilization of the
7 medical side, we hope to add another \$120,000. And the
8 utilization was coming from using every opening we had and
9 filling it with walk-in patients or same-day visits. And
10 that was going to actually be filled by the new patients
11 coming in the door.

12 So with COVID-19, all of these strategies, except
13 for patient growth, either collapsed or were put on hold,
14 including the merger with Health First.

15 And the reason the Health First went onto a hold
16 was they had their own issues to deal with in terms of
17 stabilization. They were in much better position than we
18 were, they had about \$1,500,000 in cash on hand, and we had
19 virtually nothing.

20 We have always relied on local donations. We've
21 done it for well over four years. And we've raised roughly
22 \$2 million dollars from the community -- not from federal

1 sources or state sources, but from the community itself.

2 We have one woman, one donor who locally has given
3 us \$1 million dollars. We have five other donors -- five
4 hundred other donors who have given us whatever they can.
5 And it's important to tell at least a couple of these
6 stories quickly.

7 One woman who's currently 105 years old came in a
8 few years ago when she was 102 and demanded that we take
9 \$200,000 from her, even though we advised her not to do
10 that. She said, "I have to give you the money now, so this
11 is what I'm doing."

12 Another retired couple came in in April of this
13 year and said -- knew that we were having difficulty meeting
14 payroll in April, before we received any funding. And he
15 said, "I can only forward \$7000. We have our own health
16 issues, and we just can't give you any more than \$7000." I
17 thanked him for it.

18 He called me back about three hours later. He
19 asked how, wow we were doing. I said, "Well, we're still
20 \$3000 short." He called back a couple of hours later and
21 said, "Where are you?" and I said, "We're still \$3000 short
22 for payroll." And he said, "I'm coming down." So he came

1 down and wrote us another check for \$3000.

2 One local resident who has COPD and terminal
3 cancer, who has given already \$150,000 over the first two
4 years of the operation came down that same pay period and
5 gave us \$5000 more. Beyond that, we receive gifts of
6 \$10,000 to \$100 online every month from people who want us
7 to survive COVID-19.

8 Even though all of our towns have got difficulties
9 with COVID, two of our towns voted to support the Health
10 Center, in spite of their own pressures for COVID-19. So in
11 spite of these powerful statements of trust, donations have
12 dropped by 90 percent. And we think it's just a function of
13 the economy.

14 We've done everything in our power to raise money
15 from the community, and we're doing everything we can to
16 manage our services and fees to be as cost effective as we
17 can, and to generate more cash revenue. But frankly, we're
18 in serious danger of closing.

19 Our financial need to assure that we're going to
20 make it until next year, which we have to do if we're going
21 to merge, we believe that the earliest we're going to be
22 able to complete a merger with Health First is going to be

1 in August or September of next year.

2 So we have to find \$600,000 between now and then.
3 We're going to continue working to get in as much earned
4 income, cash income, as we can, and to get into as much as
5 we can from donations.

6 But every pay period is the same situation for us.
7 We're always wondering where the next funding is coming
8 from.

9 We've received state and federal funds like other
10 health centers. We've -- most health centers have received
11 funds from HIRSA, Paycheck Protection Program, state funds,
12 and CDEA. We've received the following funds: New
13 Hampshire Emergency Health System Relief Fund \$100,000;
14 Payroll Protection Program \$189,000 roughly; SBA Emergency
15 Loan \$10,000; and Medicare and Medicaid payments of \$14,000
16 roughly, for a total of about \$314,000.

17 Our largest sources of funds are from the Paycheck
18 Protection Program and the New Hampshire Emergency Health
19 System Relief Fund. The Paycheck Protection Program was
20 designed and limited to two months, which started for us in
21 march and is now complete, and has been complete for three
22 weeks. It did give us the assistance we needed in that

1 immediate two-month period.

2 Other health centers, though, received direct
3 assistance from HRSA because they're a federally qualified
4 health center, and that assistance is five times greater
5 than the state funding. And they also received
6 proportionally much more from the Emergency Health System
7 Relief Fund than we did.

8 So that leaves us with what we'd received from the
9 Emergency Health Systems Relief Fund. We compared what we
10 received from other community health centers, and I think
11 we've noted in our presentations three or four examples.

12 Charlestown: It's an affiliate of Springfield
13 Hospital out of Vermont. It has 2200 patients. It has been
14 in operation for several years, and received \$500,000 or
15 about \$231 per patient.

16 White Mountain, which is a little larger: 2300
17 patients, received \$345,000, or \$131.00 per patients.
18 Indian Stream, which has nearly the same number of patients
19 we've had, except we've been in business a lot less time --
20 only 3 years -- received a half a million dollars, or \$132.
21 00 per patient.

22 Mascoma, which now has over 3800 patients, but at

1 that time had 3700 patients, received \$100,000 or only
2 \$26.90 per patient, or about 11 percent of what Charlestown
3 got per patient.

4 Even Greater Seacoast, the largest and most stable
5 community health center with more than 16000 patients, had
6 double the amount of support per patient than Mascoma had.

7 So we understand there's probably very good
8 reasons for all of that, but it's to highlight the fact that
9 we have only had assistance of the same nature that other
10 health centers got equal to \$100,000.

11 We also had asked for a minimum of \$200,000 at
12 that period of time for a two-month period. But again, we
13 were awarded \$100,000.

14 Interestingly enough, or worse yet, we've also
15 been denied the chance to apply for any other funding of
16 this nature -- either the Emergency Health System Relief
17 Fund supplemental funds, or the Nonprofit Emergency Relief
18 and Recovery Fund because we received that initial \$100,000.

19 As recently as this week, we were told that yes,
20 we would qualify for a CVFA loan, but we would have to
21 immediately repay the loan if we got additional funding from
22 the state, but we can't get additional funding from the

1 state under these programs.

2 So we're in a Catch-22 situation now throughout
3 the state, which is putting us in a dire situation. So we
4 applaud the state's commitment to let no critical health
5 system collapse.

6 We're a community health center. We want to share
7 with you that we've got almost 4000 patients that are in
8 danger of losing this health center. We want to share with
9 you how needy these people are. The lion's share of them
10 are people who have no other health plans, no other health
11 coverage anyplace else.

12 We wanted to share with you that we're doing
13 everything in our power to raise money locally and to fund
14 our programs more efficiently, so we can survive. And we
15 are currently barred from getting additional funding, and we
16 need your help.

17 So on behalf of those 4000 patients and the local
18 donors, please don't forsake our efforts. We will continue
19 to do everything in our power up to our last day of
20 operation to grow and to provide our financing.

21 And I want to leave the remainder of our time,
22 which isn't a whole lot, for any questions which the

1 community may have. And if it's of a financial nature, I
2 will do my best to answer all your questions. Thank you.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Speaker Shurtleff, did you have a
4 question?

5 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you Commissioner.
6 Commissioner, my faith teaches that confession is good for
7 you, and so, I've got to confess that some time ago I
8 received an e-mail from Mascoma Community Health Care, and I
9 really didn't give it the attention it deserved.

10 And I want to thank my good friend from Canaan,
11 Representative Tim Josephson, for really bringing this issue
12 to my attention.

13 I think we all realize the importance of rural
14 health care in New Hampshire, and Commissioner, I'd make a
15 motion that this Board ask for a grant of \$300,000 to go to
16 Mascoma Health Center.

17 I think Mr. Sampson said they need \$600,000 to
18 remain viable until a year from now, in order for this
19 merchant to go through with Health First. And so I move
20 that we request to grant a \$300,000 to get them halfway to
21 their goal. Thank you.

22 JERRY LITTLE: We have a motion. Is there a

1 second? Representative Wallner?

2 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, I would second the
3 motion.

4 JERRY LITTLE: And did you also have a question or
5 comment, Representative Wallner?

6 MARY JANE WALLNER: Well, I did have a question.
7 I was wondering what the status was of the Health Care
8 Relief Fund? I know that a while ago we had a report on
9 that, and we were not spending -- we had not spent down in
10 that fund. And I'm wondering why Mascoma can't go back to
11 that fund for additional -- for these additional funds?

