

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2020
MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Maggie Carlton called a special meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 10:15 a.m. on April 7, 2020, via videoconference. There was no physical location for the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair
Senator Chris Brooks
Senator Yvanna Cancela
Senator Moises Denis
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator David Parks
Senator James Settelmeyer
Assemblywoman Shea Backus
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Al Kramer
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Connie Munk
Assemblywoman Dina Neal
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel
Assemblywoman Robin Titus
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Cindy Jones, Fiscal Analyst, Assembly
Mark Krmpotic, Fiscal Analyst, Senate
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel
Cheryl Harvey, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary
Carla Ulrych, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A: Meeting Packet
Exhibit B: Public Comment - Jolene Brancatelli
Exhibit C: Public Comment - The Westside_Collective
Exhibit D: Public Comment - Senator Joe Hardy, M.D.

Exhibit E: Public Comment - Kevin Ranft, Labor Representative, Nevada AFSCME Local 4041

A. ROLL CALL.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), called the roll; all members were present except Assemblywoman Swank, who was excused.

Chair Carlton thanked LCB staff for working tirelessly to organize the meeting while maintaining emergency directives concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. She said it was unprecedented for a committee meeting to be conducted by videoconference only.

Senator Settelmeyer said he appreciated the efforts of staff to coordinate the meeting. He recognized that it met the minimum standard set forward by Governor Sisolak in Emergency Directive 006. He was hopeful that a phone number would be made available at future meetings so the general public could interact directly with the Committee.

Assemblyman Frierson thanked staff for organizing the meeting during an unprecedented situation. He remarked that many times technology requests were denied by the Legislature, or there were problems with the implementation of new technology; however, under the most trying of circumstances staff had made it possible for the meeting to be accessible to the public. Assemblyman Frierson urged the Committee to communicate productively as new and improved technology ideas were presented. He thought today's meeting exceeded the minimum standard and it was an improvement over other states.

Chair Carlton discussed the order of the agenda. She said the first item of discussion would be Agenda Item E concerning the balance of the Disaster Relief Account. Subsequently, the Committee would discuss Agenda Item C, followed by Agenda Items F-1 and F-2, all of which were submitted by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management. Lastly, the Committee would discuss Agenda Item D, which was submitted by the Office of the Attorney General.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB explained that all Committee members could not be seen at the same time with the videoconference program. She instructed Committee members to alert her or Chair Carlton when they wanted to speak.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006, there was no physical location for the April 7, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Written comments were accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting (see agenda for details).

Jolene Brancatelli submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B](#)).

The Westside_Collective submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit C](#)).

Senator Joe Hardy, M.D. submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit D](#)).

Kevin Ranft, Labor Representative, Nevada AFSCME Local 4041, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit E](#)).

- C. WORK PROGRAM REVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(a). INFORMATIONAL ONLY - APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR BECAUSE OF AN EMERGENCY AS DEFINED IN NRS 353.263 OR FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE OR PROPERTY - Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management** - The division is notifying the Interim Finance Committee of the receipt and acceptance of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant in the amount of \$5,000,000 to purchase preventive emergency supplies related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide immediate assistance to state, county, local and tribal entities for needs that fall under the federal and state declarations. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM F.2.**

Justin Luna, Division Administrator, Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Department of Public Safety (DPS), said Agenda Item C was an emergency work program to establish authority in the Disaster Response and Recovery Account to manage disaster grants and funding in response to major emergencies. Mr. Luna noted that the 2017 flood disaster was handled in a similar manner. He said the division would be provided authority to pass through federal reimbursements to subrecipients eligible for reimbursement through the 75 percent/25 percent cost share through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Luna said the Disaster Response and Recovery Account was established for emergency response costs associated with state emergency protective measures for public health and safety. He noted that funding was not available directly to local governments. Instead, the funds would be administered by the division to cover emergency expenses related to the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated the DEM was the administrative agency for the disaster relief grants. The division would track management costs through a separate special use category. Mr. Luna noted that the DEM was awarded a portion of the disaster grant management costs to manage the awards.

