

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Friday, November 15, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Chair

Representative Keith Erf

Representative Jess Edwards

Representative Mary Jane Wallner

Representative Peter Leishman

Representative Gerald Griffin (Alt.)

Senator James Gray

Senator Jeb Bradley

Senator Regina Birdsell

Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Senator Debra Altschiller (Alt.)

**(1) Acceptance of Minutes of the October 18, 2024 meeting**

KENNETH WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #14: Good morning. We'll call the Fiscal Committee meeting to order on November 15th, 2024; and looking at the agenda, Tab 1 is the acceptance of minutes.

**\*\*** LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20: So move.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator D'Allesandro moves to accept. Is there a second? Second by -- but before we begin, I should welcome Senator Altschiller here to replace Senator Rosenwald. Welcome.

Okay. A second on the Amendment or on the minutes --

JAMES GRAY, State Senator, Senate District #06: Senator Birdsell.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: -- is Senator Birdsell. Any further discussion, any corrections, or omissions? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? The minutes are adopted.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

(2) Old Business:

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (3) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized:
- (4) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized, and RSA 9:16-c, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds:
- (5) RSA 9:16-c, I Transfer of Federal Grant Funds:
- (6) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source:
- (7) RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from Any Non-State Source, and RSA 124:15 Positions Authorized:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: There is nothing under Old Business. Tabs 3 through 7 are the Consent Calendar. There have been by the House four items removed. Under Tab 6, items 24-388 and 24-389; and under Tab 7, 24-404 and 24-412. Is there a motion for the rest of the Consent Calendar?

\*\* SEN. GRAY: Move the Consent Calendar as amended.

JEB BRADLEY, State Senator, Senate District #03: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion and a second to accept the Consent Calendar. Is there any further changes or discussions? Seeing

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none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye?  
Opposed no?

KEITH ERF, State Representative, Hillsborough County,  
District #28: Senator Bradley seconded?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yes. That Consent Calendar is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We'll move to Tab 6 and Item 24-388, and that is Department of Health and Human Services. Representative Edwards has a question.

JESS EDWARDS, State Representative, Rockingham County,  
District #31: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good morning. Good seeing you again. Just yesterday, right?

Um -- I -- I have some basic questions about this. I understand that this is just receiving Federal funds and -- um -- but I'm curious what the head count is for the State's management of this program. How many people are involved and if you're able to tell me, tell me what kind of job requirements they have in order to fulfill their duties. Like are they RNs? Are they, you know, administrators? What -- what -- kind of background do they need for those positions?

IAIN WATT, Director, Division of Public Health Services,  
Department of Health and Human Services: Sure. Good morning. Iain Watt. I'm the Director for the Division of Public Health Services. Representative Edwards, thank you for your question.

I don't have the specific head count of individuals in our tobacco program. A number of the people in that program, which is focused on tobacco, asthma, and cancer, are actually funded by multiple funding sources. So I'll have to -- to go back and get back to you with the exact number of people specifically dedicated to tobacco activities.

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Most of them are programmatic staff. So they're program staff who may have any number of backgrounds. They may have medical background. They may have background in public health, Masters in Public Health or other Masters level training, and then experience in the field working in whether non-profits or other people focused on smoking cessation or other chronic disease work.

REP. EDWARDS: All right. Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. EDWARDS: So I don't mind you not having the answer today, 'cause it's a surprise. But when you -- if you would e-mail it to me, I would like to know what you think the actual head count is that would be attributable to this program, and what the -- the job skill requirements are for -- for these. And then I think it's been a decade, at least, that every time this program comes up somebody will ask about metrics. How do we know that this is money well spent? What -- what metrics do you use to -- to monitor success of this program.

MR. WATT: Sure. And so I'll thank my colleague. Nathan was able to pull up our budget for this specific program. So we do have five FTEs assigned to the tobacco program specifically in this AU. So the answer to that one is five.

In terms of the evaluation of programs, we use a variety of criteria where we have the quit line. Obviously, the number of users and -- and people -- incoming calls and people referred to -- to quit services or smoking cessation services will be one metric. Generally, it's the number of people that are accessing the programs. And then there's people referrals into smoking cessation and other programs.

