

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2022
MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Moises Denis called a regular meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 9:12 a.m. on August 17, 2022, online, and in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Moises Denis, Chair
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole Cannizzaro
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Dallas Harris
Senator Dina Neal
Senator James Settelmeyer for Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Don Tatro
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen
Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen for Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Howard Watts
Assemblyman Steve Yeager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Wayne Thorley, Fiscal Analyst, Senate
Sarah Coffman, Fiscal Analyst, Assembly
Alex Haartz, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Cathy Crocket, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Karen Hoppe, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Legislative Counsel
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel

Jessica Dummer, Deputy Legislative Counsel
Tom Weber, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary
Melissa Garvin, 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-1:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Marc J. Kahn, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- [Exhibit E-2:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium
- [Exhibit E-3:](#) Public Comment – Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus
- [Exhibit E-4:](#) Public Comment – Alex Bybee and Nathaniel Waugh, Communities in Schools of Nevada
- [Exhibit E-5:](#) Public Comment – Kathy Flanagan, Southern Nevada Water Authority
- [Exhibit E-6:](#) Public Comment – Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance
- [Exhibit E-7:](#) Public Comment – Ann Silver, Chief Executive Officer, Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce
- [Exhibit E-8:](#) Public Comment – Andrea Gregg, High Sierra Area Health Education Center
- [Exhibit E-9:](#) Public Comment – Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association
- [Exhibit E-10:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Mario Gaspa de Alba, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, UNLV
- [Exhibit E-11:](#) Public Comment – Sarah Guindy, Bank of Nevada
- [Exhibit E-12:](#) Public Comment – David Kimmerle
- [Exhibit E-13:](#) Public Comment – Susan Harrowa, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- [Exhibit E-14:](#) Public Comment – Christian Howard
- [Exhibit E-15:](#) Public Comment – Gerry Shear, SHEAR Family Foundation
- [Exhibit E-16:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Mervyn Fouse
- [Exhibit E-17:](#) Public Comment – Irene and Duncan Lee, Nevada Community Foundation
- [Exhibit E-18:](#) Public Comment – Steve Lehman
- [Exhibit E-19:](#) Public Comment – Gary Patterson, Shelby American, Inc.
- [Exhibit E-20:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Ikram U. Khan, Quality Care Consultants, LLC
- [Exhibit E-21:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Javaid Anwar, Quality Care Consultants, LLC
- [Exhibit E-22:](#) Public Comment – Bruce Becker
- [Exhibit E-23:](#) Public Comment – Dennis Silknitter, Silknitter Event Consulting
- [Exhibit E-24:](#) Public Comment – Dr. Paul Krakovitz, Intermountain Healthcare
- [Exhibit E-25:](#) Public Comment – Bill Hornbuckle, MGM Resorts
- [Exhibit E-26:](#) Public Comment – Michael E. Minden, Michael E. Minden Diamond Jewelers
- [Exhibit E-27:](#) Public Comment – John F. Marchiano, John F. Marchiano Law Corporation
- [Exhibit E-28:](#) Public Comment – Kevin and Amy Hooks
- [Exhibit E-29:](#) Public Comment – Timothy R. O’Reilly, O’Reilly Law Group
- [Exhibit E-30:](#) Public Comment – Lee W. Butler, Ascent Automotive Group
- [Exhibit E-31:](#) Public Comment – Heather Criswell
- [Exhibit E-32:](#) Public Comment – Misha Munoz, Divine One Customs