Senator Goicoechea asked if local governments and tribes had to declare a state of emergency to access the funds.

Mr. Luna reiterated that local and tribal governments did not have direct access to the funds; however, they could submit a request identifying needs such as personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, or other types of emergency protective measures, such as food delivery services. He said the DEM could utilize the FEMA funds to purchase the requested supplies and equipment, and arrange for necessary services in those communities.

In response to a question from Senator Goicoechea, Mr. Luna replied that local and tribal governments were currently using existing funds to purchase their own emergency resources, equipment and supplies. He stated that local and tribal governments could request reimbursement for eligible costs based on the 75 percent/25 percent cost share. Because the division was the administrative agent for the FEMA disaster grants, reimbursement requests would be submitted to and processed by the DEM. Mr. Luna noted that each tribal government also had the option to request reimbursement directly through FEMA.

Assemblywoman Titus said it appeared that performance reports were required by FEMA (page 20, [Exhibit A](#)). She asked if the division would also provide performance reports to the Legislature. Mr. Luna confirmed that the DEM would provide the Legislature with periodic reports indicating the amount of reimbursements that had been received.

Assemblywoman Titus said she would also like to receive details regarding the expenditure associated with the funds.

Chair Carlton noted that reporting requirements would be addressed during the discussion of Agenda Items F-1 and F-2.

In response to a question from Assemblyman Kramer, Mr. Luna replied that requests for PPE, supplies or testing equipment that were submitted through the state emergency operations center would be prioritized based on need. He said the division would process the requests with the available funding authority as quickly as possible; however, he noted there was a shortage of PPE, because the pandemic was worldwide. Although the DEM was working diligently to purchase supplies, it was difficult to meet the demand. Mr. Luna said hospitals and first responders received the highest priority.

With regard to federal reimbursements, Mr. Luna said the division had already begun working with subrecipients to collect the documentation that was required for reimbursement. He said each subrecipient would need to work with the DEM to submit reimbursement requests.

D. WORK PROGRAM REVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(b) - REQUIRED EXPEDITIOUS ACTION WITHIN 15 DAYS - Office of the Attorney General - Addition of \$2,000,000 in Wells Fargo Settlement Income funds to supplement the Emergency Food and Shelter Program requested by the United Way.

Chair Carlton said Agenda Item D involved the provision of settlement funds to supplement the federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), which was run by the United Way. She disclosed that she was the Executive Director of the United Labor Agency of Nevada, an entity that may be eligible to receive a subgrant of the settlement money from the United Way. Although there was no guarantee that such a subgrant would be awarded, she would not participate in the discussion of Agenda Item D and would abstain from voting.

Chair Carlton turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Woodhouse.

Jessica Adair, Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General (OAG), said she did not need to belabor the statistics regarding COVID-19 and the economic impact of the pandemic. When the OAG drafted the emergency justification for funding a couple weeks ago, there were 245 cases of COVID-19 in Nevada; however, the number of cases now exceeded 2,000. Ms. Adair said she could not fathom what that number would have been without the social distancing directive; however, the result of that directive was a devastated economy and a substantial increase in the level of unemployment.

Ms. Adair stated that the justification for the funding was drafted before the Governor issued a moratorium on all residential evictions. She stated that the directive was a temporary solution for a larger problem of an unemployed workforce. The directive would help people retain their current housing, and ultimately prevent a homelessness crisis; however, their rent was still due and thousands of Nevadans would owe back rent after the moratorium was lifted. She said a one-time federal stimulus check may not adequately cover rent, food, utilities and other expenses.

Ms. Adair discussed the structure of the work program. She said the \$2.0 million in settlement funds would be divided between United Way of Southern Nevada (UWSN) and United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS), which included the rural counties. Ms. Adair said United Way was uniquely positioned to distribute the funding, because it already had a distribution mechanism in place. She explained that United Way was the administering agency for the EFSP, which was established by Congress in 1983. Each year the state received EFSP funding that was distributed to local organizations through a process with a local board. The board included representatives from the Salvation Army, United Way, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, the Jewish Federations of North America, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, an individual equivalent to a FEMA member, and a homeless or formerly homeless person. She said the United Way received the funding and then distributed it to small, local organizations that were closely connected with each community. Ms. Adair offered to provide the Committee a list of organizations that were awarded funding last year. She noted that the information was also included in the documentation provided with the work program.

