

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2020  
MEETING OF THE  
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Maggie Carlton called a regular meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 9:07 a.m. on December 18, 2020, via videoconference. Pursuant to Sections 2 through 9, inclusive, of Chapter 2, *Statutes of Nevada 2020*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Special Session, pages 9 through 11, there was no physical location for this meeting.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair  
Senator Chris Brooks, Vice Chair  
Senator Yvanna Cancela  
Senator Moises Denis  
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop for Senator Woodhouse  
Senator Pete Goicoechea  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer  
Senator Julia Ratti for Senator Parks  
Senator James Settelmeyer  
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson  
Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen for Assemblywoman Neal  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson  
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui  
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt for Assemblyman Wheeler  
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno  
Assemblywoman Rochelle Nguyen for Assemblywoman Swank  
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters  
Assemblyman Tom Roberts for Assemblyman Hambrick  
Assemblywoman Robin Titus  
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles for Assemblyman Kramer  
Assemblyman Steve Yeager for Assemblywoman Spiegel

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Senator David Parks  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse  
Assemblyman John Hambrick  
Assemblyman Al Kramer  
Assemblywoman Dina Neal  
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel  
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank  
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Sarah Coffman, Fiscal Analyst, Assembly  
Wayne Thorley, Fiscal Analyst, Senate  
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Bryan Fernley, Legislative Counsel  
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel  
Cheryl Harvey, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary  
Carla Ulrych, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary

## **EXHIBITS:**

[Exhibit A](#): Meeting Packet – Volume I  
[Exhibit B](#): Meeting Packet – Volume II  
[Exhibit C](#): Meeting Packet – Volume III  
[Exhibit D](#): Meeting Packet – Volume IV  
[Exhibit E](#): Meeting Packet – Volume V  
[Exhibit F](#): Public Comment – Debra Solt, Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development, Vegas PBS  
[Exhibit G](#): Public Comment – Jan Giles, President, Education Support Employees Association  
[Exhibit H](#): General Fund Revenues – Economic Forum Forecast  
[Exhibit I](#): Public Comment – Jess Braaten

## **A. ROLL CALL.**

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), called the roll; all members were present except Senator Parks, Senator Woodhouse, Assemblyman Hambrick, Assemblyman Kramer, Assemblywoman Neal, Assemblywoman Spiegel, Assemblywoman Swank, and Assemblyman Wheeler, who were excused.

## **B. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Pursuant to Sections 2 through 9, inclusive, of Chapter 2, *Statutes of Nevada 2020*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Special Session, pages 9 through 11, there was no physical location for this meeting. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us). Public comment was accepted live via telephone. Written comments were also accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting.

Debra Solt, Director, Workforce Training and Economic Development, Vegas PBS, testified regarding the impact of Vegas PBS and its video-based interactive workforce training programs provided to Nevadans. She pointed out that these services have added training capacity to Nevada's workforce system through online education programs specifically targeted to re-license professionals; aid vocational rehabilitation workers; and assist incarcerated youth and adults from Nevada's correctional programs.

Ms. Solt reported that since the onset of the pandemic, Vegas PBS had added over 2,000 online career certification programs to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) including the Nevada Jobtimize Assessment System, which tailors training to the skills and aptitudes of job training candidates. She added that the testing and certification center serves Nevada's teacher certification needs and continues to be the only testing center open on the West Coast. Ms. Solt said last fiscal year over 12,000 adults successfully completed online certification programs.

In closing, Ms. Solt urged support of funding for Agenda Item G-2, Office of the Governor, Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN), and Agenda Item G-17, Department of Administration (DOA), Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records (NSLA). She expressed support of a continued partnership between these agencies and Vegas PBS to leverage programs and services provided with the allocated funding.

Ms. Solt submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit F](#)).

Jan Giles, President, Education Support Employees Association (ESEA), Clark County School District (CCSD), testified regarding Agenda Item S-3a, Department of Education. She shared why ESEA members were not utilizing the Taskforce Initiative for Educators Safety and Screening (TIES) Testing and Monitoring program.

Ms. Giles voiced concerns about the online sign-up process for the TIES program, which required employees to provide personal information. She reported that earlier in the year a ransomware attack on the CCSD triggered a data breach involving Social Security numbers, student information, and other private information. Ms. Giles said that ESEA members were informed that if they declined to use this voluntary program, allegedly the CCSD Human Resources Division would be notified of their denial, which she opined did not create goodwill for a program that many employees were uncertain about using.

Ms. Giles opined the TIES program was not operating within the framework set out by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). She noted that educators did not view this program as voluntary and the ESEA could not support random mandatory testing. Ms. Giles stated she supported the ESEA partnership with the NDE to keep members and children safe and healthy. In closing, she reiterated the difficulty in convincing ESEA members about the merits of the TIES program.

Ms. Giles submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit G](#)).

Chris Daly, Deputy Executive Director of Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), testified on Agenda Item S-3a, NDE, concerning the TIES program. He reminded the Committee of the NSEA's concerns voiced at the October 22, 2020, IFC meeting regarding the rollout of the statewide educator COVID-19 testing program. Mr. Daly stated that the NSEA believed it was important for students to return to school when it was safe to do so and acknowledged that the COVID-19 screening should be included. He opined the rate of community transmission was the main determining factor

in whether it was safe to return to in-person education and said the NSEA had concerns about the current spike in COVID-19 cases in Nevada.

Continuing, Mr. Daly remarked that the TIES program was developed without drawing stakeholder engagement. He said the NSEA represented many educators across the state who were excluded from the planning process, which may have some bearing on why the TIES program had not been successful. Mr. Daly discussed the results of the TIES program testing, noting only 550 educators had been tested in the state, representing less than 10% of educators within the CCSD. He voiced concerns from both the NSEA and the ESEA and urged the Committee to closely examine the TIES program.

Clara Andriola, Executive Director, Reno Rodeo Foundation (RRF), testified on Agenda Item P-2b, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), and the proposed donation from the RRF to the DCFS to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children. She said since 1986, the RRF had distributed over \$7.5 million to support children with extraordinary needs throughout Northern Nevada counties safely and without interrupted service during the pandemic. Ms. Andriola reported that the RRF had allocated \$133,500 to several programs in 2021 and had expanded scholarships to include opportunities for foster youth.

Ms. Andriola provided an overview of the Denim Drive campaign that included a new program expansion in partnership with the family district courts to provide books and teddy bears to children attending family district court proceedings. She reported on a new model that the RRF and the DCFS had developed that would give the division decision power to purchase items to meet a child's immediate needs. Ms. Andriola acknowledged and thanked the following DCFS staff for their efforts to bring this new model to fruition beginning in 2021: Ross Armstrong, Administrator; Betsey Crumrine, Social Services Manager; Laurie Jackson, Social Services Manager; Karla Delgado, Social Services Chief; and Katrina Nielsen, Administrative Services Officer.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2020, MEETING.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item D.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2020, MEETING.**

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2020, AND JUNE 25, 2020, MEETINGS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Dondero-Loop abstained from the vote.)

**E. 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.**

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, said there were several items on the agenda related to reimbursement of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRFs). She said those items were included under Agenda Items E, F, G and S. Continuing, Ms. Coffman said after those programs were identified she would list the work programs being held for discussion that were not related to the CRFs.

The following item was held for further discussion: Agenda Item E-2, DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH).

**1. Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public and Behavioral Health – Health Care Facilities Regulation – FY 2021**

Transfer \$62,501 from the Reserve category to the COVID - High Flow Nasal Cannulation (HFNC) category to support the 25% cost share of the purchase of HFNC kits from the Strategic National Stockpile to support Nevada's health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Work Program C53532**

There was no discussion on this item.

**2. Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public and Behavioral Health – Immunization Program – FY 2021**

Addition of \$350,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to purchase Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis as well as Pneumonia vaccines to prevent other respiratory infections to lessen the burden on hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Work Program C53583**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163, S-7a were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion under Agenda Item G-163.

**F. WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(b) – REQUIRED EXPEDITIOUS ACTION WITHIN 15 DAYS. INFORMATIONAL ONLY.**

The following items were held for further discussion: Agenda Items F-1, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED); F-2, DHHS, DPBH; and F-3, DHHS, DPBH.

**1. Governor's Office of Economic Development – FY 2021**

Addition of \$31,657,500 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account and deletion of \$1,050,000 in CARES Act, CRF transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account-C, \$1,200,000 in CARES Act, CRF transferred from the

CARES Act 2020 account-D, \$20,000,000 in CARES Act, CRF transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account-B, and transfer of \$551,000 from the Coordinated Economic Response category to the Emergency Small Business Recovery grant category, \$10,000,000 from the Commercial Rental Assistance category to the Emergency Small Business Recovery grant category and \$41,500 from the Labor Certification Plan/Platform category to the Emergency Small Business grants category to support demand for the Pandemic Emergency Technical Support program to assist small businesses that have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Emergency Small Business grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53352**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163, and S-7a were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion under Agenda Item G-163.

**2. Department of Health and Human Services – Public and Behavioral Health – Public Health Preparedness Program – FY 2021**

Addition of \$183,869 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to support the Nevada 2-1-1 COVID-19 Hotline with intervention for callers in crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from CRF category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53410**

There was no discussion on this item.

**3. Department of Health and Human Services – Public and Behavioral Health – Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment – FY 2021**

Addition of \$445,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to provide information, education, and direct services to help address the increasing numbers of suicides among youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Mental Health Youth Suicide category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53388**

There was no discussion in this item.

**G. APPROVAL OF GIFTS, GRANTS, WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 353 OF NRS.**

The following items related to the CRFs were held for further discussion: Agenda Items G-45, GOED; G-48, GOED; G-78, DHHS, DPBH; G-93, DHHS, DPBH; G-94, DHHS, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS); G-97, DHHS, DWSS; G-162, DHHS, DPBH; and G-163, Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP).

The following items unrelated to the CRFs were held for further discussion: Agenda Items G-2, Office of the Governor, Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN); G-10, Office of the State Treasurer; G-11, Office of the State Treasurer; G-17, DOA, NSLA; G-30, Department of Agriculture, Registration and Enforcement; G-43, Department of Business and Industry (B&I), Housing Division; G-51, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA); G-63, DHHS, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD); G-69, DHHS, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP); G-111, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Unemployment Insurance (UI); G-112, DETR, UI; G-113, DETR, UI; G-114, DETR, UI; and G-115, DETR, UI.

A revision was made to Agenda Item G-163, PEBP, by the Office of the Governor, Governor's Finance Office (GFO). The amount of the work program was revised from \$4,733,632 to \$5,203,229.

Agenda Item G-20, Cannabis Compliance Board, Marijuana Regulation and Control Account, was withdrawn.

Chair Carlton noted that Agenda Item S-3a, NDE, would be heard later in the day due to a schedule conflict. She stated her intention was to hear Agenda Item S-3a, NDE, followed by Agenda Item S-12, Economic Forum.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno requested further testimony on Agenda Item G-119, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST).

Assemblywoman Titus requested further testimony on Agenda Items G-26, NDE, and G-88, DHHS, DPBH.

Senator Kieckhefer requested further testimony on Agenda Items G-15, DOA, NSLA; G-16, DOA, NSLA; and G-17, DOA, NSLA. He added that he would be agreeable to the Committee approving Agenda Items G-15 and G-16 in the consent agenda since Agenda Item G-17, which was similar to the other two items, would be discussed with Agenda Item G-2, Office of the Governor, OWINN.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING WORK  
PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS UNDER  
AGENDA ITEM G.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**1. Office of the Governor - Nuclear Projects Office - FY 2021**

Addition of \$274,697 in Western Governors' Association (WGA) funds and deletion of \$150,000 in WGA Reimbursement funds to support emergency response preparations, training, and operational oversight for shipments of transuranic waste through Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Western Governors Association Funds category exceeds \$75,000.

**RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.122. Work Program #C52982**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**2. Office of the Governor - Office of Workforce Innovation - FY 2021**

Addition of \$9,121,548 in federal Education Stabilization Fund - Reimagine Workforce Preparation grant funds to help implement the Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reimagine grant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 17. Work Program #C53233**

Agenda Items G-2 and G-17 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-17.

**3. Office of the Attorney General - Special Litigation Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$564,976 from the Reserve category to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Testing category and a transfer of \$170,040 from the Federal Reserve category to the SAKI Testing category to continue assisting with the sexual assault kit testing backlog. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the SAKI Testing category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52234**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**4. Office of the Attorney General - Special Litigation Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$85,022 from the Reserve category to the Nuclear Waste Litigation category to support continued efforts in the nuclear waste litigation. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Nuclear Waste Litigation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53392**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**5. Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Advocate - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$850,368 from the Reserve category to the Expert Witnesses category to provide expert witness services in utility cases. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Expert Witnesses category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53260**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.



**6. Office of the Attorney General - Grants Unit - FY 2021**

Addition of \$302,839 in federal United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Funds to support the Improvement of Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ICJR grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53302**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**7. Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Reform - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$2,727,393 in Help America Vote Act CARES ACT grant funds to align federal budget authority and continue to prepare for the 2020 federal election cycle. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the HAVA CARES Act grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53144**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**8. Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Reform - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$101,726 from the Reserve category to the Personnel Services category to exchange funding resources and align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53155**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**9. Office of the Treasurer - Nevada College Savings Trust - FY 2021**

Addition of \$109,808 in Transfer from Treasurer to fund the reallocation of the cost allocation for the salaries of the Treasurer, Chief Deputy, and Executive Assistant. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Intra-Agency Cost Allocation exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.12. Work Program #C53018**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**10. Office of the Treasurer - College Savings Trust - FY 2021**

Addition of \$65,520 transferred from the Treasurer - Endowment Account to fund customer relationship management software to modernize processes and communications for the College Savings Division. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Information Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.11. Work Program #C52848**

Agenda Items G-10 and G-11 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-11.

**11. Office of the Treasurer - College Savings Trust - Endowment Account - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$65,520 from the Reserve category to the Transfer for Administration category to fund customer relationship management software to modernize processes and communications for the College Savings Division. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer for Administration category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.10. Work Program #C52852**

Agenda Items G-10 and G-11 were discussed jointly.

Chair Carlton reminded the Committee that the items up for discussion had been heard at the October 22, 2020, IFC meeting. She remarked that conflicting information was presented that required further clarification. Chair Carlton said that the Committee had received clarification and there were no additional concerns.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-10 AND G-11.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12. Office of the Treasurer - College Savings Trust - Endowment Account - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$109,808 from the Reserve category to the Transfer for Administration category to fund the reallocation of the cost allocation for the salaries of the Treasurer, Chief Deputy, and Executive Assistant. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer for Administration category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.9. Work Program #C53024**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**13. Department of Administration - Enterprise Information Technology Services - Agency IT Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$48,565 in Transfer from the Governor's Office of Finance - SMART 21 to support the transition of the legacy human resources system to the new SMART 21 SAP system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53136**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**14. Department of Administration - Enterprise Information Technology Services - Computer Facility - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$2,263,524 from the Reserve category to the Information Services category to pay for Office 365 Business Productivity Suite license renewals. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53135**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**15. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - State Library - FY 2021**

Addition of \$125,000 in Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada grant funds transferred from the Nevada System of Higher Education to fund an expansion of the Nevada Career Explorer, a career navigation platform. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Statewide Databases category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53203**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**16. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - State Library - FY 2021**

Addition of \$50,000 in federal U.S. Department of Education grant funds transferred from the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to hire a contracted Project Coordinator for the Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals (SANDI) project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the GOED SANDI subgrant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.47. Work Program #C53519**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**17. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - State Library - FY 2021**

Addition of \$2,684,000 in federal U.S. Department of Education grant funds transferred from the Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) to fund an expansion of the Nevada Career Explorer, a career navigation platform that supports the expansion of short-term education, training and career pathway programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the OWINN Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals Project subgrant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 2. Work Program #C53345**

Agenda Items G-2 and G-17 were discussed jointly.

Isla Young, Senior Program Developer and Engagement Specialist, OWINN, provided an overview of the Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals Project (Project SANDI) grant program, which provides opportunities to

adults and dislocated workers who had been adversely affected by the pandemic. Ms. Young pointed out that OWINN seeks to assist dislocated Nevadans by providing opportunities and empowerment as they transition into new career paths.

She said that through Project SANDI, OWINN would focus on modernizing Nevada's current workforce system and replacing it with a system that could translate skills and work experience into credentials. Ms. Young discussed Nevadans who were transitioning out of jobs they had held for many years who may not have certifications or higher education but did have job experience and transferrable skills. She said efforts would be made to match those transferable skills with new career paths. Ms. Young mentioned the expansion of digital platforms, including virtual reality, that would remotely offer accelerated training and degree programs for in-demand occupations.

Continuing, Ms. Young explained that the project included time spent with project partners to understand high growth, high demand areas in Nevada and how training programs would work in those areas. Ms. Young discussed the building of an enhanced career navigation tool, the Nevada Career Explorer (NCE), a comprehensive digital career navigator platform. She explained that the NCE would integrate career guidance systems, including skills decoders, a case management interface, and online links embedded in the workforce development ecosystem used to serve dislocated and underemployed workers.

Ms. Young said an online self-paced entrepreneurship module would also be inserted in Nevada's training and educational programs to provide a stronger entrepreneurial mindset framework. She noted that the module would be online and self-paced and would provide both certificate and degree programs.

Ms. Young commented that the grant was incredibly competitive and OWINN was able to lead the effort with its partners and the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities (Guinn Center) to provide the proposal. She said that the grant award was \$13.8 million for a three-year program. Ms. Young said it would be a priority to ensure access for all of Nevada's cities and rural communities.

Ms. Young listed the program partners, including the College of Southern Nevada (CSN); GOED; the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB); Great Basin College (GBC); Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); NSLA; Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC); and Western Nevada College (WNC). She said that OWINN was in the process of submitting contracts for final approval with an intended program launch in January or February 2021.

Assemblywoman Jauregui asked if the entire navigation platform would be ready in January or February 2021.

Ms. Young explained that the platform project launch would begin in January or February 2021; however, it would not yet be available. She said the project would enhance and build on the existing NCE program and that training would be provided to navigators throughout the state. Ms. Young commented that the navigators would assist job seekers in understanding their current skills and discovering the skills needed for their intended career paths.

Assemblywoman Jauregui asked when the final product would be complete and available to Nevadans for skills assessment.

Ms. Young said a skills program through the NCE was available that would be used for the next year to enable immediate use of skills decoding. She mentioned that OWINN would be working on the skills decoder model for Nevada. She offered to provide more information to the Committee regarding the expected completion date.

Assemblywoman Jauregui requested that the information provided to the IFC include a target date for completion of the project. She asked about the tuition stipend and whether individuals who did not qualify for the stipend would be liable for out-of-pocket expenses.

Ms. Young explained that participants in the training program were fully covered. She said that tuition coverage ranged from \$500 to \$5,000, depending on the type of training program. Ms. Young added that approximately 1,600 people would be able to participate in the formal training programs. She reaffirmed that there would not be any out-of-pocket expenses for the participants.

In response to Assemblywoman Jauregui's inquiry regarding the marketing of the programs, Ms. Young said a large marketing campaign would be developed and launched throughout the State of Nevada in both English and Spanish. She noted the importance of the marketing efforts being as inclusive as possible. Ms. Young discussed partnering with NSHE and community colleges to send messaging to candidates for the program. She added that marketing would also include the NSLA system, so Nevadans who might not have a chance to access traditional programs would have access to libraries after hours and on weekends.

Assemblywoman Jauregui stated that some of the funds being requested were earmarked for the NSLA. She asked where the remaining funding would be focused in the current fiscal year.

Ms. Young said that funding was designated for marketing and to provide rapid response programming focused on advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurial pieces, health care, information technology (IT) and logistics in Nevada's community colleges.

Mayita Sanchez, Grants and Policy Analyst, OWINN, stated there was a contract between NSHE and GOED to connect project coordinators. She said the timeline to have the interlocal agreements with the community colleges submitted to the State Board of Examiners (BOE) would be the beginning of January in order for them to be reviewed and approved by the BOE on February 9, 2021. Ms. Sanchez added that once approval was received from the BOE, funds would be allocated to NSHE and the community colleges so that faculty, staff, and the navigators could be established.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Jauregui, Ms. Sanchez confirmed that DETR was one of the partners.

Senator Denis asked if the skills decoder was a software program.

Ms. Young replied that the skills decoder was a software program and would be utilized to assist displaced workers in identifying their skills and to aid OWINN in transitioning those workers into careers where their skills would be transferable. She mentioned that OWINN was researching how to identify career paths for Nevadans without a college degree or certifications. Ms. Young remarked how important it was to inform clients about the available services and tools.

Senator Denis asked if OWINN was purchasing software that was already developed.

Ms. Young said the software was being developed specific to Nevada's needs. She discussed the development and creation of the software by partners working with vendors to develop a meaningful product that would be utilized by Nevada's workforce.

Responding to Senator Denis' question, Ms. Young stated that the software build would be initiated immediately.

Karsten Heise, Director of Strategic Programs, GOED, reported the largest portion of the program was anticipated to be completed in the first year. He reminded the Committee that after the BOE approval in February 2021, contracts would need to be established with developers. Mr. Heise remarked that software development took time and GOED estimated two years for completion of the entire project.

Senator Denis commented that while there was currently a significant need, the project would also be useful for future needs.

Mr. Heise agreed with Senator Denis. He remarked that the pandemic was accelerating technology trends and future technology needs. Mr. Heise said that the software would be a tool that was not only useful as a response to the pandemic now but also for upskilling and retraining in the future.

Ms. Young added that although the skills decoder tool would not be available immediately, the hiring of navigators was built into the grant. She said that the navigators would be available to provide one-on-one support that participants needed.

Senator Denis asked if there were any industry stakeholders.

Ms. Young said that manufacturers were included as stakeholders. She commented that navigators would assist with the development of additional partners among host companies that would be hiring. Ms. Young remarked that industry played a big role and was important to the program being developed that would match actual jobs available in Nevada. She pointed out that efforts would be made to nurture this partnership, and different partners would be selected to ensure that Nevada's workers were provided the best experience as they transitioned from training to employment.

Senator Denis commented that he appreciated the partnership with public libraries and the outreach to more communities.

Senator Brooks asked about the equity of the funding allocations. He was concerned that the distribution of the allocation was not fairly divided since the impact of the pandemic to the workforce was far greater in Southern Nevada, saying that 75% of Nevada's workforce resides near the CSN. Senator Brooks noted that according to the Economic Forum Report, the impact on the workforce was far greater in Southern Nevada. He made a point that 50% of the funds were allocated to where only 25% of the affected workforce resides, while the other 50% were allocated to Southern Nevada.