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you for the question,
13 Representative Wallner. I am going to turn to Lisa English
14 and ask her for an update on the Health Care Relief Fund.

15 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you, Jerry. Just very
16 quickly, we do anticipate there will be additional
17 opportunities under the Health Care Relief Program -- both a
18 general Health Care Relief Program, as well as the Long Term
19 Care Relief Program.

20 So I don't have numbers for you, or even at this
21 very moment a timeframe, but we do anticipate those
22 additional opportunities will be very soon.

1 And we encourage everyone to certainly keep an eye
2 on the website. And we're working to add some additional
3 information on the website as well about past awards with
4 regard to the Health Care Relief Program.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Lisa. Senator Morse, a
6 question sir?

7 [Pause]

8 Senator Morse, do you have a question?

9 SENATOR MORSE: Sorry about that, Jerry. I never
10 use that mute. I'd like -- I'm on the same line of question
11 that just was asked. I had to call last week because some
12 dentists got in, some dentists didn't get in. You know, I
13 certainly started asking questions about is there going to
14 be another round? I think what you're suggesting now is
15 there might be one coming.

16 My only problem with directly funding any
17 organization is I think there are more than Mascoma out
18 there right now, because I know I got called by dentists
19 last week, and it wasn't one.

20 So I think these organizations are basically
21 asking for another shot at it, and I'm pretty sure it's not
22 just going to be Mascoma, and it's not going to be the two

1 dentists that called me.

2 So I'm wondering if there's a better way to
3 approach this right now, and I certainly would like to know
4 how much more money's left in the fund.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Hinch, another
6 question or comment, sir?

7 DICK HINCH: Yes. I actually was going to echo
8 what Senator Morse just said. I understand we have a motion
9 on the floor right now. I also heard Lisa say that there's
10 going to be more opportunities, and it would be helpful if
11 we had some idea of -- are we thinking that maybe 30 days
12 away, 60 days away?

13 Because we could delay -- if Mascoma, which is a
14 second question -- if Mascoma is going to be eligible for
15 it, we could at least delay action until we know with some
16 certainty what's going to be available and when it's going
17 to be available.

18 JERRY LITTLE: We're trying to check on that
19 number, if you could stand by for just a second, please.

20 DICK HINCH: Thank you.

21 [Pause]

22 JERRY LITTLE: So we have asked Steve Giovinelli

1 to come back into the room. He's the numbers guy. Steve,
2 what does it look like for remaining balances in the Health
3 Care Stabilization Fund?

4 STEVE GIOVINELLI: For the standard providers,
5 we've got \$18,625,000 left. There are a few payments to be
6 processed, so that's maybe a little bit less there -- maybe
7 a couple hundred thousand left. There aren't a lot of
8 payments in the hopper, so to speak.

9 For the long-term care providers, the remaining
10 balance is \$20,123,000. And again, there are probably a
11 couple -- small handful, maybe four or five payments in the
12 hopper to be made, but nothing huge. My understanding is
13 we're heading for another round with those at some point,
14 though.

15 DICK HINCH: So Mascoma would be eligible for a
16 part of the \$18 million, is that correct, or could be
17 eligible?

18 LISA ENGLISH: So we don't have an official round
19 that's in the work at this point, but we do anticipate
20 additional opportunities, and we anticipate it soon. And in
21 response to your earlier question or comment about a
22 timeframe, it's certainly our hope to be much earlier than

1 30 days from now.

2 So this is something we really hope we have more
3 information for you soon, as we work through the most recent
4 prophecies of supplemental and the long-term health care,
5 we're working through that, and then hoping to move forward
6 from there.

7 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Steve. Thank you, Lisa.
8 Further questions?

9 MIKE SAMPSON: Jerry?

10 JERRY LITTLE: Yes.

11 MIKE SAMPSON: I'm sorry to interrupt, it's Mike
12 Sampson from Mascoma. Our problem is, even if there's
13 funding left, we are currently barred getting any additional
14 funding because all the offers that were put out, after the
15 first one it says, "You are ineligible to apply if you
16 receive funds at the end of the first round."

17 So I appreciate the kind thoughts, but hopefully
18 then that bar will be removed, so that we can apply.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you for the time, I
20 appreciate that. Any further questions from members of the
21 Committee?

22 DICK HINCH: So Jerry, this is Dick Hinch again.

1 Just because we have a motion on the floor, can we at least
2 get clarification to help Mr. Sampson out: Will the bar be
3 removed that precludes Mascoma from applying?

4 JERRY LITTLE: So if there is another round -- and
5 I think we've probably heard that we've sort of sense that
6 there will be another round -- we don't know what the rules,
7 eligibilities and limitations are until we're told what
8 those rules and limitations will be by the Governor.

9 So I can't assure you or Mr. Sampson one way or
10 another. You are asking me to speculate about things that I
11 don't have any control over. So I'm sorry.

12 Speaker Shurtleff?

13 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you Commissioner.
14 Commissioner, do you have a tentative date for our next
15 meeting of this Committee, this Board?

16 JERRY LITTLE: I do not. That is at the very end
17 of this agenda. We do whatever you tell us to do. So it's
18 really up to you.

19 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Well, the reason I ask is I
20 would ask that my motion be put on hold if we're going to be
21 meeting again within the next 30 days, and then take the
22 motion up again at that time. And maybe by then we'll have

1 further information about when a second wave of grants will
2 be available.

3 Also, we're making some clarity to this issue of
4 whether Mascoma Community Health Care can apply for a grant,
5 and if they come under long-term, or how they would fit in
6 to any funding program.

7 So I'm willing to withdraw my motion for now, but
8 renew it again at our next meeting and take it up at that
9 time, so some of these questions could be answered.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, sir. Representative
11 Wallner, are you willing to withdraw your second?

12 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes.

13 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representatives. So the
14 motion and the second are withdrawn. I see that you have
15 your hand up, Representative Wallner. Did you also want to
16 speak?

17 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, thank you. No, I'm fine,
18 thank you.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Senator Morse, would
20 you like to speak Senator?

21 SENATOR MORSE: Not really. I was going to
22 suggest the same thing, because I think we need to figure

1 out how many more groups like Mascoma exist also. So I
2 think we should take this up at the next meeting.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much, Senator. Are
4 you all set, Representative Hinch, or would you like to
5 speak again, sir?

6 DICK HINCH: No, I'm going to ditto what Senator
7 Morse just said. It would be good to find out what other
8 organizations are out there that are in need, but also if
9 we're thinking about the next meeting for this, by then
10 hopefully we'll know what the criteria will be, and that can
11 help out Mascoma as well.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representative Hinch.
13 And I just want to double check. Representative Wallner,
14 did you raise your hand again?

15 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes. I was on the same track
16 there as Representative Hinch, in that I would hope that
17 before the next meeting we can have a rundown of exactly how
18 much is left in the fund, and what the parameters are around
19 allowing for people to come in for a new application?

20 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Writing that down. I
21 don't see any further hands raised for questions or
22 comments. Anything -- last comments you'd like to leave

1 with us, Mr. Speaker, relative to this item which you
2 requested?

3 STEVE SHURTLEFF: No. Nothing at this time,
4 Jerry, thank you.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you all very much. I believe
6 that then closes this conversation about Mascoma Health,
7 that we are holding a motion in abeyance until the next
8 meeting, which we will arrange as soon as we get to the end
9 of this call today.

10 And we will be prepared at that next meeting to
11 give you a rundown on how much is left in those funds, and
12 what eligibilities look like, assuming that we get to the
13 point where we have another round of funding for health
14 care.

15 Steve Ahnen, are you still with us?

16 STEVE AHNEN: Yes, sir.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Well, thank you for holding in
18 there, Steve. I appreciate that very much.

19 STEVE AHNEN: My pleasure.

20 JERRY LITTLE: I guess at our last meeting, people
21 just wanted to check in with you and see how are you and
22 your members doing, sir?

1 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you very much for the
2 opportunity to come back. I did share with the GOFERR staff
3 an updated PowerPoint presentation; I hope everybody has a
4 copy of that?

