



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

PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

4:00 p.m.

in

One Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

Legislative Advisory Board Members:

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting Statement
- II. Attendance
- III. Legislative Advisory Board Discussion Item:
  - 4:10 PM - 4:20 PM - Update on Allocated Funds and Final Expenditures
  - 4:20 PM - 4:30 PM - Update on LAB recommendations (Snowmobile Clubs; Mascoma Community Health Center)
  - 4:30-4:50 - Announcements/Discussion
- IV. Adjourn

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

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: This conference is obviously  
4 being recorded. My name is Taylor Caswell. I am the  
5 Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and  
6 Recovery, and I'll be facilitating today's meeting.

7 The GOFERR Legislative Advisory was created by  
8 Executive Order #2020-06. That order is publicly available  
9 on the Governor's website.

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

13 As I mentioned, today's call is being recorded.  
14 Should you be a speaking participant and not wish to be  
15 recorded, you may disconnect now. The recording from  
16 today's meeting will be transcribed and posted on the GOFERR  
17 webpage.

18 I would remind members of the Board as we move  
19 through today's agenda to mute your phones if you're not  
20 speaking.

21 Because the Board is meeting by phone under RSA  
22 91-A; there are a few initial logistics that we need to

1 establish. First, each of us must state our name, where we  
2 are located, and who is with us in the room. I will begin.

3 This is Taylor Caswell, again, the Director of  
4 GOFERR here in the GOFERR Office in Concord with Deputy  
5 Director Lisa English.

6 Senator Soucy?

7 [Pause]

8 Senator Soucy?

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

10 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff. I am at my  
11 residence in Penacook and I am alone.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

13 CHUCK MORSE: Senator Morse. I'm in my office,  
14 and I am alone.

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

16 DICK HINCH: This is Representative Dick Hinch. I  
17 am in the Republican office in Concord, and Merrimac, and  
18 Perry Goulette (phonetic) is in the office adjacent.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Senator D'Allesandro?

20 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I'm Senator D'Allesandro.  
21 I'm in my home in Manchester, and I'm alone.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

1 MARYJANE WALLNER: Maryjane Wallner. I'm in my  
2 home in Concord, New Hampshire and I am alone.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Senator Reagan?

4 JOHN REAGAN: John Reagan, I'm in my office,  
5 alone.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

7 ERIN HENNESSEY: Erin Hennessey. I am at home in  
8 Littleton, and my family is in and handout of the room.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, great. And has Senator  
10 Soucy joined us, by any chance?

11 Okay. Well, I hope she can join us shortly. As  
12 we move through the agenda today, each Board member and  
13 anyone else speaking is asked to identify themselves before  
14 speaking. And should we choose to take any votes today,  
15 they will be done by roll call, following the process that  
16 we just used.

17 Finally, before we begin, if you have a comment or  
18 need to speak and you're muted, just make sure you hit 5\* on  
19 your phone and we will be able to unmute your line.

20 So as we get started here today on our agenda, I  
21 wanted to give an update on a few items here to the Advisory  
22 Board on where we are with the CARES Act funding as of

1 today.

2           As a reminder, under federal law, we must have  
3 allocated and distributed the full \$1.25 billion dollars in  
4 funding under the CARES Act before December 30,2020.

5 Unfortunately, the rumors that Congress might change that  
6 date have not come to fruition.

7           And so, I wanted to spend just a few minutes  
8 talking first about some of the key strategies that you are  
9 all aware of, as to how we have distributed resources, and  
10 then talk a bit about what resources we have at this time.

11           So first, in terms of our key strategies, first  
12 among that was the speed to market. New Hampshire moved  
13 faster than many states in getting relief where it was  
14 needed most. In fact, we were able to deploy the first of  
15 several waves of business relief funds quickly and  
16 efficiently back in July, with around \$300 million dollars  
17 in financial relief for those businesses.

18           This allowed many and thousands of businesses to  
19 keep their heads above water, and to keep people employed  
20 through the summer months, seeing unemployment drop from a  
21 high of 17 percent prior to those deployments to about 4  
22 percent currently.

1           Those resources plus the \$100 million dollars in  
2 Main Street Relief Fund 2.0 going out over the next week or  
3 so amount to an investment of almost a half a billion  
4 dollars that will keep many of these businesses in a  
5 position to weather the current surge and hopefully beyond.

6           Our second strategy is in diversity of  
7 programming. Because we have treated these funds as  
8 emergency relief, GOFERR has deliberately sought to spread  
9 the CARES Act resources across a broad spectrum of  
10 organizations and individuals in order to get that immediate  
11 support, and to help them through this crisis.

12           We have operationalized and deployed over 50  
13 separate programs in areas like health care, agriculture,  
14 tuition assistance, child care, non-profit support, public  
15 schools and business support that I just mentioned.

16           Third is that we have always wanted to retain  
17 enough funding to address the predicted second surge. And  
18 as we see now, the public health predictions of a second  
19 surge this fall has unfortunately become a reality.

