

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Friday, June 14, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner, Chair

Rep. Susan Ford

Rep. Peter Leishman

Rep. Kenneth Weyler

Rep. Lynne Ober

Rep. David Huot (Alt.)

Rep. Patricia Lovejoy (Alt.)

Rep. Erin Hennessey (Alt.)

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. President Donna Soucy

Sen. Dan Feltes

Sen. Cindy Rosenwald

Sen. Chuck Morse

(The meeting convened at 10:02 a.m.)

(1) Acceptance of Minutes of the May 10, 2019 meeting.

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10: I'll call the June Fiscal Committee to order and our first order of business is the acceptance of the minutes of May 10th. Do I have a motion?

****** LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20: Move approval.

DONNA SOUCY, State Senator and Senate President, Senate District #18: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro seconds and Senator Soucy seconds accept the minutes of May 10th. All in favor? Opposed?

CHUCK MORSE, State Senator, Senate District #22: Abstain.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Abstain. Senator Morse abstains.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(2) Old Business:

CONSENT CALENDAR

(3) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on to Old Business. Anyone want to take that off? Seeing none, we'll move on. And to the Consent Calendar. I ask if anyone would like to take any item off the Consent Calendar?

This is number three, tab number three. This is our first Consent Calendar. Anything? Nothing will come off Consent. Okay.

** LYNNE OBER, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #37: Move to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any discussion of any of the items? Seeing none. All in favor of the Consent Calendar say aye? Any opposed? Motion passes.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(4) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving onto Consent Calendar four. I believe there are people who would like to take things off of this one.

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SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Hm-hum.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So could you let me know which numbers you'd like?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: 19-141.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: 19 -- Senator D'Allesandro would like to take off 19-141. Any other items? Okay. Seeing no other items.

** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to approve all the items except 141.

SUSAN FORD, State Representative, Grafton County, District #03: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ford seconds. Any discussion of any of it? Seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? Item passes.

*** **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Let's go to item 19-141, which is a Department of Health and Human Service item. Good morning, Commissioner.

JEFFREY MEYERS, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: Good morning, Chairman. How are you?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you for coming.

MR. MEYERS: Of course. So for the record, Jeff Meyers, Commissioner of the Department and Kerrin Rounds, CFO, and Katja Fox, the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health.

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REP. OBER: Is the mic on? Is your --

MR. MEYERS: I'm sorry. Is it on now?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: First person up always gets to turn the mic on.

MR. MEYERS: Yeah, that's fine. Sorry.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Questions for the Commissioner and his staff? Yes.

PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #24: Senator Rosenwald.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13: Commissioner, are you able to provide us with information on the number of interactions by Hub and also the number of referrals?

MR. MEYERS: Yes, of course. In fact, I have with me today, we have here -- it was distributed to Mr. Ripple yesterday for distribution of the Committee and that may not have happened yet. But it was requested yesterday and we provided it yesterday. But there's a report that we produce monthly that has all that information. I'm happy to go through it when it's distributed.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Okay.

MR. MEYERS: So I'll just say this is a prelude. This is information that's collected from each of the seven Hubs on a monthly basis, reported to the Department. The Hubs are identified on -- the pages really aren't numbered, but the first page has the month to month total summary on the top. January, February, March, April, May, total to date calls from 2-1-1,

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clinical evaluations, the number of Naloxone kits distributed, the treatment referrals, the number of individuals seen, and the individuals that were served, which is slightly different. There's a footnote that explains that, we go through.

And then the Doorways are AVH which is Berlin; Cheshire, which is Keene; Concord is Concord; DHMC is obviously Lebanon; granite Pathways in Manchester, Nashua; LRGH in Laconia; Littleton Regional Hospital and Wentworth-Douglass.

So -- and then below that is information with respect to the reason of the services provided of people seen. Most are opioid related; but as we said in the past, there are many individuals who come forward with alcohol and other addictions seeking treatment and so we break that out as well. We don't turn anybody away.

The Federal funds that are funding the services for the Hub and the Hub's activities must be -- must be spent on individuals who have a diagnosis that includes an opioid disorder, either primary or secondary. But when an individual presents, let's say for alcohol abuse, they are still served but they're served with Medicaid funding as opposed to the SOR funding which is more restrictive.

On the opposite side of the page -- you can stop me at any time, Senator, if you have questions; but on the opposite side of the page are the number of referrals and walk-ins, the level of treatment that's broken out somewhat, and then the reduplicated count of individuals served by each Doorway.

We, you know, we are working with all the Doorways. There's technical assistance that's being provided through the generosity of the Charitable Foundation through CHI, as well as UNH. We get on the phone, I think it's once a week, right?

KATJA FOX, Director, Division of Behavioral Health,
Department of Health and Human Services: Yeah.

MR. MEYERS: Once a week with the Hubs to kind of go through issues that are arising and deal with them. And the item that's before you today that's now under discussion would -- would certainly assist in the work that they're doing. The item's really comprised of two components, if I may? We received a supplemental grant from the Federal Government from SAMHSA a number of weeks ago now. It was \$11.9 million. And then the balance of the 35 million is the second year of funding for the program that would begin July 1st.

The -- the additional \$12 million, 11.9 to be exact, would be distributed in many ways. There would be a million dollars to buy additional Naloxone. There's 3 million set aside for room and board payments to our residential treatment providers; for example, Farnum in Manchester, that would get an increased payment on a per day basis for people that they treat to support their individual services. There are so-called flex funds, that's funds that are used largely for transportation but other barrier reduction for people who are accessing these services that may need assistance. There's housing vouchers.

