



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**STATE OF VERMONT**  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2020

Minutes

Video Conference

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Fagan, Hooper, Lippert, and Toll and Senators Cummings, Kitchel, and Sears.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal Staff and various viewers on live stream.

Senator Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., and Senator Kitchel moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting, and the Committee passed the motion and approved the minutes on a unanimous voice vote.

A. Agency of Human Services – Request for Coronavirus Relief Funds: Brattleboro Retreat

Sarah Squirrell, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health, and Sarah Clark, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Human Services, presented a request by the Agency of Human Services for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for the Brattleboro Retreat. The Commissioner stated there was no way to predict the full impact of the pandemic on the Retreat's future financial stability.

The Committee requested that the Agency send in writing all the CRF received/expended to date by the Retreat. The Commissioner noted there were opportunities for the sharing of resources with larger health networks to reduce costs. There was a discussion regarding at-risk youth within the custody of the Department for Children and Families who were living on the Retreat's campus. Stephen Klein was asked to clarify the CRF Tier 2 proposal.

Senator Kitchel moved to postpone action on the Agency of Human Service's request for CRF for the Brattleboro Retreat until the Committee's next meeting, and Representative Lippert seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on a voice vote.

The Committee agreed to meet next on Friday, June 12, at 12:30 p.m. The Committee asked to have on another future agenda: information on the final details of the \$1 million grant to the Administration for a State contract that the Committee approved on May 20, 2020; and information on whether any claw-back from CRF would fall upon the entity receiving the funds or if the obligation would fall directly on the State.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Theresa Utton-Jerman  
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office