20           Because of these decisions made early on, we  
21 maintained enough funding to make some key, high priority  
22 investments here in the second wave as we approach the

1 December 30 deadline.

2           Program announcements like the second round of  
3 long-term care stipends, funding for testing and PPE in  
4 those facilities, and the second round of Main Street funds  
5 have allowed us to focus on these high priorities during the  
6 second COVID surge.

7           I certainly share the view that there are many  
8 causes and organizations that are in a difficult place, that  
9 haven't seen relief funds, or have had, or have a developing  
10 financial need for critical service delivery products.

11           But the fact is these funds must be spoken for by  
12 December 30, and we are driven to meet that deadline and not  
13 be turning to funds from Washington.

14           All this being the case, as of today, our official  
15 amount of unallocated funds is \$991,120. Remember that  
16 these funds -- these are funds that are effectively spoken  
17 for, but may not yet have been spent. And this could be a  
18 bit of a moving target.

19           We have funds that are assigned to programs that  
20 are still spending down those resources, either through  
21 services, revenue replacement or invoices. We are in close  
22 touch with those organizations, and know approximately how



1 much of what they have left will be used.

2           As we see programs that have large boundaries, we  
3 are taking a realistic look at the probably that they will  
4 spend down those resources by their deadlines. Where there  
5 are obvious cases that they will not be able to do that, we  
6 are recouping those amounts and putting them towards these  
7 final priorities.

8           The bottom line is that we are squarely on track  
9 to spend these funds down to the penny, and New Hampshire  
10 will not be sending anything back out of that \$1.25 billion  
11 dollars.

12           As I stated earlier, we are putting resources into  
13 a few, final high priority investments as we get closer and  
14 closer to the deadline.

15           Just prior to the deadline, our plan will be to  
16 waterfall all remaining funds into the state's unemployment  
17 insurance trust fund, in order to maintain solvency to that  
18 fund, which obviously benefits businesses as well as those  
19 who are unemployed and those who may become unemployed in  
20 the weeks and months ahead.

21           Once again, I certainly understand the needs that  
22 are out there, as we continue to come into a holiday season

1 in the middle of a pandemic. There is no shortage of need  
2 in our communities.

3 I believe if that the Governor, his team, all of  
4 you on our Legislative Advisory Board, and the team here at  
5 GOFERR are doing incredible work on behalf of the citizens  
6 of our state to provide efficiency, integrity, transparency  
7 and priority to these funds.

8 And that work, while it may not have captured  
9 every single instance of need, has gone a long way to put  
10 this state in a strong position for whatever is coming next.

11 We look forward to a vaccine soon, and perhaps  
12 some additional resources from our federal partners that  
13 will help us continue to meet those needs.

14 Before I wrap up here, I wanted to give the Board  
15 also a quick update on a few items that have been  
16 outstanding from previous meetings.

17 With regard to the Main Street Relief Fund 2.0  
18 GOFERR has now begun the process of sending awards,  
19 notifications to around 1700 current awardees of the  
20 program. We do expect to allocate the full \$100 million  
21 dollars once all of those awards have been made.

22 Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in New

1 Hampshire on November 16, the Governor announced the return  
2 of the Long Term Care Stabilization Program. This program,  
3 now running through December 30, will help Medicaid  
4 providers to provide long-term care services in facility  
5 based settings, as well as in home and community to retain  
6 their frontline workforce.

7 All of the previously existing eligibility  
8 criteria remain in effect for that program, and the  
9 information can be found on the New Hampshire Employment  
10 Securities website.

11 In addition, applications are now available for  
12 the snowmobile clubs experiencing revenue loss for the past  
13 several months. Those applications will close on December  
14 4, and the application can be found on our website, at the  
15 GOFERR website.

16 Last recommendation to provide additional funding  
17 to Mascoma Health Center has been approved. GOFERR is  
18 drafting the grant agreement and preparing other  
19 documentation in order to provide this grant.

20 And finally, with regard to municipal and county  
21 reimbursement program and its remaining fund, the county  
22 fund under this program has no remaining funds, and under

1 the municipal program we currently have a remainder of  
2 \$1.383 million.

3 So with all of that, I'm happy to try to answer  
4 any questions from any members and review any of the  
5 information that I just provided.

6 SENATOR MORSE: Can you hear me?

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, Senator. Go ahead.

8 SENATOR MORSE: Senator Soucy is trying to put her  
9 hand up so you can unmute her.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Oh, okay. Oh, there she is. Oh,  
11 yeah. Here we go, Senator. Hold on. Senator, are you  
12 there? Senator, if you could hit 5\* one more time, we can  
13 get this taken care of. Senator, are you on with us now?

14 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes, I am, can you hear me?

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Oh, very good. Thank you.  
16 Someday, all of you should come and see what this looks like  
17 on our side. I'm happy to have you, Senator. Thank you.  
18 Sorry for that little glitch. So with that, I think we can  
19 certainly get to any questions or discussion on any of the  
20 items I just gave.

21 [Pause]

22 Okay. Well, I'm not seeing any questions. Does

1 anybody have anything that we're not seeing?