So one of the -- one of the gaps we had in the first round of funding was we didn't have enough money to be able -- not we didn't have enough money but we allocated money for housing support. The demand for housing support has really increased. And so this \$2.5 million that we have set aside out of the 11.9 that will provide housing vouchers to the Hubs. So that when someone walks into a Hub and there's not a treatment bed immediately available, there's money to be able to put that person up in local housing until they can get into a treatment facility.

We are giving \$100,000 to 2-1-1 to enhance some of what they do. There's technical assistance of the Hubs that we're providing will be through UNH of \$150,000. And then the continued support of personnel and audit functions and data requirements to the Federal Government is about \$2.6 million. So that's where the 11.9, that's how that's being distributed. And the balance, as I said, is the second year of funding of the

treatment programs and the operation of the Hubs themselves. I'll stop. I've said a lot, and I'm happy to answer questions.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Rosenwald, you have a follow-up?

SEN. ROSENWALD: I do. Thank you, Madam Chair. So in the next year you're planning to spend \$35 million and we might double the number of clients from 527 that you've served in five months. How much do you expect to spend per client? I'm getting a calculation of like -- first of all, I'm getting an e-mail from every realtor in the state.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: They love you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Every five seconds. I'm getting something like \$13,000 per person served.

MS. FOX: So, again, for the record, I'm Katja Fox, Director for Division For Behavioral Health. And one of the things that if we take simple math that probably is the number. But we also have to look at this, that the system is available 24/7. And so as you would have a Fire Department that, say, Safe Station in Manchester, being available is different than numbers served. So when we look at staffing and funding a fire station, we want to make sure that that service is available 24/7. That's the same case here. So we have to have the infrastructure in place to be ready to respond when an individual is ready to come forward and seek help for their recovery.

SEN. ROSENWALD: One more, if I could?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. So the 24/7, has that expanded beyond a phone service on weekends and nights?

MS. FOX: So we still -- thank you for bringing that up, because that is a good point. So after hours and holidays and

weekends, we do have the service is available telephonically. Obviously, if someone is in emergency situation, they're referred to the E.R. or wherever the appropriate setting may be. Perhaps it's homelessness, something like that. But that is and we are -- we can always revisit that. But that is currently the system that Dartmouth Hitchcock provides the after-hour services and has a clinician available on call to be able to do the same function that would happen if someone comes and walks through a Doorway.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks for coming to the table to address our concerns. So I'm not quite sure where to start, but I will express my disappointment how we're handling the opioid crisis in the state and I've had firsthand experience with this matter. And I haven't seen anything, whether the information that we've requested in the House or maybe the Senate, tracking the results where we are continually throwing money, throwing money out there. And, again, this contracted program services, as you state in your letter, more than \$33 million for treatment but the treatment isn't working.

I know of many people very close to me, including losing my son, that have OD'd and it's daily people no matter. There's a retired judge in the Superior Court that's reached out. He lost his son.

MR. MEYERS: Yep, yep.

REP. LEISHMAN: It's everybody, poor, rich, and we are not doing -- Something's wrong here. And not to be critical of you, Commissioner, but I reached out to you because of my concerns I had heard from many constituents that people go to these treatment facilities, like, Farnum, Keystone, and they are kicked out because they are tested positive for drugs in these facilities. And I've learned, Madam Chair, as you know, from my

son and others, that the best place to get drugs in the state are at rehab facilities in the parking lots of those facilities and, yet, we spend millions of dollars and people are dying daily in this state. So we need to get something to track the results. And, again, this whole thing is not working. And we're, as a state, we look pretty bad because other states, Vermont, for instance, if I could add, Madam Chair, they don't kick people out that test positive in their facilities. We are -- something needs to be done about this and I ask you, Commissioner, and your staff, what are you doing to track what is going on in these facilities because it's not right when people are seeking help they're kicked to the street for testing positive in a rehab facility. Thanks, Madam Chair.

MR. MEYERS: Thank you for the question. Hum -- I'm aware of many of personal circumstances, and I have only the most sympathy that I can express for your own circumstance, as well as others, who have experienced the same thing.

There are still people who overdose daily in the state at a far too frequent rate. The overall numbers are coming down. The State has made some progress, largely because of the distribution and use of Naloxone over the last couple of years now. We are moving forward with a very robust plan to track the performance of these programs. We received a grant about, I think, about nine months ago, if I remember correctly, six months ago, something like that, from the CDC in Atlanta, of \$4 million to be able to track opioid use and effectiveness of the programs. We took 2.2 million of that. We had a procurement process. We've hired Deloitte. Deloitte won that procurement process. They're standing up a dashboard, in effect, a data dashboard, data warehouse that will track all of this.

Governor issued an Executive Order some number of weeks ago now that was developed in conjunction with the Department. We are standing up a division in the Department to basically build our capacity to buildup outcomes and performance metrics, performance evaluation/innovation. There are very concrete steps that we're taking to do that right now. I have to make a public

report on that by July 1st, which I'm going to be doing. So I understand everything you're saying. I don't disagree with any of it. We have to move forward and ensure that this money is tailored to programs that are going to be successful over the long haul.

I think, as so many people in this room and I know you know, addiction is a very terrible thing, and it works in terrible ways. And it's -- I wish we could just put out the money one day and have it solved within a short period of time but that's not how it works. So we're doing everything we can do. I think we are going to be doing more when it comes to evaluating the effectiveness of these programs. And we're happy to continue to report our efforts as regularly as you'd like us to in this Committee and in others.