Ms. Young replied that OWINN and its partners had attempted to devise the best way to address the needs of Nevadans. She added that remote training would be made available to all Nevadans and that there were many other additional programs offered in Southern Nevada.

Ms. Sanchez added that OWINN and its partners had considered the hardest hit areas and looked at short-term and long-term training programs that would deliver the most assets to Nevada's dislocated workers. She said innovative solutions were developed to provide training tools to all of Nevada's workforce. Ms. Sanchez stated that all the programs developed would lead to a certificate or degree that would integrate Nevada's workforce into the current labor market.

Continuing, Ms. Sanchez commented that in addition to building the programs, the focus was on outreach and consistent statewide messaging about training opportunities. Ms. Sanchez mentioned the importance of the partnership with navigators and the one-on-one programs that provided individuals information about available opportunities.

Ms. Young added that the CSN would receive \$1.3 million in addition to tuition funding. She clarified that the nearly \$4.0 million allocated to training programs was not designated to any certain campus. Ms. Young said that the skills program was need-based, and she anticipated that most of the funding would be allocated in Southern Nevada.

Senator Brooks said he hoped that the marketing campaign and the administration of the program would reach out to where 75% of the population's most impacted and disadvantaged communities were located. He anticipated that most of the funding for in-person classes would be directed to the CSN which is in proximity of the greatest need.

Assemblywoman Tolles noted the importance of upskilling and reskilling, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. She asked if there were any statistics being tracked on the NCE system and if there had been an increase in the utilization of that website during the pandemic. Additionally, she desired more discussion on the marketing of the NCE and wondered if a link to the system was provided to individuals applying to DETR or to businesses who had applied for Pandemic Emergency Technical Support (PETS) and Commercial Rental Assistance Grant (CRAG) funding. Assemblywoman Tolles inquired about statistics that could indicate how to best market the system to individuals with the most need.

Ms. Young said she would locate and provide that information to the Committee. She agreed it was valuable to have those statistics.

Assemblywoman Tolles commented that studying the successes and failures of existing programs could be very informative for the development of new programs. She wondered if individuals seeking to reskill and upskill would be connected to scholarships and other resources that were available through the Office of the State Treasurer.

In response, Ms. Young discussed efforts to connect with Nevadaworks and Workforce Connections and their training partners who were providing services. She pointed out that most of the training was provided by community colleges and workforce boards training programs.

Assemblywoman Titus said she also had concerns about the allocation of funding in the state. She commented on the importance of ongoing programs that would be available online. Assemblywoman Titus asked if the programs that were being developed would be offered at institutions that currently had similar programs in place.

Ms. Young responded that grant requirements included innovative solutions, technology and programs that would lead to industry credentials. She confirmed that OWINN had examined existing programs and ensured that the programs would be available online to address equity and availability issues.



Ms. Young acknowledged that Southern Nevada was an area of great need. She said the program was a statewide effort and it was important to include all Nevadans.

Chair Carlton asked Ms. Young to provide a list of the program partners. She said that Vegas PBS had an existing program that assisted displaced workers in Southern Nevada and would address the grant requirements. Chair Carlton wondered why Vegas PBS was not included as a partner.

Ms. Young said the partners included: CSN, GBC, GOED, the workforce boards under the GWDB, NSLA, NSHE, TMCC, and WNC. She noted that the grant defined the partner requirements. Ms. Young offered to reach out to Debra Solt, Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development, to explore ways to collaborate with Vegas PBS.

Chair Carlton commented on the importance of providing service. She was concerned about tuition stipends being limited to community colleges. Chair Carlton worried that individuals who received tuition dollars would not be allowed to use the funds for other programs such as Vegas PBS. She remarked that the program should be expanded to reach out to a broader population. Chair Carlton said that it was unacceptable to exclude tuition funding for apprenticeships or training programs. She reiterated that in the future she hoped for a broader based approach to funding that would address more of the needs in the state.

Ms. Young said that OWINN was developing a system so that tuition dollars could be used for training programs. She opined that Vegas PBS would be eligible under the ETPL. Ms. Young emphasized that the funding was not exclusive to NSHE.

Chair Carlton asked if individuals who wanted to use tuition dollars for a program outside of the NSHE program would receive the same consideration.

Ms. Young said that was correct and she apologized for any confusion. She added that OWINN was in the process of finalizing that system and training dollars would be dispersed to all the various training providers.

Chair Carlton commented that the list did not include many of the other training programs available in Southern Nevada. She asked that OWINN provide more information to the Committee regarding the allocation of the funding dollars. Chair Carlton cautioned against limiting the type of training programs.

Discussion ensued regarding Senator Brooks' inquiry regarding flexibility for program administration and its expenses. Ms. Young said that OWINN was required to follow the program that was submitted, which did not allow for much flexibility as far as changes in the actual scope of the overall program. She remarked that regional partners were included and that the budget had to be submitted and approved by the NDE.

Chair Carlton and Ms. Young further discussed the flexibility of tuition dollars. Ms. Young said that the modernizing of the system, expanding the digital platform, the enhanced career navigation tool and the entrepreneurial piece had to meet the grant requirements. Ms. Young added that the tuition dollars designated for advanced manufacturing, health care, Internet technology (IT), logistics and skilled trades training was flexible.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-2 AND G-17.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Carlton reiterated her concern about the grant program structure.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**18. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - Archives and Public Records - FY 2021**

Addition of ~~\$241,756~~ **\$197,400** in Assessments transferred from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and \$127,002 in federal Department of Energy grant funds transferred from the Division of Environmental Protection to fund expansion costs of the OnBase Retrieval system, an electronic content management system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEMS G. 39 and 135. Work Program #C53205. REVISED 12-3-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**19. Department of Administration - State Public Works Division - Buildings and Grounds - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$126,003 from the Reserve category to the Maintenance of Building and Grounds category, \$144,943 to the Building Renovation category, and \$5,542 to the Information Services category to fund software upgrades to the Direct Digital Control workstations in various state-owned managed by Buildings and Grounds. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amounts added to the Maintenance of Building and Grounds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53332**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**20. Cannabis Compliance Board - Marijuana Regulation and Control Account - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$92,283 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to support temporary labor costs for processing cannabis agent registration card applications. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53455**

Agenda Item G-20 was withdrawn.

**21. Department of Education - Standards and Instructional Support - FY 2021**

Addition of \$40,000 of Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to procure a contract for subject matter expertise and project management to support the Blue-Ribbon Commission. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added exceeds \$30,000 cumulative and is 10% or more for an expenditure category. **Work Program #C53254**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**22. Department of Education - GEAR UP - FY 2021**

Addition of \$3,186,450 in federal Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant funds to increase the number of low-income, underrepresented students who are prepared to enter in postsecondary education. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the GEAR UP Aid-to-Schools category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53256**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**23. Department of Education - Office of Early Learning and Development - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,706,094 in federal Child Care Quality grant funds transferred from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to meet the requirements outlined in the Nevada's Child Care Plan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CCDF Quality category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.99. Work Program #C52348**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**24. Department of Education - Safe and Respectful Learning - FY 2021**

Addition of \$246,514 in federal National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development grant funds transferred through the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation to continue the SafeVoice reporting system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pacific Institute for Research category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53226. WITHDRAWN 11-20-20.**

There was no discussion on this item.

- 25. Department of Education - Safe and Respectful Learning - FY 2021**  
Addition of \$1,800,000 in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services - Project AWARE grant funds to increase mental health awareness, screenings, and connections to community-based mental health services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Now is the Time Initiative category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.29. Work Program #C53271**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 26. Department of Education - Safe and Respectful Learning - FY 2021**  
Addition of \$2,391,322 in federal School Based Mental Health Services grant funds to increase mental health professionals in schools throughout the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the School Based Mental Health Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53279**

Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Support Services, NDE, explained that the work program would establish revenue and expenditures in recognition of a new federal grant recently awarded to the department. She said the five-year grant focused on research and development and would allow the NDE to further address school-based mental health services within the state.

Assemblywoman Titus said she understood that the five-year grant would enhance the recruitment of mental health providers to increase the retention numbers of school-based providers. She was concerned about the lack of sufficient mental health providers in the health care field. Assemblywoman Titus wondered if the search for providers would include all of Nevada's school districts.

Jhone Ebert, Nevada Superintendent of Instruction, NDE, said that Ms. Haartz, Felicia Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Division (EEFED), NDE and Amber Reid, Education Programs Professional, Office for Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, EEFED, NDE, were instrumental in obtaining the School Based Mental Health Services grant funds. She asked Ms. Reid to address Assemblywoman Titus' question.

Ms. Reid said the NDE was aware of the need for mental health providers in Nevada. She added that recent data regarding existing ratios of students-to-school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers had been provided to the State Board of Education (Board). Ms. Reid commented that currently the ratio was far short of the national best practices' ratios adopted by the Board. She reported that the grant would support recruitment and retention of mental health professionals and would focus on high school students by encouraging them to consider this field in their pursuit of college studies.

Ms. Reid stated that the NDE would collaborate with Nevada universities and NSHE institutions to attract students into these programs. She pointed out that scholarships would be offered to students who pursued mental health fields. Ms. Reid said there was emphasis on diversity and multi-lingual capacities in the mental health profession. She explained that efforts would be made to identify students within Nevada communities and recruitment would include graduate programs since a master's degree was required for school-based mental health providers.

Continuing, Ms. Reid added that the NDE had partnered with colleges of education, school counseling programs, schools of social work and school psychology programs to consider what type of activities agency professionals would be willing to provide for those students. She discussed stipends for existing clinicians to provide clinical internships for higher-level therapeutic type services. That effort would include a partnership with the local education agencies (LEAs), mental health providers, local and regional clinical mental health programs in Nevada's counties, NSHE institutions, and the existing associations of those providers.

Ms. Reid said that the NDE had worked closely with the School Counseling Association of Nevada, the School Psychology Association of Nevada, and the Nevada School Social Work Association. She reported that the NDE had applied for the grant under one of the competitive preferences priorities and pointed out that the department would utilize opportunity zones defined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which focused on rural communities and communities with large populations of Native American students. Ms. Reid anticipated that the programs and partnerships built with the LEAs and the universities would benefit those students.

Assemblywoman Titus commented that the need for mental health professionals was evident throughout the state. She asked for assurance that access to all the available resources would be offered to the individuals who truly needed them. Assemblywoman Titus expressed concern about the ability to fulfill the obligation for sufficient mental health providers. She also asked about the definition of mental health provider, what types of degrees the program positions would achieve, and whether there was sufficient funding for the full five-year grant program including a program manager position.

Ms. Reid said there were many rural communities within Clark County that qualified for these services. She added that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and Nevada State College were two of the primary planning and grant providers. She anticipated that partnerships, collaborations and programs would be offered statewide. Ms. Reid stated that the grant allowed for school social worker, school counselor and school psychologist professions. She said that Nevada had a designation through the Board for other school mental health providers and licensing opportunities.

Continuing, Ms. Reid said outreach would be extended to high school students through school counselors who would promote mental health careers as viable pursuits of education. She also said that existing bachelor's level students could be encouraged to pursue masters level programs in mental health professions and consider careers in Nevada's schools. Ms. Reid pointed out that the school counselor/school psychology programs were very specific to an educational environment. She said that school social work programs were offered at both UNLV and the University of Nevada, Reno. Ms. Reid said the NDE would assist those colleges to focus on job placements in Nevada schools.

Ms. Reid provided an example of masters degree-level certified professionals who were encouraged to continue in their advancement to become clinical providers. She discussed re-specialization programs that would give existing licensed providers an opportunity to practice within the community and help them prepare for jobs in an education host setting. She talked about the development of a certification program for licensed clinicians, such as social workers, to prepare them for careers in an education setting.

Ms. Reid stated that the funds to support the program manager position were included in the five-year grant budget.

Assemblywoman Titus said she liked the concept of a five-year program. She mentioned how difficult it was to fill these types of positions in rural Nevada. Assemblywoman Titus asked for updates on the progress and successes of the programs, specifically the number of recruitments and their impact.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson thought it was important to reach out to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). She said that WICHE's role in recruiting and providing scholarships and grants to students who completed programs in mental health fields and served in underserved areas was relevant to the NDE's goal of increasing the number of mental health professionals in schools.

Chair Carlton indicated the IFC members would be interested in hearing how the grant progresses over the next interim. She commented that it was exciting to see mental health profession recruitments within Nevada.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA  
ITEM G-26.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE  
MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**27. Department of Education - Student and School Support - FY 2021**

Addition of \$314,305 in federal Expanding College and Career Readiness Opportunities grant funds to provide advanced courses to students who have been historically underserved. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Expanding Opportunity category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53265**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**28. Department of Education - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$66,368 in federal Personnel Development grant funds to align budget authority with the approved grant awards. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Federal State Personnel Development Grants (SPDG) Aid category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53315**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**29. State Public Charter School Authority - FY 2021**

Addition of \$300,000 in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services - Project AWARE grant funds transferred from the Nevada Department of Education to increase mental health awareness, screenings, and connections to community-based mental health services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Project AWARE category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.25. Work Program #C53444**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**30. Department of Agriculture - Registration and Enforcement - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$79,127 from the Reserve category to the Personnel category, \$177 to the Operating category, \$5,462 to the Equipment category, \$17,697 to the Hemp Program category, \$5,538 to the Information Services category and \$374 to the Uniforms category to fund the expansion of the Hemp program and fund two new positions consisting of one Agriculturist and one Chemist. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53344**

Ashley Jeppson, Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, provided an overview of new requirements passed in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. She said that the State of Nevada sought to continue primary oversight over the Hemp program, which would require extensive registration requirements, field sampling and crop analysis of all varieties.

Ms. Jeppson pointed out that the new requirements called for staff to spend more time conducting time-sensitive field sampling. She explained that the extra support would require additional Agriculturist and Chemist positions. Ms. Jeppson remarked that staff analyzed for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a psychoactive cannabinol, to ensure that industry requirements for hemp products were met.

Chair Carlton asked if two positions would be sufficient to handle the new requirements. She asked if there were plans to evaluate the needs and make future requests to the IFC.

Ms. Jeppson stated that the two positions should be sufficient based on the 2020 participant numbers. She added that the COVID-19 pandemic and the new requirements had an impact; however, one of the positions would be in the Las Vegas office where a significant amount of sampling was required. Additionally, Ms. Jeppson explained that when a request for an inspection was made, the Department of Agriculture sent out program field staff who were nearest to the inspection area and staff were utilized for multiple inspections.

Ms. Jeppson reported that it was difficult to foresee future needs; however, based on participation numbers in 2018 and 2020, she reiterated that the current staff request would meet the department's needs.

Chair Carlton asked if the positions would be covered by fee dollars provided for in the current fee structure.

Ms. Jeppson said that the positions would be covered by fee dollars and supported within the current fee structure. She pointed out that the department intended to pursue fee increases to be reflective of other states and federal requirements for other demands of this program. Ms. Jeppson said that Department of Agriculture had also proposed fee increases to cover lab credentialing requirements and to allow for other staff to provide support for industry needs.

Chair Carlton asked if the request originated from the industry.

Ms. Jeppson said that the industry submitted a harvest request and staff attempted to conduct a sampling within 15 days. She explained that sampling needed to be done as soon as possible because THC levels increase as crops mature. Ms. Jeppson added that the request was coming from the industry and sampling was performed by the department.

Senator Goicoechea remarked on a bill he had proposed for the 2021 Legislative Session to address some of the issues regarding hemp. He was relieved that the positions would assist the Department of Agriculture to accomplish the work tasked to it.



SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA  
ITEM G-30.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Carlton called a recess at 12:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

**31. Department of Agriculture - Consumer Equitability - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$12,360 from the Reserve category to the Equipment category to purchase a new trailer, which is used to transport weights and a skid steer tractor for testing high-capacity scales. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Equipment category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53418**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**32. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program – FY 2021**

Addition of \$134,000 in federal Trade Mitigation Food Purchase and Distribution Program grant funds to support increased food costs provided directly to participating food banks, to receive, warehouse and distribute additional food to Nevada's food insecure population. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Trade Mitigation Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53304**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**33. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program – FY 2021**

Transfer of \$216,219 from the Reserve category to the Trade Mitigation Program category to support increased food costs provided directly to participating food banks, to receive, warehouse and distribute additional food to Nevada's food insecure population. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Trade Mitigation Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53258**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**34. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program – FY 2021**

Addition of \$59,526 in federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) grant funds to establish a network of nutrition liaisons that will provide nutrition education to the tribal communities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FDPIR Nutrition Education category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53312**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**35. Division of Mineral Resources - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$300,000 from the Reserve category to the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Enhancement category to continue efforts in the inventory and secure physical safety hazards at abandoned mines throughout the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the AML Enhancements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52738**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**36. Division of Mineral Resources - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$31,291 from the Reserve category to the Information Services category to support transition expenses for Information Technology services from the Division of Industrial Relations to Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C52743**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**37. Gaming Control Board - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$500,000 in Investigative fees from the Gaming Investigation Revolving account to align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.38. Work Program #21FR4061**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**38. Gaming Control Board - Investigation Fund - FY 2021**

Addition of \$500,000 in Investigative fees to align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to Gaming category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.37. Work Program #21FR4063**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**39. Public Utilities Commission of Nevada - FY 2021**

Transfer of ~~\$241,756~~ **\$197,400** from the Reserve category to the Transfer to the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records (NSLA) category to fund a shared content and record management system managed by the NSLA. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer to NSLA category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 18 and 135. Work Program #C53223. REVISED 12-3-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**40. Department of Business and Industry - Insurance Division - Insurance Regulation - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,080,085 in Insurance Fraud assessments to reflect projected revenues through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to Attorney General Fraud category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53248**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**41. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$16,400 from Personnel Services to Information Services to fund the purchase of equipment and services to provide connectivity for the office, which will no longer be supported by the Division of Enterprise IT Services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative adjustment to Personnel Services exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53267**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**42. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement - FY 2021**

Addition of \$69,279 in U.S. Department of Labor OSHA grant funds and transfer of \$69,280 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating Expenses category to fund ongoing grant activities and state match. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating Expenses category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53277**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**43. Department of Business and Industry - Housing Division - Special Housing Assistance - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,154,913 from the Reserve category to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) subgrantees category to support the design, build, and operation of a homeless medical respite and residential rehabilitation development per the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NSP subgrantees category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53238**

Steve Aichroth, Administrator, Nevada Housing Division (NHD), B&I, explained that the work program would allow the NHD to transfer approximately \$1.1 million into the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding to support the construction of a 22-unit residential rehabilitation apartment complex for medically-fragile individuals with traumatic or acquired brain injuries or other neurological impairments. He said that the NSP received federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) derived from the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

Mr. Aichroth stated that eligible uses for the NSP funds included the development of previously undeveloped vacant infill sites within HUD prescribed areas. He said the current site project fulfilled those requirements. Mr. Aichroth reported that the fund request, along with \$5 million provided by Clark County, would result in a 28,000 square foot facility with 22 units, housing over 7,500 square feet of resident services and common area spaces and would include over 3,000 square feet of exercise therapy space.

Mr. Aichroth said that comprehensive services at the facility would include a medical director, nurses, and physical, occupational and speech therapists. He stated that the facility would be in operation for a minimum of 20 years. Mr. Aichroth added that the housing would provide stability for the medically-fragile and homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked when the facility would be open and ready to provide services to the community. She also asked if eligibility for care would be based on income.

Mr. Aichroth understood that the developer had predicted the facility would be completed by the end of the year. He said the home was designed for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Jacob LaRow, Deputy Administrator, NHD, B&I, said that the facility would also provide services to homeless populations with zero- to extremely low-income populations. He reported that after the completion of construction, the facility operator would need to obtain the appropriate licenses and approvals from other state agencies to open the facility. Mr. LaRow said he anticipated the licenses and approvals would be in place by the end of January or February 2021, at which time the facility could begin accepting clients.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked how annual expenses would be covered.

Mr. LaRow stated that the Nevada Community Enrichment Program, the operator of the facility, had provided information about its operating budget and indicated that approximately 60% of its revenue would be derived from Medicaid. He said there were 22 different revenue sources that would fund the facility's operations. Mr. LaRow added that a small portion would originate from rent based on a client's ability to pay.

He reported that anticipated income for the first year would be about \$7.6 million, with approximately \$7.7 million in gross rent and other revenue. Mr. LaRow said the operating expenses would be approximately \$7.3 million. He commented that the operating budget was narrow; however, the cash flow for the first year was predicted to be slightly over \$200,000 with projected minimal increases every year thereafter.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno inquired about wraparound services for clients who were homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

Mr. Aichroth read from information provided by the developer that explained the project was targeted to medically stabilize individuals, regulate medications, rehabilitate barriers, and build strengths. He said the developer would work directly with Clark County to receive referrals to the medical respite program for patients needing short-term, long-term or respite services. Mr. Aichroth added that referrals would also be accepted from acute habilitation, community partners, hospitals, insurance plans, Medicaid, rehabilitation centers, veteran and active-duty military services, and workers' compensation programs.

Continuing, Mr. Aichroth said the project would provide housing and onsite habilitation and rehabilitation therapy for individuals with traumatic or acquired brain injuries and other neurological impairments. He noted that housing units would be available on an ongoing basis with active treatment provided seven days a week for up to six hours per day. He added that a range of support services would be provided, including behavior management; benefit assistance; insurance

assistance and authorization; medical care follow up; medical management; medication administration; and transportation.

Chair Carlton asked for a physical description of the facility. She was curious if the rooms would be suites or small studios.

Mr. Aichroth said that currently the Charleston facility had 8 units and the additional 22 units would be added to the facility near Desert Springs Hospital. He mentioned there would be approximately 7,500 square feet intended for a common area and residential services. Mr. Aichroth said the two-story building would house a medical records room, clinical area restrooms, laundry room, and 15 offices for onsite staff.

Chair Carlton asked if the facility would accommodate both short-term and long-term placements. She asked if the living quarters would be a ward-type atmosphere or private living areas. Chair Carlton asked Mr. Aichroth to provide the information to the Committee later. She stated that she was familiar with the NSP and its services and praised its work in the community.