5 JERRY LITTLE: It was distributed.

6 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you. I won't go through the
7 full document. I want to draw your attention to slides 7,8
8 and 9.

9 But let me just sort of say briefly, you know,
10 hospitals are -- continue to be ready and prepared to care
11 for all of their patients, including those with COVID.. as
12 well as those who are seeking traditional, routine, you
13 know, services in health care -- something that's really
14 important, that we know people were delaying during the
15 early period of the pandemic.

16 And it's really important that people get back to
17 getting the services and the care that they need. It's
18 obviously important for our hospitals to continue to do
19 that, after we stopped providing many nonurgent, routine
20 services early on in the pandemic to prepare for the surge.
21 That had a significant financial impact on our hospitals, as
22 you all know.

1 So let me just run down some of those things that
2 I wanted to share with you in terms of the update. So the
3 first slide that I wanted to kind of just cover briefly is
4 titled, "COVID-19 Grants Provided to New Hampshire
5 Hospitals."

6 And it just lists the various grants that have
7 been provided to hospitals in various forms, either from the
8 CARES Act, the Payroll Protection Program, from the Health
9 Services Resources administration, as well as the emergency
10 funding from the state Health Care Relief Fund.

11 Since we last met, there have been really just a
12 couple of additions that you will see. Under, "Targeted
13 Allocations" the "Round 2 of COVID Hotspot Funding" as well
14 as "Safety Net Payments," that was approximately \$40 million
15 dollars that came in to hospitals in the state.

16 And then initially that very first item in the
17 first box under, "General Distribution Round 1 Part 1" if
18 you look at the slide deck from the last time, that one's
19 been changed from \$100 million to about \$97.5 million. It
20 was simply an error in the way that we put that together.
21 So the first round came in at \$97.5-.

22 So if you look at all of that, and you looked at

1 the next slide, looking at -- you know, Total Expenses,
2 Total Operating Revenue, and, you know, what the variance
3 from that was -- in essence, what the losses were from March
4 through July through the end of July, obviously estimates
5 for July, we are sitting at about \$576 million dollars in
6 lost revenue.

7 When you add the grants that have come in that
8 offset some of that, we're at about \$275 million dollars in
9 losses for hospitals.

10 If you go to the next slide, you know, as we look
11 and project out into the future, to the remainder of the
12 year, we anticipate that losses will continue for hospitals
13 as a result of the fact that, you know, as we begin to
14 reintroduce and bring back services, we're going to be
15 doing.

16 So in a very deliberate manner, and we're simply
17 not going to be able to get back to 100 percent of the
18 volumes that we were seeing, you know, before the COVID
19 pandemic.

20 And, you know, we hope to get there at some point,
21 but most I think experts I think not only in New Hampshire
22 but across the country are saying it probably won't be until

1 sometime in mid-2021 at the earliest that we'll get back to
2 those kinds of volumes.

3 So through the end of the year projections would
4 say that we would see, you know, about \$740 million dollars
5 in total losses. If you back out the grants that we've
6 received, you know, we're still looking at over \$440 million
7 dollars in losses through the end of the year absent any
8 additional support.

9 And I would say that, you know, the pandemic is
10 going to continue. And the challenge the hospitals will be
11 facing will continue to be great, and we're going to need to
12 continue to work together and find opportunities to partner.

13 But we're going to need -- you know, additional
14 resources to help get us through this period, so that we can
15 make it out to the other side and do all the things that we
16 know are important to do in terms of serving our patients
17 and our community.

18 I'll just add one last piece -- you know, the
19 Federal Congress is working now. The United States Senate
20 is considering the next COVID relief package. And it's
21 absolutely essential that, you know, that package ultimately
22 -- you know, find a way to support hospitals in New

1 Hampshire and across the country, and our delegation has
2 been very, very supportive and very attentive to the issues
3 that we've been raising, and we'll continue to do so with
4 them.

5 But, you know, we have a long way to go. The
6 pandemic has not ended. You know, we are watching with a
7 very close eye what's happening around the country, and
8 watching as, you know, those positive cases have begun to
9 tick up just slightly. You know, is that a trend, will that
10 continue?

11 If you look at, you know, what's happened in other
12 parts of the country, when those surges happen, they happen
13 awfully quickly, and that has a significant impact on the
14 health system.

15 And if we have more COVID patients, the likelihood
16 is that we will have to see some slowdown of a return to
17 traditional types of health care services, which have
18 significant impacts on obviously revenue that hospitals can
19 generate to support the work that they do.

20 So I want to provide that update. You've got all
21 the slides there that I thought were important to just have
22 as context. I'd be happy to respond to questions.

1 I think, you know, one of the questions that you
2 asked me last time and I'll just sort of end where we began
3 last time as, you know, what is the need that hospitals
4 continue to see? You see what the losses are, you see what
5 they are going forward.

6 I still believe that the kind of support that the
7 Legislative Advisory Board recommended early on of \$100
8 million dollars was the kind of support that we're certainly
9 going to need over the coming months, and, you know, we
10 continue to suggest that that's really what I think we're
11 continuing to see.

12 And we appreciate the work that the Legislative
13 Advisory Board did earlier this year in looking at that and
14 making that recommendation. We still believe that that's an
15 appropriate recommendation.

16 So Director Little, I'm happy to stop talking and
17 take questions.

18 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much, Steve. Really
19 appreciate it. Senator D'Allesandro, I believe you have a
20 question, sir, for Mr. Ahnen?

21 [Pause]

22 Senator D'Allesandro? Maybe hit 5* to unmute.

1 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Am I all set?

2 JERRY LITTLE: You are, sir. Go right ahead.

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Steve, I'd like you to
4 comment on Manchester. Again, we represent a significant
5 percentage of the population.

6 The pressure that's on CMC in Elliott in terms of
7 losses -- when I look at your graph that you just gave us an
8 iteration on, you're looking at quite a steep drop through
9 the month of September, October, November, and right up
10 until December.

11 Well, translate that in a smaller sense to
12 Manchester and Elliott and CMC and the burden that they're
13 going to be under in terms of addressing the situation
14 without additional help.

15 STEVE AHNEN: Absolutely, Senator. And, you know,
16 Hillsborough and Rockingham County have certainly been two
17 of the most hardest hit in the state, and -- you know, the
18 Manchester hospitals, the Nashua hospitals, have certainly
19 been hit very, very hard. Manchester certainly has seen I
20 think the highest number of COVID cases.

21 And, you know, one of the things as we start
22 looking at these increased numbers of COVID positive cases,

1 Hillsboro and Rockingham County continue to be leading the
2 way in terms of the numbers. So it's very clear that if we
3 have another surge, that those hospitals will likely -- you
4 know, see the majority of patients.

5 Again, our hospitals, including our two hospitals
6 in Manchester, are proud and prepared and doing everything
7 they can to serve and to take care of every one of their
8 patients. But, you know, it will put a significant burden
9 on them.

10 And if they see an increase of COVID patients, it
11 likely means that they will have to back of some of the
12 other types of services that they provide because a) they've
13 got to make certain that they have enough capacity, both in
14 the hospital and in the intensive care unit, but that they
15 have the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and
16 everything else that they need to serve those COVID
17 patients.

18 So they could see a very significant challenge for
19 sure, should we see a growing number of hospitalizations.
20 Thankfully, the hospitalizations over the last several weeks
21 have been pretty steady and pretty flat at around 20-25.
22 But again, if you look around the country as -- you know,

1 whether it's Florida, Texas, Arizona, California: When
2 those surges start, they happen and they happen very, very
3 quickly.

4 So we have to be prepared. And, you know, the
5 kinds of losses that, you know, we're seeing, you know,
6 could simply grow as a result of those challenges.

7 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions? I believe
9 Senator Soucy, you have your hand up?

10 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes. Thank you so much. Steve,
11 I'm looking at one of the charts in your handout about CARES
12 Act funding and the 24 reporting hospitals. And I think
13 what -- along the lines of what Senator D'Allesandro said --
14 I think what I find discouraging about that is that it seems
15 as though not all of the hospitals have qualified for all of
16 the funding.