REP. LEISHMAN: Further question, Madam.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, further question.

REP. LEISHMAN: So what are you doing in advance of somebody being addicted to heroin or fentanyl? When someone, you know, just again, hearing from friends of mine and my own personal experience with my son, once you're addicted, it's pretty much over for so many people. I mean, you live with this huge gorilla on your back. But what are we doing as a state or your Department to get the word out so people don't bite the apple, so to speak, because that --

MR. MEYERS: Yeah, yeah.

REP. LEISHMAN: We're throwing the money at the rehab facilities, but I didn't see anything in any of the documents provided, what are we providing for education, or the Boys and Girls Clubs --

MR. MEYERS: Yeah.

REP. LEISHMAN: -- or to the schools to make sure people are aware how deadly this stuff is. Because I'll tell you, Commissioner, when we were all growing up, not to speak for you, but --

MR. MEYERS: Yeah.

REP. LEISHMAN: -- you know, people drank, they smoked pot, and they were aware that this stuff wasn't really good for you.

MR. MEYERS: Yep, yep.

REP. LEISHMAN: But today we're not getting the message out that this stuff kills you. There are not enough ads on television, on Facebook; but what is the Department doing to try to avoid people getting hooked?

MR. MEYERS: We are -- I'm going to have Katja address it in a second. I do want to make one point. With respect to the item before you, the SOR, State Opioid Response Grant Program from Federal HHS, was really tailored to address treatment needs. I mean, the Administration designed it in that fashion, and we were very limited, very limited as to how we could direct dollars out of this particular program to prevention efforts.

There was an emphasis on getting out medication- assisted treatment, Naloxone purchases, and treatment services overall. That's the way it was designed. I think if it had been designed differently we would have taken more of this money and we would have supported additional prevention efforts. But our prevention efforts that we're doing, that the Governor's Commission is doing, and I want to just let Katja add to that, if I may, just for a moment.

MS. FOX: So, first of all, thank you for sharing your personal story. That's what we need to do to change a system and to change attitudes about what's happening to our loved ones when it comes to addiction. And just a point about that is that we are doing stigma reduction. We do have some of the funds that

are dedicated to that. The Recovery Friendly Workplace is an initiative that really looks at how do we treat people who are addicted, and how do we not have them kicked out or shut out of opportunities that they need to recover.

When it comes to prevention, we have separate grants that we deploy to look at earlier interventions and prevention. So we have a Student Assistance Program, and that program has the efforts and coordinators in schools across the state. And those are targeted for middle and high school students. There's Life of an Athlete. That's a successful program where leadership skills are developed and resiliency is emphasized as part of that program. And we know now, we know a lot more now about adverse childhood experiences, the so-called Aces, and we're now looking at putting funding in at the very earliest. We're talking elementary school, we're talking about those experiences that people have that may down the road lead to addiction.

So the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs recently, I think it was a couple months ago, supported the -- the Prevention Task Force of the Commission, brought forward an initiative and it's called Double Down on Prevention. Because we know that these funds are available for the treatment and the response, that we were then able to use the Governor's Commission funds, which now is \$10 million, we are able to use a good chunk of those on prevention, and that has been something that we wanted to do, and we haven't had the opportunity and now we do. And the Department is charged with putting those in the contracts and so setting out the RFPs and putting the contracts forth. And I'd be happy -- I think I've shared it in various legislative committees, and I'd be happy to share that with you so that you can see what will be funded and at what level. But I believe it's over \$3 million that was dedicated to that effort.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Yes, Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, thank you for coming and thanks for the information. I think it's very helpful. A couple of questions. Isn't this item in the budget?

MR. MEYERS: It is, sir, yes. It is, Senator. It's in the budget. Yes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I just want to make that clear to everybody. This is covered in the budget. Secondly, it appears to me there's a duplication of effort here in two areas. In Manchester and Nashua we have Safe Stations. We have also put money in the budget for Safe Stations. Is there a synergy between Granite Pathways Manchester and Granite Pathways Nashua that provides an opportunity for these things to work together?

MR. MEYERS: Yes. They are working together. So when someone walks into a fire station with an opioid diagnosis, that person is evaluated medically first and if they're medically cleared they're being referred to the Doorway for services and that's what we are doing, and it's a process. It's taken time to get it up and running. It's only been operating five months now. I know that there's a high expectation in Manchester and elsewhere about making this work. There are still people coming to Manchester from other parts of the state.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

MR. MEYERS: We are working with this new money we have got in front of you today that will allow more funds for transportation to be able to kind of keep people where they need to be.

Ultimately, we can't direct -- we can't tell someone that they cannot come to Manchester or Littleton or Nashua or wherever. There's a freedom of choice in providers that we have to honor. But we are working as hard as we can to limit people coming through Manchester and Nashua as they have over the past couple of years. But, yes, Granite Pathways is working within

both Manchester and Nashua with Safe Stations Program there trying to coordinate services.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Thank you.

REP. OBER: Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Representative Ober.

REP. OBER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Commissioner, good morning.

MR. MEYERS: Good morning.

REP. OBER: I think you're aware the Fiscal Committee is only supposed to accept funds for the current Fiscal Year. And this, as you said, and as the good Senator asked, has funds for next Fiscal Year. So my question is why doesn't this item just have the money you need to get started between now and June 30th?