2 ERIN HENNESSEY: Mr. Caswell, this is Erin  
3 Hennessey. I had raised my hand, but I don't if it's coming  
4 through yet?

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yep, I see it now. Go right  
6 ahead, Senator.

7 ERIN HENNESSEY: Okay. I had a question about the  
8 additional funds that are given to the frontline workers at  
9 nursing home, the stipends. One question that has come up  
10 is that the cost that will be related to funds -- the  
11 payroll costs for the counties that have been county nursing  
12 homes, is there any way to figure out what this total cost  
13 would be?

14 I know in Grafton County it's probably going to be  
15 between 20 and 25,000. And these are funds that are not  
16 budgeted to be covered. Is it possible to look back and see  
17 what the counties had requested in their prior grants to  
18 cover these and see if there is available funds for this  
19 amount?

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, I think we can certainly  
21 look at that, Senator. I mean -- excuse me, representative.  
22 And you raised this issue with us earlier. We have looked

1 into it a little bit, and I think it's something we'd like  
2 to explore with the counties directly. And we'll take that  
3 up probably tomorrow.

4 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thanks very much.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: You're very welcome. Senator  
6 D'Allesandro, I see your hand is raised. I think you're  
7 still on mute, Senator?

8 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Oh, is that better?

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Much better, thank you.

10 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Just wanted to get  
11 into some depth about the Mascoma Health Center and how  
12 that's going to be taken care of, and then talk about three  
13 other things that are on my mind. One is hospitals and are  
14 we able to do anything more for hospitals, particularly  
15 based on what's happening how with the second wave.

16 The second situation would be the food stamps and  
17 feeding people who are going without food, and the small  
18 business loans, that second round, I've gotten a lot of  
19 calls from entities who are looking for some help with those  
20 areas.

21 So the hospital situation, the small businesses  
22 and the SNAP cards, and an explanation of Mascoma. You said

1 that they have been granted the \$100,000 but there was a  
2 second phase to that that Senator Morse was working on, and  
3 I think in order for them to continue to survive, I'd like  
4 to know has that second phase been completed? That's that  
5 January 1 situation.

6 So those are my items, and would appreciate some  
7 discussion on those. Thank you.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Senator, I'm going to ask  
9 Lisa English, who's here, to address the Mascoma question.  
10 And then we can come back to the other three when she's  
11 done.

12 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you, Commissioner, thank you,  
13 Senator.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: You're very welcome.

15 LISA ENGLISH: So with the Mascoma, what is before  
16 GOFERR is just a \$110,000 grant to be able to use through  
17 the end of December -- December 30, 2020.

18 So that's \$110,000, and what we're doing is just  
19 drafting a grant agreement and making sure that we have  
20 everything we need for it to be a compliant grant. And we  
21 anticipate getting that out shortly to Mascoma.

22 As far as actions contemplated, or discussed with

1 DHHS, GOFERR has not been involved in this conversation. So  
2 I can't speak to it, I don't know if there's anyone else on  
3 the Legislative Advisory Board that they can speak to it,  
4 but we've been very focused on just the Coronavirus Relief  
5 Fund that going to go to Mascoma.

6 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you for that  
7 explanation. But I think Senator Morse was working on the  
8 other part. And Senator Morse, can you fill me in on that?

9 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah actually, Senator, I was told  
10 to come back to the Governor's Office in January to work on  
11 the second piece of it. Obviously, they support what we're  
12 doing, because they agreed to the \$110,000. So I believe  
13 when we get back in here in January, we'll work to take care  
14 of that other stipend, which they know about, but.

15 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: So that's a legislative  
16 situation that we have to deal with in January?

17 SENATOR MORSE: The \$20,000 per month -- whatever  
18 the number is going to be per month --

19 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

20 SENATOR MORSE: -- I was told for the month of  
21 January that it wasn't part of GOFERR. That was part of the  
22 actual revenues we have here in the budget. So --



1           SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, so -- Senator Morse

2   And I --

3           SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, sure, I understand.

4   But they -- and they know that, Chuck?

5           SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. I don't think they would  
6   have funded the \$100- to get this far. Yes, they know that,  
7   and yes funding the \$110- was the first phase --

8           SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

9           SENATOR MORSE: -- so we could get through 2000.  
10   They know the next phase will come into 2001 and work on  
11   raising, you know, some kind of income for a month. So.

12          SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

13          SENATOR MORSE: And they're aware of the number.

14          SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, great. Thank you.

15   Thanks for that explanation -- thank you for that  
16   explanations.

17          TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, Senator, so with regard to  
18   your other points, I would say on the small business  
19   portion. I'm not sure if you were referring to the Main  
20   Street program, but that's -- those funds -- those award  
21   announcements are going out I think literally as we speak.  
22   They're going to -- you know, that will certainly yield a

1 significant amount of resource going out to those entities.

2 With regard to the food stamps and the hospital  
3 programs, I think the challenge that we're up against is the  
4 fact that at this point our unallocated resource number is  
5 just under a million dollars.