Senator Ratti asked if the facility would be licensed as a housing facility with support services or as a licensed care facility. She wondered if the project would be a medical facility, housing, or a combination of both. Senator Ratti said it was exciting to see the level of support provided for this population. She asked Mr. Aichroth to provide the information to the Committee later.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if Medicaid would be the long-term funding source and if reimbursement would be specific to services or room and board. She asked the division to provide the information to the Committee later.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM G-43.

SENATOR RATTI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**44. Department of Business and Industry - Real Estate Division - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$147,050 in federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Appraiser fees to allow for the collection of new fees enacted by Senate Bill 39 of the 2019 Legislative Session. Fees are passed through to the federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Appraiser Report Fees category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53297**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**45. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Commercial Rental Assistance category to the Emergency Small Business Recovery grant category and a transfer of \$250,000 from the Commercial Rental Assistance category to the Coordinated Economic Response category to provide relief funding to small businesses and fund a study on behavioral health services due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Coordinated Economic Response category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53464**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163 and S-7a were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**46. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021**

Addition of ~~\$133,968~~ **\$283,468** in State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) funds to provide financial assistance awards to Eligible Small Business Concerns to enter or expand into export markets. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Trade and Export STEP Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53409. REVISED 12-4-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**47. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021**

Addition of \$50,000 in federal U.S. Department of Education grant funds transferred from the Office of Workforce Innovation to coordinate work on the Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals (SANDI) project under the Education Stabilization Fund Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) grant program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ESF-RWP grant program (OWINN) category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.16. Work Program #C53520**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**48. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021**

Addition of \$10,000,000 in Transfer from CARES Act funds to support demand for the Pandemic Emergency Technical Support program to assist small businesses that have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Emergency Small Business Recovery grants category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53553**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163 and S-7a were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**49. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Nevada Knowledge Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,017,362 from the Reserve category to the Knowledge Fund category to meet projected obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Knowledge Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53367**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**50. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Tourism Development Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$58,181 from the Nevada Historical Society to the Reserve category, transfer of \$116,423 from the Nevada State Museum - Carson City (CC) category to the Reserve category, transfer of \$154,255 from the Nevada State Museum category to the Reserve category, transfer of \$101,434 from the Transfer to Arts Council category to the Reserve category, transfer of \$18,960 from the Transfer to Indian Commission category to the Reserve category, and transfer of \$10,444 from the Transfer to Stewart Living Legacy category to the Reserve category to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the NV State Museum - CC category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEMS G. 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57. Work Program #21FR1522**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**51. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Tourism Development Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$5,579,640 from the Marketing and Advertising category to the Reserve category to reflect reduced expenditures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifted focus to pandemic-response activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred out of Marketing and Advertising exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53561**

Brenda Scolari, Director, DTCA, stated that the department's budget analyst advised to make this budget authority revision to allow for an improved balance forward in FY 2022. She added that the DTCA Tourism Division was funded entirely from lodging taxes, which had experienced a dramatic revenue loss. Ms. Scolari said the DTCA was required to carry a cash reserve and identified a reserve deficit in the submitted biennial budget.

Chair Carlton was happy to see that changes were being made. She commented on the challenges encountered by the tourism industry, especially with overseas travel. Chair Carlton mentioned the domino effect the tourism budget had on other budgets and asked for a discussion regarding the revised marketing and advertising plans.



Ms. Scolari explained that currently the DCTA was operating from a recovery plan primarily focused on in-state spending. She said the department was attempting to promote and encourage Nevada residents to travel within the state and spend locally to boost the state's economy and capture travel dollars within Nevada.

Ms. Scolari said that once travel expanded, the focus would shift to traditional drive markets and the expansion of domestic markets within the United States. She discussed international market strengths. She said the DTCA would concentrate on Mexico and Canada, which had strong indicators of becoming viable markets first. Ms. Scolari reiterated that the department was currently focusing on in-state travel and noted a positive trend in lodging tax projections. She anticipated the market would improve toward the end of the fiscal year once more of the population was vaccinated.

Continuing, Ms. Scolari thought the work program would rectify the budget prior to the 2021 Legislative Session; however, the DTCA would also need to address revenue reductions in lodging taxes with the Committee. Ms. Scolari remarked that the revenue projections would be revised when the November data was received. That information would provide the department with a better idea of the depth and duration that the pandemic had on the market. Ms. Scolari indicated that the department would have more accurate projections soon.

Chair Carlton said that more accurate projections would be helpful considering other division budgets were also impacted.

Ms. Scolari stated that a portion of the three-eighths of 1% of the lodging tax revenue was transferred to other cultural agencies, including the seven state museums, the Nevada Arts Council and the Indian Commission. She commented that those agencies had various funding splits within the department. Ms. Scolari acknowledged the tourism transfers had been affected as well.

Senator Kieckhefer said he was concerned about whether there would be sufficient revenue to sustain the DTCA until the end of the year. He opined that the work program was based on revenue projections from October and that updated projections for November looked significantly worse. Senator Kieckhefer asked Ms. Scolari to discuss the cash reserve situation based on the November projections.

Ms. Scolari thought that the cash reserve would be intact through the end of the year. She said the concern was with the carryover through the biennium to the end of FY 2023. Ms. Scolari reported that some corrections had been made and that reductions were made to the department's contract authority. She explained that the department had completed more work in-house rather than using outside vendors for marketing services.

Senator Kieckhefer asked if additional work programs would be brought forth to facilitate those changes. He acknowledged efforts to hold open positions and other reductions to agencies within the department.

Ms. Scolari confirmed that the department would come before the IFC with additional work programs. She said the DTCA had always been very accurate with its projections; however, it was challenging to develop projections this year due to the fluid economic situation. She commented that the department's focus was to be efficient in the projections for the biennial budget to avoid revisions. Ms. Scolari said the Committee would be advised once the ending position for FY 2021 was available.

Senator Kieckhefer said it appeared the expenditure request for the next biennium was still approximately \$26 million. He asked if there were any plans to revise that figure to match room tax projections. Senator Kieckhefer inquired about other funding options.

Ms. Scolari stated that room tax projections for FY 2022 were down approximately 36%. She added that FY 2022 was at 21% of a normal year using FY 2019 as a benchmark, which she opined was the most accurate data to use.

In response to a question from Senator Kieckhefer, Ms. Scolari affirmed that the budget request would be based on the revised projections for the next biennium.

Senator Brooks asked how quickly the budget could be adjusted if travel demands changed based on availability of vaccines and other factors. He asked if the department could pivot to an international marketing campaign.

Ms. Scolari responded that the contracts within the international market still existed and a request could be made to restore the authority. She agreed that the travel industry was resilient. Ms. Scolari commented that Las Vegas and the entire State of Nevada were among the top destinations for travel. She added that the department was hopeful that lodging tax collections would increase by the second quarter of FY 2022 and that noticeable recovery would be realized. Ms. Scolari said the DCTA would work on timing and adjusting its programming as needed.

Chair Carlton asked the department to keep the Committee updated on the situation.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM G-51.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**52. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs- Tourism Development Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$88,700 from the Transfer to Stewart Living Legacy category to the Reserve category due to alternative funding for cultural center operations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Transfer to Stewart Living Legacy category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53495**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**53. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Indian Affairs Commission - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$18,960 in Transfer from Tourism funds to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 50. Work Program #21FR2600**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**54. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada Historical Society - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$58,181 in Transfer from Tourism funds to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 50. Work Program #21FR2870**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**55. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada State Museum, Carson City - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$116,423 in Transfer from Tourism funds to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 50. Work Program #21FR2940**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**56. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$154,255 in Transfer from Tourism funds to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 50. Work Program #21FR2943**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**57. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Nevada Arts Council - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$101,434 in Transfer from Tourism funds to align with the General Fund reduction pursuant to Assembly Bill 3 of the 31st Special Session (2020). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 50. Work Program #21FR2979**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**58. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Grief Support Trust Account - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$40,224 from the Reserve category to the Grief Support Trust Account category to fund grief support services for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Grief Support Trust Account category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C52752**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**59. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Developmental Disabilities - FY 2021**

Addition of \$113,977 in federal Developmental Disabilities grant funds to support the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the DD Council category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53124**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**60. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$36,008 in Medicaid Case Management grant funds to align with an increased blended Federal Medical Assistance Program rate through March 2021. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53380**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**61. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$169,443 in federal Lifespan Respite Care Program grant funds to continue to build an infrastructure to support caregivers across the lifespan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Lifespan Respite grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53056**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**62. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$284,353 in federal Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program grant funds to align budget authority with the approved grant award. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Alzheimer's grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53055**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**63. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$1,336,057 in federal Victims of Crime Act grant funds to align the current budget authority with the approved subaward. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Victims of Crime Act category exceed \$75,000. **Work Program #C53045**

Dena Schmidt, Administrator, ADSD, DHHS, said that the work program requested a reduction in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding to align with the budget authority. She explained that the division had applied for a larger amount than what was received. Ms. Schmidt said the work program would align the current budget authority with the reduced dollar amount awarded.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked for an explanation of the discrepancy between the VOCA grant award and the grant amount that was discussed during the 2019-2020 Interim.

Ms. Schmidt stated that during the interim there were positions funded to start the expansion of adult protective services (APS). She said the intent was to use VOCA funding to support that expansion. Ms. Schmidt reiterated that the grant award was not the amount that the ADSD had applied for; therefore, other funding sources had to be identified. She added that the ADSD was currently required to serve all populations under the APS program and that Title XX of the Social Security Act, Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds, as well as Medicaid administrative costs were utilized for the APS program.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked Ms. Schmidt to discuss the ability of the ADSD to perform its statutory responsibilities with the current grant award. She asked if the APS program would have to be modified.

Ms. Schmidt stated that the division was able to provide services with its current resources. She pointed out that vacancy savings in the Las Vegas office, which averaged 30% to 40% vacancies, offset some of the costs. Ms. Schmidt said the future of the program would be addressed in the next biennium.

Chair Carlton asked what had caused the gap between the VOCA grant amount requested and the amount awarded.

Ms. Schmidt stated that the DCFS would be better able to answer the question. She opined that the overall grant total was reduced so all grantees received reduced funding.

In response to Chair Carlton, Ms. Schmidt affirmed that the grant reduction was not limited to the APS program.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said she was aware that some funding was coming from home and community-based waivers for the frail and elderly and similar programs. She asked if that would reduce the number of beds or slots for that population. Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked about the impact to those programs.

Ms. Schmidt said a portion of the funding was from salary savings and vacancy savings to offset the costs of the programs. She added that other funding sources included Title XX, SSBG and State General Funds. Ms. Schmidt stated that the funding came from current programs that already supported the APS program.

Senator Denis asked for clarification regarding funding sources that had been identified that would be brought before the Legislature. He asked if any other savings had been identified in addition to the salary savings.

Ms. Schmidt reported the division was exploring ways to fund the positions, but currently had no specifics.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM G-63.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**64. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$37,863 in Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration grant funds transferred from the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to provide services to Medicaid-eligible recipients. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Money Follows Person category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.76. Work Program #C53103**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**65. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Sierra Regional Center - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,071,220 in federal Title XIX - Waiver grant funds and \$18,679 in federal Title XIX - Community Services grant funds to align with an increased blended Federal Medical Assistance Program rate through March 2021. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53371**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**66. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Desert Regional Center - FY 2021**

Addition of \$2,582,598 in federal Title XIX - Waiver grant funds and \$89,260 in federal Title XIX - Community Services grant funds to align with an increased blended Federal Medical Assistance Program rate through March 2021. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53369**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**67. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Rural Regional Center - FY 2021**

Addition of \$373,069 in federal Title XIX - Waiver grant funds and \$18,634 in federal Title XIX - Community Services grant funds to align with an increased blended Federal Medical Assistance Program rate through March 2021. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53374**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**68. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$295,783 in federal Title XIX funds and transfer of \$74,545 from the Fiscal Agent category to the Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) Replacement Phase III category to fund a shortfall in contractual obligations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the MMIS Replacement Phase III category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53159**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**69. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$194,400 ~~\$172,800~~ in federal Title XIX funds and **transfer of \$43,200** ~~\$21,600 transferred from the Personnel Services category to the Pharmacy Benefit Manager, Request for Proposal (RFP) category~~ **Pharmacy Reporting Failure Penalty budget account** to fund contractual assistance to develop a Pharmacy Benefit Manager request for proposal (RFP). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pharmacy Benefit Manager RFP **category** exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53183. REVISED 12-9-20.**

DuAne Young, Deputy Administrator, Medical Programs and Community-Based Services, DHCFP, DHHS, explained that the work program provided for a transfer of funds from the Personnel Services category to the Pharmacy Benefit Manager category, as well as a transfer of matching Title XIX federal funds to assist in the development of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager request for proposal (RFP).

Chair Carlton understood that the DHCFP did not currently have a Pharmacy Benefit Manager.

Mr. Young said that the division currently had a pharmacy benefit manager for the fee-for-service (FFS) programs. He explained that the division had subcontracted with Gainwell Technologies, which contracted with the Pharmacy Benefit Manager. Mr. Young stated that an RFP for the Pharmacy Benefit Manager would enable the division to directly manage the contract.



Chair Carlton asked about future fiscal impact on the Insurance Premium Tax (IPT). She understood that the fiscal impact could be a reduction of \$8 million to \$9 million. Chair Carlton asked if this proposal was included in the discussion of Senate Bill 378 during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Mr. Young explained that S.B. 378 provided for the establishment of the Silver State Scripts Board (NRS 422.4025), formerly the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. He indicated that there could be a potential impact to the tax revenue for the state. Mr. Young clarified that the work program was a request to provide for the direct management of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager contract by the DHCFP. He reiterated that the goal was to build the Pharmacy Benefit Manager contract into the FFS program and potentially incorporate the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Chair Carlton asked if this would be an expansion of an existing program or a new program.

Mr. Young replied that the current pharmacy benefit program was managed by the DHCFP but it was contracted through Gainwell Technologies, a vendor that acted as the fiscal agent. He said the work program would enable the division to take direct control of the contractual relationship.

Senator Kieckhefer understood that the scope of the program would apply to the entire Medicaid population and that the DHCFP would take over the management of all pharmacy benefits for both the managed care organizations (MCO) and the FFS care populations.

Mr. Young said that was being considered; however, a decision had not been made to carve out the MCO and FFS care populations. He remarked that the division had legislative authority to move in that direction. Mr. Young noted that the first step would be to control the direct management of the contractual relationship instead of using a secondary vendor to manage the relationship for the division.

Mr. Young clarified the relationship between division staff, the pharmacy benefit manager, and Gainwell Technologies. Mr. Young said the division staff had some oversight and conducted meetings with the pharmacy benefit manager. He added that the program would provide a separation of that contract with Gainwell Technologies. Mr. Young commented that the first step would be to focus on the FFS program and the incorporation of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program from the DPBH. He said the second phase would be to assess the authority availed in S.B. 378 for MCOs.

Senator Kieckhefer expressed concern about the process for carving out the MCO population due to the significant dollar value of the MCO contracts and the capitation rate for the pharmacy benefit. He pointed out that the IPTs were paid

on that value. Senator Kieckhefer opined that any savings that might be realized through a more efficient management of pharmacy benefits for the entire statewide Medicaid population could be outstripped by the loss of General Fund revenues associated with the IPT.

Mr. Young understood Senator Kieckhefer's concerns and the division shared the Senator's concern about the offset. He opined there would be significant savings by having direct insight into the contract and realizing the expenses for FFS Medicaid and managing that relationship through the pharmacy benefit manager.

Mr. Young commented that the first step would be to research the actual gain from the direct management of the FFS programs. He said the information would provide the data for a future analysis to discover if cutting the MCOs pharmacy benefit would be more advantageous than revenue loss associated with the IPT. Concluding, Mr. Young said given the condition of the state because of COVID-19, the division had a responsibility to examine and evaluate the data before moving forward.

Senator Kieckhefer asked about the status of bidding out the MCO contracts for the state.

Mr. Young reported that the RFP would be released at the beginning of 2021. He added that the State Purchasing Division handled the bidding process, and the contract would be in effect January 1, 2022.

Responding to Senator Kieckhefer's question about the RFP, Mr. Young said the contract was written with a focus of the contract bidding process remaining unchanged. He noted that the division's goal was to honor the intent and spirit of S.B. 378 while remaining flexible and allowing the Executive Branch to make the best decision for the state.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, Mr. Young agreed that the DHCFP did not have direct insight or working knowledge of the contract between Gainwell Technologies and its current pharmacy benefit manager office.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if it was correct to assume that the division was unaware of price negotiations made through the pharmacy benefit manager and actual charges made to FFS providers. She asked if the contract with Gainwell Technologies contained limits on pricing.

Mr. Young said there were formulas pharmacies used to target negotiations such as back pricing, and the formulas combined with percentages provided parameters and boundaries. He discussed S.B. 539 (2017 Legislative Session), which imposed requirements for pharmacy benefit managers. Mr. Young remarked that

the DHCFP would only be knowledgeable of the practices that occurred within the protective boundaries outlined in the contract with Gainwell Technologies.

Chair Carlton said she was concerned with this issue being processed through a work program brought to the IFC. She commented that the issue was a policy decision rather than just a transfer of funds. Chair Carlton observed that the request required a significant policy shift in pharmacy management. She wanted to discuss all the ramifications and the impact on the IPT in the future and to have more discussions with the policy committees and the legislative body.

Mr. Young clarified that the current contract with Gainwell Technologies had a two-year timeline. He said the DHCFP would need to have a direct relationship with the pharmacy benefit manager or make changes with Gainwell Technologies to extend its contract another year.

Mr. Young explained that the request would provide the ability to have technical assistance in writing a good pharmacy benefit manager contract. He said the current pharmacy program did not have the full capacity to write the RFP due to the FFS timeline. Mr. Young stated that the Medicaid portion of the contract for a pharmacy benefit manager would only include FFS since it was close to the start of the 2021 Legislative Session and it would have a fiscal impact.

Mr. Young stated that the division would return to the IFC or a legislative policy committee for continued discussion about the ramifications to the IPT and the MCO programs that would be contracting with the state in a new agreement. He offered to return to the IFC for continued conversations regarding the best direction for the state in terms of pharmacy.

Chair Carlton said in her experience, once a door was opened, it could very rarely be closed again. She expressed concern about possible ramifications of approving the action. Chair Carlton asked for a guarantee that the contract would be strictly for FFS and not MCOs, and that it would not result in any significant policy changes. She wanted assurance of future conversations with the IFC during the pre-session budget hearings. Chair Carlton said she was concerned that approval today would cause future ramifications.

Senator Kieckhefer asked when the current contract would expire and inquired about the deadline to either update the contract or explore other avenues.

Mr. Young replied that the process to acquire a pharmacy benefit manager would take about one year. He said the DHCFP sought assistance with the technical writing of the RFP and anticipated it would be prepared by late February or early March 2021. Mr. Young commented that the FFS portion would go into effect the following year on July 1, 2022, with another year beyond that for additional discussions to incorporate MCOs and other entities. He assured the Committee that for the purpose of the contract only the FFS would be implemented. Mr. Young added that in the future there would be discussion on any additional implementation.

Concluding, Mr. Young said there were issues with transparency, insight, and oversight within the state in terms of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager program. He opined there was a very real problem and reiterated that the program would give the state the ability to manage the Pharmacy Benefit Manager program more effectively and meet the tenets of previously passed legislation. Mr. Young commented that the division understood the ramifications of the fiscal undertaking and there would be continued discussion with Richard Whitley, Director, DHHS, and the Office of the Governor to ensure that the best decisions would be made for the state.

Senator Kieckhefer said that with the assurances provided by Mr. Young he was comfortable with the request, which would provide the division with technical assistance to write the RFP. Senator Kieckhefer commented that in the event of future problems, the authority could be addressed during the next 2021 Legislative Session.

Senator Cancela commented that after working on S.B. 378 (2019 Legislative Session) and exploring the state's infrastructure to manage the pharmacy benefit within Medicaid, the request seemed to be a prudent, tailored policy proposal that would allow the department more leverage to negotiate with manufacturers in dealing with the overall drug cost chain. She added that this would allow Medicaid to further improve its offerings to the state. Senator Cancela expressed her support for the measure.

Chair Carlton said she would be willing to move forward with the request since it could be monitored during the legislative session. She wanted the Committee to be cognizant that the IFC did not address policy changes. She noted that those types of changes were heard by the policy committees.

SENATOR CANCELA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM G-69.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**70. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Administration - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$113,708 from the Reserve for Resident Protection category to the Payments to State Agencies category to fund current fiscal year expenditures. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Payments to State Agencies category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53232**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**71. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Increased Quality of Nursing Care - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,778,769 from the Reserve category to the Transfer to Budget Account 3243 - Medicaid category to fund supplemental payments to nursing facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to Budget Account 3243 - Medicaid category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.75. Work Program #C53132**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**72. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Check Up Program - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$4,177,320 in federal Title XXI funds to align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount reduced to the Program Medical Expenditures category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21FR3178**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**73. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$5,141,543 in federal Title XXI funds, \$327,335,067 in federal Title XIX funds and \$4,678,764 in County Reimbursements to align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount reduced in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Child Health Assurance Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21FR3243**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**74. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$40,000 from the Money Follows Person (MFP) Reserve category to the MFP Reinvestment category to support the provider database. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the MFP Reinvestment category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53116**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**75. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2021**

Addition of \$15,806,753 in federal Title XIX funds and \$1,778,768 in Provider Fees transferred from the Increase Quality of Nursing Care budget account to fund supplemental payments to nursing facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Offline category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.71. Work Program #C53162**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**76. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$37,863 from the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Reserve category to the MFP Reinvestment category to fund MFP program services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the MFP Reinvestment category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G. 64. Work Program #C53224**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**77. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Low-Level Radioactive Waste Fund - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,651,923 from the Reserve category to the Perpetual Care Fund category to fund post-closure activities at the state-owned Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal site. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Perpetual Care Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52946**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**78. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Immunization Program - FY 2021**

Addition of \$2,269,765 in federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Immunization and Vaccines for Children grant funds to provide immunization programs services and supplemental funding for flu vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Vaccines for Children category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53012**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163 and S-7a were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**79. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Health Care Facilities Regulation - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$1,298,600 from the Reserve category to the Federal Inspection Survey category and \$180,505 from the Reserve category to the Division Cost Allocation category to continue to conduct federal surveys of medical facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Inspection Survey category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52927**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**80. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Health Care Facilities Regulation - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$303,945 from the Reserve category to the COVID-19 category and \$42,248 from the Reserve category to the Cost Allocation category to continue to fight against the spread of the coronavirus within health care facilities across the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52674**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**81. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - FY 2021**

Addition of \$113,199 in Cost Allocation Reimbursement funds transferred from the Health Administration Account to fund the cost of the division's Public Information Officer. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.87. Work Program #C52979**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**82. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2021**

Addition of \$2,821,888 in federal Overdose Data Action grant funds to continue to improve decisions utilizing surveillance data. Requires Interim Finance since the amount added to the RX Drug Overdose Prevention category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52959**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**83. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2021**

Addition of \$200,000 in federal Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) grant funds to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BOLD grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53379**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**84. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2021**

Addition of \$750,000 in federal Innovative Health Strategies to Prevent and Manage Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke grant funds to promote innovative health strategies for the management of diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Innovative Health Strategies category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53336**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**85. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2021**

Addition of \$359,414 in federal National and State Tobacco Control Program grant funds to provide tobacco prevention and control activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Tobacco Control category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52989**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**86. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2021**

Addition of \$500,000 in Pharmacy Reporting Failure penalties transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office Pharmacy Reporting Failure Penalties account to provide diabetes education and prevention activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Diabetes Prevention and Education category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53228**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.