MR. MEYERS: Well, that was one point I was just -- thank you for your question, and that was one point I was going to make. If it's approved today, money will start going out right away. Yes, it's in the budget, and we want to be able to develop contracts that I can get in front of G & C as early in July as the first meeting that will continue funding a lot of the programs and having the assurance that the money is available would allow me to do that. Do you want to add to that?

MS. FOX: Yeah. And part of the supplemental funds allow us to have new entrance that we haven't funded before. And they are eagerly awaiting. I actually get daily calls. And we have contracts that we are preparing and that we'll be proposing go forward through G & C and we just for lack of funding, we are not able to move those forward. This gives us, and this may sound silly, but two weeks makes a huge difference when we're looking at the summer months and the dates that we need to hit for Governor and Council.

REP. OBER: Follow-up.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. OBER: I appreciate those answers, but you didn't answer my question. My question was, and maybe I wasn't clear so that fault is with me and I'm suffering from hay fever like I think the majority of the state is. So why isn't this item broken down so we are accepting what you need for the month of June, knowing that the rest is in the budget? Because, yes, I would agree we are starting the funding in June, but that isn't what you've done. Because June is the end of the Fiscal Year.

MR. MEYERS: So I apologize. I was just --

REP. OBER: That's okay.

MR. MEYERS: I want to make sure I'm on the same page.
Look --

REP. OBER: I hate for her to kick you under the table.

MS. ROUNDS: It's usually the other way around.

MR. MEYERS: So would I. Look, if the -- we brought the item as a single item. If you want to approach it differently, we'll work with the Committee in doing that. I hope that's an appropriate answer to the question.

REP. OBER: So may I follow-up one more time?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. OBER: If we were going to approve the money through this month, which I'm in favor of, how much would we be approving?

MS. ROUNDS: I don't have an answer.

MR. MEYERS: I apologize, I don't have an answer to that question. We have to go back and look at everything so I can't -- I don't have an exact figure.

REP. OBER: One more question, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. OBER: How long would it take you to give us a ballpark? We don't expect it to be absolutely accurate. You want to build in a contingency fund so you ask more than what you need for the month. Because I really would like to get you some money this month, but I don't think we should because Fiscal Committee is not supposed to accept beyond the end of the Fiscal Year. We should approve the whole item.

MR. MEYERS: I think we can talk once we're not at the table, we can talk and before the end of the meeting.

REP. OBER: So could we just table this to when you get that number? Would that -- and you guys could come back to the table.

MR. MEYERS: If that's what the Committee wishes to do, sure.

REP. OBER: Madam Chairman, thank you for letting me ask.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro.

****** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I respect what the -- what the Representative said, but I think we're given a situation that's imperative that we do it. Okay. We understand the situation. It's in the budget. To talk about what you spend in two weeks versus going forward, I think that's inappropriate at this time.

I would move the item and say to you that you should get back to the Fiscal Committee and let them know what the spend is and how the spend is appearing as it moves forward.

MR. MEYERS: We are happy to do that.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Because we know this is a very desperate situation. And anything that holds it up I think is problematic in my eyes. So I move the item.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves. And do we have a second? Move the item.

REP. LEISHMAN: Second for discussion, Madam Chair.

REP. OBER: Madam Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman seconds. Any discussion? Yes, Senator Feltes.

DAN FELTES, State Senator, Senate District #15: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Could we have a five-minute recess?

REP. OBER: Madam Chairman, before we have five-minute recess could I say one word?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I'll let you say one word and then we will have a five-minute recess.

DAVID HUOT, State Representative, Belknap County, District #03: Make it carefully.

REP. OBER: I would, given the uncertainty of where we are with the budget, I would even be willing to move six weeks' worth of money so that nothing stops in case the budget got vetoed, because I think this is important. So I'd like to put that on the table for consideration.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So let's take our five-minute recess and we'll be back.

MR. MEYERS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Discuss it further, I'm sure.

REP. OBER: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

(Recess at 10:32 a.m.)

(Reconvened at 10:39 a.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I'll call the Fiscal Committee back to order and call on Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I'll withdraw my motion.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro withdraws his motion. And who was --

REP. LEISHMAN: I'll withdraw the second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Representative Leishman withdraws the second. And I think Senator Feltes has a new motion.

** SEN. FELTES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would move approval of this item through the end of July of this year pro rata.

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Feltes moves the item through the end of July, and Representative Ober seconds. And discussion? Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just while we were on break looked back through the reports on Safe Station activity in Nashua and Manchester versus what you brought us today.

MR. MEYERS: Yeah.

SEN. ROSENWALD: And I see that in Manchester during the same reporting period, five months --

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MR. MEYERS: Yes.

SEN. ROSENWALD: -- that 680 people were served through Safe Stations versus the 186 through the Doorway, and in Nashua 303 people entered Safe Stations during that period versus 55. My question is have we -- do you think in the budget that we're under-appropriating money for the Safe Stations Program which is serving multiple times as many people as the Doorway?

MR. MEYERS: Yeah, I understand. Thank you.

MS. FOX: So -- sorry. As previously indicated, we're working really closely in those two committees because they are different than the others that didn't have a Safe Station. And what we're working to find out and dig deeper into the numbers to see if they're duplicates. So are those 55 in Nashua that you reference also at Safe Station, and so we have been doing a little bit of data mining on that.

What's important to realize is that Safe Station is an entry point. So Safe Station as a -- in and of itself a fire station doesn't provide the service other than the warm hand off and immediate response. The Safe Station is really made up those providers that we're funding. So we are funding Farnum Center, we're funding Families in Transition, for example, in Manchester. We're funding Harbor Homes in Nashua and some of the other centers in Nashua. And so when it's indicated that, you know, you're not -- we should be putting more money into Safe Station, Safe Station is that provider network when you think about it. It really is critical and we are putting resources there.