6 I've got -- Lisa I think can speak a little bit,  
7 and maybe some of the other programs and hospitals are  
8 seeing some resource or could see some resources from the  
9 federal side. I'm certainly open to more discussion on the  
10 food stamps questions.

11 I'm not sure that we've addressed that issue at  
12 this point within GOFERR, and I think -- again -- we're kind  
13 of up against the times and the number and the amount of  
14 challenge for this exact moment. But maybe I might let Lisa  
15 talk about some of the other resources that are available.

16 LISA ENGLISH: Great. Thank you, Commissioner.  
17 With regard to the hospital, one thing that is unknown, at  
18 least from our perspective at this point is HHS -- the  
19 federal HHS -- announced that it was going to do an  
20 additional -- a Phase 3 general distribution of the Provider  
21 Relief Fund, and it was going to be another \$20 billion  
22 dollars in new funding.

1           That process I believe is underway. I don't know,  
2 however, if any of those disbursements have been made. It's  
3 certainly our hope that New Hampshire hospitals benefit from  
4 those disbursements, but I will also say that many times the  
5 formula that has been used by the federal government has not  
6 been to the benefit of New Hampshire hospitals.

7           New Hampshire hospitals certainly have gotten  
8 funding from that relief fund, but not necessarily -- the  
9 formula doesn't necessarily benefit the way New Hampshire  
10 hospitals work. So that is one potential area where there  
11 is some additional funding.

12           And we'll continue to monitor that and see what  
13 comes of the remaining funds in that -- I believe it's \$175  
14 billion-dollar fund, much of which has been disbursed over  
15 the last eight months.

16           With regard to the snack program, a piece of data  
17 that we're looking into is what benefits have come to New  
18 Hampshire through the CARES Act and other COVID related  
19 federal legislation. So that's something we're still  
20 working on gathering information from DHHS.

21           I do know that there were additional resources  
22 there, but I can't speak to what the dollar amount of those

1 resources are, and we do hope to have more information on  
2 that.

3 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Great. Well, we're on a  
4 very short time frame, and indeed if dollars that have been  
5 allocated have not been spent, those dollars could be  
6 repurposed in areas where we would like to give money, but  
7 as a result of the allocation haven't been able to do that.  
8 But we've only got maybe almost 30 days left.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was quick. Yep.

10 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: We've got only 30 days  
11 left.

12 [Simultaneous speech]

13 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Excuse me? Is somebody  
14 else on this line?

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, people are -- if you could  
16 mute your phones if you're not speaking, that would be a  
17 help. We're getting a little bit of background noise.

18 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Go ahead, Senator.

20 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Well, I realize that we've  
21 only got 30 days -- maybe 31, 32 days left to get rid of the  
22 money that we have been allocated. These are very basic

1 needs. We know the hospitals are in a jam, and the COVID is  
2 beginning to exacerbate at an alarming rate, and  
3 Manchester's a red zone in that area.

4 And the SNAP program, I mean people not being able  
5 to eat, that's a significant concern. And I think the fact  
6 that our schools are going to close, they closed today, and  
7 that these kids who were free and reduced-price lunch kids  
8 are going to be suffering, these are all problems that are  
9 omnipresent as we speak.

10 And hopefully, hopefully, there's some money to  
11 deal with these problems. That's my peace.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. Thank  
13 you. Okay. I have a question here from Representative  
14 Wallner. I see your hand raised.

15 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, thank you. I share  
16 Senator D'Allesandro's concern about the food stamp recipis  
17 and trying to get some additional resources out to them  
18 before the funding time expires.

19 And I wondered, what would be the process here for  
20 making sure that the proposal to include some additional  
21 funds on the food stamp allocation, what would be the  
22 timeline? Is this group coming back together again before

1 the end of -- well, before the middle of December? Is that  
2 -- at that point a really more -- accounting of where we  
3 stand? What would be the plan for that?

4 And then the other question I have is around the  
5 stipend, could you explain who will be getting the  
6 additional \$300 stipend. I continue to have concerns that  
7 we did not include the staff at the New Hampshire Hospital  
8 Psychiatric Hospital.

9 And the work that they do so crucial to the state,  
10 and I believe that many of the clients there are clients  
11 that are very challenging, difficult to work with, and the  
12 possibility of them contracting COVID at that facility I  
13 think is quite high.

14 So if we could -- I'd just like to know who  
15 actually, what workers will be getting the stipend, and then  
16 what will be the process for the at benefit.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, so we'd be happy to do  
18 that, Representative. Once again, I'm going to probably  
19 turn to Lisa to give us the specifics on who currently is  
20 eligible under that program. So Lisa?

21 LISA ENGLISH: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank  
22 you, representative. So the individuals that are eligible

1 are qualifying frontline employees for qualifying Medicaid  
2 providers.