Ms. Adair informed the Committee that the next round of EFSP funding would be allocated in September or October 2020, but the state could not wait that long for funding. She said the settlement funding was intended to help bridge the gap.

Ms. Adair explained that when an individual requested rental assistance from a local organization, the organization was responsible for verifying the amount of outstanding rent with the landlord. Payment would then be sent directly to the landlord, thereby preventing a potential misuse of funds. She noted that additional eligibility parameters were in place regarding how often a person could receive assistance, and how the funds could be used. Ms. Adair said a great deal of staff time was required to manage the individual casework; therefore, local organizations would be permitted to use 5 percent of the award for administrative costs.

Continuing, Ms. Adair said the United Way was also permitted to apply a 5 percent administrative fee, the standard process for grants. She explained that in addition to reporting and compliance requirements, the United Way was also responsible for supporting local organizations in meeting their compliance requirements, all of which involved a significant amount of staff time.

Ms. Adair said local organizations would be required to submit detailed reports and backup documentation to United Way. In turn, the United Way would audit the information and submit a report to the state.

In answer to a question from Assemblywoman Titus, Ms. Adair replied that the UWNNS served all rural counties. She explained that the reason the distribution information was vague in the backup documentation was because distributions were made by local boards comprised of the organizations mentioned previously. She noted that the distribution mechanism was set in place by federal law. Examples of organizations that were previously awarded funds by local boards included Children's Cabinet (Washoe County) and the Salvation Army, which served Washoe County, Carson City, Lyon County and Douglas County. Additionally, the Salvation Army in Lyon County received State Set Aside funds to serve the remaining counties.

Senator Cancela said, when the emergency directive is lifted, some people may owe three times the rent they would have paid in a month. She asked if the funds could also be used to pay back rent.

Ms. Adair confirmed that the funds could be used to pay back rent. She thought Senator Cancela identified a potential problem in that many Nevadans would owe a significant amount of back rent when the directive is lifted. Although the directive instructed landlords to create payment plans, it did not absolve renters of their obligation. Ms. Adair said the intent of the funding was to prevent a spike in evictions when the moratorium was lifted.

Senator Kieckhefer said the settlement funds would pool into a federal program that both United Way organizations administered in the past. He said a request for proposal (RFP) was previously issued and vendors were selected in September 2019 for the current federal fiscal year. Senator Kieckhefer asked why another RFP would be required to distribute the settlement funds.

Ms. Adair replied that the RFP would be processed quickly, because time was of the essence. She said she would defer to the United Way on whether the existing RFP could be used. Ms. Adair said she would discuss the proposal with the United Way to ensure the funding was disbursed to people in need as quickly as possible.

Senator Kieckhefer said he had broader concerns, one of which related to the effectiveness of using settlement money to fund the EFSP. He did not think it was appropriate to use the funds to stem pending evictions while there was a moratorium on evictions. He said the funds could also be used to help people obtain stable housing. Senator Kieckhefer asked if landlords were amenable to accepting individuals who required financial assistance to obtain housing.

Ms. Adair replied that Attorney General Ford had been working on the matter directly with the Nevada State Apartment Association and other landlords, especially large residential property chains. She said landlords were willing to work with people in terms of payment plans. Landlords were also generally amenable to accepting new residents, because it was not beneficial to have vacant properties.

Ms. Adair said, in spite of the moratorium on evictions, many Nevadans were facing mounting bills and potential eviction in the future. She said the OAG was receiving complaints from renters seven days a week. She said she had never witnessed such a high volume of calls and e-mails from people who were terrified of being evicted or were wrongly being threatened with eviction. She noted that the OAG was managing those issues through means unrelated to the settlement funding. Ms. Adair thought the proposed funding request would relieve a lot of anxiety and allow people to use their wages in ways that would also support the struggling economy.