17 And it seems as though the hospitals that have
18 most frequently come up short are the ones that have borne
19 the most significant number of cases, and as a result the
20 greatest losses.

21 And I wondered if you could just speak to whether
22 or not you're aware of a different distribution potentially

1 coming from the federal government, and how on the state
2 level we might be able to help to address the disparity
3 between certain hospitals?

4 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you, Senator, for the
5 question. And it's certainly been one of the great
6 frustrations of the federal CARES Act funding from the
7 provider relief fund, getting those dollars out the door.

8 The second round of hotspot funding certainly
9 benefitted and helped those hospitals in the southern part
10 of the state, including the two hospitals in Manchester, who
11 have certainly seen the disproportionate number of COVID
12 cases.

13 You know, there's still approximately I believe
14 around \$50 billion or so dollars in the federal Provider
15 Relief Fund. You know, we continue to press and push at a
16 national level to get those dollars out the door and to get
17 those to hospitals that have -- you know, that are bearing
18 the brunt, that are on the front lines, that are seeing the
19 most cases.

20 So we -- you know, again, we were very frustrated
21 that that second round of hotspot funding took so long to
22 get out the door. We were pleased that it did, but there

1 needs to be much more that gets done.

2 So, you know, we keep hearing that there's going
3 to be another, you know, distribution of funds from that
4 federal Provider Relief Fund, but until those dollars come
5 in, until we see how they're spent, it's hard to count them,
6 and it's hard to know exactly where they'll go and how
7 they'll be helpful.

8 It's absolutely essential. And as I said, the
9 United States Senate is looking at a COVID relief package
10 now that absolutely needs to continue to put money into that
11 Provider Relief Fund, as well as make other changes to other
12 programs that would benefit hospitals here in New Hampshire.

13 So we continue to work on those things. And I
14 think, you know, to the extent that, you know, as we look at
15 the Provider Relief Fund that is here in the state of New
16 Hampshire -- certainly the last round of funding that came
17 out of that, around \$25 million dollars just a little over a
18 month ago -- I believe was really targeting those hospitals
19 that have seen a disproportionate number of patients, and
20 hadn't been -- you know, hadn't received as much federal
21 funding as a result of that.

22 We think that that was absolutely an important

1 step, and we applaud that. And we want to continue to
2 encourage those types of efforts, you know, going forward.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions for Mr. Ahnen? I
4 don't see or hear any, so thank you very much, Steve, for
5 joining us again. Appreciate the update. Thank you for
6 answering our questions.

7 STEVE AHNEN: Thank you. I'm happy to come back
8 at any time. Thank you, sir.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Next on our agenda is Department of
10 Transportation. Is Commissioner Sheehan on the phone?
11 Victoria, do you want to --

12 VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Good afternoon, Director
13 Little. Yes, I'm here.

14 JERRY LITTLE: Well, thank you very much for
15 joining us. You have a request before the Governor,
16 actually, at this point in time, who has asked that you also
17 brief the Legislative Advisory Board on your request, which
18 is to provide funding to New Hampshire's two intercity bus
19 lines. Would you like to give an overview of the request
20 and why it's necessary, please?

21 VICTORIA SHEEHAN: So thank you for this
22 opportunity to talk about the situation that our private,

1 intercity bus operators are facing at this time. If you
2 will bear with me, I'll give you the history of how this
3 particular item came before you today.

4 So when the CARES Act was passed, there was money
5 provided for public transportation. And the state of New
6 Hampshire received \$39 million in CARES Act funding.

7 However, when the CARES Act was passed, there was
8 no provision made for private bus companies to provide vital
9 intercity and commuter services within the northeast region
10 in particular.

11 And so, we have been working closely with the bus
12 operators -- specifically, Concord Coach Lines, Dartmouth
13 Coach and C&U, to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has
14 impacted them.

15 On May 20 I believe it was, the Stakeholder
16 Advisory Board I believe, took up this matter, and it was in
17 response to their request that the Governor consider
18 supporting this particular industry.

19 The Department looked more closely at the
20 financial information it was provided by the particular
21 company, and initially we approached GOFERR and requested an
22 amount of money that would have been consistent with

1 applying the FTA CARES Act rules to this industry.

2 In other words, all of the costs that we are able
3 to participate in for our public transit providers, such as
4 Coast and Seacoast or Nashua Transit, Manchester Transit:
5 Our original ask was to support these private bus companies
6 in the same fashion.

7 However, as we learned more about the CARES Act
8 Flex funds, which of course have different provisions than
9 the -- well Transit Administration or FTA CARES Act funds.

10 We did modify our request. And the item that we
11 submitted to Director Little for GOFERR's consideration was
12 a request for \$7.5 million in assistance.

13 I think many of you are very familiar with the
14 services these companies provide. But they are a critical
15 component of our transportation system here in New
16 Hampshire.

17 Between Boston Express, the service that the
18 Department of Transportation offers through a contract with
19 Concord Coach with C&J; Concord Coach and Dartmouth:
20 Together they carry approximately 1.5 million passengers
21 annually, providing vital connections to Boston in
22 particular for commuters going to and from work and for

1 individuals to access medical services at Boston Hospitals,
2 but also to support recreational travel.

3 It is extremely disappointing that they were left
4 out of the federal CARES Act. We were very pleased to see
5 the support for our public transportation providers, and to
6 see support for the airport.

7 As I shared with the Advisory Board, when you
8 first convened, there were two areas of transportation that
9 we were particularly concerned about that were omitted from
10 the CARES Act; the first being there was no provision
11 provided for lost highway revenue or toll revenue.

12 And then the other item that we raised was this
13 concern about our private bus operators in particular.

14 I do want to stress that these companies have been
15 extremely successful. While they provide vital services,
16 they rely exclusively on "fair bucks" revenue for the most
17 part. We call it, "fair bucks," but basically that's the
18 ticket fares that they collect from their riders.

19 Unlike public transportation, which is very
20 heavily subsidized with local investment as well as federal
21 dollars, these services don't receive very much assistance
22 from the state of New Hampshire.

1 There are certain trips that are eligible for
2 federal funding, and we do have a contract with Concord
3 Coach in particular to provide access to some of our rural
4 communities. For the most part, these are private entities
5 that are extremely successful and serve the citizens of New
6 Hampshire with their transportation needs.

7 So we have been working with these companies.
8 Demand is increasing. So they were forced, unfortunately,
9 with the low ridership, and then subsequently with the
10 health concerns, to suspend service towards the end of
11 March. Each service shut down at a slightly different
12 timeframe.

13 There were costs incurred as part of the shutdown,
14 and then moving forward, they were trying to understand when
15 would be the appropriate time to start back up. My
16 understanding is these companies did investigate whether the
17 PPP program would be appropriate to help them out, but
18 because they had to suspend service and furlough a lot of
19 their drivers, they weren't eligible for programs such as
20 PPP.

21 And so, we're now in the predicament where both
22 the state of New Hampshire has flexed open and now the state

1 of Massachusetts has flexed open, and we're seeing really
2 positive numbers in terms of the number of COVID cases in
3 the northeast in particular. Commuters are asking when
4 these companies could resume service.

5 And just being frank with you all, unless we get
6 some additional assistance, it is unlikely that they'll be
7 able to resume service in the near term.

8 As I mentioned before, these are profitable
9 companies who relied on collecting fares from their riders.
10 We know the even though things have flexed open, ridership
11 will be somewhat reduced if they were to return to providing
12 services.

13 And further to that, in an effort to keep the
14 traveling public as well as their employees safe, they would
15 have to practice social distancing and limit the number of
16 seats on buses.

17 As a result, you know, in the short term in
18 particular, they would anticipate a significant reduction in
19 fair bucks. And of course that would then impact the
20 financial strength of these companies.

21 But at the same time, there is increasing demand,
22 and they do have commuters and other customers who are

1 reaching out asking when they'll be able to resume service.

2 And so, that is the position that we're in
3 currently. We have been looking at the CARES Act fund that
4 we received from the Federal Transit Administration, FTA.
5 We do believe that we can provide some assistance to these
6 companies. But obviously our priority, as the state of New
7 Hampshire, is to support our own Boston Express service.
8 And we would like to utilize as much of the FTA CARES Act
9 funding for that service, which is why we have put forward
10 this request to GOFERR for your consideration.