As the Commissioner had indicated, we're not telling people they have to go to the Doorway. They are -- they can come in any entry point that they want. And Safe Station has a three-year head start, or longer, head start on us. And we're working closely with them so that we can make sure that individuals, first of all, get the services they need, regardless of where

they show up, whether they show up at Granite Pathways or they show up at a fire station.

And, then, secondly, to shift that and to help relieve the burden by having the Doorways in other parts of the state where Manchester has attracted good, bad or indifferent individuals from other parts of the state.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further question? Seeing none. The motion's made by Senator Feltes, and seconded by Representative Ober. Senator Feltes moves the item through the end of July. DHHS must return before the end of July if the budget passes. Hum --

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #13: If the budget passes then it's moot.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, if the budget passes -- I'm sorry.

REP. WEYLER: The budget passes where the money is included. If no budget, then Fiscal will approve beyond that.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Does everybody understand the motion? Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? Hearing none opposed, the item passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, I think Mr. Kane has something to add.

MICHAEL KANE, Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Sure. Just clarification on the motion. It was initially stated that it was July 30, 2019, on a pro rata basis. Your motion was July 30, 2019, without that mention of pro rata. What's the intent of the Committee?

REP. OBER: Senator Feltes knows more than we do when he says pro rata so we sort of like hm-hum.

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SEN. FELTES: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, Mike. I think that the motion was not to approve the full 35 million. It was to approve the item through July consistent with however amount of money is needed to operate through the end of July. So that's what pro rata meant.

MR. MEYERS: So may I ask a question, Madam Chair?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, please.

MR. MEYERS: So is the Department authorized under this motion to enter into a contract for a year and obligate funds that are being made available as a result of the motion, and then come back just -- if the budget didn't pass come back in July or is the amount of money being limited so that I can only endure a contract for a period of number of weeks? I just want to be clear about what the expectation and intent of the Committee is.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Feltes.

SEN. FELTES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think based on my understanding I think we want it through to the end of July. If there's a contract that goes beyond July, I think you'd have to come back to Fiscal unless the budget passes.

MR. MEYERS: But I could enter into the contract and as long as the funds were available the contract can be honored. Is that your understanding?

SEN. FELTES: Yes. Yep.

MR. MEYERS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes. Senator Morse.

SEN. MORSE: I believe that's how we write our contracts in the State of New Hampshire because Legislature doesn't always agree with the contracts, so.

MR. MEYERS: Right, right.

SEN. MORSE: I think that's a fair way to do it at this point.

MR. MEYERS: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Is everyone clear on what the motion was and what passed? We have already voted on it. Okay. Set? Okay. Thank you. Sorry for all that -- all that delay.

(5) RSA 215-A:23, IX and RSA 215-C:39, X Registration Fees

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Let's move on now to item (5), Tab (5) in our book. This is -- concerns registration fees and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Move the item.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Do I see a motion?

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves and Representative Ober seconds. Discussion? Seeing none All in favor? Any opposed? Motion passes.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

(6) RSA 228:69, I (b), Appropriation and Use of Special Railroad Funds:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Let's move on now to Item (6), and I've already been told that Representative Leishman is going to abstain from this -- on this item.

REP. OBER: I have a question, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, okay. If somebody is here from the Department of Transportation. Thank you.

MARIE MULLEN, Director of Finance, Department of Transportation: Good morning. Marie Mullen, Director of Finance.

REP. OBER: Good morning, Marie. It's always good to see you.

MS. MULLEN: Good morning. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober has a question.

REP. OBER: It's my understanding this is in the budget. So what would the impact be if we tabled this for a month? In case the budget was vetoed then you would come back in a month and ask for permission to do this. In case the budget passes, you would have the money effective July 1st.

MS. MULLEN: The impact would be I think this is just authorizing us to enter into the contracts. So if the budget wasn't passed it depends on what would be available for funds.

REP. OBER: No, my question was what would happen if we tabled this for one month? You would come back to Fiscal in one month and ask for the availability if the budget didn't pass. It's my understanding you have this in the budget, so then you would have the money even if we had tabled this.

MS. MULLEN: We have the money, but we wouldn't have the authorization to enter into any of the contracts with the railroads. So if the budget passed we wouldn't be able -- if you tabled it, we wouldn't be able to as of July 1st move forward with any contracts with these railroads until we received authorization. Because in the law it requires us to get Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council authorization to enter into the contracts.

REP. OBER: Okay. What is the impact in the budget, if this is tabled? You would come in July. You would still have your money. You would get your authorization. This is, again, asking us to spend money beyond the end of the biennium. And Fiscal Committee is only supposed to spend money for the current biennium which ends June 30th.

MS. MULLEN: This would be effective July 1st. So it's not for Fiscal Year 2019 its authorization.

REP. OBER: Right, we are not supposed to be doing that right now because we're in this Fiscal Year. We have authority to approve this in July by law.

MS. MULLEN: And by waiting it would delay us being able to start the projects. I think the problem is, is most of the work is done in the summer months in July and August. So by waiting for the Fiscal Committee in July we delay -- we lose the month of July to be able to start any of the work if the budget is passed.

And I know two years ago when we brought forward this item, we did bring it forward in June two years ago because we have to go every biennium and this was approved in June two years ago when we -- and we did have the funds in the budget at the time as well for Fiscal Years 18 and 19.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further question.