3           This information, which I'm going to go through  
4 but you can find it on the Employment Security website, if  
5 you go to their homepage, on the left column, there's a  
6 "long-term care" button. But in there, there's guidance  
7 that talks about Medicaid providers that were previously  
8 approved through the Long term Care stipend participation  
9 prior to July 30 that continues to deliver care and other  
10 supportive services in a residential facility or community  
11 setting are eligible to continue to participate in this  
12 reactivated program.

13           The program reactivation continues to include  
14 providers that support aging adults, people with mental  
15 health complexity, individuals with substance use disorder,  
16 developmental disabilities an at risk youth.

17           And so, this includes people that are providing  
18 services through the developmental services systems, those  
19 who provide for choice for independent waiver services and  
20 nursing facility services, residential SUD, mental health  
21 providers, youth residential treatment providers, and CMHCs  
22 -- community mental health centers -- are considered

1 eligible.

2           In addition to Medicaid funded services, this is  
3 also available to frontline workers at the New Hampshire  
4 Veterans' Home and at the community Youth Services Center.

5           Qualifying frontline employees are individual that  
6 provide Medicaid funded services directly to individuals in  
7 residential, home, facility and community settings, as well  
8 as other frontline workers who are at greater risk of  
9 exposure to COVID-19 as a result of their employment in one  
10 of these qualifying Medicaid providers.

11           So that individual must be a frontline worker, and  
12 they're either employed or contracted with a previously  
13 approved qualifying Medicaid provider.

14           And all of this along with additional information  
15 is available at [nhcs.nh.gov](http://nhcs.nh.gov) and if you click on the button  
16 on Long Term Care on the left-hand side, it brings you to  
17 all of the FAQs from the prior version of the program, and  
18 this updated guidance that references the November 16  
19 reactivation.

20           REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you, Lisa. So I  
21 assume that the reason -- I'm trying to figure out why the  
22 New Hampshire Hospital employees were not eligible? And I



1 assume it's because it's not a Medicaid reimbursed hospital?  
2 Is that the reason that they are not included?

3 LISA ENGLISH: So the program was actually  
4 initialed before GOFERR came into existence. So this  
5 program was rolled out I think days prior to the first  
6 convening of the Legislative Advisory Board and the GOFERR  
7 staff.

8 So that -- you know, this program was something  
9 that was developed in that urgent emergency time period  
10 before the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and  
11 Recovery was formed.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: And so, that group of  
13 workers -- state workers working in the psychiatric  
14 hospital, either nurses and mental health workers they are  
15 excluded from this program?

16 LISA ENGLISH: They are not part of the program,  
17 as it rolled out in the summer. And this is limited to just  
18 reactivating that program.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Okay, thank you. And I  
21 wondered if we could have some discussion about the food  
22 stamps program, and when we might be able to get the

1 information needed to move forward with making a  
2 recommendation on that one?

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Well, that bridges another  
4 question, Representative, as to what is the sort of  
5 preference of the members -- additional meetings at this  
6 point and being able to address those issues?

7 I would -- with regard to the specifics of  
8 additional programming and operationalizing, unfortunately  
9 we're -- as I mentioned, we're starting to get up against  
10 some real difficult time constraints in terms of standing up  
11 new programs, and then beyond that having unallocated  
12 resources left that are available.

13 I think, as I pointed out, there's certainly not  
14 any lack of additional issues that we need to be addressing  
15 here, but the fact is that we are running out of resources  
16 and dealing with all of the priorities and problems that  
17 we've had to this point.

18 I think we're all sort of hopeful at some point  
19 we'll be able to see some additional resource from  
20 Washington, but at this point I'm not seeing that happening  
21 in the near future. So that is the challenge that we are up  
22 against, Representative.

1           I'm certainly willing to continue to have some  
2 conversation with the Board going forward, but I think it  
3 does raise the questions to whether we want to continue to  
4 meet, and if we do want to meet, when we might want to be  
5 able to do that.

6           Senator Morse? Your hand is raised?

7           SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. I'd just like to put my  
8 comment on this. Because I certainly asked that you do this  
9 presentation after talking to you last week about it,  
10 because the -- we make recommendations, and I'm starting to  
11 receive a whole new round of things that people want to talk  
12 about, which I think I have a solution for that in a  
13 different continuing.

14           But the reality of knowing for sure -- because we  
15 make the recommendation and the Governor's Office goes and  
16 does the implementation based on what they believe needs to  
17 be done.

18           It was made pretty clear to me from you last  
19 Tuesday and again today in the meeting I just had in the  
20 state house that there are no more funds after these last  
21 two appropriations.

22           And I'm receiving a lot more topics. I have

1 homeless in front of me that I researched with LBA today,  
2 the SNAP's new to me, but I'm sure that's going to take some  
3 research. There's certainly something here about funding  
4 for the Affordable Care Act with advertising.

5 In my opinion, the Legislature -- the financial  
6 teams need to get back and publicly talk about those things  
7 right now and probably anticipation of federal funding  
8 coming right after this anyway.