[Exhibit E-33](#): Public Comment – Deborah Hinds
[Exhibit E-34](#): Public Comment – Mark L. Fine
[Exhibit E-35](#): Public Comment – Diana Bennett
[Exhibit E-36](#): Public Comment – Lisa DeHart
[Exhibit E-37](#): Public Comment – Boyd Martin, Boyd Martin Construction LLC
[Exhibit E-38](#): Public Comment – Barry Becker
[Exhibit E-39](#): Public Comment – Sydney Hill
[Exhibit E-40](#): Public Comment – Steven Cohen, Support for Agenda Items F.25 and F.26
[Exhibit E-41](#): Public Comment – Steven Cohen, Opposition to Agenda Item F.24
[Exhibit E-42](#): Public Comment – Ed and Kathy Rogich
[Exhibit E-43](#): Public Comment – Shane Taylor
[Exhibit E-44](#): Public Comment – Dr. Nudrat R. Nauman, Advanced Pediatrics
[Exhibit E-45](#): Public Comment – Dr. John Packham, Nevada Public Health Association
[Exhibit E-46](#): Public Comment – Kenneth A. Kefalas, Bombard Electric
[Exhibit E-47](#): Public Comment – Dr. Julie Foutz Beasley, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation
Ackerman Center
[Exhibit E-48](#): Public Comment – Gary Ackerman, Gaudin Motor Company
[Exhibit E-49](#): Public Comment – Eric Patterson
[Exhibit E-50](#): Public Comment – Pat Christenson, Las Vegas Events
[Exhibit E-51](#): Public Comment – Brian Hager, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation
Ackerman Center
[Exhibit E-52](#): Public Comment – Dr. Marta Meana
[Exhibit E-53](#): Public Comment – Brenda Williams
[Exhibit E-54](#): Public Comment – Blanca Hernandez
[Exhibit E-55](#): Public Comment – Scott Voeller
[Exhibit E-56](#): Public Comment – Melina Nicolatus
[Exhibit E-57](#): Public Comment – Randy Gabe
[Exhibit E-58](#): Public Comment – Ivan Sher, The Ivan Sher Group
[Exhibit E-59](#): Public Comment – Blankita Hernandez
[Exhibit E-60](#): Public Comment – Hazel Health Nevada
[Exhibit E-61](#): Public Comment – Doug Nielsen
[Exhibit E-62](#): Public Comment – Hellen Cheatham
[Exhibit E-63](#): Public Comment – Debra March, City of Henderson
[Exhibit E-64](#): Public Comment – Gavin Erntstone, Simply Vegas
[Exhibit E-65](#): Public Comment – Geannitta Jones
[Exhibit E-66](#): Public Comment – Dionne Stanfill
[Exhibit E-67](#): Public Comment – Maria Ayala
[Exhibit E-68](#): Public Comment – Jose L. Melendrez
[Exhibit E-69](#): Public Comment – Shawna Lien
[Exhibit E-70](#): Public Comment – Markie Wilder
[Exhibit E-71](#): Public Comment – Russell Kuhlman, Nevada Wildlife Federation
[Exhibit E-72](#): Public Comment – Lynn Purdue, Children's Advocacy Alliance
[Exhibit E-73](#): Public Comment – Dr. Barbara Atkinson
[Exhibit E-74](#): Public Comment – Leslie LaCombe
[Exhibit E-75](#): Public Comment – Jose L. Melendrez, Nevada Minority Health and
Equity Coalition
[Exhibit E-76](#): Public Comment – Eric P. Brown, Washoe County
[Exhibit E-77](#): Public Comment – Dr. Tara C. Raines, Children's Advocacy Alliance

[Exhibit E-78](#): Public Comment – Todd Langbaum

[Exhibit E-79](#): Public Comment – Kendall Lyons, Children’s Advocacy Alliance

[Exhibit E-80](#): Public Comment – Thomas Morton, Switch

[Exhibit E-81](#): Public Comment – Randy A. Garcia, Investment Counsel Company

[Exhibit E-82](#): Public Comment – Stephany Bandoni

A. ROLL CALL.

TOM WEBER (Secretary, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau [LCB]), called the roll; all members were present except Senator Hammond, Senator Seevers Gansert and Assemblyman Leavitt, who were excused.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

JOANNA JACOB (Government Affairs Manager, Clark County):

Clark County is happy to be here today in support of items interspersed within Agenda Item F that are devoted to children’s behavioral health. These items are designed to work together as a system of care and represent an opportunity to provide critical investments for community-based care and help address the issues occurring in Clark County with respect to availability of beds at Oasis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and Desert Willow Treatment Center.

The state has indicated it has been difficult to address some of the conditions in Clark County because of the increased need for staffing to address needs. I know the Committee is aware of the issues in Clark County, especially the conditions at Child Haven, a 24-hour shelter. The lack of available community-based services or safety net resources is impacting Clark County. Staff are impacted, but more importantly, the children who are served are impacted because they often need a higher based and more clinically appropriate setting.

Since August 2021, 96 children have been surrendered to the care of Clark County by their parents or guardians due to the lack of behavioral health services in the community. Of those 96 children, 45 were surrendered in 2022. This issue can be addressed by investing in community-based services meant to help those families before they reach the point of surrendering their children.

For over a year, Clark County has been working collaboratively on these issues in a working group with members of the Office of the Governor, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Legal Aid of Southern Nevada. Clark County urges the Committee’s support on these items.

DR. MARK KAHN (Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, University of Nevada Las Vegas [UNLV]):

I am here to comment on Agenda Item F.25. The UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine was established to care for the community. Las Vegas has a fragmented health care system, and a modern clinic would change the paradigm for health care. For example, traditionally a woman with breast cancer would have appointments at a surgeon’s office, oncologist’s office and radiation oncologist’s office. The goal is to provide a facility that

provides one-stop care, equitable care, and access for the entire community. Additionally, physical and mental health should be integrated within the same facility.