** REP. OBER: No, but I would move to table.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to table. Is that seconded? Seeing no second. Do I hear another --

** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I would move ought to pass.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro moves ought to pass and Senator Feltes seconds. Further discussion about this

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particular item? Seeing no further discussion. All in favor? Any opposed?

REP. OBER: I'm opposed.

REP. LEISHMAN: I'll abstain.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And record that Representative Ober is opposed and Representative Leishman abstained. The motion passed.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(7) RSA 604-A, 1-b, Additional Funding

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Let's move on to Tab number (7), and this is the Judicial Council.

****** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to approve this item, and Senator Soucy seconded. Discussion of the item? All in favor? Any opposed? Item passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(8) Chapter 155, Laws of 217, Department of Administrative Services; Budget Footnote:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Tab (8), Department of Administrative Services.

****** REP. LEISHMAN: Move to approve, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman moves to approve.

REP. OBER: Second.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Representative Ober seconds. Discussion of the item? Seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? Item passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(9) Chapter 156:13, Laws of 2017, Judicial Branch; Transfer Among Accounts and Classes:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on now to Judicial Branch Item Tab (9).

REP. OBER: I have a question.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: I think there are questions on this one. Do you want to come up?

CHRISTOPHER KEATING, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Branch: Good morning, Madam Chair. Chris Keating, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. I have with me our Director of Finance, Donna Raymond.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you for coming up. Questions of Mr. Keating. Yes, Representative Ober.

REP. OBER: Thank you for coming forward. During the budget presentation for this biennium, so we're talking about what happened in '17 as we move forward, the Judicial Branch came and asked to have additional money budgeted because you had discovered that you didn't budget for your retiree health, in fact, or your retirement. You had never budgeted and you said you no longer had enough money to cover that. So you asked us for \$75,000 additional which we gave you. This item actually moves 105,000 out of benefits into a consultant line, which is -- makes me wonder why we really needed to give you that additional \$75,000 because it looks like you would have been able to cover it?

DONNA RAYMOND, Fiscal Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Branch: I think at the time it was my acknowledgement of an omission in proper zero based budgeting where we had an expense that was for retirees that should have gone into the Class 64 line, I believe, that I was not budgeting for. We were able to meet our lapse every year, right even not having budgeted for that. So it was never a question of, oh, my God, we don't have enough money for this. It was more a matter of I omitted this portion of our expenses in our budget, and I was acknowledging it. I didn't really change how I budget for Class 60. That remained the same. It's just I basically added another line for Class 64 and talked with Risk Management about what that amount should be since they are the ones that provide us that figure.

REP. OBER: I appreciate that. I did check the minutes for two years ago after I saw this and you did at the time testify you didn't have enough money. And so we needed to help you cover it. So I was really surprised when we saw you had actually more money that you could transfer to consultants. And what are the consultants going to do instead of paying for benefits?

MS. RAYMOND: They're going to be doing a Judicial Branch-wide employee compensation study.

REP. OBER: Was that budgeted?

MS. RAYMOND: No.

REP. OBER: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further question.

****** REP. LEISHMAN: Move to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Leishman moves to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

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CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any further discussion on the item? All in favor? Any opposed?

REP. OBER: No.

REP. WEYLER: No.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Show of hands who's opposed? Two opposed? Three opposed? Sorry. Three opposed and seven -- the vote was seven to three and the motion passes. Thank you.

(Representatives Ober and Weyler and Senator Morse opposed.)

MR. KEATING: Thank you.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

- (10) Chapter 163:9, Laws of 2018, Department of Administrative Services; Transfer Authority; Consolidation of Human Resources and Payroll Functions:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on to Tab (10).

** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any discussion of this item? Seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? Item passes.

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

- (11) Miscellaneous:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We do have two late items which I think we put in Tab (11). The first late item is from the Attorney General's Office. And I do note someone wanted to speak to that. Do we have a motion on this item?

****** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Move to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any discussion?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Explain to us what the story is.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: So do come up and explain. Thank you.

JANE YOUNG, Deputy Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Department of Justice: Good morning, Committee Members. My name is Jane Young, and I'm the Deputy Attorney General. I think everybody is aware Attorney General Gordon McDonald is on leave for a few weeks. With me is Attorney McDonald's Chief of Staff, Diane Martin, who was integral in negotiating the contract and Chris Aslin who's a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Bureau and will be one of the lead attorneys for the state in this matter. So thank you for your time and we'll take whatever questions you have.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Excuse me, if I may?

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: This had to come to us based on a decision made by the court; correct?

DIANE MARTIN, Chief of Staff, Office of Attorney General Department of Justice: The court opinion, the Superior Court opinion that you're referring to --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: -- went up to the Supreme Court and was overturned on a standing issue. So the legal question was not actually finally resolved. And so out of an abundance of caution in looking at the statutes that apply we thought it most appropriate to bring it back to you.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. So, indeed, the appropriateness was determined by your office that it should come here based on actions that had taken place in the past that had a little bit of controversy.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions? Yes. Further questions of the Department? Seeing none. All in favor of approving the item? Any opposed? Seeing none. Thank you, the item passes.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you very much. Have a good weekend.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And our last late item is from the Office of the Governor. And do I have a motion on this item?

****** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves and Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any discussion of this item? Seeing none.

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All in favor? Any opposed? None opposed, item passes. Thank you very much.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(12) Informational Materials:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And that is the end of our agenda for today, the regular agenda. Now we have some informational items.

REP. WEYLER: And audit.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And audit. And anyone want to discuss any of the informational items? No. So let's move on to the audit.