In terms of outcomes of those programs, we do work where there are vendors involved. We work with those vendors to ensure people are staying in the program, duration of services, you know, ensuring that they're getting into a program, and then

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also staying until the services are having an effect on their behaviors and helping them quit smoking.

REP. EDWARDS: Okay. So in that same e-mail could you send me the metrics, what -- what the standard is, and how we're measuring it and what the results are?

MR. WATT: Absolutely.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Send that answer to Mr. Kane. He'll let everybody else --

MR. WATT: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: -- share it. Any other questions from Committee Members on this item?

{Inaudible}.

JEB BRADLEY, State Senator, Senate District #03: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Blaisdell moves to approve.

SEN. GRAY: Birdsell.

REP. ERF: Birdsell.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Birdsell moves to approve. What did I say?

REGINA BIRDSELL, State Senator, Senate District #19:  
{Inaudible}.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I know. Twenty years and I keep giving you the wrong --

REP. ERF: Who seconded?

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CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I just remember you as Regina.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley. Any further discussion on this item? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? The item is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to 24-389, and this deals with the refugees. Senator Edwards is again recognized or was it you?

REP. EDWARDS: Rep -- Representative Edwards.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Erf.

REP. EDWARDS: Erf. No, go ahead.

REP. ERF: Thank you. Thank you for taking my questions. First of all, I want to thank -- is this Director Hampton? Is that you, sir? Awesome.

REUBEN HAMPTON, Director of Health Equity, Department of Health and Human Services: Yes, good morning.

REP. ERF: So thank you and Associate Commissioner Landry for responding to my questions. I've been asking these types of questions related to the refugee program for quite some time. And as you're aware, I provided you an article that actually started to list the different -- regulations is the wrong word -- but authorities under which different refugees have come in from different places over the past numbers of years. And you were very good and I asked you specifically about some of them, Haitians and Venezuelans, and you gave a great response, which I really appreciate.

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What I'd like to request is that this become part of the DHHS Dashboard, where you actually have all of the different categories under which refugees are considered to be -- um -- legally here, lack of a better word. And an indication of which one it is, and what year it was as -- as in the document that I provided you. You know, what year that permission, if you will, was granted and for how long it's for, and under what categories, 'cause you actually drew out a number of categories.

Um -- you mentioned humanitarian parole, you mentioned the ORR, which is what this is about. You talked about the -- the TPS which is what I was asking about, and then by child versus adult and by -- by gender as well, so that we can actually see who is the number -- the numbers, not the people, the numbers of people that are coming in, and under what authority they have come in. Is that something that you could consider putting in in future Dashboards?

MR. HAMPTON: Thank you, Representative. We have some of that data, but not all of that data. So some of those categories -- so the program serves refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylees, Amerasians, SIV holders, Afghans and Iraqis, and those who are under the conventions of torture and couple of other categories.

Those were initiated by various acts, whether it's the Refugee Act of 1980, the Immigration Naturalization Act. I believe the Amerasians are governed by two separate Acts as well. There's an Act in the Fiscal Year Act of 2008, I believe, that governs SIV, so it varies.

Humanitarian parolees, not all categories of humanitarian parolee are eligible for ORR benefits and services, and who is eligible actually changes, and some who are eligible will also change. For example, Afghans are no longer, if they were to come over, eligible as humanitarian parolees. Ukrainians have changed, depending on what Congress has passed. So those things may change. We do not provide and release publicly data based on

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sex assigned at birth, gender, and release those for privacy and safety reasons of our clientele.

We can provide data on nationality, which we do reach, and by year as well. So we are happy to provide that to you, and we can provide data, for example, on humanitarian parolees versus refugees, if you would like.

REP. ERF: Yes. Um -- and I'll point out you mentioned law, which is great; but some of these are not under law. They're under -- I don't know what it's called when DHHS basically just says we're going to let in the Venezuelans now; but you have that distinction, as well. So I'm just looking for that as well. And why can't you include the numbers of peoples? I'm not asking about the people themselves obviously.