**87. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Office of Health Administration - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$113,199 from the Reserve category to the Transfer to Budget Account 3218 category to fund the cost of the division's Public Information Officer. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer to Budget Account 3218 category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.81. Work Program #C52981**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**88. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Community Health Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$304,500 of federal Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant funds transferred from the Biostatistics and Epidemiology account to provide COVID-19 testing and response in the rural and frontier communities in Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ELC COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C51531**

Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, DPBH, DHHS, explained that Work Program #C51531 requested the transfer of Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant funds to the Community Health Services program. She noted that when the grant was presented at a previous IFC meeting, ELC funds had been allocated for COVID-19 on a per capita basis. Ms. Peek said that since COVID-19 affected every county in the state, it appeared to be the best option. She reported that the DPBH had received \$96 million between the two supplemental grant awards. Ms. Peek advised that the supplemental grant award supported rural communities. She said \$3.8 million of those funds provided direct support to Churchill County, the Community Health Nursing Program, Great Basin College (which supported the eastern Nevada region), Mineral County, Nye County, and several programs within the epidemiology program.

Assemblywoman Titus asked about funds for testing and whether the department was requesting to fund three positions – one registered nurse (R.N.) and two contact tracers.

Ms. Peek explained that within the Community Health Services program there were two funded Disease Control Specialist positions that supervised direct services for all diseases in Nevada's rural communities. She said those positions were already budgeted and the current request would support overtime for those positions. Ms. Peek commented that the DPBH also requested one nurse position to support COVID-19 efforts.

Assemblywoman Titus asked if the one new position would be a R.N. and whether that nurse would be sent to the rural areas to assist with COVID-19 testing. She asked if the nurse would collect codes for the tests.

Tina Gerber Winn, Agency Manager, Rural Clinics and Community Health Nursing, DPBH, DHHS, explained that the grant did not allow for direct service. She said the grant would be used for outreach and to educate community representatives about how to prevent disease spread, as well as to educate residential care facilities and hospitals and work with county administrative staff. Ms. Gerber Winn added that the position would act as an educator and provide preventive strategy support to Nevada's rural counties.

Assemblywoman Titus noted that the justification line indicated that the funds would contract an R.N. to assist with testing.

Ms. Gerber Winn stated that the nurses performed a variety of duties, including services they already provided. She envisioned that the nurse would assist counties to become organized at the testing sites and improve the vaccine distribution processes. Ms. Gerber Winn said that the focus was on transitioning to the vaccination effort now and that nurses would offer more support with logistics and education, especially to counties that did not have a nurse stationed or were not active for a health response.

Assemblywoman Titus asked about the \$10,000 amount requested for Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing machines. She also wondered about the ten-day turnaround time for test results. Assemblywoman Titus commented that reducing the turnaround time was key to getting the pandemic under control.

Ms. Peek reported that one of the specific challenges with the equipment purchase was that the funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act stipulated a December 30, 2020, deadline for receiving equipment. She added that the ELC grant would provide funds past that deadline giving the division latitude to receive backordered equipment later.

Ms. Peek remarked that new testing technology and more point-of-care tests were being developed daily. She said the division was investigating how to incorporate that menu of testing tools throughout the communities. Ms. Peek specifically noted issues with couriers in the rural communities and other challenges.

Ms. Peek commented that the turnaround on testing was affected by supply and demand, courier challenges, and availability of testing tools. She offered to provide the Committee information on turnaround time from the State Biostatistician. Ms. Peek added that the DPBH had used Quest Diagnostics, a private lab, to reduce the burden on the State Public Health Lab.

Ms. Peek reported that testing for the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) was now conducted by Quest Diagnostics. The change had reduced the turnaround time in at least one rural county from 24 to 48 hours. She offered to assist Lyon County in assessing its lab services and provide options in that regard. She agreed that ten days was far too long of a turnaround time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA  
ITEM G-88.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**89. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Community Health Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$122,308 in federal Family Planning Services grant funds and a transfer of \$37,783 from the Cost Allocation category to the Family Planning category to provide family planning and reproductive health services in rural and frontier Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Family Planning category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53072**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**90. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment - FY 2021**

Addition of \$22,854,904 in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration State of Nevada Opioid State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funds to address the opioid crisis in Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Opioid Response grant SOR category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52952**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**91. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$49,780 from the Reserve category to the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) Contract category to continue to expand and establish comprehensive, crisis psychiatric bed registry programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the TTI Contract category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for this category. **Work Program #C51526**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**92. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment - FY 2021**

Addition of \$93,256 in subgranted federal funds through Vibrant Emotional Health and a transfer of \$41,625 from the Reserve category to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline category to continue to support expanded call center capacity for Lifeline calls. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C51523**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**93. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$271,000 in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds as a 2% reimbursement to Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services based on all Medicaid fee for service charges. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52953**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**94. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$506,188 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to reimburse assistance to the Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation in processing, unemployment insurance claims, adjudication and fraud. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53237**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**95. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - FY 2021**

Addition of \$5,525,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant funds to support a subgrant to Clark County Department of Family Services for an identified need involving children ages zero to 3 years and their families. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the TANF Transfers category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53227**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**96. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Child Support Federal Reimbursement - FY 2021**

Addition of \$926,349 in federal Child Support Enforcement funds to provide reimbursement to participating district attorneys' offices for local Child Support Enforcement programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the County Costs Reimbursement category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53107**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**97. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Welfare Field Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$3,094,957 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to reimburse assistance to the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation in processing unemployment insurance claims, adjudication and fraud. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53269**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**98. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Child Care Assistance and Development - FY 2021**

Addition of \$10,523,693 in federal Child Care and Development grant funds to support administrative and caseload increases and early childhood child care quality needs resulting from COVID-19. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Child Care Client benefits category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53074**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**99. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Child Care Assistance and Development - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,580,532 in federal Child Care and Developmental Discretionary grant funds for the continued support of child care provider quality improvement programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Early Childhood and Education category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.23. Work Program #C53073**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**100. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Energy Assistance Program - FY 2021**

Addition of \$56,332 in Universal Energy Charge funds and \$90,061 in federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) grant funds to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C51200**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**101. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$4,397,366 in federal Title IV-B Subpart 2 Family First Transition Act grant funds to transition to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018 in order to develop and implement supports and services with the goal of preventing children from being removed from their homes and placed into foster care. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal FFPSA Transition Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53015**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**102. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Juvenile Justice Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$241,708 in federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant funds to continue supporting juvenile justice programs through local government agencies and private organizations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Formula Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52774**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**103. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Juvenile Justice Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$36,408 in federal Prison Rape Elimination Act grant funds to draw down funds for Fiscal Year 2020 expenditures. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for the category. **Work Program #C52980**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**104. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$330,743 in Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program grant funds to continue to promote behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pediatric Mental Health Access category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52392**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**105. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$41,714 from the Personnel Services category to the Temporary Contract Staffing category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year in order to maintain sufficient staffing levels in the 24-hour facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Temporary Contract Staffing category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C52986**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**106. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2021**

Addition of \$3,317,620 in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant funds to expand the Nevada System of Care (SOC) for Youth with Serious Emotional Disorders (SED) program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SOC for SED Youth category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53000**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**107. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$121,499 in federal Community Mental Health grant funds transferred from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to align state authority with the current federal Community Mental Health Block Grant application. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53058**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**108. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Victims of Crime - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,709,941 in federal Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) grant funds to assist the victims of the October 2017 Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Festival tragedy. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the AEAP Antiterrorism Assistance category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52849**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**109. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Victims of Crime - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$49,046 from the Department of Administration Cost Allocation category to the Transfer to Child and Family Services category to reimburse the Division of Child and Family Services for administrative costs in supporting the Victims of Crime program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer to Child and Family Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for the category. **Work Program #C52885**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**110. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Employment Security - Special Fund - FY 2021**

Addition of \$947,372 in federal Reed Act funds to reestablish the UI Modernization category to support the Unemployment Insurance system modernization project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the UI Modernization category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53121**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**111. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$4,846,004 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$280,529 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) federal grant funds to continue supporting costs associated with implementing federal enhanced unemployment compensation programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pandemic UI Admin - PUA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52871**

Agenda Items G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-115.

**112. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,499,400 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$285,600 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) federal



grant funds to support the detection and resolution of fraudulent unemployment insurance claims. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Admin - PUA category exceeds \$75,000.

**Work Program #C53322**

Agenda Items G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-115.

**113. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$3,732,546 in federal Families First Act funds, \$11,044 in federal Pandemic First Week Administrative funds, and \$96,410 in Prior Year Refunds to continue to fund ongoing pandemic-related expenditures and normal operating expenses. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Families First Act category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53325**

Agenda Items G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-115.

**114. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$14,899,486 in federal Unemployment Insurance above base grant funding to continue unemployment insurance general operations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53323**

Agenda Items G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-115.

**115. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$2,710,962 in federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) grants to support administrative costs for the weekly LWA supplemental payments. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53324**

Agenda Items G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115 were discussed jointly.

Elisa Cafferata, Director, DETR, said that Agenda Items G-111 and G-112 were federal grant funds that would implement the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) programs. Ms. Cafferata said that Agenda Item G-113 was funding for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which would provide immediate relief and administration of some of the first unemployment funds distributed at the beginning of the pandemic. She explained that Agenda Item G-114 was for above-base grant funding that allowed for DETR to manage the increase in costs for administration

of the regular unemployment insurance (UI) program. Concluding, Ms. Cafferata said Agenda Item G-115 was a request for additional dollars for the administration of the LWA program. She stated that essentially all the work programs provided additional funds to administer the various unemployment programs during the pandemic.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked for an explanation of the current claims backlog and the department's timeline and plan to address those backlogs.

Ms. Cafferata provided some context regarding the backlog of claims. She said that DETR had received over 600,000 initial claims in the regular UI program and over 650,000 initial claims in the PUA program for gig workers or self-employed, totaling over 1.2 million initial claims in Nevada. She noted that the workforce in Nevada was approximately 1.5 million workers. Ms. Cafferata remarked that the average number of weekly claims in 2019 averaged about 18,000 per week compared to the current average of approximately 280,000 claims paid each week.

Ms. Cafferata pointed out that since the "strike force" began in August, DETR had been able to address about 90% of the backlog in the PUA program and almost 90% of the backlog in the regular UI program. She said tens of thousands of applications had been received on a continual basis since the strike force began, which made it difficult to provide headway in the overall backlog. Ms. Cafferata noted that significant progress had been made in addressing the backlog and DETR had tools in place to better handle and resolve the backlog situation more quickly.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno commended DETR staff for the progress made in handling the volume of UI requests during the pandemic. She acknowledged that DETR was utilizing DWSS staff to assist with processing UI claims. Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked if DETR would continue to use DWSS staff after December 30, 2020, once the CARES Act funding ended. If so, she asked how DWSS staff would be compensated after that date.

Ms. Cafferata replied that the approximate 200 staff on loan from the DWSS had made a significant dent in the PUA backlog. She confirmed that the department planned to continue to use DWSS staff into 2021. Ms. Cafferata explained that the work program would allow DETR to add funding to manage the increase in costs for administration. She commented that there was above-base funding and administrative funding for the various programs and a portion of that would fund DETR staff and DWSS staff.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno acknowledged that the UI Trust Fund balance was quickly being depleted. She asked how DETR would address the matter when the funds were exhausted.

Ms. Cafferata reminded the Committee of the agency's goal to sustain the UI Trust Fund balance since those funds were received from employers over the years to offset the cost of regular UI benefits. She said that DETR attempted to have a stable and predictable fund that would be able to handle the state's economic ups and downs. Ms. Cafferata said to DETR's credit, the UI Trust Fund had remained solvent and DETR would attempt to retain that balance.

Ms. Cafferata discussed a law passed in 1944 by the federal government allowing states to borrow money to provide regular UI benefits on an uninterrupted basis. She stated that Nevada would join 22 other states in borrowing money from the federal government so that UI benefits would not be interrupted.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno, Ms. Cafferata said DETR would send a letter to the federal government advising of the loan amount. She added that states typically projected a higher amount to provide a clear idea of how much the state intended to borrow. She commented that the requests were for three months at a time, adding that DETR's current request was for \$100 million in December 2020, \$82 million in January 2021, and \$67 million in February 2021.

Ms. Cafferata advised the Committee that employers continued to pay into the UI Trust Fund, which provided a continual balance of income and expenditures. She said another variable in the trust fund balance was the number of the regular unemployment population who received the federally funded PEUC as opposed to the state-funded UI program.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked if DETR would be obligated to take the full three-month loan if the state received vaccine doses to administer, thereby allowing businesses to reopen and individuals to return to work.

Ms. Cafferata stated that the request was a projection of the maximum funds and the state was not under any obligation to draw down those funds. She said there were some strategic considerations for the state in terms of using COVID-19 relief funds to reimburse the UI Trust Fund. She explained the benefit of using those funds and the financial impact on the state. Ms. Cafferata reiterated that the department was not under any obligation to draw down the federal funds.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked if DETR had plans to bring on additional employees to address the backlog.

Ms. Cafferata said that since many applications were still being received, DETR had reached out to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). The PUCN had staff that could assist the department with appeals. She added that DETR had been in contact with the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV to explore the idea of using externs from the school in the appeals arena.

Ms. Cafferata reported that there had been continued conversations with the DWSS about re-deploying its staff to the highest priority areas. She said that there was also ongoing recruitment at DETR to bring in its own staff because over the long term, DETR would need to continue to function with its own employees.

Ms. Cafferata pointed out that currently the U. S. Department of Labor provided the ability for the department to use non-state employees to supplement staffing. She added that DETR had hired through staffing contracts with MAXIMUS for additional staff to answer phones and process cases. Ms. Cafferata said that flexibility would end on December 31, 2020, unless Congress included a provision in a relief bill. If not, the non-state employees would need to be replaced with state employees. She hoped that flexibility would be extended until the department finished processing the backlog of cases.

Assemblyman Roberts asked for an update on the investigations conducted on unemployment fraud committed in the DETR unemployment system. He asked if any of the wrongfully dispersed funds could be recovered.

Ms. Cafferata reported that several initiatives and technologies had been implemented to address fraud before applications were received and processed. She discussed new technology that required applicants to validate their identity. Ms. Cafferata said several unpaid cases represented individuals who were not legitimate Nevada claimants. She commented that DETR had technical assistance to perform large-scale analyses on patterns of fraudulent claims. Ms. Cafferata added that meetings were held, and information was provided to law enforcement on a regular basis.

Additionally, Ms. Cafferata reported there were national efforts to examine fraudulent activities that were crossing state lines since all states were experiencing a high level of fraud. She said there was a regular process in place to recover funds from individuals who received fraudulent funds, including overpayment notifications, and connecting with law enforcement. She added that sometimes individuals who were paid from the wrong program received overpayment letters.

Ms. Cafferata said that DETR had also partnered with banks to recover funds since their fraud departments could access private account information and stop payments to fraudulent individuals.

She commented that it would take several more months to provide additional in-depth reports and reiterated that fraud activity was an issue in every state in the nation.

Assemblyman Roberts appreciated the information on processes to impede fraudulent activity. He said he looked forward to receiving more in-depth reports.

Chair Carlton asked if the application for the loan had been filed with the federal government.

Ms. Cafferata clarified that the letter advised of the department's intention to begin drawing funds; however, it was not an application. She said the process had been initiated to draw down funds for regular unemployment payments.

Chair Carlton thought it was important to help families and plans could be made to repay the funds.

Senator Ratti asked if a person who had filed for unemployment subsequently received severance pay, if those funds needed to be reported and if that would result in an overpayment that must be returned to DETR.

Ms. Cafferata said that when an individual received any form of severance pay or pay in lieu of notice it was considered payment for those weeks; therefore, unemployment compensation was not necessary. She commented that regular unemployment would then be delayed for those weeks or that amount. Ms. Cafferata confirmed that it was important to declare compensation or it could be considered overpayment.

Continuing, Ms. Cafferata pointed out that S.B. 3 from the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (2020) provided for disregard of the deductible income issues of severance pay and that offset unemployment benefit start dates. She said once S.B. 3 went into effect, severance pay would not delay unemployment benefits to an individual.

Senator Ratti asked if that decision was based on state law or to comply with federal law.

Ms. Cafferata opined that issue was based on a state law brought forth by legislation during the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (2020). She offered to follow up with the Committee and provide additional information.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEMS G-111, G-112, G-113, G-114 and G-115.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**116. Department of Motor Vehicles - Motor Vehicle Pollution Control - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$240,665 from the Reserve category to the City/County Air Quality category to fund the required annual distribution of funds to Clark and Washoe Counties. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the City/County Air Quality category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53176**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**117. Department of Motor Vehicles - License Plate Factory - FY 2021**

Transfer of ~~\$248,067~~ **\$156,071** from the Reserve category *and addition of \$28,183 in Special Plates cost allocation revenue* to the Electronic Dealer Report of Sale Postage category to fund a projected shortfall due to increased postage costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Electronic Dealer Report of Sale Postage category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53420. REVISED 12-4-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**118. Department of Motor Vehicles - Motor Carrier Division - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$326,050 from the Personnel category to the Information Services category to support phase 2 of the new International Registration Plan system project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53327**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**119. Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission - FY 2021**

Addition of \$101,540 in federal Justice Assistance grant funds, through a transfer from the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance Account, to purchase training equipment in support of the agency's use-of-force, body camera, and in-field decision-making training curriculums. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Justice Assistance grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53363**

Mike Sherlock, Executive Director, Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Commission, said the request was for approval of a work program related to Justice Assistance grant funds awarded to POST in the amount of \$101,540. He

advised the grant would be used to purchase advanced training textbooks, body cameras, laptop computers, stress vests, and training handcuffs for the academy. Mr. Sherlock explained that those items were critical to the POST training mission and had not been available through the normal budget process.

Mr. Sherlock said that POST often relied on grants from the Bureau of Justice to assist POST to align with industry standards and changes in training and training needs. He explained that the subgrant was awarded through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) specifically for those items.

Discussion ensued between Chair Carlton and Mr. Sherlock regarding the items that were requested and the budget process. Mr. Sherlock confirmed that none of the requested items were available through the normal budget process. In response to a question from Chair Carlton, Mr. Sherlock said that the requests were made at the Executive Branch level.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno understood the General Fund budget was limited. She supported the use of federal grant funds to bring money into the state. She asked how the grant funds would be used for “use-of-force” and how it would impact the training law enforcement officers currently received.

Mr. Sherlock said the grant was specific to those training items that were part of the application. He explained that Nevada used mandated body cameras and said it was important to start at the basic training level to familiarize the officers with the equipment. Mr. Sherlock said that applied to all aspects of policing and use of force was part of that. He remarked that the review of body camera footage provided an opportunity to assess how an officer reacted and handled certain situations.

Mr. Sherlock said the stress vests provided the agency the ability to increase performance-based and reality-based training. He commented that those tools were used for behavioral calls for service, use-of-force situations and de-escalation. He said the stress vests were designed specifically for that type of training.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno was pleased to hear de-escalation mentioned. She asked if the grant would assist officers during annual trainings to learn different methods of de-escalation in various situations so that they could avoid hands on or deadly force.

Mr. Sherlock said the grant would provide for de-escalation training and mentioned that officers from across the state were trained at the academy. He stated that the items would allow POST to integrate more reality and performance-based training in situations where de-escalation and constitutional use of force would be used, which would reinforce performance-based training.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno mentioned that each department could purchase body cameras from different vendors. She asked if the vendor used for the training equipment would offer compatible equipment that could be used throughout the state.

Mr. Sherlock said it was important to embed the policies in new officers. He gave the example of activating the body camera upon contact. Mr. Sherlock reiterated that although it may not be the exact same piece of equipment, the concept of wearing a body camera was important for officers to learn during training.

Assemblyman Roberts stated that in his experience, body cameras were issued to officers by their agencies, so the equipment belonged to them. He asked if agencies could be required to send their recruits to the academy with their own agency-issued equipment.

Mr. Sherlock said he was uncertain if all the agencies had resources to send body cameras with their new recruits. He added that it was important to have body cameras available for training in Carson City to ensure that all the trainees had equipment.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM G-119.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**120. Department of Corrections - Prison Ranch - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$940,000 from the Retained Earnings category to the Wild Horse Boarding category to cover the projected shortfall and to fund livestock feed expenditures through the remainder of the state fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount being transferred to the Wild Horse Boarding category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53316**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**121. Department of Public Safety - Training Division - FY 2021**

Addition of \$140,186 in federal Justice Assistance grant funds, through a transfer from the Nevada Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, to purchase two portable use-of-force training simulators and fund associated travel for instructors to conduct training sessions 12 times a year at various rural duty stations throughout the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Simulator grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52302**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.