Assemblyman Frierson recalled that a portion of the Wells Fargo settlement funds had been used over the past year, which had reduced the balance to approximately \$10.0 million. He asked if there were any known plans for the remaining funds.

Ms. Adair replied that the OAG's Chief Financial Officer had been working with LCB staff to provide current data on the balance of the settlement funds. She said Attorney General Ford had been collaborating with people across the state on ways to increase consumer protection for the most vulnerable Nevadans. The Attorney General wanted to use the Wells Fargo settlement funds in a manner that was consistent with his vision and priorities; and in a way the Legislature would be proud to support. Ms. Adair said it was unfortunate that some of those requests were upended, and she was unsure how the OAG would proceed. She added that she was very disappointed, because many wonderful ideas were planned that could have been beneficial for the state.

Ms. Adair said she would provide the Committee with an update on the future plans for the settlement funds, but it would be a difficult conversation. However, she thought the \$2.0 million allocation would help people currently in need.

Assemblywoman Jauregui remarked that some people would inevitably be evicted after the moratorium was lifted. She asked if the funds could be used to help those individuals secure new housing. Ms. Adair confirmed that it was permissible under the EFSP funding guidelines. She said there were many examples of people who had saved enough money for the first month's rent, but could not afford the security deposit as well. She said the EFSP assisted people in those types of situations to obtain affordable, stable housing.

Assemblywoman Neal asked what the current demand was for EFSP assistance. She also asked if the funds could be used for budget suites or weekly rentals.

Ms. Adair said she was uncertain of the current demand. She stated that under normal circumstances, the funds were depleted within a couple of months. Based on recent call volume at the OAG, the demand was likely to be significantly higher. Ms. Adair

thought the United Way would be a good partner for the state, because it was already working to set up emergency relief funds in conjunction with the cities and counties to ensure the funding was spent appropriately and to avoid duplicative efforts.

Ms. Adair confirmed that EFSP funding could be used to obtain housing at weekly rentals as long as the individual intended to stay longer than 30 days, a requirement of the federal requirement. She said the unfortunate fact was that weekly rentals were the only affordable option for many Nevadans. Ms. Adair noted that weekly rentals were also included in the eviction moratorium.

Assemblywoman Neal said she understood that a couple months ago Clark County received federal funding for temporary housing and rent assistance. She asked if the OAG could provide the Committee with the remaining balance of those funds. She said it would be helpful to know how the funds were being expended by various sources. Ms. Adair replied that the OAG did not have that information; however, she would request it from Clark County.

Referring to the proposed disbursement on page 24 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)), Assemblyman Wheeler noted that 80 percent of the funding would be disbursed to Clark County and the remaining 20 percent would be disbursed among the remaining counties. He said Southern Nevada accounted for approximately two-thirds of the state's population, whereas the remainder of the state accounted for approximately one-third of the state's population. Therefore, he thought distribution to the remaining counties should be increased to 33 to 35 percent. He did not think the rural counties would be adequately supported based by the proposed distribution.

Ms. Adair replied that the proposal was submitted jointly by the UWSN and the UWNNS; it was not a unilateral decision by the OAG. The UWSN and the UWNNS based the proposed distribution on where the need was greatest. Ms. Adair said she would discuss the matter with both organizations to ensure the rural counties would receive adequate funding.

Assemblyman Wheeler noted that the distribution was identified as "proposed." He asked if the distribution could be revised in the future, and if so, what would prompt a change.

Ms. Adair replied that she had not considered the need to adjust the distribution after the funds were transferred, because the Committee made decisions based on predetermined figures. She said she would discuss the matter with the United Way to see if changes could be made in the future. However, she thought that might be difficult, because local organizations relied on the funds they were awarded. That being said, she wondered if a local organization could assist residents in other counties if necessary. Ms. Adair said she would research the issue and provide an answer to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM D.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Woodhouse said, because it was assumed that the majority of the Committee would support the motion, she would only ask the members who wished to vote no on the item to identify themselves for the record.

Assemblyman Wheeler thought the counties in Northern Nevada had a greater need than what was indicated by the proposed distribution; therefore, he opposed the motion until the funding was more evenly allocated.