Audit:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We only have one audit today. And -- Mr. Kane has joined us.

MR. KANE: Good morning, Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. Before we start the audit, we do have a long-term employee who will retire at the end of the month. Happens to be to my right, that's Bill Mitchell. Bill has been with our office for 36 years. So to put that into perspective, I was nine, and the Baltimore Orioles won the World Series. So it's a lot of change.

I've worked with Bill for the past 19 years. He's been a pleasure to work with. Bill is a highly competent, one of our most competent auditors. He is a very dedicated to our office, to the field of accounting, to the State of New Hampshire. I'll miss Bill but very happy for him that he's able to retire. Bill doesn't love the spotlight, but I think we do have to acknowledge his service, and I'm just going to turn it over to Steve to say a couple words as well.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, thank you.

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STEPHEN SMITH, Director, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Thank you, Mike. Good morning. So just to review a couple things that Mike said. Bill started with the Audit Division back in April 1983. He began as a staff auditor and worked his way up to and becoming a financial audit supervisor in April of 1993. After 36 years in the Audit Division Bill will be retiring the end of this month so this is the last opportunity that he'll have or we will have to publicly recognize him and to the Committee.

As Mike said, Bill is known as an exceptional auditor. He's an insightful teacher and trainer and pursues excellence in his profession and encourages it in others. Over the years there's probably very few areas within the State of New Hampshire Government that Bill hasn't reviewed and dug into, and his institutional knowledge has been an asset not only to the Audit Division but to the State of New Hampshire as a whole.

Since becoming supervisor most, if not all, of the financial staff and internal control reports -- excuse me -- most if not all of the financial audit and internal control reports issued by the Division Bill has made a significant contribution to them, and he's even presented a few to this Committee.

In addition to our current financial audit staff, it's important to note that there are many past and present LBA financial audit alumni who served in senior financial positions around the state that I'm sure Bill has had an influence on and played a key role in their early development as a New Hampshire financial professional.

Again, I believe his many years of committed and dedicated service have proven him a true asset of the state. And even though he's retiring, his value never depreciated. Sorry. Accountants have to do it. But he will be missed. So please join me in thanking Bill and wishing him well in his next chapter of his life.

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(Applause.)

WILLIAM MITCHELL, Senior Audit Supervisor, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Thank you for the kind words. It's been an honor and privilege to work with the office, to work for the Committee, really. That's how we think about it within the office, and we appreciate the support the Committee has given us. We had a training this week and one of the comments in the training was that employees don't quit their job, they quit their boss. I've always thought of the Committee as my boss, and I've always felt supported, and it's been a pleasure to come to work every Monday every week because I know that the work that we do is appreciated and supported, and it's important work so thank you, thank you to the Committee.

Plus the agencies that we worked with oftentimes it's not a friendly relationship in the middle of a process, but it's generally a cooperative work and that also has been very enjoyable. The idea of going to different agencies, looking at different work, providing service and help when we can, and that's the way that we have always looked at it. So thank you very much. I've enjoyed it. It's been great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: And from us thank you very much, Mr. Mitchell, for all your years of service. We know that you have done a wonderful job for the State of New Hampshire and we appreciate it. Hope you have a wonderful retirement. Thank you.

Now we'll move into our audit of Therapeutic Cannabis Program Identification Card Timeliness.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chair. To present this audit is John Clinch from our office. He's a Senior Audit Manager. And joining us from Department of Health and Human Services is Trish Tilley. She's the Deputy Director of the Division of Public Health, and Michael Holt, the Program Administrator. So I'll turn it over to John to present the audit.

JOHN CLINCH, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Thank you, Steve. Good morning, Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. My name is John Clinch. I was the auditor in charge of the Therapeutic Cannabis Timeliness Performance Audit.

The Objective of our audit was to determine the Registry Identification cards were issued within time standards during the Calendar Year 2018. The Executive Summary is found on Page 1.

We found Therapeutic Cannabis Program Registry Cards had not been issued timely before and during Calendar Year 2018, although timeliness since 2016 generally improved. State Law required the program to approve or deny applications within 15 days of receipt and issue Registry Identification Cards within five days of approval. The program mistakenly believed they had 20 days to process an application and issue a Registry Card, which is not how the statute reads.

Although the program was authorized by the Legislature, it did not initially provide DHHS a budget during the development phase, which contributed the program's inconsistent operations, ineffective client service, inadequate database, and immature management control environment over card issuance.

Our Recommendation Summary starts on Page 3. Our report has nine Observations. The Department of Health and Human Services fully concurred with all nine Recommendations. You may note Observations 1 and 3 may require legislative action.

Our background section begins on Page 5. It contains a description of the symptoms and conditions eligible for the program and a process flow chart for Registry card application and issuance.

The next section regarding timeliness begins on Page 11. In Observation No. 1 on Page 12, we examined a sample of initial applications that were complete upon admission -- submission.

Table II on Page 13 shows the timeliness for this set of applications. For example, looking at the 2018 column, it took 4.7 days on average for the program to process an initial application from receipt to approval, and 13.8 days from application approval to the date card was issued.

Table II also shows all of the 2018 applications met the 15-day standard but nearly all of the cards were issued past the five-day standards set by law for issuing the cards. We note the program took approximately 30 days on average to process applications and issue cards in 2016 and 2017.

We recommend Management orient its operations to process applications within the statutory time frames, and also consider whether its database meets its current and future needs of the program. Management and the Legislature may wish to maintain adequate funding and staffing levels.