MR. HAMPTON: This is not data that we have ever tracked, nor that we do release publicly. And we do it typically there is small numbers of folks, and we do not release it publicly for both privacy and safety reasons of clients regarding versus in law. So when you mentioned humanitarian parolees, that is governed by the Immigration Naturalization Act. So that is not something that is determined capriciously. That is -- there is no one who has Temporary Protective Status that is solely given ORR benefits and services. To say another way, just because you have TPS you would not be eligible for this program.

REP. ERF: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. ERF: So from your response in the written response I understood that; but does that mean you're not eligible for any program of the State or Federal Government?

MR. HAMPTON: TPS and work authorization may make you eligible for Medicaid in certain specific instances; if you were a pregnant person and a child. However, there are not for ORR benefits and services.

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ANN LANDRY, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: Okay. Hi. Sorry, Representative Erf. If I could just chime in, too. I think just to add on to what Reuben's saying, again, the Federal Government heavily prescribes who and when they can receive the services and offered by the refugee resettlement funds. And so we -- we don't decide that in this state who and who's to receive the services. The Federal Government does. And so, therefore, as Reuben was saying, just one -- one criteria does not necessarily correlate with the ability to receive the funding or services by the funding from ORR at the Federal Government.

And then I just wanted to add as far as the Dashboard, we'll -- we'll take that back and whatever information we can publicly share in the way in which, you know, works for you and the Committee we will. But there are -- we do have restrictions to protect privacy. So there's just some data we can't share in the way that you may be asking. But we'll take that back and look at what we can and bring it back to you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: For the record, will you identify yourself?

MS. LANDRY: Oh, I'm so sorry. Ann Landry, Associate Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you.

MS. LANDRY: Thank you. I apologize.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: I am upset that privacy takes place over safety. The public always wants to know how many of these people have come into our state, and we are unable to give them that number, and all this privacy is blocking that number. That's not right. We have a right-to-know how many refugees have been sent into our state by the Federal Government. That should be known by you and it should be able to be given to us.

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MS. LANDRY: If I may respond, Representative Weyler. We can share the numbers of refugees coming into the state through -- by origin of country through the Refugee Settlement Program. What we can't share necessarily is by gender or by -- by age in -- in areas because the numbers may be so small, but that may be identifiable in certain locations; but we absolutely can share the numbers coming in.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We could have 100 Venezuelan gang members, but we're not allowed to know there are so many between the ages of 16 and 20 male. That doesn't seem correct.

SEN. GRAY: Mr. Chair, maybe this conversation might be better that you and I got together with HHS and discussed this offline.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. But we do need more information. The public wants it and they're not being provided.

\*\* REP. ERF: Move the item.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Motion to accept the item. Second. Further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Motion is -- item is adopted.

\*\*\* **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay.

REP. ERF: Nobody's opposed?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: No one's opposed. Moving on to Tab 7. Move to item number 404, Department of Health and Human Services. Representative Edwards is recognized for a question.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you. Good morning. I -- I'm taking a look at this and I'm a little confused by it in that it appears that this program has an

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exceptionally high overhead to services ratio. This -- this looks to be to me -- um -- about for -- for \$1.2 of overhead, we're going to spend \$5 on services. And so I'm -- I think I must be misunderstanding this. And I'd like you to clarify because it's an outrageous ratio if that's true.

MELISSA HARDY, Director, Division for Long-Term Supports and Services, Department of Health and Human Services: Yes, thank you for the question. I'm Melissa Hardy. I'm the Division Director for Long-Term Supports and Services. So right now MF -- Money Follows the Person or MFP is a demonstration project. So right now we are -- we have two full-time employees. One a -- a program director and a data analyst. We're adding -- we're asking to add three temporary full-time positions in order to get the program up and running.

Um -- where we see our return is when we have individuals who are transitioning out of nursing facility placement and back into the community because of the cost of nursing facility placement is significantly higher than people living in the community. So we're looking at about \$70,000 per person to live in a nursing facility and about \$25,000 per person when somebody is on CFI or transitioning to the community.

NATHAN WHITE, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services: And good morning. Nathan White, Chief Financial Officer. And I just want to also add in addition to that, this is not the only account where the services are budgeted. There's an additional account and I can provide that information to you so you can have the full picture, because just with this item you're not able to see that 'cause that other account isn't affected by this request and --

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Follow-up.