9 So I don't know we're not going to talk about  
10 these issues, I think we have to publicly get back in some  
11 fashion and talk about them, but I also think that requires,  
12 you know, us interviewing Health and Human Services,  
13 bringing LBA into present some financial positions --  
14 there's a lot to it.

15 For the [00:33:30 indiscernible] I didn't sit on  
16 the budget this last two years, but when I read all the  
17 appropriations that were done for Housing and Homeless, to  
18 receive a letter that says, "The state of New Hampshire was  
19 ignoring it completely" is absolutely wrong. You guys put a  
20 lot of money and effort into responding to some of these  
21 issues, and that's only from the briefing I got today from  
22 LBA.

1           So I do think we need to get back here on Finance  
2 and Ways and Means and start to review all this stuff, but I  
3 don't think the GOFERR committee is the right place to do  
4 that, unless there is another federal -- you know,  
5 allocation, and that's a different story. But it was made  
6 clear to me that everything that's in that budget has been  
7 allocated. Thank you.

8           TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Senator. I had a hand  
9 raised from Senator Soucy.

10           SENATOR SOUCY: Yes, thank you. Along the lines  
11 of what you were saying, Taylor, I think it's kind of  
12 getting close to the time for us to wrap up, unless there is  
13 another allocation.

14           But based on what Representative Wallner was  
15 saying regarding the SNAP program, is there a way for this  
16 committee today to simply make a motion that the balance of  
17 funds go into SNAP? It to me is probably the easiest  
18 transfer of funds we can make, since it's an existing  
19 program. There are already limitations on the program, it's  
20 simply a matter of adding additional funds to the cards that  
21 currently exist.

22           Because at some point, we are going to have money

1 left over.

2 I know we're -- small businesses, you said the  
3 awards are going out as we speak for the Main Street  
4 program, for that next round. And there are other programs.  
5 But there are going to be dollars left in the balance of  
6 those programs.

7 And one of the challenges we've had as the GOFERR  
8 Committee has been to find mechanisms that already exist to  
9 plug the money in. I think SNAP is probably the best  
10 example of how we could do that very quickly and very  
11 efficiently under existing guidelines that already exist.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah. Senator, I think one point  
13 to consider is that -- once again, as I mentioned earlier,  
14 the time to sort of put a program together along those lines  
15 and get it out and operationalized before and be able to  
16 spend that money -- I give the participants a realistic,  
17 hope to be able to spend that money -- would be a challenge  
18 in and of itself.

19 I would also say just in quick conversation here  
20 with Lisa that there are other federal resources under the  
21 SNAP program that I am personally not that familiar with,  
22 but that I think should be examined as part of the analysis

1 to how much we would sort of want to put towards this and  
2 for what purpose, and what gaps exist, and so on.

3           And I'm not trying to get away from it as much as  
4 I'm trying to say that my concern is that we are really up  
5 against some timelines that are challenging for this  
6 situation, and I don't think anybody disagrees with sort of  
7 the goal of being able to solve as many of these problems as  
8 we can, but it's just the reality this has started to dawn  
9 on us a bit.

10           And to Senator Morse's point, to the extent that  
11 we're expecting to see some additional sort of resource,  
12 which I think seems likely -- not that I'm a political  
13 expert, but it seems like that that would be likely at some  
14 stage -- exactly what that looks like none of us know at  
15 this point.

16           But I do think that these are the types of issues  
17 that we need to be taking under advisement and certainly  
18 researching to the extent that when we do see those  
19 resources come in, they're kind of effectively first in  
20 line.

21           So again, I'm not trying to get away from the  
22 issue, and I'm not trying to dissuade the Board from doing

1 what it is it wants to do, but I think there are some  
2 certain realities here that make all of that increasingly a  
3 challenge.

4 I see Representative Hinch's hand raised. Go  
5 ahead, Representative.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Thank you. Thank you,  
7 Taylor. I was taking notes in the very beginning when you  
8 were going through your summary, but I heard that any  
9 remaining funds would be used to backfill the unemployment.  
10 So if that's the case, then I don't see where we have the  
11 ability to fund any other program other than unemployment.  
12 Did I misunderstand?

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: No, you're correct,  
14 Representative. I thought those are -- the number of that  
15 final disbursement to the Trust Fund would be dependent on  
16 how much money there is available at the time.

17 So as I said right now, the unallocated number  
18 that we're working from is around \$991,000. That doesn't  
19 mean that in the end if we do nothing else from this point  
20 forward, that it will be exactly \$991,000. There's -- you  
21 know, a lot of bills and numbers that have yet to be paid.

22 But it is a mechanism that we intend to utilize in



1 order to avoid sending any money back to Washington. It's  
2 at the final stage, whatever has -- after everything's been  
3 paid off, whatever's left, however small that may be would  
4 go to the Trust Fund.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Thank you.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: And I see Senator Morse, I see  
7 your hand raised again.

8 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah, I don't -- but I mean one of  
9 the reasons I love to be on Finance is because I don't know  
10 where the SNAP program stands today, and I certainly would  
11 want to bring in the Department and go through the  
12 financials and understand it but I can't believe that the  
13 state of New Hampshire is not going to watch over that issue  
14 even when we're not in session. Because, I mean, obviously  
15 it's an issue that the state visits all year long.