Assemblyman Kramer opposed the motion. He said the Governor wanted to reduce the state budget by \$700.0 million. Consequently, state agencies were asked to reduce their budgets by 4 percent. He remarked that budget cuts were unpleasant. Assemblyman Kramer said the agency's request would allocate \$2.0 million, at a minimum, to a non-state resource while the state was tasked with reducing the budget. He thought that was poor planning. Assemblyman Kramer remarked that the emergency federal stimulus package provided \$1,200 plus additional unemployment payments to individuals, which was enough to blunt the edge. Thus, he thought the settlement funds should be preserved to meet the needs of the state, and possibly reduce budget cuts in areas such as mental health, which was negatively impacted during the previous recession. It took the state a long time to restore the mental health budget, and he did not want it to be cut again.

Assemblyman Frierson said it was important to focus the distribution to areas with COVID-19 cases. Consequently, areas without COVID-19 cases may not receive a proportionate percentage of funding. He recalled a recent conversation with an individual located at one of the jails in a rural county. The individual was thankful there were no COVID-19 cases in the area; however, the county was still observing the social distancing directive. Assemblyman Frierson thought the money should be allocated to areas with COVID-19 cases. He was uncertain that an artificial designation of region addressed the problem, and he was disappointed that it had become an issue. Assemblyman Frierson said the entire state was enduring the pandemic together. He thought the Committee should agree as a whole that the funds should be distributed in areas of need and consistent with their purpose.

Assemblyman Frierson understood there was a shortage of some services in the state and budget cuts were imminent; however, the settlement funds were not designated for that purpose. He said the Committee could forgo using the funds for the moment, or the Committee could invest the funds now to areas of need related to the pandemic. Afterward, the Legislature could begin discussing long-term recovery. Assemblyman Frierson said the state was at ground zero. He was disappointed the conversation had been reduced to regions and balance, when the focus should be on distributing the funds as quickly as possible to areas with the greatest need.

Senator Kieckhefer said his concern with the request was that state resources would be used to fund a gap in a federal program. More specifically, the funds would be used to backfill a shortfall in a federal program run by the United Way. Senator Kieckhefer said he understood the program supported Nevadans in need, but he did not think it was an appropriate time to use state resources for a non-state program. Governor Sisolak asked state agencies to prepare for a fiscal crisis. The state was facing potential budget cuts of

\$680.0 million, which could not be accomplished easily. Senator Kieckhefer said state agencies were asked to conserve existing resources; preserving the settlement funds was an opportunity to do just that. He remarked that several of the Committee members had been through the unpleasant experience of budget cuts in the past. Over the next 12 months, the Legislature would have to make difficult decisions, such as reducing mental health services and DSA allotments. Although \$2.0 million may not seem like much now, it would seem like a lot when it came time to prioritize additional budget considerations.

Senator Kieckhefer said he could not support the agency's request, because the mission was not appropriate. He said the state needed to take a step back and prioritize how state resources could be conserved and services could be allocated to continue supporting state programs in the future.

Assemblywoman Titus said, in response to comments made by Assemblyman Frierson, the rural counties were following the same directives as the rest of the state even though there were fewer cases of COVID-19 in the rural areas. She said the issue was not about region, it was a statewide problem that affected everyone equally.

Senator Goicoechea said he would support the motion. He thought the United Way could use the \$2.0 million to address an important need over the next 60 days. However, he said he would not support another request to draw from the remaining settlement funds.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Senator Kieckhefer, Assemblyman Kramer, Assemblywoman Titus and Assemblyman Wheeler opposed the motion. Chair Carlton abstained from voting.)

E. STATEMENT OF DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT BALANCE.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, referred to the Statement of Disaster Relief Account Balance located on page 41 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)). The current balance of the Disaster Relief Account was \$12,791,273. There were two requests before the Committee from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management totaling \$6.25 million. She said the balance of the Disaster Relief Account would be reduced to \$6,541,273 if both items were approved by the Committee.