REP. EDWARDS: All right. Thank you for that. That's reassuring. Is this -- since this is a demo project, have -- have you had it accepted into the Agency Budget? Is

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this -- is this an established program now within the -- the budget request that we're processing now?

MR. WHITE: So -- um -- we budgeted a portion of this program. However, we will need to come forward with a change request at some point during the -- either the Governor's, House, or Senate phase of the budget process to add the additional Federal funds so that we don't have to come back through Fiscal in State Fiscal Year 26. So there will be some additional Federal funds to be added to the original agency budget request. Thank you for asking.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Erf.

REP. ERF: Thank you. Thank you for taking my question. I just want to confirm that the HSRI report when it's available, hopefully next month, will be made available to LBA so they can let us know?

MS. HARDY: Yes.

REP. ERF: And the second one, I asked you about the UNH. It sounded like it was supposed to be a report, but you didn't specifically answer whether that was going to be provided to the public, to us, or if it was something else.

MS. HARDY: Yes, it can be provided. We can do that. But it's also an ongoing collaboration with them as we get our operational protocol approved. So we can share what we currently have from UNH, but it will be evolving as we get approval from CMS for operational protocol.

REP. ERF: That be great. And I assume there's some progress been made since this actually originated a couple years ago, not just recently or now.

MS. HARDY: Yes.

REP. ERF: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Birdsell.

\*\* SEN. BIRDSELL: I was just going to say move to approve.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: That's what I recognize you for. Senator Birdsell moves to approve. Senator Gray seconds. Is there any further discussion on the item? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Motion is adopted.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

### REGULAR CALENDAR

- (8) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized, RSA 9:16-c, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds, RSA 14:30-a, VI, Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance And Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from any Non-State Source, and RSA 9:17-a, III, Limitations:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to the Regular Calendar on Tab 8.

REP. EDWARDS: Didn't we -- uh --

SEN. GRAY: 412.

REP. EDWARDS: Didn't we pull 412?

REP. ERF: Yes, we did.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Oh, I thought -- did I skip over that?

SEN. GRAY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: All right. Let's go back to FIS 24- 412, Insurance Department. Hello again, Commissioner.

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DJ BETTENCOURT, Commissioner, Insurance Department: Nice to see you again. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Good morning.

MR. BETTENCOURT: DJ Bettencourt, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Insurance Department. I'm joined by Michelle Heaton, the head of our Life and Health Unit.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Edwards had a question.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. This is -- this is probably something that you -- you would do routinely, but I'm just verifying it.

That Project 1 on this program or this request is to conduct a study and produce a report on the current status of access to women's health services in the state, existing impediments to access and ways to improve access. And I -- I want to think that DHHS has been maintaining such a report, and I'm -- I -- I just would like to make sure that we're leveraging what we know between multiple departments and not just because we have federal money we're going to take a -- make a fresh report. I -- I'd like to get some synergy there.

MR. BETTENCOURT: No, absolutely, and there will be an opportunity for us to collaborate with Health and Human Services. In fact, I think we've already received some correspondence from them on some ideas that they have and information they would like to share. What we're specifically going to look at are the topics that you cited as it pertains to commercial insurance because, obviously, that is where our focus as a department is. So it's going to be through that lens that that work will be conducted.

REP. EDWARDS: And -- and -- and when you have that report you'll -- obviously, it'll be available --

MR. BETTENCOURT: Oh, yes, absolutely.

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REP. EDWARDS: -- for DHHS for -- okay. All right. Thank you.

MR. BETTENCOURT: Everything done under this grant will in some way, shape, or form be public.

REP. EDWARDS: Okay. I thought it was that. I just wanted to verify.

MR. BETTENCOURT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Birdsell moves to approve the item. Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Motion carries.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 8 on the Regular Calendar, 24-402, Department of Health and Human Services. Any discussion on this item?

**\*\*** SEN. BRADLEY: Move to approve.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley moves to approve. Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Any further discussion on 24- 402? Seeing none, I'll call for the vote. All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Item is adopted.

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

**(9) RSA 106-H:9-I(e), Funding; Fund Established:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 9.

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**\*\*** PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #33: Move to approve.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: 24-396. Representative Leishman moves to approve.