11 I've shared a lot of the situation and what
12 they've been going through, so I'm going to pause there if
13 there's any more questions, and then I'll be happy to
14 explain a little bit more of how we came up with the request
15 that's before you, and how those dollars would be utilized.

16 But I'll stop to allow for any questions with
17 respect to the services themselves.

18 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Commissioner Sheehan.
19 Are there questions from members of the Committee for
20 Commissioner Sheehan?

21 I'm not seeing any, Victoria, so I guess it's okay
22 for you to move forward with the rest of your presentation.

1 VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Okay. And so, the letter
2 that's before you explains how we came up with what we
3 believe was an appropriate level of support, given how these
4 Flex Funds from the CARES Act have been used to help other
5 sectors of the New Hampshire economy.

6 Basically, in March when these agencies suspended
7 services, we estimate that they began to recognize losses of
8 over \$16 million, while still incurring expenses. Because
9 of course they had to provide some base level of service in
10 terms of being poised and ready to ramp up if they had to
11 open their doors.

12 I should say you can't just turn these services
13 back on at a moment's notice -- to hire back drivers, to get
14 the buses ready to run, to buy the PPE that would be
15 required to run the service. A significant lead time [is]
16 needed for them to be able to get up and running again.

17 And so, we -- you know, if you look at what they
18 have incurred in expenses since March until this month, as
19 well as what they've lost in revenue, and the total net loss
20 is over \$20 million dollars.

21 And then as I mentioned, if they were to resume
22 service -- and currently based on the level of interest

1 there is from previous riders -- for them to start providing
2 service, they really would like to resume at some point in
3 the month of August. Currently, we're targeting the middle
4 of the month. Previously, we'd hoped that it would be
5 sooner than that, because there are individuals who rely on
6 these services.

7 But we're thinking because of the limited capacity
8 of the buses, and with the reduced schedule, they would only
9 receive approximately 20 percent of the pre pandemic
10 revenue, leading to further net losses of \$14 million,
11 compared to the same period last year.

12 And so, the ask is that we support them in a
13 similar fashion to how the funds under the purview of GOFERR
14 have been used to support other industries.

15 Based on their net loss revenue, the ask is around
16 \$7.5 million in total for the three different bus lines that
17 are providing primarily commuter and intercity service to
18 Boston, as well as connecting some of the other rural
19 communities throughout the state of New Hampshire.

20 So the FTA did provide us, as I said before, CARES
21 Act funding totaling about \$10 million that could be used.
22 But of course, we also need to make sure that we are

1 reserving adequate dollars for our own Boston Express
2 service. So we really feel that support at this level is
3 truly necessary for them to be able to resume service.

4 And the other thing I would say is we are very
5 concerned that if they don't resume service shortly,
6 commuters who are returning to work as things have flexed
7 open will start to seek ultimate modes of transportation.
8 We really want to have a presence, so that once things get
9 back to pre-COVID state, these companies will still be there
10 for the commuters that rely on them every day.

11 You know, to give you a sense of how these
12 services compliment our overall transportation network, we -
13 - as I mentioned, we're serving about \$1.5 million customers
14 a year. That's a lot of cars that are being taken off the
15 roadways in both New Hampshire as well as in Massachusetts,
16 making it practical for people to work in New Hampshire and
17 to -- I'm sorry, work in Massachusetts but live and spend
18 those dollars that they earn in the state of New Hampshire.

19 So we are very concerned that we won't be able to
20 move forward as the demand continues to increase without
21 assistance. I should say that we have also been working
22 closely with our Congressional delegation.

1 As I mentioned, you know, the private bus
2 companies were left out of the CARES Act. Senator Collins
3 from Maine did sponsor a bill that both of our state
4 senators signed onto.

5 We've been pursuing that avenue for additional
6 assistance as well. But unfortunately, that has not moved
7 forward. And then with respect to the FTA CARES Act funds,
8 those dollars don't actually expire.

9 And so, not knowing what's going to happen in the
10 future months with respect to COVID cases and what the
11 demands might be, our hope would be that we'd have the
12 GOFERR assistance to use in the near term, and to cover
13 expenses incurred between on what and the end of the
14 calendar year.

15 And then again, we'd be protecting some of the FDA
16 CARES Act dollars, which have no expiration to help into the
17 future, both with these private entities as well as our own
18 Boston Express service.

19 So that's how we came up with the dollar figure
20 that we're requesting today. And again, I'd be happy to
21 take any questions that you might have.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much, Commissioner.

1 Are there questions from members of the Committee for
2 Commissioner Sheehan? And I will let you know that the
3 Governors Office has asked that the Legislative Advisory
4 Board take a vote on this request from Commissioner Sheehan
5 to send a recommendation to the Governor at the end of this
6 discussion.

7 Senator D'Allesandro, I see you have your hand
8 raised. Sir?

9 [Pause]

10 Your line may be muted, Senator D'Allesandro.

11 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I would like to move
12 approval of the request that the item be sent to the
13 Governor. And is the answer to his request, is it not that
14 we vote on it and move it forward?

15 JERRY LITTLE: That is.

16 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: We make a recommendation,
17 move the recommendation?

18 JERRY LITTLE: That is correct, Senator. Thank
19 you very much for the motion. Is there a second?
20 Representative Hinch?

21 DICK HINCH: Yes. If I understand the motion
22 correctly, Lou is making a motion to allocate \$7.5 million.

1 Is that accurate?

2 JERRY LITTLE: That is correct, sir.

3 DICK HINCH: Then in that case, I will second the
4 motion.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Is that the correct figure,
6 Commissioner Sheehan?

7 VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Correct. That would be the
8 appropriate amount for them to resume service in the month
9 of August.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions or comments?
11 Seeing none, we will go through the roll, as we are
12 requested to on RSA-91A. Senator President Donna Soucy?

13 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes. House Speaker Steve
14 Shurtleff?

15 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yes.

16 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Chuck Morse?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yes. Representative Dick Hinch?

18 DICK HINCH: Dick Hinch, yes.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro?

20 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

21 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Maryjane Wallner?

22 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Senator John Reagan?

2 SENATOR REAGAN: Yes.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Erin Hennessey?

4 ERIN HENNESSEY: Hennessey votes yes.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you all very much. That's a
6 unanimous yes. That recommendation will move forward to the
7 Governor. Thank you very much, Commissioner Sheehan.

8 VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Well, thank you for supporting
9 this item. It's going to really make a decision to these
10 companies, and ensure that we can continue to provide that
11 vital connection to the Boston market, so thank you.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you all.

13 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Jerry, while we're still in
14 the voting mode, those two items that I suggested -- the
15 Fisher Cats item and the masks item: Is this the
16 appropriate time to ask that we vote on those?

17 JERRY LITTLE: We can certainly do that now, if
18 you would like to make a motion, sir?

19 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah. I would like to make
20 a motion first of all with regard to the masks. And it's a
21 request to the Governor that he make masks mandatory and for
22 us to supply the funds, to buy those masks. And I think the

1 dollar amount would be about \$500,000.

2 JERRY LITTLE: Is there a second on Senator
3 D'Allesandro' s motion?

4 SENATOR SOUCY: I will second his motion. This is
5 Donna Soucy.

6 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator Soucy.
7 Representative Wallner, your hand is raised?

8 MARY JANE WALLNER: It was raised just to second
9 the motion, thank you.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much. Senator
11 Morse?

12 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah, I sense in listening to the
13 debate about the Fisher Cats, which I support the Fisher
14 Cats, but that isn't the issue. What -- this is an issue of
15 a town or a city not having funding.

16 And I am pretty positive we've all heard from
17 communities -- local communities -- that there's going to be
18 issues about shortfall with the revenue, which is much
19 bigger than the GOFERR Committee.

20 And I really didn't get a straight answer to my
21 question earlier about the Federal Government saying that we
22 could use the balance -- I think we probably all would have

1 looked at this differently when we knew that money could be
2 used to balance the state budget. It would have been
3 different votes along the way, at least from my point of
4 view.