**122. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2021**

Addition of \$79,437 in Western Governors Association grant funds, through a transfer from the Nevada Nuclear Projects Office, to cover the cost of escorting transport vehicles carrying nuclear waste through the State of Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Waste Isolation Pilot Program category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.1. Work Program #C52862**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**123. Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$124,605 in federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Hospital Preparedness Program and Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funds through a transfer from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, to align state and federal authority and provide support services for Nevada's tribal nations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Tribal Support category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53246**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**124. Department of Public Safety - Emergency Management Assistance Grants - FY 2021**

Addition of \$51,410 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program grant authority to continue work on the Nevada Earthquake Hazard Reduction Plan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FEMA EQ Hazard Reduction category exceeds \$30,000 and 10% cumulative for the expenditure category. **Work Program #C53222**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**125. Department of Public Safety - Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History - FY 2021**

Addition of \$37,750 in federal Edward Byrne Justice Assistance grant authority, through a transfer from the Nevada Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, to support Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) related travel and outreach with various Nevada law enforcement agency stakeholders and team members. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Modernization Project category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount to that category. **Work Program #C53166**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**126. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications and Compliance - FY 2021**

Addition of \$120,648 in federal COVID Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF), through a transfer from the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance Account, to purchase eight portable radio consoles with Dell Latitude laptop computers, monitors, VPN connections, transmission foot pedals, Cradlepoint router, docking station, Avaya IP phones with wireless modules with the ability to access to the state's computer-aided dispatch system, JLink, two-way radio police communications, and emergency telephone calls. The mobile radio consoles will be distributed between the state's two communications centers; three in Carson City and five in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance Committee approval since the amount added to the CESF federal grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53335**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**127. Department of Public Safety - Fire Marshal - FY 2021**

Addition of \$132,990 in Plan Review revenue authority to address higher than projected plan review workload. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Contract Plan Review category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53134**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**128. Department of Public Safety - Cigarette Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Support - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$80,853 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to fund a fire prevention campaign, which will include both paid media and social media services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53059**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**129. Department of Public Safety - Highway Safety Plan and Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$4,000,000 in federal Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) funds, through a transfer from the state Office of Traffic Safety, to provide continuation of services to support the Brazos Crash and Citation application. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) HSIP grants category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.130. Work Program #C53300**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**130. Department of Public Safety - Traffic Safety - FY 2021**

Addition of \$3,957,634 in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) funds, transferred from the NDOT FAST Act HSIP, for the continuation of services to support the Brazos application. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NDOT HSIP grant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.129. Work Program #C53299**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**131. Department of Public Safety - Motorcycle Safety Program - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$126,000 from the Reserve category to the Rider Safety category to fund two media campaigns promoting motorcycle safety awareness. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amounts added to the Rider Safety category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53195**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**132. Department of Public Safety - Motorcycle Safety Program - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$40,455 from the Reserve category to the Information Services category to fund additional costs necessary to complete the agency's Student and Instructor Training Records System information technology project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53201**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**133. Department of Public Safety - Justice Assistance Act - FY 2021**

Addition of \$345,681 in federal Support for Adam Walsh Act (SMART) grant funds and \$19,618 in Prison Rape Elimination Act grant funds to align state and federal budget authority and continue pass-through funding to subrecipients for new and ongoing federal projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SMART category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53355**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**134. Department of Public Safety - Justice Assistance Grant Trust Account - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$197,827 in federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant funds to align state and federal budget authority to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on state and local needs and conditions in accordance with guidelines and directives established by the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount reduced from the Justice Assistance grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53381**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**135. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$127,002 from the federal Department of Energy grant funds to provide document import/storage and workflow to customer agencies along with additional modules to expand the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records' electronic content management system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to State Agencies category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEMS G.18 and 39. Work Program #C53225**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**136. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Water Resources - FY 2021**

Addition of \$51,041 in federal National Dam Safety Program grant funds to maintain dam safety projects throughout the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Dam Safety grant category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53066**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**137. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$876,406 in federal Landscape Scale Restoration grant funds to fund projects that conserve working forest landscapes through active and sustainable management and increased public engagement in stewardship activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Landscape Scale Restoration category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53313**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**138. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Conservation Camps - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$341,508 in Forestry Honor Camp Receipts to align with the General Fund appropriation reduction in Assembly Bill 3 from the 2020, 31st Special Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted in the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21FR4198**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**139. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Air Quality - FY 2021**

Addition of \$65,331 in federal State Clean Diesel Grant Program grant funds to fund the State Clean Diesel Grant program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Clean Diesel Grant Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C52707**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**140. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Materials Management and Corrective Action - FY 2021**

Addition of \$92,363 in federal Environmental Protection Agency Multipurpose grant funds to fund a pilot program that provides a safe and proper storage and disposal of elemental mercury and mercury containing products, as well as fund other environmental projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Transfer to State Agencies category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52850**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**141. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Water Quality Planning - FY 2021**

Addition of \$131,378 in federal Department of Energy grant funds transferred from the Environmental Protection Admin Account to develop statewide water quality standards to maintain and protect surface water resources. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the DOE grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52842**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**142. Department of Wildlife - Director's Office - FY 2021**

Addition of \$191,591 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account and transfer of \$5,793 from the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to the Operations category to transfer remaining operational costs from the Data and Technology Services budget account to the Director's Office budget account which was approved during the 2019 Legislative Session and provide additional authority due to higher operating costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operations category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.144. Work Program #C52751**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**143. Department of Wildlife - Director's Office - FY 2021**

Addition of \$72,963 in Sportsmen Revenue fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to complete the design phase for construction of a new roof for the Las Vegas office and fund replacement costs for automated external defibrillators. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53202**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**144. Department of Wildlife - Data and Technology Services - FY 2021**

Deletion of \$103,129 in Sportsmen Revenue and \$2,070 in Application fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to move remaining operating costs from the Data and Technology Services budget account to the Director's Office budget account, which was approved during the 2019 Legislative Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Administration category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM G.142. Work Program #C52886**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**145. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2021**

Addition of \$151,247 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support publication costs of the annual hunting and fishing guides. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Publications category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52826**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**146. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2021**

Addition of \$82,850 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to support a new mobile-friendly website. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Administration category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52903**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**147. Department of Wildlife - Law Enforcement - FY 2021**

Addition of \$87,166 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to fund increased costs of physicals, maintenance and repairs, supplies and equipment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Wildlife Enforcement category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53264**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**148. Department of Wildlife - Law Enforcement - FY 2021**

Addition of \$60,823 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to fund increased costs of gasoline, staff physicals, and contractual obligations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Boating Safety Enforcement category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53376**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**149. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$231,121 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support required maintenance for the agency's two helicopters. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Air Operations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52825**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**150. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$141,971 in Predator fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support predator management activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Predator Management Wildlife Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53209**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**151. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$424,242 in federal Wildlife Restoration W48 grant funds, \$150,000 in federal Wildlife Restoration W24 grant funds, \$91,980 in federal small grant funds, deletion of \$194,542 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account, transfer of \$195,954 from the Big Game category to the Cost Allocations category, \$115,130 from the Mule Deer Research category to the Cost Allocations category, \$33,467 from the Equipment category to the Cost Allocations category, \$30,218 from the Equipment category to the Upland Game category, and \$4,810 from the Furbearer category to the Migratory Bird category to align federal and state budget authority to support restoration efforts of game species. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Cost Allocations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52935**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**152. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$229,713 in federal Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant funds and \$625 in AIS fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support watercraft inspection for decontamination efforts. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the AIS Outreach and Inspection category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53278**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**153. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2021**

Addition of \$405,032 in Trout Stamp fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support drainage and slope stabilization, installation of residential septic systems at the Mason Valley Hatchery and the Gallagher Hatchery and to purchase fish food. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Hatchery Refurbishment category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53390**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**154. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2021**

Addition of \$186,427 in Upland Game Stamp fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support projects for protection and propagation of upland game birds and for acquisition, development and preservation of their habitats. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Upland Game category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C52747**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.



**155. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2021**

Addition of \$472,563 in federal United States Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration grant funds, \$81,241 in federal United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration grant funds, \$178,712 in federal funds from the Department of the Navy and \$221,551 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support ongoing habitat restoration projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Wildlife Management Area System category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53100**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**156. Department of Transportation - Transportation Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$30,000,000 in Highway Fund Authorization and \$10,000,000 in Federal Highway Administration grant funds for road construction and maintenance projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Land and Building Improvements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53393. WITHDRAWN 12-7-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**157. Department of Transportation - Transportation Administration - FY 2021**

Addition of \$24,595,066 in Federal Transit Administration grant funds and \$39,494 in Highway Fund Authorization to support the department's ongoing Transportation/Multimodal Planning programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Administrative Consultants/Other Federal Programs category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53333.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**158. Office of the Military - FY 2021**

Addition of \$1,610,412 in federal Department of Defense funds revenue authority to align state and federal authority to support the ongoing agency activities/functions in the Environmental, Electronic Security, Air Security and Air Fire Protection Programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Environmental Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53187**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**159. Office of the Military - FY 2021**

Addition of ~~\$4,964,402~~ **\$4,961,102** in federal Department of Defense funds to align state and federal budget authority supporting the agency's Army Facilities program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Army Facilities category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53387. REVISED 12-2-20.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**160. Office of the Military - FY 2021**

Addition of \$56,595 in federal Department of Defense funds to align state and federal budget authority in support of the agency's Army National Guard Administrative Services Program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Administrative Services Activities category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53389**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**161. Department of Veterans Services - Southern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2021**

Transfer of \$105,176 from the Reserve category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category, \$408,773 from the Reserve category to the Food Service category, \$525,110 from the Reserve category to the Medical Services category, and \$241,833 from the Reserve category to the Utilities category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Medical Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53259**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

**162. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Immunization Program - FY 2021**

Addition of ~~\$600,000~~ **\$650,000** in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to support an enhanced vaccination media campaign with the focus on reducing respiratory illness strain on Nevada's hospital system during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring as many Nevadans as possible are protected through vaccinations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from CARES Act Relief category exceeds \$75,000. **REVISED 12-7-20. Work Program #C53143. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-30-20.**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163 and S-7a were discussed jointly. See motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

**163. Public Employees Benefit Program - FY 2021**

Addition of \$4,733,632 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 account to reimburse unbudgeted eligible COVID-19 medical claim costs for testing and emergency and non-emergency medical care. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Employee Insurance cost category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53385. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-30-20.**

Agenda Items E-2, F-1, G-45, G-48, G-78, G-162, G-163, S-7a were discussed jointly.

Chair Carlton said Agenda Item E-2 had already been processed; therefore, it was an informational item only. She noted the action items to be discussed were all related to vaccine response funds and other dollars used for coronavirus and immunization programs.

Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief, DPBH, DHHS, testified regarding Agenda Item G-162. She stated that the item was requested to fund Unite Nevada, a nonprofit partner that would conduct a large-scale media campaign consisting of billboards, digital and other media to encourage all Nevadans to get vaccinated. She reported that the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) would use the funds to augment existing federal funding to reach more Nevadans and help reduce respiratory illness and the strain on Nevada's hospital system. Ms. McDaniel commented that the proposed media purchases would be dedicated entirely to a COVID-19 vaccine confidence campaign and remain separate from the current flu media.

Ms. McDaniel reported that the NSIP was requesting to purchase 500 data loggers to be used to properly store and handle vaccines to prevent them from becoming unviable. She added that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) required all enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers to use a 24-hour data logger in any storage unit containing COVID-19 vaccines to keep the vaccine's cold chain intact during transportation.

Ms. McDaniel added data uploads were actively monitored by NSIP staff. She noted it was necessary to procure a large supply of data loggers to encourage and ensure prompt enrollment by providers and to support a broad access to the vaccine.

Testifying on Agenda Item G-78, Ms. McDaniel said the NSIP requested additional authority for special use to implement competitive awards received from the CDC that would improve vaccination coverage among under-vaccinated populations and support the immunization information system learning laboratories, vaccine coverage assessment projects, the Vaccines for Children program, and a flu supplemental.

Regarding Agenda Item E-2, Assemblywoman Titus asked for an explanation of the numbers listed for the purchase of Diphtheria-Tetanus-and Pneumonia vaccines. She also asked for an explanation about how the vaccines would be distributed. Assemblywoman Titus said she had concerns about the shelf life of the vaccines and wondered how many additional vaccines would be purchased. Her last question concerned how many Medicaid enrollees were vaccinated and the percent capture amount.

Shannon Bennett, Program Manager, NSIP, DPBH, DHHS, said the vaccines would be used for uninsured Nevadans to prevent respiratory disease in the hospital systems. She explained the NSIP ensured shelf life by working with partners at the federal level that kept a rotating stock on hand to guarantee that the vaccines provided had the longest shelf life possible. Ms. Bennett reported that the vaccines were shared with many surrounding western states.

Assemblywoman Titus asked if all the vaccines had been used and wondered about the plan to ensure that the uninsured population received the vaccine. She was concerned about the alleged low rate of success. Assemblywoman Titus spoke to the importance of the NSIP's work in vaccinating Nevadans.

Ms. Bennett said funds were available through the federal Section 317 Immunization Program that could be used for uninsured Nevadans. She stated that the funding the NSIP was requesting would supplement additional vaccines. Ms. Bennett reported there was more demand for vaccines than available funding.

Assemblywoman Titus said it was important to know that all the vaccines were being used and that there was a need for more vaccines.

Regarding Agenda Item G-162, Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if there was a timeline for the media campaign specific to the COVID-19 vaccine. She thought it made sense to stream the dollars through Immunize Nevada.

Ms. McDaniel stated that the DPBH supported the vaccination program for the critical care frontline workforce. She said the initial work in December 2020 was tailored to support the health care workforce. Ms. McDaniel mentioned that the efforts to build a foundation would be used as the division moved through the tiers of the framework.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if the campaign would roll out in the spring of 2021 once the first tier was addressed.

Ms. McDaniel said it was important to build confidence in Nevadans. She said the emphasis would be on the health care workforce that had been embedded in the work and would receive the vaccine this week. She said the DPBH would utilize a great deal of that foundational work and feedback from medical providers when

more of the general population was reached in the spring of 2021. She said the focus was to help support the current tier in terms of timelines.

Chair Carlton wondered about measurements of success for dollars spent on the media campaign. She reported that she had received calls from constituents who were confused about the different tiers. Chair Carlton asked when the information would be distributed and who would answer questions for the public.

Ms. Bennett replied that when dealing with a pandemic or similar situation, tracking vaccination numbers was extremely important. She discussed an evaluation technique that was launched providing the NSIP with the ability to evaluate the number of vaccinations given to each priority group population in each tier. Ms. Bennett said the NSIP would have the ability to link the public service announcements and the media platform back to the number of health care workers being vaccinated in Nevada.

Ms. McDaniel added that the DBPH was committed to working with Nevada's health districts and its partners and counties to provide information about the tier process so that the public knew which tier was eligible for the vaccine. She said the health districts and county partners would ensure information would be added either to their websites or a public place announcing the current tier.

Assemblywoman Tolles understood the goal was to promote the availability and importance of the vaccine and to address safety, particularly for target audiences that might be skeptical. She asked how the division would target audiences and what type of media would be used. Assemblywoman Tolles wondered if there would be any resources for town hall meetings or other resources for individuals concerned about safety to alleviate concerns and directly respond to them.

Ms. Bennett confirmed that the confidence in the vaccine by all populations beginning with health care workers was the utmost priority. She commented there were many strategies in place to ensure that health care workers were confident in being vaccinated and that they could be protected against the coronavirus as soon as possible.

Ms. Bennett reported that the NSIP had been developing a frequently asked questions document for all population groups that would be easy to understand. She stated that the NSIP had been in contact with Nevada physicians across the state to have their questions answered. Ms. Bennett said the media platforms would include billboards, social media, radio and television.

Assemblywoman Tolles commented about virtual town hall meetings and frequently asked questions, which she opined were very helpful when communicating with constituents. She wondered if virtual town hall meetings were being considered. Assemblywoman Tolles asked for a definition of "health care worker" and wondered if first responders, hospital staff, general practitioners,

dentists, holistic practitioners, chiropractors, physical therapists, and pediatricians were included in that definition.

Ms. McDaniel stated that the DPBH had partnered with Immunize Nevada and legislators to promote the flu vaccine and it had been very successful. She said the division was very interested in virtual town halls to address concerns with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ms. Bennett responded that the subject of virtual town halls had begun to be addressed. She reported that currently the focus was on physicians to establish their confidence and answer questions. Ms. Bennett commented that physicians must be able to speak confidently to their patients because they were access points for many Nevadans across the state. She said the NSIP would expand on that process as more partners were engaged.

In response to the question from Assemblywoman Tolles about other medical providers included in Tier 1, Ms. Bennett stated that the current focus was to eventually vaccinate health care workers in acute care settings. She said that emphasis would eventually expand to all health care workers. In closing, Ms. Bennett commented on the importance of protecting health care workers who cared for Nevadans and were not able to distance themselves while providing care to others.

Senator Ratti asked how previous resources and responses by the NSIP prior to the pandemic were being connected. She opined that the state may be in an era where the situation could become more common. Senator Ratti asked if the NSIP used Nevada WebIZ to track vaccinations. She acknowledged the use of the Nevada Immunization Coalition and wondered how past vaccination response efforts integrated to the pandemic would strengthen the current system moving forward.

Ms. McDaniel said the DPBH did utilize Nevada WebIZ and noted it was a very robust immunization information system. She stated that all vaccination events, including the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, would be entered into WebIZ as had been done prior to the pandemic.

Ms. Bennett further explained that the entire foundation of the vaccination response was based on the immunization program. She mentioned Nevada WebIZ as an example, as well as the Vaccines for Children program and the federal Section 317 Immunization Program for vulnerable populations. She commented that the NSIP was knowledgeable about distributing and allocating vaccines to Nevadans. In addition, Ms. Bennett stated that knowledge of vaccination distribution and the program's ability to work with local health authorities achieved the foundation for the COVID-19 response.

Responding to Senator Ratti's inquiry regarding whether the system was able to scale to the current level of response, Ms. McDaniel confirmed that was correct.

Senator Brooks acknowledged the efforts of the DBPH to keep Nevadans safe during the pandemic. He understood that Nevada's immunization rates were low; however, he opined it was vital to communicate the importance of the vaccine to prevent an overload on the state's health care system. Senator Brooks asked if the recent federal funding cuts for first responders and health care workers would impede the division's mission.

Ms. McDaniel said that planning began in April and the NSIP was committed to being flexible. She stated that the program would seek the most final and critical information at the federal level. Ms. McDaniel acknowledged there were problems and the NSIP had no control over the federal government; however, she said that allocations could be moved around and the commitment to meet the needs of Nevada's counties would remain intact.

Chair Carlton recognized community partners that assisted families through food banks, food pantries, and community service organizations. She mentioned that Nevada 2-1-1 received many requests for information. Chair Carlton said that trusted public partners would be willing to help convey the importance of getting the vaccine to the public. She asked to be informed how those partners could help distribute the information.

Chair Carlton opened discussion on Agenda Items F-1, G-45, G-48 and S-7a, which concerned GOED's allocation of dollars to small businesses and the impacts on small businesses related to commercial rentals and paycheck protection.

Michael Brown, Director, GOED, discussed two programs launched to assist small businesses, which included a rental assistance program for commercial landlords and small businesses. He said the CRAG program had initially allocated \$20 million and GOED received applications totaling just under \$10 million.

Mr. Brown identified another larger program, the PETS program, which was announced by Governor Sisolak and State Treasurer Conine. The program would aid small businesses, nonprofits, and arts and culture institutions. He said GOED also reached out to behavioral support agencies and therapists as requested by the IFC. Mr. Brown added that a provision was included for chambers of commerce. Chambers of commerce had been allies in providing information to small and micro-sized businesses. He reported that more than 60% of Nevada's businesses had less than four employees and noted the importance of the CRAG and PETS programs to Nevada's small businesses.

Mr. Brown said initially PETS was made available for \$20 million and that the program was almost immediately subscribed to. He commented that part of the PETS program included a reallocation of \$10 million from the CRAG program to

help supplement the program. Mr. Brown stated that the Office of the Governor indicated there was another \$11 million available, which would be discussed by the IFC today.

State Treasurer Zach Conine welcomed the opportunity to testify on behalf of the CRAG and PETS programs that assisted small businesses. He thanked all the program partners. Treasurer Conine talked about the hands-on process and discussed the application approval process that included a technical review through vendors and a final decision made by either Mr. Brown or himself. He thanked Governor Sisolak, whom he explained made calls to some businesses that were eligible for funding. Treasurer Conine commented that the big takeaway from the grant programs was that both the Office of the Governor and Office of the State Treasurer worked together to ensure the effectiveness in distributing funds as efficiently as possible. In closing, he stated that just over \$39 million of the \$40 million had been allocated. In addition, the PETS program would be fully subscribed to through the approval of the additional \$10 million.

Senator Cancela asked how many small businesses had benefited from the programs. She also requested a geographical breakdown.

Treasurer Conine responded that each business received approximately \$10,000. He said that chambers of commerce were eligible to receive \$20,000 and arts and culture organizations could receive up to \$20,000. Treasurer Conine reported that, to date, the \$40 million allocated had been distributed to 3,486 applicants separated into priority categories. He said geographically the grants distribution was based on population, so most of the grants had been allocated in Southern Nevada and many to Washoe County. Treasurer Conine said most of the counties had received assistance except for Lander County because GOED had not yet received an application from that county.

Senator Cancela followed up with an inquiry regarding the number of businesses that applied but were denied because funds were not available.

Treasurer Conine answered there were a little over \$100 million in unfunded requests, which represented about 9,000 businesses. He stated if the Committee approved the \$10 million request, that figure would be reduced to about \$90 million.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson recognized efforts made by GOED and the Office of the State Treasurer to provide information to the Committee, which she opined confirmed that the neediest, most deserving and legitimate businesses in Nevada were being awarded monies from the CRAG and PETS programs. Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said she appreciated the information provided in the report on the progress of the CRAG program and added that the report provided a clear picture of the number of women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and disability-owned



businesses, along with the approval rate and number of full-time employees for each small business that had applied for the CRAG funds.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson regarding Agenda Item F-1, Treasurer Conine replied that funds would total \$51.6 million after the reallocation of monies from the CRAG program into the PETS program.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if small businesses that had received funds from the CRAG program would be eligible to apply for assistance through the PETS program.

Treasurer Conine explained that the PETS program was designed to be flexible to meet the needs of Nevada's businesses. He confirmed that businesses could apply for assistance from both programs. Treasurer Conine said that his office worked with businesses so that the Treasury guidelines would be adhered to and added that not many businesses had applied for funds through both programs.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said she looked forward to having more information on the successes of the CRAG and PETS programs in the future.

Senator Settlemeyer asked for a list of businesses by location, including a breakdown of the types of businesses that were awarded PETS funding.