SEN. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say aye? Any opposed? The item is adopted.

**\*\*\*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

**(10) RSA 206:33-b, Transfers from Fish and Game Fund:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Moving on to Tab 10.

**\*\*** SEN. BRADLEY: Move to approve.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley moves to approve. Senator Birdsell seconds. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Seeing none. That is adopted.

**\*\*\*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

**(11) RSA 21-I:8, II, (a), Division of Accounting Services:**

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Tab 11, item number 24-414.

**\*\*** SEN. GRAY: Move to approve.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Gray moves to approve. Senator Bradley seconds to adopt the item. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. Are you ready for the question? All in favor say aye? Any opposed? The item is adopted.

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\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

(12) Miscellaneous:

(13) Information Materials:

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Miscellaneous items, and under Tab 13, all the informational items. Is there anyone wishing further information on any of these items?

REP. EDWARDS: Yes, sir. I'd like to bring up 398, the DHHS Operating Dashboard.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Okay. Questions on the HHS Dashboard.

REP. EDWARDS: I'm -- I'm looking at the YDC statistics on the average daily census on Table 6. And in the last couple months or so there's -- there's been a request to have kind of a public review or public-facing review of the procedures that we're going to use at the Youth Development Center to manage the census. So that -- so that when we get to 12, people are aware of it in advance. When we go from 12 to 18, we start to implement some kind of active procedures to keep it under 18, and when we go over 18. So as I'm looking at the census numbers and we're in that sort of red range of 16, I'm curious what the status is of sharing the procedures that'll be used to manage the census?

LORI WEAVER, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services: Thank you for the question. So there was -- there has been meetings with -- I'll answer that. Lori Weaver, Commissioner, Health and Human Services. As we've been talking about engaging all of the stakeholders that touch every part of that system, if you will, and working to address that.

So I believe in the beginning of the month there was a gathering looking at all of that. Part of the -- the M. O. there is to look at the processes that we use to keep divert

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kids out of the JJ system and using a similar model. So you have a lot of same players in the JJ system also working to tackle. So that's JPPOs, that's judges, that's law enforcement, that's community, that's other departments. So that work is in progress right now, with the goal of really being able to make sure that kids get in the right level of care, not so much to keep the census down, right? I mean, ultimately, you get the kids in the right level of care your census should be down.

REP. EDWARDS: Okay. And then when do you think that might be shareable? When do you think you'll have enough of a cooked result on -- on what that process and methodology will look like to start to share with maybe some of in the Legislature and some in the advocacy community?

MS. WEAVER: I'm sure -- I'll check with Commissioner -- Associate Commissioner Tilley who's leading up that effort. I -- I would think that they already have minutes from the work that they've done; but in terms of a product of where they're at, I would think within the next couple of months.

REP. EDWARDS: I think that's great. That be fine. Two months would be fine. And then if I may switch to Table 8, which is I think a "good news" table. And I'm just curious what you might attribute it to.

Table 8, I think, shows a pretty substantial decline post-Covid on use of the Community Mental Health Centers. And -- and so I -- I'm just curious if you've looked at that trend and if there's any analysis that we might want to know about related to -- to why we're seeing such a nice decline?

MS. WEAVER: It would be dangerous for me to answer that alone without Katja Fox here.

REP. EDWARDS: Right.

MS. WEAVER: So if we could come back to that or follow-up with you.

REP. EDWARDS: That -- that -- that'd be fine. And then if I could, I'd like to -- Mr. Chair, may I go to Table 11?

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Yes.

REP. EDWARDS: Table 11 is also a nice chart that shows we have no DD Waiting List. And, as I recall, the DD Waiting List, whether -- the thing that determines whether or not there is a waiting list is if there are unfunded DD clients needing services. And -- and so this -- I didn't say that very well. But I think, hopefully, you know what I mean.

Um -- what this waiting list does not measure though is the number of people in the DD community that are awaiting services that are just not available. That they are -- their services would be fully funded. So, therefore, they're not on the waiting list. But because there's nobody available to provide them the services, they're effectively not getting the care that we want to see happening.