5 And if the answer to that is it can be used for
6 the state budget, I know I received from Ways and Means --
7 and several other members received it -- what the shortfalls
8 are in the state of New Hampshire, based on what the
9 Governor's office believes. And I just can't see that we
10 can solve this problem.

11 And it's not about the City of Manchester. It's
12 about the whole state, because I know my communities are --
13 you know, faced with the same challenges in a different
14 direction down here, with businesses that aren't going to be
15 able to pay taxes.

16 So I think we better be careful there. And at
17 this point in time, I can't support it for that reason.

18 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. We're really
19 not able to give you a satisfactory answer to your question
20 about whether or not the CARES Act funds can be used for
21 state or municipal budgetary funds, because we just don't
22 know yet what Congress is going to do this week or next.

1 They are, as we understand it, discussing the possibility.

2 At the moment, our interpretation of the CARES Act
3 and the Treasury Guidance that came along with it is that we
4 are not able to use these CARES Act Flex Funds to backfill
5 to the municipal or state budgets, or to use the monies for
6 lost revenues at the government level, at this point in
7 time.

8 Could they change that this week or next in
9 Washington? Yes, they could. But as of yet they have not.
10 I hope that helps out a little bit.

11 Representative Hinch, you have your hand raised,
12 sir.

13 DICK HINCH: Yes, thank you. So if I understand
14 it correctly: The motion that's on the floor right now is
15 Part A of Senator D'Allesandro' s request, and that is to
16 send a request to the Governor that we mandate masks, and
17 also to appropriate \$500,000 and I will be voting in
18 opposition to that, as I indicated earlier.

19 Part B of Senator D'Allesandro' s request will be
20 relative to the Fisher Cats, and I concur with what Senator
21 Morse just said of the importance of the Fisher Cats, but I
22 think that that is something that can be delayed to our next

1 meeting, which I assume is going to be August 26.

2 And by then, we'll also have the answer relative
3 to what the City of Manchester did at their meeting of Mayor
4 and Aldermen next week, and the sense of urgency there is
5 the next payment isn't due until October. So on both those
6 requests, I'll be voting to delay for the Fisher Cats, and
7 I'll be voting no on the masks.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representative. I
9 believe we did state the motion correctly, that the current
10 motion on the floor is one part of Senator D'Alessandro's
11 plan, which is to recommend or request the Governor to make
12 masks mandatory and to provide \$500,000 for mask money to
13 make masks available, I'm assuming to anyone who request's
14 one or needs one?

15 Representative Erin Hennessey?

16 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you, Director Little. In
17 response to Senator D'Allesandro's request or motion, I
18 don't think it's under our purview to recommend that the
19 Governor implement certain policies, but I do support his
20 recommendation to allocate funds for the purchase of the
21 masks for those people who do not have access to them or can
22 afford to purchase them.

1 So if he were to break the question apart, I can
2 support part of his motion.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, representative
4 Hennessey. Are there any further comments or questions
5 relative to the first part of Senator D'Allesandro's motion?

6 [Pause]

7 Seeing none, if I may restate your motion, Senator
8 D'Allesandro, the way it is as I've written it down right
9 now is to request that the Governor make masks mandatory in
10 New Hampshire and to provide \$500,000 to provide masks to
11 anybody who needs them. Did I state that properly, sir?

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: That was perfect, Jerry,
13 perfect. Eloquent and perfect.

14 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. One last shot, for
15 anybody who has a question or a comment to make on the
16 motion before I call the roll? Seeing none, I'll begin the
17 roll call.

18 President Soucy?

19 DONNA SOUCY: Yes.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Speaker Shurtleff?

21 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yes.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Morse?

1 SENATOR MORSE: No.

2 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Hinch?

3 DICK HINCH: No.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Lou D'Allesandro?

5 SENATOR D'ALLESSANDRO: Yes.

6 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner?

7 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Reagan?

9 SENATOR REAGAN: No.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Hennessey?

11 ERIN HENNESSEY: Hennessey votes no.

12 JERRY LITTLE: The vote is four yes, four no: Tie,
13 t vote fails. Did you have another motion to make, Senator
14 D'Allesandro?

15 SENATOR D'ALLESSANDRO: Yes. I move the allocation
16 of the \$1 million dollars for the Fisher Cats.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Is there a second?

18 MARY JANE WALLNER: I'll second.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Was that you, Representative
20 Wallner?

21 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes.

22 JERRY LITTLE: We have a motion to allocate \$1

1 million dollars to the Fisher Cats by Senator D'Allesandro,
2 seconded by Representative Wallner. Discussion?
3 Representative Hinch?

4 DICK HINCH: Yes, I would respectfully request
5 that Senator D'Allesandro withdraw his motion until the next
6 meeting of August 26, to provide some information relative
7 to what the City of Manchester does in their Mayor and
8 Aldermen meeting next week.

9 Again, the reminder is that the next payment isn't
10 due until October. We have plenty of time.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representative.
12 Senator Soucy?

13 SENATOR SOUCY: I had raised my hand to second the
14 motion.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Any further questions
16 or comments? Seeing none -- go ahead.

17 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Jerry, if I could? Out of
18 respect to my colleague Representative Hinch, and knowing of
19 his willingness to listen: I think the payment is due
20 before October, but we will be meeting again when? A month
21 from -- sometime in early August? When will our next
22 meeting be?

1 JERRY LITTLE: We haven't really discussed that
2 yet today, although I've heard somebody allude to the
3 possibility that next meeting would be August 26. Would you
4 like to set this aside for a moment while you discuss your
5 next meeting?

6 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I think -- again, with
7 respect to my colleague, I will defer based on the fact that
8 we will meet in time for this situation, so that Manchester
9 will have taken action with its Board of Mayor and Aldermen,
10 and we know that that payment -- I think that payment's due
11 before October. So get clarification for those, and to
12 respect Representative Hinch's request.

13 DICK HINCH: Thank you, Lou. And I would say that
14 my notes and can that we were told today that there was a
15 payment of \$460,000 due in October, and a payment of
16 \$460,000 due in June of 2021 for a total of \$920-.

17 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Gave clarification of that;
18 I appreciate that, Dick, and thank you very much for that.

19 DICK HINCH: Yes, sir.

20 DONNALEE LOZEAU: Thank you both. According to my
21 calendar, one month from today would be -- it looks like
22 August 26 -- Wednesday, August 26. Is that a date that is

1 amenable to members of the Legislative Advisory Board for
2 your next meeting?

3 DICK HINCH: Dick Hinch, yes.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Anyone have any -- anyone not happy
5 with that date? Hearing none, we will, if it's okay with
6 you, we will set the next meeting for the Legislative
7 Advisory Board on Wednesday, August 26, one month from
8 today.

9 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

10 JERRY LITTLE: So Representative Hennessey?

11 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you, Director Little. I
12 just wanted to add something to our agenda for that meeting.
13 I'm hoping that we can discuss the ski clubs in New
14 Hampshire -- the snowmobile clubs, sorry -- and their
15 shortfalls due to all of their different fundraisers being
16 canceled this summer?

17 JERRY LITTLE: Will do.

18 ERIN HENNESSEY: Is that something -- thank you.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Yeah, we can add that. And if you
20 could -- if you had speakers that you would like to have, if
21 you could forward them to us, or we can take a look around
22 and see what we can find. I can contact Fish and Game.

1 ERIN HENNESSEY: Sure. I'll provide you with that
2 information. And it would be through Natural and Cultural
3 Resources too.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. Thank you.
5 Representative Wallner?

6 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, if we're adding things to
7 the agenda for August 26, I would like to hear from the
8 School Board Association and possibly the Association of
9 Superintendents around what kind of costs are incurring as
10 they get ready to go back to school.

11 By then, I think most school districts probably
12 will have their plans in place, and will have a good feel
13 for what kind of additional costs they have incurred in
14 order to get kids back to school and get an education plan
15 set up for the kids in our state.