Treasurer Conine said a report would be provided at the end of the program with information that would include: the types of businesses; the type of assistance needed; geographical location of the businesses; and the extent of assistance received by the businesses. He commented that some fraud had been reported at the federal level and that it was important that any information released would not put Nevada's small businesses at risk.

Senator Settlemeyer asked when that information would be provided to the Committee.

Treasurer Conine stated although December 30, 2020, was the deadline to allocate funds, the Treasury guidance provided some flexibility on the completion of paperwork and payment to employees. He said that he expected the report would be provided to the Committee by the end of January 2021.

Chair Carlton commented that the IFC would be interested in having more information provided at its upcoming January 2021 meeting with final numbers made available during the 2021 Legislative Session. She asked about the changes made to the priority list for funding.

Treasurer Conine pointed out that many businesses such as chambers of commerce fell into multiple categories; therefore, those businesses were placed in the most logical category. He said that the initial focus was on disadvantaged businesses followed by nonprofits, chambers of commerce and others. Treasurer Conine reiterated the amount of overlap between categories.

Chair Carlton said that businesses needed to be aware of the multiple ways to access the funding. She pointed out that although it appeared that chambers of commerce, arts and cultural organizations and nonprofit organizations were not as heavily impacted as other types of businesses, some of them were open and functioning with limited capabilities to fundraise and generate income. Chair Carlton said that the pandemic affected many types of businesses. She appreciated the efforts made to address each business individually and utilize various funding streams to meet the needs of all Nevada businesses.

Treasurer Conine commented that the arts and cultural organizations, nonprofits and chambers of commerce were excluded from many of the federal programs and some of the county programs. He said that the PETS program was used to fill some of the gaps in funding offered specifically to chambers of commerce, arts and cultural organizations, and nonprofit businesses.

Assemblywoman Titus asked if the report to be provided to the IFC would include the number of businesses that were awarded the \$10,000 grant funding but were not able to reopen. She asked how many businesses that applied for grant funding were not approved. Assemblywoman Titus opined that many businesses in the State of Nevada had not survived the pandemic.

Chair Carlton said the Committee would develop a list of requested items for the report and ask for the results to be provided to the Committee.

Treasurer Conine said he was not aware of any businesses that were awarded PETS funds that were not going to be able to reopen. He stated that hundreds of businesses reported the funds had made the difference between the ability to stay open or closed.

Mr. Brown recognized the importance of PETS funding to Nevada businesses. He talked about an interview with a federal reserve economist he heard on National Public Radio. The economist said that the most important thing for the government was to fund small businesses to keep them afloat over the next few months.

Senator Goicoechea remarked on the distribution of funds to Nevada's rural counties. He opined that very few businesses in the rural counties received grant funding from the state. Senator Goicoechea said there were many disgruntled small businesses in rural Nevada that did not receive funding due to late application filings. He commented that numerous small businesses in rural

Nevada counties were closing. Senator Goicoechea talked about how difficult it was for new businesses to open in rural areas. He hoped that some of the additional funding would be allocated to businesses in rural Nevada.

Chair Carlton asked for more information and an update on the status of the Labor Certification Report and Workforce Matching Skills Program.

Leannandra Diosa, Director of Administration, GOED, explained that the Labor Supply Study (LSS) would determine the number of workers available for employers in Nevada that were considering expansion or major investments. She added that the study would ensure that the skills utilization rate and occupational opportunities of Nevada's workforce would develop better policies and strategies for job creation and rapid employment of workers displaced by the pandemic. Ms. Diosa commented that the software development for the Skills Match Program (SMP) was progressing as expected. She said that both the LSS and the SMP would be completed by the end of December 2020.

Mr. Brown added that chambers of commerce and trade association leaders were instrumental in persuading companies to complete the LSS survey.

In response to Chair Carlton's inquiry regarding how survey information would be used to respond to Nevada's workforce during the pandemic, Mr. Brown said GOED would provide an updated report at the next IFC meeting and update LCB staff on an ongoing basis as needed.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked which organizations were conducting the economic impact studies for behavioral health and broadband.

Ms. Diosa reported that the Behavioral Health Care Delivery System Study was being conducted by the Guinn Center. She said the Broadband Study was completed by Mighty River, LLC, and a draft report was available. Ms. Diosa added that the Supply Chain Infrastructure Study was being performed by RCGeconomics; the Workforce and Displaced Workers Study, by the Guinn Center; and the Infrastructure Based Study by the Strategic Infrastructure Performance Institute.

Chair Carlton called for testimony on Agenda Item G-163.

Laura Rich, Executive Officer, PEBP, explained that PEBP's request for approximately \$5.2 million in CRFs was to reimburse for COVID-19 related claims costs for testing and related services.

Senator Brooks asked about the additional funds spent on coronavirus response for Nevadans and the total amount of impact to the PEBP system due to the coronavirus medical response.

Ms. Rich explained that the amended amount was requested due to a lag in claims. She clarified that originally PEBP had reported on coronavirus costs or expenditures for paid claims. Ms. Rich said that the time to process claims created a lag and that claims occurring today would not be processed until next year, with the bulk of them processed in February or March 2021. She stated that the amended figure reflected costs that were incurred but had not been paid. Ms. Rich said there was no cost for the COVID-19 vaccines; however, PEBP was responsible for administrative fees for flu shots and other vaccines, which would continue to impact the program.

Senator Brooks commented on the tremendous magnitude of the expenses and the length of time the expenses were expected to continue.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson understood that hospitals were being reimbursed by the federal government for COVID-19 related treatment and care. She wondered why the claims were being sent to PEBP.

Ms. Rich explained that COVID-19 related claims were billed by the provider to PEBP insurance plans. She said providers had one year to submit claims to PEBP and claims were covered 100%.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked if the process was specific to PEBP or used by all insurance plans.

Ms. Rich replied that earlier in 2020, Governor Sisolak signed an emergency regulation that required all insurance companies regulated by the B&I, Division of Insurance, to cover 100% of COVID-19 related testing and services. She added that subsequently, the PEBP Board approved 100% reimbursement for claims related to testing and services for COVID-19.

Chair Carlton commented on changes in the state budget and future discussions regarding PEBP.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-45, G-48, G-78, G-93, G-94, G-97, G-162, G-163 (AS REVISED) AND CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS WORK PROGRAMS 1, 2, 3, 4 (AS REVISED) 5 THROUGH 67, 69 THROUGH 83, 85 AND 86.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Kieckhefer commented that he would support the motion because the deadline to use the funding was near and he did not want any funding returned to the federal government. He said he was concerned about using dollars to shore up the General Fund ending balance and opined the money could be put to better use to assist constituents during the pandemic.

Chair Carlton believed the funding had been allocated fairly across the state and that all agencies involved had done an excellent job mitigating the effects of the pandemic in Nevada.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## RECLASSIFICATION

AGENCY	AGENCY/ ACCOUNT NUMBER	POSITION NUMBER	PRESENT CLASS, CODE, GRADE & SALARY	PROPOSED CLASS, CODE, GRADE & SALARY
Department of Motor Vehicles	810/4744	CC5495	DMV Services Technician 2 Code: 11.425 Grade:25/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$33,971.76	Administrative Assistant 2 Code:2.212 Grade: 25/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$33,971.76

## CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS – FY 2021

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G-163.

#	FY	WP #	Division	BA	Budget Account Description
1.	2021	21CRF1000	010	1000	Office of the Governor
2.	2021	21CRF1340	015	1340	Office of the Governor – Governor's Finance Office – Budget Division
3.	2021	21CA1002	030	1002	Office of the Attorney General – Extradition Coordinator
4.	2021	21CA1030	030	1030	Office of the Attorney General – Administrative Budget Account <b>REVISED 12-14-20</b>
5.	2021	21CA1050	040	1050	Office of the Secretary of State
6.	2021	21CA1082	050	1082	Office of the Treasurer – Bond Interest and Redemption. <b>REVISED 11-20-20</b>
7.	2021	21CFR1130	060	1130	Office of the State Controller
8.	2021	21CRF1387	180	1387	Administration – EITS – Telecommunications
9.	2021	21CA1341	088	1341	Administration – Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management
10.	2021	21CRF1015	089	1015	Administration – Hearings and Appeals
11.	2021	21CRF2361	130	2361	Taxation
12.	2021	21CA2615	300	2615	NDE – School Remediation Trust Fund. <b>REVISED 11-24-20</b>
13.	2021	21CRF2720	300	2720	NDE – Support Services
14.	2021	21CRF4061	611	4061	Gaming Control Board. <b>REVISED 12-2-20</b>
15.	2021	21CRF3813	741	3813	B&I – Insurance Division – Insurance Regulation
16.	2021	21CRF4680	742	4680	B&I – Division of Industrial Relations
17.	2021	21CRF3823	748	3823	B&I – Real Estate – Administration
18.	2021	21CRF3922	751	3922	B&I – Nevada Transportation Services Authority
19.	2021	21CRF3900	752	3900	B&I – Labor Commission
20.	2021	21CRF1013	753	1013	B&I – Attorney for Injured Workers
21.	2021	21CRF3835	755	3835	B&I – Division of Financial Institutions
22.	2021	21CRF3150	400	3150	HHS – Director's Office – Administration
23.	2021	21CRF3266	402	3266	HHS - ADSD – Home and Community-Based Services

24.	2021	21CRF3279	402	3279	HHS – ADSD – Desert Regional Center. <b>REVISED 12-2-20</b>
25.	2021	21CRF3216	406	3216	HHS – DPBH – Health Care Facilities Regulation
26.	2021	21CRF3219	406	3219	HHS – DPBH – Biostatistics and Epidemiology
27.	2021	21CRF3223	406	3223	HHS – DPBH – Office of Health Administration
28.	2021	21CRF3224	406	3224	HHS – DPBH – Community Health Services
29.	2021	21CRF3162B	406	3162	HHS – DPBH – Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
30.	2021	21CRF3161	406	3161	HHS – DPBH – Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
31.	2021	21CRF3645	406	3645	HHS – DPBH – Facility for the Mental Offender
32.	2021	21CRF3645B	406	3645	HHS – DPBH – Facility for the Mental Offender
33.	2021	21CRF3233	407	3233	HHS – DWSS – Welfare Field Services
34.	2021	21CRF1383	409	1383	HHS – DCFS – Juvenile Justice Services
35.	2021	21CRF3148	409	3148	HHS – DCFS – Summit View Youth Center
36.	2021	21CRF3179	409	3179	HHS – DCFS – Caliente Youth Center
37.	2021	21CRF3259	409	3259	HHS – DCFS – Nevada Youth Training Center
38.	2021	21CRF3281	409	3281	HHS – DCFS – Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services
39.	2021	21CRF3646	409	3646	HHS – DCFS – Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services
40.	2021	21CA4772	902	4772	DETR – Unemployment Insurance
41.	2021	21CRF3710	440	3710	NDOC – Director's Office
42.	2021	21CRF3706	440	3706	NDOC – Prison Medical Care <b>REVISED 12-7-20</b>
43.	2021	21CRF3711	440	3711	NDOC – Correctional Programs
44.	2021	21CRF3751	440	3751	NDOC – Ely State Prison
45.	2021	21CRF3762	440	3762	NDOC – High Desert State Prison
46.	2021	21CRF3717	440	3717	NDOC – Northern Nevada Correctional Center
47.	2021	21CRF3738	440	3738	NDOC – Southern Desert Correctional Center
48.	2021	21CRF3759	440	3759	NDOC – Lovelock Correctional Center
49.	2021	21CRF3716	440	3716	NDOC – Warm Springs Correctional Center
50.	2021	21CRF3761	440	3761	NDOC – Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center
51.	2021	21CRF3760	440	3760	NDOC – Casa Grande Transitional Housing

52.	2021	21CRF3724	440	3724	NDOC – Northern Nevada Transitional Housing
53.	2021	21CRF3722	440	3722	NDOC – Stewart Conservation Camp
54.	2021	21CRF3723	440	3723	NDOC – Pioche Conservation Camp
55.	2021	21CRF3725	440	3725	NDOC – Three Lakes Valley Conservation Camp
56.	2021	21CRF3739	440	3739	NDOC – Wells Conservation Camp
57.	2021	21CRF3741	440	3741	NDOC – Humboldt Conservation Camp
58.	2021	21CRF3747	440	3747	NDOC – Ely Conservation Camp
59.	2021	21CRF3748	440	3748	NDOC – Jean Conservation Camp
60.	2021	21CRF3752	440	3752	NDOC – Carlin Conservation Camp
61.	2021	21CRF3754	440	3754	NDOC – Tonopah Conservation Camp
62.	2021	C52270	440	3708	NDOC – Offenders' Store Fund
63.	2021	21CRF4744	810	4744	DMV – Director's Office <b>REVISED 12-4-20</b>
64.	2021	21CRF4732	810	4732	DMV – Hearings
65.	2021	21CRF4715	810	4715	DMV – Automation
66.	2021	21CRF4745	810	4745	DMV – Administrative Services Division
67.	2021	21CRF4740	810	4740	DMV – Compliance Enforcement
68.	2021	21CRF4722	810	4722	DMV – Motor Vehicle Pollution Control <b>WITHDRAWN 12-4-20</b>
69.	2021	21CRF4741	810	4741	DMV – Central Services
70.	2021	21CRF4731	810	4731	DMV – Verification of Insurance <b>REVISED 12-2-20</b>
71.	2021	21CRF4735	810	4735	DMV – Field Services
72.	2021	21CRF4717	810	4717	DMV – Motor Carrier Division
73.	2021	21CRF4742	810	4742	DMV – Division of Management Services and Programs
74.	2021	21CRF2021	650	4706	DPS – Director's Office
75.	2021	21CRF4713	651	4713	DPS – Nevada Highway Patrol
76.	2021	21CRF3740	652	3740	DPS – Parole and Probation
77.	2021	21CRF4162	704	4162	DCNR – Division of State Parks
78.	2021	21CRF4195	706	4195	DCNR – Division of Forestry – Administration
79.	2021	21CRF4198	706	4198	DCNR – Division of Forestry – Conservation Camps



80.	2021	21CRF4460	702	4460	Wildlife – Director’s Office
81.	2021	21CRF4461	702	4461	Wildlife – Data and Technology Services
82.	2021	21CA4660	800	4660	NDOT – Transportation Administration
83.	2021	21CA2561	240	2561	NDVS – Southern Nevada Veterans’ Home
84.	2021	21FR2600	101	2600	DTCA – Tourism – Indian Commission – <b>WITHDRAWN 11-23-20.</b>
85.	2021	21CA2711	315	2711	State Public Charter School Authority <b>Received after submittal deadline, 11-30-20.</b>
86.	2021	21CRF3216B	101	3216	HHS – DPBH – Health Care Facilities Regulation <b>Received after submittal deadline, 12-08-20.</b>

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, identified the following items for further discussion: Work Program Items 1 through 67, 69 through 83, 85 and 86, from the Coronavirus Relief Funds – FY 2021 table.

Ms. Coffman noted that Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRFs) Work Programs 68 and 84 had been withdrawn.

Ms. Coffman reported that CRF Work Program 4 was revised to adjust the transfer of CRFs from \$579,568 to \$673,469.

Chair Carlton noted that Governor Sisolak had recommended approximately \$210 million in CRF reimbursements. She said the Coronavirus Relief Fund – FY 2021 table provided a breakdown of the distribution of funds.

Susan Brown, Director, GFO, said that many of the work program reimbursements went to state agencies for teleworking, personal protective equipment (PPE), and social distancing efforts. She added that the CRFs would allow state employees to safely return to work to perform vital job functions and create effective use of telework for offices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Ms. Brown said the request included items such as physical barriers, face coverings, gloves, additional cleanings in state buildings and deep cleanings where COVID-19 cases had occurred in state agencies. She stated that the requests also included reimbursements for state positions and contracts deemed to be reimbursable through guidance by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury).

Ms. Brown reported that correctional officers were added in September 2019. She said the requests also included administrative leave that had been discussed during the October 22, 2020, IFC meeting. Ms. Brown pointed out four brackets of administrative leave: quarantine confirmed for probable cause; office closures due to high-risk employees unable to work; employees unable to work because they had to care for a sick family member; and employees who could not work because of child care and school closures.

Ms. Brown stated that all the work programs combined totaled about \$207 million, including \$176 million in state agency reimbursements. In closing, she said that just under \$6 million in work programs had been approved at the October 22, 2020, IFC meeting. Ms. Brown added that initially there were approximately \$5.4 million in approved work programs that did not meet the IFC threshold.

Chair Carlton asked Assemblyman Frierson to begin with questions since he chaired the Nevada Legislature's Interim Finance Committee's Subcommittee to Review and Advise on Coronavirus Federal Aid.

Assemblyman Frierson asked for assurance that all the CRFs would be allocated by the deadline of December 30, 2020. He was concerned that Nevada would be required to return funds to the federal government.

Ms. Brown replied that the intent was to have all the funds allocated by the deadline.

Assemblyman Frierson asked for clarification on the plans to allocate the \$41.7 million in uncommitted funds.

Ms. Brown introduced Lesley Mohlenkamp, Coronavirus Relief Fund Coordinator, GFO, and asked her to address the question.

Lesley Mohlenkamp, Coronavirus Relief Fund Coordinator, GFO, explained that the \$41.7 million did not include amounts recorded or collected on previous items. She said that \$41 million in CRFs had been approved between July and September 2020, and \$5.9 million in CRFs were funded at the October 22, 2020, IFC meeting. Ms. Mohlenkamp stated there were approximately \$5.3 million in non-IFC work programs related to the CRF. She reported that \$230 million was for state agency reimbursements with \$17 million left in remaining funds. Ms. Mohlenkamp assured the Committee that no funds would be left unspent.

Assemblyman Frierson requested that LCB Fiscal Division staff work with the GFO to resolve the discrepancy between the \$41.7 million and \$17 million figures. He asked if any of the residual would be repurposed for DETR. Assemblyman Frierson mentioned the Legislature stated that any leftover CRFs would be allotted to DETR.

Ms. Mohlenkamp said that available funds would be prioritized to areas where Nevadans needed immediate assistance. She commented that funding would be allocated to finance immediate response to address issues with the surge in coronavirus cases and the economic crisis. Ms. Mohlenkamp stated that the GFO would direct any remaining funding to those immediate and direct needs.

Assemblyman Frierson stressed the importance of being flexible. He said that the numbers and circumstances changed every day. Assemblyman Frierson pointed out that three weeks ago not many people were confident that a vaccine would be available. He commented at the very least it sounded like there were some solid options in place.

In response to Chair Carlton, Ms. Coffman affirmed the receipt of a document from the GFO providing an estimate of \$17 million at the end of FY 2020 that included an estimate of \$235 million pending approval by the IFC. She said that Fiscal Division calculations showed that the estimate presented for the current IFC meeting was \$210.9 million and that was inclusive of the revisions identified at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Coffman opined that the \$235 million estimate provided by the GFO was an estimate as opposed to the actual dollars being requested. She added that the additional dollars may also be provided as cleanup for the CRF program at the January 27, 2021, IFC meeting.

Chair Carlton asked about dispersion of funding that did not come to IFC for approval. She asked where the funds had been distributed and allocated.

Ms. Mohlenkamp clarified that the smaller dollar amounts that did not come before the IFC were for the same eligible items used for the CRFs such as PPE, teleworking and sanitation equipment requests.

Chair Carlton asked Ms. Mohlenkamp to advise Fiscal staff of the amount of funds being distributed to the NSHE that did not have to come through the IFC. She said the Committee should be aware of the amount going to NSHE to provide a total understanding of distribution.

Assemblywoman Tolles agreed with Assemblyman Frierson that the remaining \$17.0 million in CRFs should go to DETR. She was grateful for the explanation of how the CRFs were being utilized to keep staff safe and help with child care during school closures. Assemblywoman Tolles said she understood that \$32.9 million was reserved for reversion to the Highway Fund and wondered if that would be used for the same personnel costs. She asked for a better explanation of how that fit into the CRFs.

In response, Felicia Denney, Assistant Director, Administrative Services, NDOT, stated that NDOT was seeking the same types of reimbursements for teleworking and PPE, along with associated COVID-19 administrative leave.

Ms. Mohlenkamp said that when the GFO looked to reimburse for eligible CRFs, it considered eligibility. She noted that oftentimes a reimbursement would come back to a different fund. Ms. Mohlenkamp noted that in this case, the reimbursed costs were going back to the original funding source.

Ms. Brown stated that a large portion of the CRFs for the Highway Fund was earmarked for Highway Patrol salaries and those were fully reimbursable titles.

Assemblywoman Tolles remarked that it was a large percentage. She said it made sense if it included all those different facets.

Senator Kieckhefer understood that the reimbursement amount for the NDOC salaries was between \$75 million and \$80 million.

Ms. Mohlenkamp affirmed that the fully reimbursable salaries totaled \$81.6 million. She said that amount may include salaries for medical personnel at the NDOC.

Senator Kieckhefer commented that those were all positions that the IFC had budgeted for and funded with General Funds.

In response to Senator Kieckhefer's question asking if the General Funds were being set aside for reversion and would be balanced forward as an ending fund balance for the fiscal year, Ms. Brown said that was correct.

Senator Kieckhefer asked if there had been any consideration given to using the CRFs to help Nevadans who were struggling. He noted there were still businesses seeking grants and people facing eviction. Senator Kieckhefer opined that the salaries and contracts worth \$167 million were being used to shore up the budget. He wondered if there had been consideration for using the funds for a different purpose.

Ms. Mohlenkamp stated that the NDOC salaries were part of what the Treasury considered public safety titles. She noted that the Treasury provided guidance regarding public safety and public health positions. Ms. Mohlenkamp added those positions were essentially on the frontlines mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic. She said correctional staff were considered public safety positions; they were essential staff who could not work from home. Ms. Mohlenkamp added those positions were directly involved and fully at risk during the pandemic. She said the Treasury intended to give an allowance to supplement these types of salaries; therefore, the GFO considered it aligned with the Treasury guidelines.

Senator Kieckhefer noted concerns about using CRFs to bolster the state's ending fund balance and whether that was the best use of the funds. He believed the funds could be used to help Nevadans who were without food, at risk of losing their home, and/or unemployed. Senator Kieckhefer stated that he did not want to give any funds back to the federal government at the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Brown noted that the state had made large budget cuts, approximately \$1 million, for FY 2020 and FY 2021. She reported that Nevada's counties were allotted CRFs to support their needs related to responding and mitigating COVID-19. Ms. Brown opined that putting some money back into the state to help bolster the budget during the current fiscal crisis seemed prudent and would help when making additional cuts in the future. She said the GFO had requested state agencies reduce their budgets by 12% for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Assemblyman Roberts asked for clarification regarding the \$81 million for NDOC salaries. He asked for a breakdown of the amount used for overtime to offset absences.