So -- so is -- is there -- is there another -- I think this is like a three-year old topic where I've been asking for us to have what I would consider the true Wait List, which is the number of clients that have funding but for which we have a service shortfall and, therefore, no services.

MS. HARDY: Thank you for the question. I'm Melissa Hardy, Division Director for Long-Term Supports and Services. So we do, per your request at HHS Oversight Committee, we do report out on the data that we do have as far as people who are funded but do not receive services and the reasons why. So -- um -- we get that information from our Area Agencies, as far as if it's a lack of staffing, a lack of providers -- um -- if an individual didn't want to start services. So -- um -- we're still in the process of, since we had a large system change, gathering all that data into one report that we could easily share out. But I

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believe we're on the agenda for next week at HHS to report out on the Wait List.

REP. EDWARDS: That is excellent news. Thank you.

MS. HARDY: You're welcome.

REP. EDWARDS: And then I have one more.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: One more.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you so much. I don't know if this would be your question, but -- um -- so I forget the exact terminology of the effort that you all have been undergoing on getting the -- the emergency rooms cleared of the mental health clients and Project Zero or something I think it's called. I'm wondering if -- if -- if it might be appropriate to include in this Dashboard in the future where we're at with the number of -- of people that are still awaiting services and are, therefore, unfortunately, staged at in the E.R.'s.

MS. WEAVER: Sure. It's called Mission Zero just for the record.

REP. EDWARDS: Mission Zero. Thank you.

MS. WEAVER: Mission Zero. We did include it. So that Dashboard's been up for quite a while. If you look at your cover page, there is a link to that Dashboard because it's updated daily with counts.

So if you look in that first paragraph -- second paragraph, if you will, there's a link that will take you where you'll be able to see different facets of the data and how we break down those that are waiting, that are actually in E.D.'s or those that are already have a placement, but are like such as the jail.

REP. EDWARDS: So I actually knew that. I was just giving you an opportunity to brag --

MS. WEAVER: Oh, okay.

REP. EDWARDS: -- how well you guys are managing this. Okay. Thank you.

MS. WEAVER: Sure.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Representative Leishman.

REP. LEISHMAN: You have something that's not on the Miscellaneous, but I think this will probably be the last meeting that we have as a group of Fiscal. And there are two people on the Senate side that I know won't be coming back.

Uh -- Jeb Bradley, who I met back in the '90s when he was serving as the Chair of Science and Technology in the House. Also, the Ethics Committee. I have worked with Senator Bradley on like the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan.

Then I look at Lou D'Allesandro that used to be a Republican like I was and these two individuals have been lions in the state. And I can't think of two individuals that have done more positive things for the State of New Hampshire, and I know all of us are really going to miss you, Lou, and you, Jeb.

(Standing ovation.)

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you for your service.

SEN. BRADLEY: So everybody listen to New Hampshire Public Radio at some point because Senator "D" and I are going to do an old goat retiring interview this morning; but thank you all very much.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: What's -- do you know the date?

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SEN. BRADLEY: We're going to record it at 12:30. So you want to come into the third floor office everybody can watch us get grilled.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: First of all, thank you, Peter. Thank you very much; and it's been an honor to serve with you and to work with you over the years.

I -- I -- I must say that it's been an honor to work with Senator Bradley and to work with Members of the Committee, and to hear the quality of service that's presented by our Commissioners and other individuals who come before us and to bring us information about how the government works and how efficient it is or -- or what -- what are just -- what our inability is sometimes to do the kind of things that the Legislature wants you to do. But, generally speaking, we should be very pleased at -- at -- at what's -- what's happened.

And I just want to make one point and that's the -- the Commissioner of -- of Revenue, and -- and the job that -- that she has done with that Department to bring in the -- the RIM system I think is magnificent. The fact that she's collecting money that was not collected in the past, and that money is being used to pay off a bond debt that we don't have to appropriate General Funds for. They'll be paid for by the money that's being accrued. And it's things like that that make government work and we're -- we're so proud in terms of our ability to manage that. But we have -- we have a lot of problems and, you know, life is a series of problem solving exercises. That's what life's all about. And I've been here a long time. Jeb's been here a long time. And as we leave, I -- I think the situation is we hope things move in the right direction, right? That's what we all -- we all hope for. Because a lot of people are depending on all of the actions that take place in this legislative body. And the lives of people of the State of New Hampshire are what we're really concerned about. That's why we come here. That's why we serve here. And, hopefully, when we -- when we leave, it's better than it was when we came. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Senator Bradley.