Referring to page 41 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)), Assemblyman Wheeler noted that the funds may be repaid from federal FEMA reimbursement funds; however, it was his understanding that the funds would certainly be repaid. If that was the case, he asked if the funds would be put back into the Disaster Relief Account, thereby increasing the balance of the account.

Ms. Jones confirmed that the intent was for the Disaster Relief Account to be reimbursed with FEMA funds. She said the opportunity to draw down FEMA funds was currently available in the amount of \$5.0 million; however, that amount may increase given that

President Trump had approved Nevada's disaster declaration. She said she would defer to the experts who would testify on Agenda Items C, F-1 and F-2.

Assemblywoman Neal asked if local governments would be required to return unused grant funds to the Disaster Relief Account. Ms. Jones replied that unused funds must revert to the fund of origin similar to any other funding source.

**F. REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF GRANTS FROM THE DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO NRS 353.2705 TO 353.2771 (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested).
Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management**

1. Request approval for a grant of \$5,000,000 to allow the State Emergency Operations Center to purchase emergency supplies and provide immediate assistance to state, county, local and tribal entities for needs that falls under the federal and state declarations.

Agenda Items F-1 and F-2 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F-2.

2. Request approval for a grant of \$1,250,000 to cover the state's portion of the anticipated FEMA grant award related to the national emergency declaration concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic to purchase preventative emergency supplies and provide immediate assistance to state, county, local and tribal entities for needs that fall under the federal and state declarations. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM C.**

Agenda Items F-1 and F-2 were discussed jointly.

Justin Luna, Chief, DEM, DPS, said Agenda Item F-1 was a request for \$5.0 million from the Disaster Relief Account. He said the funds would be used strictly for emergency response costs related to protective measures, such as PPE and testing supplies, to protect the health and safety of the public. Mr. Luna said the request was the initial portion of the division's request and the minimum amount awarded for a federal declaration of emergency. He said the amount represented the 75 percent reimbursement. Depending on other emergency protective measures that may need to be procured, the amount could be significantly higher. Consequently, the DEM may require additional funds in the future.

With regard to Agenda Items F-1 and F-2, Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said she would like to receive detailed status reports regarding how the funds were being spent. She understood that currently it was difficult to secure PPE and that a variety of requests would be received by various types of entities. She noted that some of the funds could be used for administrative purchases, such as supervision and oversight of the grants.

Mr. Luna confirmed that a portion of the funds could be used for management, oversight and administration of the disaster grants for the reimbursement process for all subrecipients including state, local and tribal governments.

Mr. Luna said the information he was providing to the Committee applied to Agenda Items F-1 and F-2. He explained that the amounts were separated, because \$1.2 million reflected the 25 percent state match requirement. He said the division would track expenses as part of the reimbursement process and to provide the Committee with information concerning expenditure of the funds.

Senator Woodhouse agreed that accountability and transparency were important, especially for the actions taken by the Committee today.

Assemblyman Wheeler remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic was his first state emergency as a member of the Committee. He stated that the \$1.2 million reflected the state match, and the division was drawing down \$5.0 million from the Disaster Relief Account, which would be reimbursed with federal funds. He asked if the \$5.0 million in federal reimbursement would also be used for emergency response management, or if the funds would be used to reimburse the Disaster Relief Account.

Mr. Luna replied that the \$5.0 million requested from the Disaster Relief Account would be used for emergency responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Any unused funds after the pandemic would be returned to the Disaster Relief Account. He added that federal reimbursement for eligible expenses would be returned to the Disaster Relief Account.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson recommended that the Committee require the DEM to submit quarterly reports detailing all expenditures, and identifying sources of reimbursements and in-kind services.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS F-1 AND F-2 AND REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO SUBMIT QUARTERLY REPORTS DETAILING EXPENDITURES, AND IDENTIFYING AND DESCRIBING SOURCES OF REIMBURSEMENTS AND IN-KIND SERVICES.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006, there was no physical location for the April 7, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Written comments were also accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting (see agenda for details).

H. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Carlton adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Interim Finance Committee

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau,
and Secretary, Interim Finance Committee