



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 15, 2020

Minutes

Video Conference

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

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

Senator Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Senator Kitchel moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 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, were present to answer the Committee's questions on a request by the Agency of Human Services for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for the Brattleboro Retreat.

The Committee was delayed for several minutes and experienced some technical issues with its live feed to the Internet. The live feed was restored, and the committee meeting resumed.

Senate Kitchel moved to approve the request of the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health to utilize \$10.2 million of the Coronavirus Relief Funds for grants to Brattleboro Retreat in weekly installments of \$600,000 over 17 weeks ending the week of September 28, 2020. Representative Hooper seconded the motion, and the Committee approved it on an 8-0-2 vote.

Representative Lippert then moved that the Secretary of Human Services or designee shall provide monthly written status reports on the sustainability plan for the Brattleboro Retreat submitted to the Committee on June 8, 2020. The reports shall be submitted to this Committee on July 1, August 3, September 1, and September 30, 2020 or on an as needed basis in the event of material changes. Each monthly report shall: (1) Address the degree to which the high priority actions items in the sustainability plan have been met by the Brattleboro Retreat. (2) Summarize any concerns identified that would impact the ability of the Retreat to achieve the financial sustainability goal of the plan by the September 30, 2020. (3) Identify additional policy and fiscal decisions that may need to be taken and the time-frame for such decisions to be made in the event identified concerns cannot be addressed and/or the sustainability goal is unlikely to be met. Senator Westman seconded the motion and the Committee approved on an 8-0-2 vote.

The Committee discussed its next meeting date as tentatively June 22, 2020 and Representative Lippert requested follow-up at a future meeting on the additional \$1 million to the Agency of Administration in COVID-19 Relief Funds for tracking and auditing.

The Committee adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Senior Staff Associate
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office