16 JERRY LITTLE: Very well. We will add that.
17 Since we're on the topic, does anyone else have something
18 they would like to add now, and you can always forward
19 things to us via e-mail later on, if you get a chance to
20 think about it.

21 Seeing none, Senator D'Allesandro, I believe the
22 request was to have you withdraw your motion as long as

1 we're going to be meeting in time for further consideration
2 prior to October?

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, I withdraw my motion.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Seconded was by
5 Representative Wallner, I believe. Are you all right with
6 that withdrawal, Representative Wallner?

7 MARY JANE WALLNER: I am. I'm fine with it, thank
8 you.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Then I will add to the agenda on
10 the twenty-sixth of August also revisit the Fisher Cats
11 situation.

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Great.

13 LEE STEFFY JENKINS: Okay, good. Thank you. We
14 are in the area of the agenda on follow-up, discussion and
15 update. The next item is summer camps.

16 And I believe that Lisa English from the GOFERR
17 staff has done a little bit of research relative to summer
18 camps that were able to request funding from various
19 programs within GOFERR. Lisa?

20 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you, Jerry. So I have some
21 detailed information from the Main Street Relief Fund.
22 There isn't an automated way to get the exact count of the

1 number of summer camps that applied or received grants.

2 But what we did is we reviewed the business names
3 -- first we used the industry code to identify a smaller
4 group, and then reviewed business names for -- essentially
5 called "camp" including campgrounds or camping areas.

6 And so through that review, we identified 26
7 organizations that applied, that may operate a summer camp.
8 Again, it's not necessarily the perfect filter, but there
9 were 26 organizations that may operate a summer camp, 19 of
10 which received grants for a total of \$3,158,396. And the
11 remaining seven were considered ineligible.

12 For the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund, we don't
13 have that information to share yet. That process, however,
14 is in its final stages. And I anticipate that additional
15 summer camps will receive grants -- will have applied and
16 received grants for that program -- obviously being a 501c3
17 non-profit summer camp.

18 One thing that's not directly on point, but it
19 certainly is related: Last week the Governor announced the
20 Empowering Youth program, which will use \$2 million dollars
21 in the Flex Funds to increase summer and fall programming
22 for middle and high school - aged children.

1 So it's administered by DHHS. The applications
2 are open now, and you can find the link on our website. And
3 it essentially provides some funding, based on the size of
4 the program and the number of students served to operate day
5 camps, sports, and other recreational programs.

6 Because it's so late, we obviously -- they're
7 looking at these applications on a rolling basis to try and
8 get things up and running as quickly as possible, but the
9 funds could also be used for fall programming, be it an
10 after school kind of program or the possibility that we're
11 looking at a hybrid model, as schools decide how to return
12 into the school year.

13 So again, the application period is open. It
14 closes on Monday, August 17, but those applications will
15 continue to be processed. And the awards are based -- I
16 think I've said it, sorry -- on a combination of the number
17 of youth being able to be served.

18 And certainly, we're looking to make sure that
19 there's a geographic diversity and that it's serving our New
20 Hampshire youth.

21 So I'm happy to answer any questions.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Lisa. Does anybody have

1 a question for Lisa? Senator Soucy, I see you have your
2 hand raised.

3 SENATOR SOUCY: Actually, it wasn't a question for
4 Lisa, but it was for the next agenda. So I might as well
5 just tell you at this point.

6 If Mr. Ahnen could just update the information
7 that he provided to us today, specifically about where
8 hospital losses are, and also, any additional federal funds
9 that have gone to the hospital, so that we would have that
10 information I'd appreciate it.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. When you say,
12 "Where the hospital losses are" you want to know where and
13 when in particular?

14 SENATOR SOUCY: No, I meant -- sorry, I misspoke.
15 I meant to say what they are? The number -- the number of
16 their losses, overall losses. And then for each hospital
17 there was a chart that featured each source of revenue, and
18 how many of the hospitals were eligible.

19 So to the extent there's an additional source of
20 federal revenue, I would like to be able to see that, and
21 what the distribution is to the hospitals.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Very well. Thank you.

1 Representative Wallner, do you have a question, Ma'am?

2 MARY JANE WALLNER: I do. I think this might be a
3 question of Lisa, actually, and maybe you, Mr. Little. So
4 earlier in the meeting today, we heard about the GAP
5 funding.

6 And I was wondering if you thought this would be
7 available for camps who were not able to get into the Main
8 Street Relief Program or the Non-profit Program, and were
9 also many of them -- I mean, I think some of them were
10 directed to the child care program, but then were not
11 eligible for that.

12 Would the GAP funding be a place they might be
13 able to go?

14 JERRY LITTLE: Hm. I don't know the answer to
15 your question, I'm sorry. Although I can't think of a
16 reason why they would. Sean, do you have any thoughts?

17 SHAWN THOMAS: Shawn Thomas, in the GOFERR Office.
18 The answer is possibly yes. That depends, obviously, on the
19 GAP criteria.

20 Some of the Main Street and GAP criteria overlap,
21 but there is some difference there, and I think some of
22 these -- some other camps that maybe were ineligible will be

1 able to apply to GAP and will meet the eligibility criteria,
2 I don't know specifically -- you know, if you're thinking a
3 specific camp or what the issues are or were as it relates
4 to Main Street, but there is an opportunity there with GAP.

5 I think there's also -- I can tell you just in
6 working with both Main Street itself, at least one of those
7 camps that was deemed ineligible on the list that Lisa
8 mentioned to you has applied to SELF and will receive a
9 grant through SELF.

10 So that was an instance where the camp was denied
11 because that camp was self-employed, or considered to be a
12 self-employed business, and they received funding through
13 SELF. So there will be similar opportunities I think
14 through GAP.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Shawn, what's the application
16 deadline for the GAP program? About a week left, so that if
17 they are contemplating applying -- if a summer camp is
18 contemplating, they need to get on it pretty quickly, I
19 think.

20 SHAWN THOMAS: Yeah. The application deadline for
21 the GAP Fund is next Tuesday, Aug 4. And again, if there
22 are camps considering applying to the GAP Fund, I mean

1 that's the best place to reach out is to BFA directly. They
2 will know the answers to the Eligibility Criteria questions.
3 And, you know, to the extent there are any questions about
4 eligibility, we would encourage them to apply.

5 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you.

6 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Shawn.

7 MARY JANE WALLNER: I appreciate that. Thank you.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Any further questions,
9 Representative Wallner?

10 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, I have no further
11 questions.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Any other questions
13 from members of the Legislative Advisory Board? Lisa? It
14 looks like I think maybe you're up next as well on the
15 agenda. We're moving onto New Hampshire Child care Recovery
16 and Stabilization Program funding status?

17 LISA ENGLISH: Excellent, yes, thank you. So
18 again, this program is designed to assist providers and
19 programs for offering healthy, safe and stable services, as
20 we transition from emergency child care to adapt to the
21 COVID environment that we're all finding ourselves in, and
22 to help programs recover and stabilize from the impact of

1 the pandemic.

2 So to date, the funding awarded is \$16,237,700.
3 That's Round 1 funding to date, and then this figure may be
4 adjusted as award amounts are finalized for some of the
5 provider programs.

6 For some additional statistics, there were -- we
7 have 604 programs. And that comes out of 418 applications.
8 And the reason for these numbers not matching is there is
9 split -- we split up and divided after school care versus
10 early childhood components.

11 So of the 418 applications, 450 have received
12 notifications of funding awards representing the 604
13 programs.

14 One program is still under review, and one program
15 did not qualify for funds. In addition, there are nine
16 programs that have not submitted their financial documents,
17 and so that's something that DHHS continues to work towards.

18 This has resulted in approximately \$41,926
19 licensed or allowable [02:15:05 indiscernible] spaces. So
20 essentially room to care for that many children by the 601
21 program.

22 Again, I'm happy to take questions on this if

1 anyone has any?

2 JERRY LITTLE: Are there any questions for Lisa?
3 Representative Wallner?

4 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes. I wondered what the
5 total request was for the child care providers, and why
6 the decision was made to not award all of the funds at this
7 time? And what criteria was used to fund this group now?