16 Having said that, I didn't bring it up on this  
17 call, but there's certainly been a call for putting some  
18 funding towards the vaccination on the implementation side.  
19 I would think this list to be endless as to HHS issue and,  
20 you know, COVID issues.

21 All I'm saying to everybody on this call, because  
22 you're all people that participate in these committees:

1 Getting back to publicly talking about this stuff on Finance  
2 and Ways and Means I think is important. Because GOFERR, we  
3 did a lot of work, and we certainly went I think beyond  
4 where we were, you know, asked to go because it's just the  
5 nature of the people on this call.

6           And you almost all of you sit on the Finance  
7 Committee, which I didn't. I think we have to get back to  
8 that method of working, and then the pub will get to speak,  
9 and then the public will get to speak and we'll get to hear  
10 from them, and I think that's an important piece. I really  
11 do believe in that.

12           And -- you know, as much as I realize the work  
13 that Finance takes, I'd like to go back to it myself,  
14 because I want to know where we stand on a lot of issues. I  
15 mean, I certainly want to know where we stand in 2000  
16 financially.

17           So I think there's a lot of work to do coming  
18 ahead, but I don't think it can be done on the GOFERR  
19 Committee, unless there's another allocation and the  
20 Governor chooses to put us back together. At that point,  
21 you know, it's a different story.

22           TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. Is

1 there any more discussion on any of the issues that we've  
2 been discussing here? I don't see any hands raised, so if  
3 anybody has anything? If not, I think that's all I have on  
4 today's agenda. If there's anything else? Very good.

5 Well, I would want to end today by wishing  
6 everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. We certainly enjoyed  
7 working with you, and we look forward to working with you in  
8 the coming months. Oh, I'm sorry. I see Senator Soucy's  
9 hands. I'm in the middle of my goodbye message. Go ahead,  
10 Senator.

11 SENATOR SOUCY: I'm sorry, I just -- I want to go  
12 back to the balance of what's left and ensuring that  
13 everything -- all of the dollars are spent. And why putting  
14 it into the Trust Fund makes more sense versus the SNAP  
15 program?

16 And I guess in my opinion the SNAP program is as  
17 easy and as in need of assistance as employment security.  
18 And I think employment security is much more likely to see  
19 direct fund in any additional federal package.

20 So I would still like to move that we allow the  
21 balance of any funds to go into the SNAP program to be  
22 distributed as a one-time boost for families that are in

1 need in December.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: So you're -- to be straight,  
3 you're suggesting that you want to present a motion to  
4 provide effectively that that waterfall effect goes --

5 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: -- and allows funds to go to the  
7 SNAP program --

8 SENATOR SOUCY: As opposed to employment security.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: As opposed to employment  
10 security?

11 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Ok. Realizing that that would  
13 have to all be slated -- all spent by the deadline of  
14 December 30?

15 SENATOR SOUCY: Yes.

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. So is there a second to  
17 that motion?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: I have my hand up.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm sorry, Representative  
20 Wallner. I see your hand's up?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes. I do have my hand  
22 up, and I would second the motion that Senator Soucy made.

1           TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, very good. Is there any  
2 discussion on that motion?

3           ERIN HENNESSEY: Commissioner Caswell, this is  
4 Erin Hennessey.

5           TAYLOR CASWELL: Go right ahead, representative.

6           ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you. I would like to know  
7 if -- I'm not saying this isn't a good idea, I know it's  
8 very well needed, but I want to know since the funds have to  
9 be spent by December 30, how would we as a state be able to  
10 track if those snap benefits have actually been spent from  
11 the cards?

12           And if they haven't been spent, would we then have  
13 to take that money back from the SNAP recipients?

14           TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, I don't have an answer for  
15 that at this point, Representative. I'm not that versed in  
16 how the SNAP program works at this point. So that would be  
17 one of the questions we would have to explore before we were  
18 able to, you know, be fully operational.

19           Anyone else? Any other hands raised? I don't see  
20 any. So if you have your hand raised, just go ahead and ask  
21 your question. I don't see any other hands raised, so I  
22 guess at this point we will take a vote, roll call vote.

1           So the motion again is to replace the Employment  
2 Security waterfall amount with money towards the SNAP  
3 program, to be defined I guess as we go forward. So with  
4 that, Senator Soucy?

5           DONNA SOUCY: Yes.

6           TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

7           [Pause]

8           Speaker Shurtleff? You might be on mute, Speaker.

9           Okay, I'll come back around to him. Senator Morse?

10          SENATOR MORSE: No.

11          TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

12          [Pause]

13          Representative Hinch? You might be on mute.

14          TAYLOR CASWELL: Where did everybody go?

15          Senator D'Allesandro?

16          [Pause]

17          Senator, are you on mute? I can't hear you.

18          SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, I'm -- can you hear

19 me now??