SEN. BRADLEY: So Senator "D" always makes it a great American day, and it's really been a pleasure to serve with Lou. And I just want to -- I was kind of joking about our old goat interview, which everybody can come and -- and watch us. I think it's at 12:30, right, Lou, in the third floor office. But both of us have worked with everybody in this room for years. Peter, thank you very much for your kind words. Um -- done a lot of good bipartisan work, some partisan work.

I remember Doug Hall telling me many years ago the most important trait of any legislator is when you disagree to always try to be agreeable. And I think, Lou, you have epitomized that, and it's been a pleasure to work with you. I also want to give Mike, you, a shout out.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Oh, yes.

SEN. BRADLEY: I had never sat on the Finance Committee until this budget. And -- um -- I just came to realize, not only Mike but the entire LBA staff just does an exceptional job. Um -- and I think it's made the budget process much more transparent, explainable, and was really helpful. And so I think that's vitally important. And you also did a great job of training Nathan, who's done a great job with all of the HHS people that are here in the room today. You're the largest Department in this great state and so many people depend on you, and you manage the resources that you're given, I think, pretty effectively and efficiently and that enables us to provide services but do it in a rational basis and maintain our advantageous tax structure, which is really important. Right, Lou?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Right. If I could, Mr. Chairman, the -- the LBA, the -- the LBA is just unbelievably -- unbelievably good. And the young woman who answers the telephone when I call the LBA is -- is -- is the

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best. The best. And she's promising me that she's not going to retire. She's going to hang in and keep pitching.

Now, I remember the LBA when Henry Goode ran the LBA. Now that goes back over 50 years ago. That was my first trip to the office of the LBA when Henry Goode had the dark lights on, was smoking in the office, smoking his pipe or his cigar, and this whole world was in a different -- different shape at that -- that time. But I can't thank the LBA enough, Mike and his crew, and for -- for the job that they do work in the budget. It's -- it's just amazing how six guys can work for the Senate, work for the House, work for the majority, work for the minority, and -- and get it done in a non-partisan fashion.

So kudos -- kudos to the LBA and to just, as I say, to that -- that young woman who answers the phone. That's the greatest -- that's the greatest message you could get. Good morning. Good morning. This is the LBA. How can I help you? Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Anything further? This will be the last meeting of this Fiscal Committee. It will be reformed in the next -- in the next session. And I enjoyed working with all of you and appreciate all the study you have to do with all these items that come before us every week or every month, rather. And it will be a new challenge in the future.

SEN. BRADLEY: So -- but if I might? I think for all of us as members, Mr. Chair, you and Senator Gray deserve a shout out for, you know, really organizing Fiscal well. Never sat on Fiscal before either. Probably the most powerful, most under known Committee of the Legislature, but both you and Jim have done an exceptional job over these two years. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: Thank you. Senator.

SEN. GRAY: Uh -- in the future, okay, printing of these books cost a lot of money. Takes a lot of effort. I want to, with the departure of a couple of our members that -- that like

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the paper, I want -- I want the new members and the existing members, excuse me, that are returning to think about the way we did it during Covid. That the link that you get with the agenda is very quick, very easy to get back to the information, even if someone has to appropriate the money to get all a Chrome Book or whatever it is that we would need to do that. We can -- we can actually save some money, save some time. As long as you get a hard copy of that agenda to keep your notes on, I think that it's doable. So give it some thought and, you know, the LBA will be happy not to have to put these altogether if -- if we get there.

MR. KANE: {Inaudible} already there.

CHAIRMAN WEYLER: We'll just get trained by Keith. Even has a little thing he can write on his Chrome Book there. Anything further? Thank you all. Delighted to have a short meeting. We are adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned.)

**C E R T I F I C A T E**

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a correct transcription from the official audio/video recording of the proceeding in the above-entitled matter to the best of my professional skill and ability.

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Cecelia A. Trask  
N.H. Licensed Court Reporter - #00047

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