8 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you for the question. I'm
9 hoping I get this correct. I certainly have gotten some
10 information from DHHS. But the programs submit their first
11 invoice, and that invoice is 60 percent of the total award
12 amount. And so with the balance I think being billed into
13 Invoice 2 and 3, as the program needs those funds.

14 So I might not be 100 percent correct on that, but
15 that's my understanding of how the allocations have gone
16 forward.

17 MARY JANE WALLNER: Just I guess my question is,
18 what I was wondering about was what was the total request
19 that came in from child care providers, and I wondered --
20 again, what was the -- why was the decision to have a Round
21 1 and a Round 2, as opposed to putting all the funds out
22 there as quickly as possible?

1 LISA ENGLISH: So I can't answer the full part of
2 your question. I will try to answer part of your question,
3 let me put it that way. So it wasn't a specific request,
4 but rather a formula that was created by DHHS, that includes
5 a base rate plus \$200 per child.

6 And so, that funding formula is applied to each
7 program once DHHS has gathered data, confirmed all the
8 required information and financial documentation, as well as
9 confirmed the number of children in the program.

10 Once that information is confirmed, DHHS sends the
11 award package. The provider must then confirm that data,
12 including -- again, the number of children -- and if
13 correct, they then sign the agreement.

14 So -- and self-adaptation. So it was a formula
15 approach, as opposed to individuals asking for particular
16 amounts. And that formula was based on that base amount,
17 which I don't have in front of me -- I believe it's based on
18 size -- as well as a per child \$200 per child amount.

19 MARY JANE WALLNER: So in the application itself,
20 there was no request by the department of the providers to
21 outline what it is they needed, and what it is they -- what
22 their request was, their spending needs?

1 LISA ENGLISH: That part I don't know the details.
2 This is about the funding formula. I do think there was
3 quite a bit of gathering of data, and there were two parts
4 to this. Certainly, there was a prequalification process,
5 followed by an application process.

6 So I don't have the details on those particular
7 exactly what was accepted in each of those, but as I
8 understand it, DHHS took that information and in the
9 prequalification and developed their funding formula.

10 MARY JANE WALLNER: So I have one further
11 question. So we've done Round 1, where we used the formula.
12 How will the remainder of the funds be used? How will those
13 go out to providers?

14 LISA ENGLISH: So that's a question that I can
15 certainly talk to DHHS about. I know that they're
16 continuing to evaluate need, and there will be additional
17 funds going to providers.

18 But another portion of what was presented to this
19 group, as well as to the GOFERR office, was not just the
20 stabilization for providers, but also infrastructure to be
21 able to make connections and be able to respond quickly as
22 we make our way through this pandemic.

1 So there were three components, and I'm afraid I
2 don't have it right in front of me, but I know it's on the
3 GOFERR page -- the three components of what was approved in
4 this program, which certainly the bulk of the funds going to
5 providers.

6 But there were other -- there were other systemic
7 parts of this plan to make sure we had a systemic approach
8 to having a safe child care system as people return to work.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions, Representative
10 Wallner?

11 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, thank you.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you very much. And thank you
13 very much, Lisa. Any other questions regarding the Child
14 Care Recovery and Stabilization Program status before we
15 move onto the next item?

16 Seeing none, one more time Lisa. The next update
17 is on the Housing Relief Program.

18 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you. So this one I've got
19 some straight up statistics for. This is the Housing Relief
20 Program that has both a short-term rental assistance
21 program, as well as the one-time relief grant option that's
22 being run by our CAP agency.

1 And so, right now what we have is a number of
2 inquiries sent to the CAPS. It's just a report and --
3 sorry, these reports, this data is from last Thursday. So
4 it's a little bit dated, but it certainly continues to
5 increase each week -- there have been 3400 applications sent
6 to clients. And applications received at the CAP agency is
7 887.

8 And that includes ones that are complete and going
9 through the final stage of the process, as well as a number
10 of that are not complete where the CAP agencies are working
11 with individuals to try and get additional financial
12 information.

13 Applications ready for payment are 77 as of last
14 week, and that brings the assistance to date at \$258,960,
15 which sounds like a relatively -- it certainly isn't a high
16 number, given the amount of funds that are out there.

17 But again, this program is just being
18 operationalized, and we anticipate that that number will
19 continue to raise at an exponential rate as we move forward,
20 and as the CAP agencies get through these various
21 applications.

22 I'm happy to take questions.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Questions for Lisa on the Housing
2 Relief Program? I see none. So I think we have --
3 Representative Wallner, do you have a question still?

4 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, I do. I'm sorry I'm
5 putting my hand up and lower it all at the same time. So I
6 was wondering, aren't we bumping up against some deadlines
7 here, when some of the renters particularly are going to
8 face eviction.

9 And I was wondering, are we getting this funding
10 out in a timely manner, so that they -- the resources are
11 there to prevent eviction?

12 LISA ENGLISH: So I'm afraid I don't have the data
13 on that sitting here today. I do know that the CAP agencies
14 are working very closely with individuals, and that I
15 believe they are also working with landlords as well, if
16 someone is in process here to be able to resolve the issue.

17 So I can look into that, to the extent that this
18 is something that -- information that we would want to cover
19 in the next Legislative Advisory Board meeting, if that
20 would be helpful?

21 MARY JANE WALLNER: I would request maybe that we
22 have another update on this at our August meeting. Just I

1 know that I think our deadline -- our -- we have a deadline
2 of July 31 for one of the housing programs, and it means
3 that families might be facing eviction in August. So maybe
4 we could have some sort of a report in August about how
5 we're doing?

6 LISA ENGLISH: I would be happy to get that
7 information, if that would be helpful.

8 MARY JANE WALLNER: Okay, thank you.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. And then there's one
10 final item on your agenda today, and I'm not sure which one
11 of us is going to be trying to work through this. The non-
12 profit -- it's NERF -- Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund, NERF
13 -- is very close to I think making their recommendations for
14 about \$60 million dollars' worth of funding that will go
15 north to south, east to west, big to small -- all sorts of
16 non-profit organizations across the state.

17 And, Nancy, maybe you have an update that you can
18 share with us on non-profits?

19 NANCY SMITH: Sure. This is Nancy Smith. As the
20 Director said, that fund is very close to being finalized as
21 far as the recommendations. So I can tell you a slight
22 update of the information we've provided before. I think we

1 have had the number of applications received as being 601.
2 It was actually -- they I think because a few withdrew, it
3 was 596 applications that the Charitable Foundation
4 consortia received.

5 So, and I guess -- I don't want to get ahead of
6 the process, but certainly by your next meeting in August, I
7 would really anticipate we would have the results of that.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Questions regarding the Nonprofit
9 Program?

10 [Pause]

11 Not seeing any. I think that brings us to the end
12 of our scheduled agenda for today. Does anybody have
13 anything for the good of the order they would like to add
14 in?

15 [Pause]

16 Not seeing any hands raised, so I think we're
17 about to come to a close. The next meeting has been set for
18 Wednesday, August 26.

19 I have items for that agenda already for a check
20 in with the snowmobile clubs, relative to their revenue
21 shortfalls; a request that we reach out to the School
22 Board's association and Superintendents, as we should have a

1 better understanding at the end of August what their cost
2 for COVID response are, as they continue to open school.

3 We will review the issue brought to us by Senator
4 D'Allesandro relative to the million dollars for the Fisher
5 Cats. We would like to ask Steve Ahnen to come back in
6 again to tell us what hospital losses are and the
7 availability of any additional federal monies and what the
8 hospitals are getting -- excuse me, which hospitals got it;
9 and finally a request that we do an update on the interface
10 of the Housing Relief Program with the end of the Mortgage
11 foreclosure eviction moratorium.

12 And as you think of things throughout the coming
13 weeks, feel free to certainly e-mail us, and we can add
14 those things to our agenda.

15 Anything else, folks? If not, we will adjourn
16 this meeting of the Legislative Advisory Board at 3:31 p.m.
17 Thank you all very much for your time today. Goodbye.

18 COLLECTIVE: Thank you, Jerry.

19 [End of Proceedings]