In Observation No. 2 on Page 16, we discussed how the program did not track the timeliness of individual cards. Although the program had a rudimentary database, it was not designed or used to track the status of individual applications. We recommend Management explore a database suitable to its needs in operating and managing the program.

In Observation No. 3 on Page 17, we discussed a conundrum in issuing Registry Cards for renewal applicants. As a result, renewal applications were often not processed upon receipt by the program. We recommend Management consider seeking a change to its laws to avoid conflicting statutory requirements when attempting to issue renewable cards in a timely manner.

In Observation No. 4 on Page 19, we found almost 40% of additional applications received in Calendar Year 2018 were considered incomplete upon receipt. Initial applications were incomplete for various reasons, and those are shown in Table III on Page 20.

We recommend Management review its application forms to identify areas that could be simplified to make it clearer that documents are required -- the documents that are required.

In Observation No. 5 on Page 21, we determined some data fields on checklists used by the program were missing information or were used to capture more than one timely event making it difficult to use for analytical purposes. As a result, neither the program nor the auditors were able to use the database efficiently to accurately determine how long it took to process applications for Registry Cards.

We recommend Management approve policies and procedures for using checklists to ensure consistent and useful data are captured and entered into the database.

In Observation No. 6 on Page 24, we recommend Management establish policy and procedures to review files for errors and omissions.

In Observation No. 7 on Page 26, we found the Program's practice of manually tracking telephone calls was rudimentary and some calls required staff to go through files by hand to determine the applicant's status of the application if it had not been entered into the database. We made some Recommendations to improve client service.

In Observation No. 8 on Page 28, we recommend improving Program's Policy and Procedures Manual, and in Observation No. 9 on Page 29, we recommend a review of administrative rules to identify areas where practice and rules differ.

The Appendices are found in the tab section of the report and include our methodology and the Department's response to the audit.

I'd like to thank the Department of Health and Human Services and their staff for their assistance during the audit.

This concludes my prepared remarks, and I'd be happy to take any questions.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Do we have questions for the auditor? Yes, Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thanks, Madam Chair. On Page 9 there's a reference to the -- let's see where is it now, Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board. And it said there are ten medical providers that are appointed. Do you know who appoints them?

MR. CLINCH: Yes. That's established by statute. It's RSA 126-X:12, I believe. The Commissioner of Department of Health and Human Services appoints all members on that Committee.

REP. LEISHMAN: Okay. Thanks. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, thank you. Further questions? Yes, Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Madam Chair. It looks like we have a long way to go here. And is it that you weren't funded properly? Is that the base issue? Or what is the issue?

PATRICIA TILLEY, Director, Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services: Thank you. And for the record, again, I'm Patricia Tilley from the Division of Public Health Services. So what we would just like to say that we appreciate the guidance that the audit provided for us. The Department has already taken several steps in the right direction. One of the pieces that was challenging about this program prior was that portions of the program sat within different sections of the Department, and there was no one clear budget for the program.

So we have put all those pieces back together and they are now all sitting within the Division of Public Health Services. So that's one big step. We have a budget prepared for you and

for the next biennium. So that's another big step. So we have taken those two concrete steps.

We have also since reconstituting the program together begun to look at the efficiencies and the inefficiencies of the program to address all of the concerns which is why we concur in full. We have a database that is in procurement right now and, with luck, we'll be on the agenda for Governor and Council next week. So that's going to put us further down the path to addressing some of these systemic issues. And we are using our quality improvement and performance improvement section to really do a very strong look and focus on how do we meet the statutory requirements to move forward. So I'm very hopeful that within 12 months that you will see marked changes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Further questions? Yes, Representative Ford.

REP. FORD: Thank you. One of the things that I've noticed as I read through that you do require some legislative changes that are going to need to be made. Have any thoughts been to those legislative changes yet?

MS. TILLEY: So we are considering those. We are working with to make sure that our -- the new data system and trying to fix whatever inefficiencies we can through our own business processes first, and we are going to use the summer to sit with our lawyers and understand if there, in fact, we do need legislative changes or there are opportunities within rulemaking or just simply in business practice to make sure that we're compliant; but we will consider changes, if necessary.

REP. FORD: And I'd be very interested in hearing how that goes.

MS. TILLEY: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Further questions? Representative Rosenwald, did have you a question? Senator Rosenwald.

SEN. ROSENWALD: No.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Does the Department have any other comments they would like to make at this point?

MS. TILLEY: Our final comment would just be a thanks to the Audit Division. They were very helpful throughout this process, and I think that we are moving forward together to address all of the concerns.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you very much. And I ask Representative Weyler to make a motion.

****** REP. WEYLER: Madam Chair, I move we accept the report, place it on file, and release in the usual manner.

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Weyler moves that we release the audit in the usual manner and Representative Ober seconds. All in favor? Any opposed? Seeing none opposed, the item passes. Thank you. We'll put it on file.

******* {MOTION ADOPTED}

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Any other business? I did want to review a little bit about the July meeting. So we had originally scheduled July 12th, I think. But Mr. Kane has informed me that it's really better we do a July meeting later in the month. So I'd like everyone to reserve Thursday, July 25th, and as things move forward in the next week or two we will firm up that date. So it would be Thursday, July 25th, would be our next meeting unless some other changes make us have to change that date. But at this point that would be the date we would have. Okay. Thank you. So I adjourn the Fiscal Committee.

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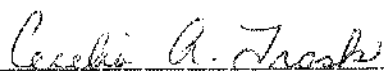
(Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.



Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRK
State of New Hampshire
License No. 47