Ms. Mohlenkamp said the GFO had separated out overtime. She stated that about 5% of the overall payroll claims were for COVID-19 administrative leave, which encompassed sick leave, quarantine and child care issues. Ms. Mohlenkamp reported about 6% of the claims were for anyone who had to displace their regular duties to respond to the crisis.

She added that 74% of the overall payroll was for fully reimbursable salaries, the frontline public safety and public health professionals. She said that approximately 6% of the entire payroll claim was for overtime costs.

Ms. Mohlenkamp commented that the GFO clarified to state agencies that eligible overtime must be directly related to responding or mitigating the COVID-19 crisis and would need to be justified. She reiterated there must be a direct link confirming the overtime was required due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Ms. Mohlenkamp said the overtime associated with public health and public safety officials directly related to the Treasury guidelines because the correctional officers had dedicated their time to mitigating the public health emergency.

Senator Brooks asked if the 11% in claims was COVID-19 driven and if the remainder was for salaries.

Ms. Mohlenkamp responded that overtime accounted for 6% of payroll reimbursements being claimed. She said 74% would be fully reimbursable for salaries of frontline public health and public safety employees.

Senator Brooks noted that \$500,000 was allocated to Ely Conservation Camp. He understood the facility was currently closed and asked for an explanation of the expenditure.

Ms. Mohlenkamp said that the information and claims were from the period of July through October 2020 and figures from that time period were used for the projections. She noted that the expenditures occurred during the time period of July through October 2020.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson believed it would be inaccurate if the impression was left that dollars were used to support state employee salaries over supporting rental needs, housing, or food programs. She stated that the IFC had voted on various funding including \$30 million for commercial rental assistance, and \$20 million, in addition to what was pulled from settlement funds, for residential rental assistance plus allocations for food programs.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson did not want an impression made that the IFC was funding one need over another. She opined that funds were being allotted quickly and appropriately to meet many needs and that funds were not being taken from one group to give to another. Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said the IFC would discuss the progress of commercial rental assistance and other programs and the efforts by different offices to distribute those funds.

Chair Carlton thanked Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson for the clarification. She said there were many different groups impacted and several different issues were addressed. Chair Carlton stated that the use of CRFs for public safety and public health was integral in ensuring that the state survived the pandemic.

#### **H. STATEMENT OF DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT BALANCE.**

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, said that the available unrestricted balance for the Disaster Relief Account was \$6,181,185. There was one request from the Disaster Relief Account for \$535,853. Upon approval of that request, the balance of the account would be \$5,645,332.

#### **I. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A GRANT FROM THE DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO NRS 353.2705 TO 353.2771.** (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for a grant than the amount requested). **Department of Public Safety – Division of Emergency Management** – Request for approval of a grant of \$535,853 from the Disaster Relief Account to cover the state's portion of the anticipated expenditures of the COVID-19 Disease Outbreak Management Sustainment Plan. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM P.3.**

Agenda Item I and Agenda Item P-3 were discussed jointly. Refer to Agenda Item P-3 for discussion and motion for approval.

#### **J. STATEMENT OF CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BALANCE.**

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, said the IFC Contingency Account contained unrestricted and restricted funds. She reported the unrestricted General Fund had a balance of approximately \$10.2 million, with two requests before the Committee totaling approximately \$3 million. Upon approval of those items, the balance of the unrestricted contingency account would be approximately \$7.2 million.

Ms. Coffman reported that there were no requests from the unrestricted Highway Fund, which had a current balance of approximately \$1.6 million. The restricted IFC Contingency Account had a balance of \$14.7 million. There were two requests before the Committee totaling \$829,552. Upon approval of those requests, the balance of the restricted IFC Contingency Account would be approximately \$13.9 million.

#### **K. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO NRS 353.268** (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested.)

1. Office of the Governor – Governor's Finance Office – Stale Claims Account – Request for an allocation of \$500,000 to replenish the Stale Claims Account created by NRS 353.097.

Chair Carlton stated that the GFO, was requesting an allocation of \$500,000 to replenish the Stale Claims Account. She said it was not necessary to have a presentation on the item.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM K-1.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Division of Forestry – Request for an allocation of \$2,463,625 to cover emergency response expenses within the Forest Fire Suppression budget account.

Agenda Item K-2 and Agenda Item L were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item L.

- L. REQUESTS FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 543, SECTION 75 (2019 Legislature)** (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested.) **State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Division of Forestry** – Request for an allocation of \$728,492 for expenses incurred in the suppression of fires or response to emergencies charged to the Forest Fire Suppression budget account.

Agenda Item K-2 and Agenda Item L were discussed jointly.

Chair Carlton said Agenda Item K-2 was a request by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), for an allocation of \$2,463,625 to cover emergency response expenses within the Forest Fire Suppression budget account. Agenda Item L was a request for an allocation from the IFC Contingency Account pursuant to Section 75 of A.B. 543 (2019) by the NDF for \$728,492 for expenses incurred in the suppression of fires or response to emergencies charged to the Forest Fire Suppression budget.

Chair Carlton noted that these matters had been discussed and processed during the 2019-2020 Interim.

Assemblywoman Titus said she was concerned about a bill received from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District on November 18, 2020, for an incident that occurred in August 2017. She acknowledged that the NDF had made efforts to update its billing system and receivables to avoid receiving bills so late. Assemblywoman Titus asked if there was a “stop date” for accepting bills and why there was such a delay in this billing.

Kacey KC, State Forester Fire warden, NDF, DCNR, said the division did not have a stop date for accepting bills. She commented that the bill may have been tied to a Fire Management Assistance Grants incident, funded from the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ms. KC said most of the projections were built into the cost spreadsheet. She reported that the division was aware of account receivables, and it attempted to pressure other federal and local government agencies to submit their bills for timely reimbursement. Ms. KC offered to look at the bill in question and report back to the Committee.

Assemblywoman Titus commented on the due diligence for billing. She was concerned that the division had no stop date process in place.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA  
ITEMS K-2 AND L.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- M. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 501, SECTION 1 (2019 Legislature)** (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested). **Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation** – Request for an allocation of \$101,060 for relocation planning and site selection expenses for the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Brian McAnallen, Board of Trustees, Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation (NTSHF), thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present the \$101,060 allocation. He said the NTSHF had received a major contribution in the fall of 2020 and hoped to match it before the end of the year.

Mr. McAnallen reported that anticipated expenses in January 2021 included a geotechnical groundwater study, as well as boring and soil testing to ensure that work could proceed with the site at Symphony Park. He discussed the progress made on the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) with the City of Las Vegas. Mr. McAnallen commented that the city had extended the ENA until the end of November 2020. He indicated that the NTSHF would gather the necessary information and move forward in a developed agreement with the City of Las Vegas.

Mr. McAnallen commented that the matching dollars would help to facilitate the project in January and February 2021. He reported that a significant amount of interior and exterior design work had been completed over the last several months by some well-known architects.



ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM M.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**N. REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF LEASES OF STATE LAND PURSUANT TO NRS 322.007 – State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Division of State Lands.**

1. Request for approval, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, to issue a lease to the College of Southern Nevada for property used as a daycare facility.
2. Request for approval, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, to issue a lease to Washoe County for property used as a vulnerable-populations housing and support facility.

Chair Carlton noted that Agenda Item N-1 was a request on behalf of the DHHS to issue a lease to the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) for property used as a day care facility. She explained that Item N-2 was a request for approval on behalf of the DHHS to issue a lease to Washoe County for property used as a vulnerable population's housing and support facility.

Charlie Donohue, Administrator, Division of State Lands, DCNR, said since 2015, the CSN had leased and operated a child care facility on its Southern Nevada campus. He added that the new lease would continue to authorize the operation for a five-year period through June 2025.

Mr. Donohue said that the facilities were located on College Drive on approximately three-quarters of an acre. He reported that the monthly consideration established by the appraisal was about \$1,760 per month. Mr. Donohue said that the funds would be deposited into the State General Fund and the lease had been approved at the November BOE meeting.

Moving on to Agenda Item N-2, Mr. Donahue explained that the Northern Nevada lease was for the DHHS northern campus in Sparks. He said that the parties had forged a unique relationship to rehabilitate several state assets on the campus and deliver programs for homeless women and families in the region.

Mr. Donohue explained the project included an investment by Washoe County of approximately \$14.7 million to repair and remodel 14 buildings to meet the building code requirements for housing, offer space for a variety of program services and additional security, and provide day care for the homeless population. Mr. Donohue said there were also plans to develop a campus

community garden to integrate into the program to benefit this population. He commented that currently the project had the capacity for 240 residents.

Mr. Donohue commented that in addition to this project, the county had also remodeled a facility on the campus for ADSD staff at a cost of \$1.6 million. He said this project was in the southeast corner of the campus and occupied approximately 21 acres. Mr. Donohue reported that the lease term would authorize the occupancy of this project for a period of 25 years with all maintenance and utility costs being borne by the county for the facilities in the leased areas.

He pointed out that the fiscal investment by Washoe County for the project included donations from the Nevada Association of Counties, the Pennington Foundation, Grace Church, an in-kind donation from Q&D Construction for playground development, and an in-kind donation from Truckee Meadows Water Authority for water delivery service to the community garden. Mr. Donohue said the project was broadly supported by many organizations that were invested in their community.

He noted that the total fiscal investment of \$14.7 million made by the county and its partners was proposed to be applied for in consideration of the use and occupancy of state land and would be applied to the 25-year lease term, which represented approximately \$575,000 annually.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson mentioned that the reason the Committee considered these requests was to ensure that a fair market appraisal was made. She indicated that in the past, state land had been leased at very low rates without much transparency. Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said it was important to see a fair market value lease with a good use of resources.

Chair Carlton expressed her support of state land being used to aid vulnerable populations, and to provide housing and support facilities, particularly with a commitment of 25 years.

Senator Kieckhefer appreciated the collaboration of many individuals to accomplish this program. He said it would benefit those communities and he thanked the supporters.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED TO  
APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS N-1 AND N-2.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**O. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT FOR FORECLOSURE MEDIATION ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO NRS 107.080** – Request for the transfer of \$296,696 from the Account to Home Means Nevada, Inc. for support of the program for foreclosure mediation.

Shannon Chambers, President, Home Means Nevada, Inc. (HMN), and Nevada Labor Commissioner, explained that the request for funding would support the HMN through June 30, 2021. She said the HMN administered certain portions of the Foreclosure Mediation Program pursuant to S.B. 490 (2017 Legislative Session). Ms. Chambers commented that efforts were being made to address potential issues resulting from the expiration of federal and state moratoriums. She said it was important to ensure that the HMN had sufficient funding and staff. Ms. Chambers said the HMN would keep the IFC, the Legislature and the Office of the Governor informed on future trends once those moratoriums were lifted.

Assemblywoman Jauregui remarked on the number of notices of default that were issued in recent months. She wondered how the HMN had handled the mediation process during the pandemic.

Ms. Chambers explained the filing process that homeowners were required to follow. She said first a petition must be filed in district court, then the court assigned a mediator. Ms. Chambers added that the mediator worked with the parties and exchanged documents to see if there was a potential for resolution. She said the role of HMN was to access the Homeowner Connect system, to interface with the mortgage servicer and the homeowner before a notice of default was issued.

Ms. Chambers commented there was a misconception and that the forbearance period the federal government established only applied to about 85% of mortgages, which were federally backed mortgages. She said there was still potential for notice of defaults and foreclosures on mortgages outside of those that were federally backed and that those numbers had increased. Ms. Chambers said that whenever possible, the HMN attempted to assist homeowners before a notice of default was issued and the formal mediation process began. She said once a case was heard in district court, a mediator would decide if an agreement could be reached or if foreclosure was appropriate.

Assemblywoman Jauregui remarked that almost 300 notices of default had been filed in FY 2021. She asked for information regarding the number of participants who elected to participate in the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Ms. Chambers reported that 2,756 notices of default had been filed during the period of July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. She said there were 226 petitions to participate in the Foreclosure Mediation Program during that period, which was a participation rate between 8% and 10%. Ms. Chambers pointed out that when the original housing crisis hit in the mid-2000s, the average participation rate in the

mediation program was between 3% and 4%. She added that although the number of default notices had decreased, participation in the mediation program had increased.

Ms. Chambers explained that various factors contributed to those numbers including job situations and banks being more willing to modify loans. She said that once the COVID-19 public health emergency occurred, the participation numbers dropped to zero because of the moratoriums and a decrease in notices of default. Ms. Chambers expected to see increased participation in 2021. She added that around 50% of cases typically ended up in mediation agreement and 50% did not. Ms. Chambers said she would keep the Committee updated.

Assemblywoman Jauregui asked how the HMN expected to remain solvent since the program was funded through notices of default filing fees, which had drastically decreased.

Ms. Chambers replied that the HMN expected to see an increase in notices of default in 2021; however, there was no guarantee. She said if notices of default did not increase, the HMN would need to approach the Legislature to discuss ways to continue its operations. Ms. Chambers stated that some of the banks and mortgage servicers had changed the notice of default fees in previous legislative sessions. She added that the HMN anticipated that once notices of default filings resumed, there would be sufficient revenue to maintain operations through the next year.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA  
ITEM O.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**P. REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS PURSUANT TO NRS 353.335.**

1. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs – Commission on Tourism – Request for approval to accept a grant of \$74,000 from the Western States Arts Federation, a nongovernmental entity, for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 12-2-20.**
2. Department of Health and Human Services
  - a. Division of Public and Behavioral Health – Request for approval to accept a grant of \$24,000 from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a nongovernmental entity, to fund safety bundle training for birthing hospitals in Nevada.
  - b. Division of Child and Family Services – Request for approval to accept a donation of up to \$25,300 from the Reno Rodeo Foundation, a nongovernmental entity, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Chair Carlton stated that Agenda Item P-1 was a request from the DTCA, Commission on Tourism, for approval to accept a grant of \$74,000 from the Western States Art Federation, a nongovernmental entity, for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Agenda Item P-2a, DPBH, DHHS, was a request for approval to accept a grant for \$24,000 from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a nongovernmental entity, to fund safety bundle training for birthing hospitals in Nevada.

Chair Carlton explained that Agenda Item P2-b, DCFS, DHHS, was a request for approval to accept a donation of up to \$25,300 from the Reno Rodeo Foundation, a nongovernmental entity, for the period of January 1, 2021, through January 31, 2021.

There was no further discussion on these items.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED TO  
APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS P-1, P-2a and P-2b.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Department of Public Safety – Division of Emergency Management – Request for approval to accept a COVID-19 related grant of \$1,607,557 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to allow the division to request federal authority at 75% of the anticipated expenditures of the COVID-19 Disease Outbreak Management Sustainment Plan. **RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM I.**

Agenda Items I and P-3 were discussed jointly.

David Fogerson, Chief, Division of Emergency Management and Office of Homeland Security (DEM), DPS, said the division served as the administrative agency responsible for coordinating disaster assistance to the FEMA. He explained that the DEM had coordinated with the Nevada National Guard and the DHHS as a part of the major disaster declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Fogerson said the DEM was requesting additional FEMA grant authority to continue the response to recover the efforts through the first six months of 2021. He added that the acceptance of the FEMA COVID-19 grant would provide for 75% of the authority to sustain COVID-19 emergency response operations and would include ongoing emergency operation center costs, ongoing temporary contract employees for warehouse support, warehouse space and public information efforts.

Concluding, Mr. Fogerson said the request from the Disaster Relief Account would cover the 25% state share of the total estimated cost to sustain DEM operations from January to June 2021.

Chair Carlton asked what would happen if the division did not receive the 25% reimbursement.

Mr. Fogerson clarified that the division sought a 75% reimbursement. He said the DEM had requested funding for the 25% state share of the costs from the Disaster Relief Account. Mr. Fogerson explained that the DEM had explored several estimates to predict future needs. He said the division had reached out to the President of the United States through the Office of the Governor to request a change from 75.5% reimbursement to a 90/10 split since that was permissible in FEMA regulations under the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Mr. Fogerson reported that the DEM was currently waiting to hear if that was acceptable.

Concluding, Mr. Fogerson said the DEM was optimistic there would be some federal assistance for COVID-19 response costs through the beginning of 2021.

Chair Carlton expressed concern about the division receiving reimbursement for expenditures. She said there were insufficient funds available in the IFC Contingency Account to cover those costs and wondered what would happen if the expenditures did not meet the eligibility requirements for reimbursement.

Mr. Fogerson assured the Committee that there would be sufficient funds in the Disaster Relief Account to cover the \$2 million in total costs. He said the division was attempting to use state funds while seeking other sources through CARES Act funding. Mr. Fogerson remarked that the DEM worked in

partnership with FEMA on a regular basis. He noted that seven FEMA employees and a FEMA Public Assistance Grant Specialist advised the division. He said the DEM was confident it fit under the emergency protective measures of the FEMA category fee to receive the 75% reimbursement award.

Chair Carlton requested that staff be updated with additional information once the division received more guidance regarding compliance requirements and eligibility for reimbursement.

Mr. Fogerson replied that the division would submit a project worksheet to FEMA with the request for approval. The division would be notified of the response and the DEM anticipated a quick turnaround.

Chair Carlton requested that information be provided to the IFC at its January 2021 meeting.

Assemblyman Frierson asked if partial funding would allow the agency to continue operating. He asked what would happen to the 25% state share of the costs in the event the division was not reimbursed.

Mr. Fogerson responded that the DEM had a very reliable track record working with the federal government and the FEMA Grant Assistance program. He said the division was designed to operate on a grant reimbursement basis. Mr. Fogerson explained that it was a granting process for declared disasters that always worked in areas with reimbursement of eligible expenses by FEMA. He said the DEM had a good working relationship with FEMA staff and understood what was considered an eligible expense.

Mr. Fogerson discussed arrangements that were made with a private taskforce to assist with warehouse storage. He reported that the division had a large quantity of PPE that was purchased with CARES Act funds and other public assistance grant funds. Mr. Fogerson said the division would store the PPE for distribution to local government and health care facilities and providers over the next six months.

Concluding, Mr. Fogerson reiterated that he was very confident and comfortable that the request for 75% reimbursement would be approved.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson expressed concern about the costs for warehousing and contracted staff. She said she would follow up directly with the DEM.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS I AND P-3.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Goicoechea said the DEM had supplied many materials and assistance to the rural areas. He supported the measure and said he was not concerned about the division receiving reimbursement.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Q. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A DETAILED PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLOSED-LOOP PAYMENT PROCESSING SYSTEM PURSUANT TO NRS 226.300 (7) – Office of the State Treasurer** – Request for approval of a detailed plan for the establishment of a closed-loop payment processing system for financial transactions relating to marijuana.

Zach Conine, State Treasurer, provided an update on the closed-loop payment system passed in A.B. 466 (2019 Legislative Session). He reported that vendor contracts were in place and the Treasurer's Office would be ready to begin the pilot program within 60 days of the Committee's approval.

Chair Carlton remarked that provisions in A.B. 466 provided that the Treasurer's Office return to IFC at the July 2020 meeting with a plan for the payment system; however, since that was not done, she asked for an update.

Treasurer Conine reported that the closed-loop system plan was put on hold due to COVID-19 and coronavirus-related items. He added that the Treasurer's Office sought to ensure that the industry was ready for the solution when it was introduced. Treasurer Conine said that the industry was dealing with its own issues during the pandemic and at that time, it was not able to proceed with new processes. He opined the industry was now open to solutions and ready to proceed.

In response to Chair Carlton's inquiry about the system being strictly for vendors, Treasurer Conine said that was correct. He added that the Treasurer's Office would continue to push for a federal solution and said the current solution would provide adequately for Nevada citizens.

Assemblyman Yeager asked if there had been any problems locating or identifying industry members who would be willing to participate in the pilot program.

Treasurer Conine said there were many willing participants in the dispensary, production and cultivation areas. After final approval was given, the Treasurer's Office would choose participants for the pilot program.



Discussion ensued between Senator Kieckhefer and Treasurer Conine regarding the location of vaults and security concerns. Treasurer Conine said the distributed vault system initially would be in the “back of house” at dispensary locations. He added that the facilities were built to consider the security necessary for large amounts of cash and this would be an added system located in fully secured areas. He said there were no security concerns.

Senator Kieckhefer asked at what phase the system would potentially transition into the consumer interface.

Treasurer Conine explained that the closed-loop banking solution was about finding options to minimize risk to all participants and being effective as a state-sponsored solution. He said it was important to limit the initial size of the pilot program to ensure that all the issues were resolved before initializing the program. Treasurer Conine remarked that it was frustrating to offer solutions that were not effective. He said the state was on the forefront of technology and it was important to ensure the system worked before transitioning to consumers.

Assemblywoman Tolles asked if the limited scope of business-to-business transactions would be extended to consumers if the pilot program was successful. She asked if the closed-loop system could be utilized in the future to assist with the payment of revenues to the Department of Taxation if the program was secure.

Treasurer Conine said the program would be secure from the outset. He said that was not a concern; however, concerns could be if the system was as expedient and less expensive than another solution. Treasurer Conine commented that once the program was in place, it could be expanded to other vendors, including Nevada’s tax system, and later to consumers. He commented that ensuring Nevada’s taxes were paid was a priority for the Treasurer’s Office.

Assemblywoman Tolles asked if either of the two vendors were Nevada-based and inquired about how the vendors were selected.

Treasurer Conine replied that both vendors could be contacted online. He indicated that one vendor was based in California and the other was based in Nevada. Treasurer Conine explained that there were originally five vendors, two of which were in Nevada; however, only one vendor had met the criteria. He commented that since the process had not been done before, the two vendors were both attempting to develop best practices. Treasurer Conine said the state was taking an entrepreneurial start-up mindset approach on the process when developing innovative solutions to ensure that the state’s risk was fully protected.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM Q.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- R. COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS** – Semiannual report on the status of current and proposed industrial programs for correctional institutions, pursuant to NRS 209.4818.

Chair Carlton said that Agenda Item R was the Committee on Industrial Programs semiannual report on the status of current industrial programs for correctional institutions.

Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, and staff to the Committee on Industrial Programs, advised that the committee met five times during the 2019-2020 Interim. He provided a report to the IFC based on information supplied by the NDOC. Mr. Leiser pointed out that while five of the six state-sponsored programs had generated profits, the NDOC, Prison Industries (Silver State Industries) had experienced an overall net loss of \$230,362 in FY 2020.

Mr. Leiser said that the NDOC attributed the overall loss to increased administrative costs experienced in FY 2020, and an increase of approximately \$320,000 in the Statewide Cost Allocation charge to Prison Industries, as well as costs of approximately \$170,000 to replace a sprung structure membrane at the Southern Desert Correctional Center.

Mr. Leiser noted revisions to the FY 2020 total amount for wage assessments and the Victims of Crime fund presented by the NDOC at the September 25, 2020, Committee on Industrial Programs meeting. He said the amount of \$475,391 for wage assessments was revised to \$473,607. Mr. Leiser indicated that the amount of \$70,423 for the Victims of Crime fund total reflected in the report should be \$68,639. He reported that the Committee on Industrial Programs had no new purchases requested or approved from the fund for the calendar year.

Mr. Leiser said the Committee on Industrial Programs had implemented operations for two new programs in the calendar year including work with Allwyre to manufacture cable, electromechanical assemblies, poly pipe, printed circuit boards and wire harnesses; and the establishment of a detergent shop to manufacture hand sanitizer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assemblywoman Titus commented that the programs provided inmates with the opportunity to be productive during their incarceration. She wondered if the programs would provide certificates to inmates to indicate the training they had received.

Mr. Leiser said the goals of the program were to provide skills and tools to inmates so they could utilize those abilities upon their entry back into society. He asked for a representative from the NDOC to discuss the opportunities of the certificate program that were provided to inmates.

William Quenga, Deputy Director, Industrial Programs, NDOC, confirmed that certificate programs were offered through the NDOC. He mentioned silk screening certificates, welding certificate programs provided by Western Nevada College in conjunction with the American Welding Society, and an independent commercial driver's license program in collaboration with the ranch operations at the NDOC.

Mr. Quenga said that the NDOC partnered with Allwyre to provide inmates with certificates in circuitry boards and marketable skills upon their reentry into the workforce. He discussed a partnership with business associates providing inmates with opportunities to work in steel beam and handrail manufacturing while incarcerated, and that upon release they were given employment and housing.

Assemblywoman Titus asked if the NDOC was looking for new potential job opportunities or training programs and if the programs were available at both the men's and women's facilities.

Mr. Quenga said that currently there were not any certificate programs offered at the women's facilities; however, he understood there were some beautician training programs offered for female inmates. Mr. Quenga discussed a warehouse program provided through Jacob's Trading Company that stored closeout inventory on pallets for sales to stores. He said that in April the company was closed.

Mr. Quenga reported that the NDOC was actively exploring the possibility of using the warehouse program for hanger storage or to house components from the Allwyre circuitry board operation to facilitate expansion and service to a customer in Henderson, Nevada. Mr. Quenga said the customer had partnered with a women's facility in Chowchilla, California, and was currently doing business in Nevada.

Assemblywoman Titus pointed out that women might be interested in welding and other programs. She said these programs could also be extended to the women's institutions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM R.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**S. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, said that Agenda Item S-3a, NDE, and Agenda Item S-12, Economic Forum were held for further discussion.

1. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE - Progress report on implementation of the Automatic Voter Registration initiative petition, that was approved by the voters during the November 2018 General Election, for the period September 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

2. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - State Public Works Division
  - a) Quarterly report on the division's process on construction cost containment efforts, the tracking of budgeted inflationary costs compared to actual inflationary costs, and the tracking of other construction cost escalations compared to budgeted costs that are impacting legislatively approved CIP projects for the period ending October 31, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).
  - b) Information regarding the Project Status Exception Report pursuant to NRS. 341.100(8)(g).

There was no discussion on these items.

3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
  - a) Monthly activity and expenditure report for the Taskforce Initiative for Educators' Safety and Screening (TIES) Testing and Monitoring program provided by the Teachers Health Trust (THT) as requested at the September 3, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.
    - 1) For the September 8, 2020, through October 8, 2020 period.
    - 2) For the October 9, 2020, through November 8, 2020 period.

Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Support Services, NDE, said two reports had been forwarded to the IFC in response to the Committee's request for monthly updates. She explained that the THT was instrumental in establishing the TIES program in Nevada. Ms. Haartz reported on challenges it encountered due to schools not holding in-person instruction and the uncertainty about programs during calendar year 2021.

Chair Carlton expressed concern about money being spent for tests that were not used. She mentioned that the Committee had heard some reasons for low testing rates and wondered about conversations and steps being made toward a resolution. Chair Carlton expressed concern that funds would revert to the federal government on December 30, 2020, if the tests were not taken. She asked about the ramifications if the tests were not distributed.

Jhone Ebert, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE, stated that a minimum was established based on attempting to attain the best price point for the program. She pointed out the success in several school districts in Northern Nevada that held in-person instruction, specifically Carson City School District, Churchill County School District and Humboldt County School District. Ms. Ebert said the NDE was working with the THT to make tests available to those school districts and efforts were being made to continue testing with the districts that were already under contract.

Chair Carlton asked if teachers would need to go to the University Medical Center (UMC) to be tested.

Ms. Ebert said some tests would be administered locally and that the THT had gone directly to the school districts.

Chair Carlton asked for an estimate of how many tests would be provided.

Ms. Ebert said as long as tests were available, the TIES program would continue. She remarked that some school districts wanted to participate but were unable to determine if they could purchase tests by the December 30, 2020, date. Ms. Ebert said she did not currently have an estimate of how many tests would be provided.

Michael Skolnik, CEO, THT, said the tests were purchased in advance based on the contractual relationship with the UMC. He reported that the UMC provided the tests to the THT with testing offered to Clark County School District members, working with Carson City, Churchill, Humboldt, Lyon and other school districts through January 2021. Mr. Skolnik estimated all 10,000 tests would be used by the end of January 2021, depending on when teachers returned to schools.

In response to a question from Chair Carlton, Ms. Ebert confirmed that the tests would be available until the inventory was depleted, which could be into next year.

Chair Carlton said she appreciated the clarification since there was an assumption that the tests would no longer be available after the end of the year. She requested the IFC be updated in the future. Chair Carlton asked Mr. Skolnik to reach out to Jan Giles, President, ESEA, to address her concerns expressed during public comment.

- b) Quarterly report on Class-Size Reduction variances pursuant to NRS 388.700(5).
  - 1) For the period ending March 31, 2020, of the 2019-20 school year.
  - 2) For the period ending June 30, 2020, of the 2019-20 school year.

There was no discussion on these items.

4. NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- a) Biannual report on any additional fees and any additional nonresident tuition fees received by each institution beyond the authorized amounts for the period ending June 30, 2020, pursuant to Senate Bill 553, Section 11(1) (2019 Legislature).
- b) Quarterly report on the progress made by the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine in obtaining federal approval for the research program on the medical use of marijuana, as well as the status of activities and information received through the program, for the period ending March 31, 2020, pursuant to NRS 453A.600.

There was no discussion on these items.

5. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Quarterly report on travel and training expenses for the period ending September 30, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

6. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY - Home Means Nevada, Inc. - Annual report concerning the status of the Foreclosure Mediation Assistance program for the period ending June 30, 2020, pursuant to NRS 107.086(17).

There was no discussion on this item.

7. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a) Report on the progress of the Commercial Rental Assistance grant program as requested during the July 29, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.
- b) Quarterly report on the receipt of all cash and non-cash gifts, donations and grants received for the period ending September 30, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on these items.

8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
  - a) Aging and Disability Services Division - Quarterly report for the Senior Rx and Disability Rx Prescription program for the period ending September 30, 2020, pursuant to NRS 439.630(1)(c).
  - b) Division of Health Care Financing and Policy - Quarterly report on the Disproportionate Share Hospital Supplemental Payment Program for the period ending September 30, 2020, pursuant to NRS 422.390(2).
  - c) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services - Assistance to the Aged and Blind - Annual report on the implementation of the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment increases scheduled for January 2021 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on these items.

9. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - Director's Office - Quarterly report on the department's retention and recruitment efforts for correctional officers at each of its institutions statewide and inmate population and capacity levels for the period ending September 30, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

10. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - Director's Office - Comprehensive report on COVID-19 expenditures by the Department of Public Safety as requested during the June 25, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.  
There was no discussion on this item.

11. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - Quarterly report on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Transportational Storm Water Management and the implementation and efficacy of the department's storm water program pursuant to NRS 408.439 (11) for the period ending September 30, 2020.

There was no discussion on this item.

12. ECONOMIC FORUM - Report regarding the Economic Forum meeting conducted on December 3, 2020.

Russell Guindon, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, reported that the Economic Forum had met on December 3, 2020, as required by the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS), to prepare forecasts for the unrestricted General Fund revenue for FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023. He said the report was submitted to the Governor and the Legislature. Mr. Guindon provided an addendum to that report titled *General Fund Revenues-Economic Forum December 3, 2020, Forecast*, which included all the unrestricted General Fund revenues forecasts approved by the Economic Forum.

He submitted two tables ([Exhibit H](#)) which summarized the results and information contained in the Economic Forum's detailed table provided to the Committee.

Mr. Guindon pointed out that the FY 2020 actuals in Table 1, summarized major revenues, which made up roughly 85% of the General Fund revenue. He commented that other major/minor forecasts were prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee to the Economic Forum and approved by the Economic Forum at the December 3, 2020, meeting.

Mr. Guindon explained that the actual General Fund collections for FY 2020 were approximately \$4.08 billion, about a 4.9% decrease over the FY 2019 actual. He said the Economic Forum December 2020 forecast for FY 2021 was approximately \$4.01 billion, down 1.6% from the FY 2021 forecast. He pointed out that the forecast for FY 2022 was approximately \$4.12 billion and the FY 2023 forecast was \$4.39 billion. Mr. Guindon added that the Governor was required by NRS to use the forecasts for FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023 to build The Executive Budget that would be presented to the Legislature for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Mr. Guindon explained that the state budget operated on a biennial basis. He said the forecast based for the 2019-21 biennium was approximately \$8.09 billion, based on the actual amount for FY 2020 and the forecast for FY 2021, and the forecast for the 2021-23 biennium was approximately \$8.51 billion. Mr. Guindon explained the difference between the forecast for the 2021-23 biennium less the forecast for the 2019-21 biennium was approximately \$418 million.

Mr. Guindon compared the contributions made by General Fund revenue sources in the 2021-23 biennium to the current biennium. Mr. Guindon remarked that of the \$570 million difference from the major revenue sources, \$221 million was due to gaming percentage fees. He noted that percentage fees suffered during the pandemic, especially during the shutdown in March, April and May 2020. Mr. Guindon pointed out that the \$721 million forecast for FY 2023 was still approximately \$70 million below the \$790 million forecast for FY 2021 in the Economic Forum's May 2019 forecast.

Mr. Guindon discussed the Live Entertainment Tax (LET) and the FY 2021 forecast of \$1.1 million in revenue. He said the LET decline would create a big swing in terms of revenue for this revenue source.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon directed the Committee's attention to the note regarding the net proceeds of minerals (NPM) tax. Mr. Guindon said the negative biennium difference for the NPM occurred due to S.B. 3 of the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (2020), which required an advance payment on the net proceeds from the NPM for the 2021 calendar year. He remarked that the result of that action was to generate a one-time additional payment in FY 2021, resulting in a forecast of approximately



\$130 million in FY 2021, which declined to \$57 million for the FY 2022 forecast and \$54 million for the FY 2023 forecast.

Mr. Guindon pointed out the next footnote regarding the Governmental Services Tax (GST). He said that S.B. 3 provided that 100% of the proceeds of the GST to be allocated to the State General Fund for FY 2021 only. Mr. Guindon commented that in FY 2022 and FY 2023 the GST allocation would revert to 75% of the proceeds allocated to the Highway Fund and 25% to the General Fund.

Mr. Guindon next addressed the approximate \$20 million reduction in the “all other General Fund revenues category.” He explained that an additional revenue action from S.B. 3 established the Tax Amnesty program, which was estimated to generate \$14 million in FY 2021. He reported that to date the program had not been implemented by the Department of Taxation.

Mr. Guindon said that the Department of Taxation had provided an update to the Technical Advisory Committee at its October 2020 meeting and reported that it was attempting to create a system where taxpayers could pay electronically for the amnesty program. He said that under the provision of S.B. 3, the Tax Amnesty program had to be finalized by June 30, 2021, and after the program could be 90 days.

Mr. Guindon expected that during the last six months of FY 2021, the program would be in place and at that time it could be determined if the \$14 million in revenue proceeds was still viable or if it would need to be adjusted. He said it was worth noting that there was an additional \$7 million of one-time funds placed in the Distributive School Account for the Local School Support Tax portion of the potential impact of the Tax Amnesty program.

Continuing to Table 2 titled *Economic Forum December 3, 2020 Forecast for 2019-21 and 2021-23 Biennia Compared to Prior Forecasts for 2019-21 Biennium*, Mr. Guindon contrasted the Economic Forum current forecast of December 2020 for the 2019-21 biennium compared to the Economic Forum forecast from May 2019 that was used to develop the budget for the current biennium. He said a consensus forecast between the Fiscal Division and the GFO, Budget Division was prepared on June 29, 2020, for budget adjustments made during the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (July 2020).

Mr. Guindon pointed out the FY 2020 actual was approximately \$4.08 billion, and the FY 2021 forecast from December 3, 2020, was approximately \$4.01 billion. He said the forecast from May 2019 for FY 2020 was approximately \$4.45 billion; however, the actual collections ended up being \$369 million less than what was forecast. Next, he discussed the FY 2021 forecast of \$4.6 billion for FY 2021 from May 2019. He said the current forecast for December 2020 was \$584 million less than what was forecast in May 2019 when the Legislature built the budget for FY 2021.

Mr. Guindon said the net result for the biennium was that the current forecast of \$8.09 billion for the 2019-21 biennium was approximately \$953 million less than what was forecast in May 2019 to build the budget for the current biennium.

Mr. Guindon referred to the row titled *Budget Division/Fiscal Division June 29, 2020, Consensus Forecast with Comparison to the Economic Forum December 3, 2020, Forecast*, and noted the difference between the revised forecast by the Budget Division and the Fiscal Division consensus of approximately \$3.99 billion. He said the actual figure for FY 2020 was approximately \$88.4 million above the June 29, 2020, consensus forecast.

Mr. Guindon pointed out that the current estimate for FY 2021 by the Economic Forum was approximately \$254 million above the June 2020 consensus forecast. He said the Budget Division and Fiscal Division consensus forecast ended up overshooting the extent of the impact for FY 2020 and FY 2021 regarding the supply curve changes in March, April and May 2020, and the economic recovery since then.

Mr. Guindon called attention to the row titled, *Budget Division/Fiscal Division June 29, 2020, Consensus Forecast Adjusted for Revenue Actions from the 31<sup>st</sup> Session with Comparison to the Economic Forum December 3, 2020, Forecast*. He said that during the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (July 2020), the three revenue actions previously mentioned for the NPM, the GST and the Tax Amnesty program, were forecast to be approximately \$140 million. Mr. Guindon added that instead of the June 29, 2020, forecast of an excess \$254 million, it was only an excess of \$114 million for FY 2021 when the estimated impacts from the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session are considered.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon explained that the \$343 million in revenue above the June 2020 consensus forecast was only \$203 million in FY 2021 relative to the Economic Forum forecast due to the consideration of the one-time revenue actions from the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session.

Mr. Guindon next called attention to the Economic Forum forecast for FY 2022 and FY 2023 in Table 2. He compared the difference between the estimated \$8.51 billion forecast by the Economic Forum in December 2020 for the 2021-23 biennium and the forecast of \$9.04 billion made in May 2019 for the 2019-21 biennium, which was \$535 million less.

Mr. Guindon said the Economic Forum forecast for the 2021-23 biennium of approximately \$8.51 billion was about \$621 million more than the \$7.89 billion forecast by the Budget Division/Fiscal Division consensus on June 29, 2020. He concluded that since the \$7.89 billion forecast included the reserve adjustments made during the 31<sup>st</sup> Special Session (July 2020), the December 2020 forecast for the 2021-23 biennium was \$621 million more than the June 2020 revised forecast for the 2019-21 biennium.

Chair Carlton said she would be requesting further information after the holidays.

Senator Settlemeyer said in November 2020 there was an excess of the 5% minimum in the General Fund revenue ending fund balance. He thought it was between \$100 million and \$103 million. Senator Settlemeyer opined that the excess amount should have been transferred to the state's Rainy Day Fund. He asked about the amount of that transfer and if it was reflected in the data presented.

Mr. Guindon explained the process used by the Economic Forum to prepare a forecast of the unrestricted General Fund revenue required to be used by the Governor in consideration of building The Executive Budget as required by NRS. He said those estimates were added to the fund balance calculations as the unrestricted General Fund resources available to fund the General Fund Appropriations Budget.

Mr. Guindon stated that based on the actual General Fund collections for FY 2020, as well as all the other pieces that were taken into consideration when calculating the ending fund balance, there could be the potential of a transfer to the Rainy Day Fund. He believed the current amount was approximately \$105 million and that amount would be transferred by the State Controller at the end of calendar year 2020 or in January 2021.

Mr. Guindon reported that the remainder of the ending fund balance from 2020 would revert to the beginning fund balance for FY 2021. He added that the Governor would use the Economic Forum forecast for FY 2021 and perform the calculation for the potential ending fund balances for FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023. Mr. Guindon said the decision would then be made regarding any additional transfers to the Rainy Day Fund. He remarked that the statutory provision required that 40% of any excess over a 7% ending fund balance must be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Senator Brooks asked what effect the federal stimulus funds would have on the projected revenue over the next few years.

Mr. Guindon pointed out the difficulties encountered in the forecast cycle given factors such as stimulus funds and vaccines and opined that the uncertainty of those factors needed to be considered. He used the forecasting exercises during the Great Recession as an example.

Mr. Guindon said the Economic Forum asked the forecasters to compare the forecast for the sales tax under assumptions of both receiving stimulus funds and not receiving stimulus funds. He said that the forecast used for FY 2021 was the average of the Budget Division forecast under both situations.

Mr. Guindon added that there was the assumption there would be additional stimulus, however; Congress had not yet taken steps to effectuate states receiving additional stimulus funds. He opined it was difficult to forecast sales tax without complete knowledge of the amount of stimulus funds and the rollout of a vaccine. Mr. Guindon said the Economic Forum made decisions reflected in the General Fund Revenues, Economic Forum December 3, 2020, Forecast based on those issues.

Senator Brooks remarked that many different lines of revenue, including gaming and hospitality, were also dependent on the federal stimulus funds. He asked why those revenues were not considered in the forecast. He asked how the dollar amount of the federal stimulus was decided upon.

Mr. Guindon said that each forecaster made assumptions regarding the stimulus, so an actual number was not forecast. He agreed that the federal stimulus would impact Nevada's tourism-based economy and all revenue sources. Mr. Guindon pointed out that the Economic Forum had requested a forecast using the sales tax under a stimulus- or no-stimulus scenario. He said the forecaster's baseline conclusion was that the federal government would provide additional stimulus payments in the third quarter of FY 2021.

Mr. Guindon discussed difficulties in determining where the first round of stimulus spending went into the economy because it could not be itemized into one tax category. He added that once an amount was determined for additional stimulus, a decision would need to be made regarding usage. Mr. Guindon said there was uncertainty around the reality of a reasonable forecast in the current environment with the information set available.

Senator Brooks agreed that it was incredibly difficult to forecast under the current financial situation. He remarked that it was crucial for Nevada to receive a federal stimulus package either to the state budget or directly to Nevada citizens to build confidence in the budget.

Mr. Guindon reiterated the difficulties in creating the December 2020 forecast. He hoped that when the Economic Forum reconvened for the May 2021 forecast, the details of a stimulus package would be decided by Congress and the specifics of distribution into the economy would be available. Mr. Guindon anticipated updated information about vaccines and their distribution. He added that even with the availability of more information, it was not going to make forecasting easier given the uncertainty of the environment. Mr. Guindon was optimistic that the stimulus and vaccine information would be available by April 2021.

Assemblywoman Titus asked about the \$19 billion stimulus package received from the federal government and how that factored into the sales tax projections and the Economic Forum forecast.

Mr. Guindon said that numbers were reported from the Gaming Control Board and the Department of Taxation. He mentioned that since the \$1,200 stimulus checks were sent to individuals, it was difficult to determine if the stimulus was spent on personal expenses or tangible personal property, which was subject to sales tax.

Mr. Guindon remarked that the economists would attempt to figure out where that stimulus was spent in taxable sales and use that information to forecast the possibilities in the event of another stimulus. He remarked that forecasting was an art not a science. He reiterated how difficult it was to forecast in the current economic environment.

Mr. Guindon said tables from the December Economic Forum meeting were available on its website where members could find information on taxable sales including the monthly cigarette, and other tobacco taxes, liquor, the gaming numbers and the modified business tax numbers.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon pointed out that taxable sales in automobile categories was phenomenal. He noted that Carson City auto sales were up 17% between July and September 2020 compared to July through September 2019. He added that despite the economic predictions, he was surprised by the strength of those figures.

Senator Brooks asked if he was correct that sales tax numbers were higher than pre-pandemic numbers in almost all of Nevada counties except Clark County.

Mr. Guindon said that Clark County was one of the hardest hit counties during the pandemic due to its ties to a visitor base and the gaming industry. He added that many Nevada counties, especially the rural counties, were experiencing increases when comparing June, July, August and September 2020 numbers to the same months in 2019. Mr. Guindon attributed part of those increases to automobile sales, additional unemployment payments, and employment income. He opined that it was an opportune time for vehicle or other capital purchases due to low interest rates and other incentives.

Mr. Guindon mentioned A.B. 445 (2019 Legislative Session), the Marketplace Facilitator bill, which enabled a robust taxable sales increase in Clark County and other Nevada counties' tax base by 160% to 180% compared to 2019 due to an increase in online purchasing during the pandemic.

Senator Brooks said the information provided a better perspective for policy planning in the future.

## **T. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pursuant to Sections 2 through 9, inclusive, of Chapter 2, *Statutes of Nevada 2020*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Special Session, pages 9 through 11, there was no physical location for this meeting. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us). Public comment was accepted live via telephone. Written comments were also accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting.

Jess Braaten submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit I](#)).

## **U. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Carlton adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair  
Interim Finance Committee

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