20          TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, I can hear you.

21          SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, yes.

22          TAYLOR CASWELL: All right, thank you.

1 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: You're welcome.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

5 SENATOR REAGAN: It was my understanding that the  
6 money had to go back to Employment Security. Now, I'm  
7 involved with the program that has dollars, and we were told  
8 that the dollars that we don't get spend go to Employment  
9 Security. So I'm going to vote no.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Representative  
11 Hennessey?

12 REPRESENTATIVE HENNESSEY: Voicing Senator  
13 Reagan's concerns, and also my concern that if a SNAP  
14 recipient were to spend the funds on December 31 or early in  
15 January and then be told that they would have to then return  
16 funds in state, I would have to vote no on this.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. And Representative  
18 Hinch, coming back to you?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Yep, no. Confirming that's  
20 a no.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Speaker Shurtleff, have you  
22 returned?

1 [Pause]

2 So right now just to recount, I have Senator Soucy  
3 as a yes, I have Senator Morse as a no, I have  
4 Representative Hinch as a no, I have Senator D'Allesandro as  
5 a yes, I have Representative Wallner as a yes, I have  
6 Senator Reagan as a no, and I have Representative Hennessey  
7 as no. And I have no votes at this point from Speaker  
8 Shurtleff. So with that, the vote would be three yesses and  
9 four nos.

10 Okay, so the motion fails. Are there any other  
11 items that we want to discuss today?

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Oh, just maybe one other,  
13 Taylor?

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes. Go ahead, Senator.

15 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: And that is, if there is  
16 money that is not spent and turned back, now all of it can't  
17 go to Employment Security. Couldn't we redeploy? There are  
18 still some outstanding issues. For example, the hospitals  
19 are still out there.

20 And is there an opportunity for some of these  
21 businesses that were refused to give them another shot at it  
22 if there is money that's turned back? There will be some



1 unspent money, I'm sure.

2           And it would be good if we could get that out to  
3 where it would give us some forgiveness, where some need  
4 could be addressed. That would require us to meet one more  
5 time and look at the money that's not been spent and turned  
6 back.

7           I don't know if Senator Morse is in favor of that  
8 or not?

9           SENATOR MORSE: No. I've learned a long time ago  
10 that Governors make decisions and the Governor's made a  
11 decision, and it's waterfalling into the Unemployment Trust  
12 Funds.

13           I certainly believe that all the issues that were  
14 brought up on this phone call require us to start to  
15 publicly debate these areas, because if there are issues in  
16 all these categories, and I have two more that I added  
17 today, it's issues we've got to come back here and deal with  
18 in January. I mean, I think it's important.

19           So I don't see why GOFERR would meet again,  
20 because it's going to waterfall into the Unemployment trust  
21 fund.

22           And it's not even going to be anywhere near what

1 this Committee asked to go -- or at least I did, \$50 million  
2 -- to go into that fund. And the ramifications of that  
3 fund, I don't even want to have that debate today. It's a  
4 huge task in the state of New Hampshire. We're borrowing  
5 money for that fund.

6 So I think to come back to GOFERR would be because  
7 Washington makes a decision in the coming weeks to start to  
8 work with the states to solve some of these issues. And  
9 then coming back, I think we'd all volunteer again. I mean,  
10 so if the Governor wants us, we'd all come back.

11 So no, I don't see us coming back until there's  
12 more money that we can start the debate of where it's going  
13 to go. And I for one agree. Hospitals, I want us to have  
14 to take a look at it, but I can do that back here, so it's  
15 the first time I've actually been in this office in a while.  
16 So anyhow, I don't see a reason to come back, all right?

17 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, well you're the  
18 Chairman, you're the Chairman of the committee, and I would  
19 bow to the wishes of the Chairman.

20 But I do think that there will be money that has  
21 been allocated that won't be spent, and we put \$50 million  
22 aside from unemployment initially, and I believe that money

1 will be available that will go unspent. I just -- I've said  
2 my peace, and I thank you all for listening.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Senator. I have  
4 Representative Hinch with his hand raised?

5 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Yes, thank you. I think  
6 actually Chuck just said it. But I was going to make a  
7 motion that we adjourn to the call of the Chair if  
8 necessary.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. Is there a second to  
10 that motion? I second it. But again, all right, so on a  
11 motion to adjourn to the call of the Chair? I'll call the  
12 roll. Senator Soucy? Senator Soucy?

13 DONNA SOUCY: Yes.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

15 [Pause]

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yes.

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Yes.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

21 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

1 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

3 SENATOR REAGAN: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

5 ERIN HENNESSEY: Yes.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: So that motion to adjourn to the  
7 call of the Chair and end with that. So I guess that's  
8 where we are.

9 SENATOR MORSE:

10 Well, happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

11 COLLECTIVE: Happy Thanksgiving!

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Happy Thanksgiving,  
13 everyone. Thanks for your good work, and let's hope this  
14 legislative session brings us good work. Thank you,  
15 everybody.

16 COLLECTIVE: Thank you.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thanks, everybody.

18 [End of Proceedings]