I would like to stress the importance of this type of clinic. It is critical for the School of Medicine's mission to care for the community. I would also note that the laboratory facility coupled with this request is equally important for the community.

Dr. Kahn provided written testimony for the record ([Exhibit E-1](#)).

MICHELLE BODENHORN:

I am the parent of a child with Tourette syndrome, sensory issues, autism, and other mental health needs. I support the investment of any funding for children's services and programs in the state. I would like to thank the Committee in advance for investing in Nevada's children and families.

JASON MILLS (Vice President, Nevada Justice Association):

I am here in support of Agenda Item G.12, which pertains to the addition of hearings officers and legal secretaries for the Department of Administration, Hearings Division. These staff hear the workers' compensation claims in Nevada. Due to the current backlog in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of cases are not being heard within the 30-day requirement set forth in state law. Adding this additional staff will reduce the workload and help injured workers get hearings in a timely fashion. I encourage the Committee's support of this item.

BARBARA BUCKLEY (former Nevada Assemblywoman [1995-2011]; Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada):

I am here today in support of the children's mental health items listed in Agenda Item F. The children's mental health system in Nevada has always been fragile, but the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue. In Clark County, there are children with autism in Child Haven because there are not enough psychiatrists, therapists, and other professionals to do testing and give diagnoses. At Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center, Nevada Medicaid will pay for services. Services are available, but it is difficult to get diagnoses. Parents are surrendering their children because they cannot access mental health services. Children who tried to commit suicide are housed with children with untreated autism and children engaged in sex trafficking. The situation is as dire as I have ever seen it.

Last year, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada reached out to the Office of the Governor to request a different approach. The Office of the Governor pledged to support all efforts to improve the safety net. The Governor mobilized DHHS Executive Director Richard Whitley and his entire team, Clark County engaged, and the items before the Committee are the result of much work. The continuum of care should begin with in-home services to keep people out of expensive residential treatment centers; children should not reach that level. There is a request related to every step of the continuum, all of which have been thoroughly vetted. With that overview, I urge the Committee's support.

TYLER SHAW (Ferrari Reeder Public Affairs representing Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican):

On behalf of St. Rose's nonprofit acute care hospital system in Nevada, Ferrari Reeder would like to offer support for several work programs, including Agenda Items F.12 and F.15 as well as their accompanying work programs, which represent a combined investment of over \$171 million into Nevada's public health infrastructure.

St. Rose is dedicated to making a positive impact on social determinants of health, particularly the health of underserved populations in Nevada. These investments for the state will have a lasting impact on Nevada's public health infrastructure for years to come.

CHRISTINE SAUNDERS (Policy Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada; Member, Nevada Housing Justice Alliance):

There are a number of important investments before the Committee today, but I would like to speak about Agenda Items F.55, F.56 and F.57, to continue funding for rental assistance and eviction diversion in Clark County.

The CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) has been a lifeline for many Nevadans to maintain housing stability. This funding will help many families remain in their homes. However, rental assistance alone will not solve the state's housing crisis and tenants are looking to the Committee to take action on real solutions to address rapidly rising rents and the summary eviction process.

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada hopes to work with the Legislature on these issues during the 2023 Legislative Session.

TERRI LAIRD (Executive Director, Retired Public Employees of Nevada [RPEN]):

The RPEN is a dues-based, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1976. The RPEN currently has almost 8,000 members and 17 chapters statewide. I am here in support of Agenda Item G.115, the transfer of over \$1.2 million from the state's reserve category to the state Medicare Retiree Insurance Cost category to cover a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) serves over 70,000 lives. Like many state agencies, PEBP is still suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and budget cuts that occurred during the last legislative session that brought the elimination of long-term disability as well as other budget impacts.

As many Committee members have read recently, PEBP is not alone in suffering from staffing shortages. All state agencies and the public that many of them serve are also suffering. The Department of Motor Vehicles has begun suspending walk-in customers at all its major offices. In addition, a recent news article indicated there are 40 staff vacancies at the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, which is causing a delay in services.

The RPEN works with a public employees' coalition during the legislative session. The RPEN hopes that during the 2023 Legislative Session, more relief will be provided to PEBP and other state agencies needing financial assistance that could not be provided through

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding. It is RPEN's hope that PEBP can be restored to pre-COVID funding levels, and state employees and retirees who benefit from it can count on those benefits when needed. Good benefits impact the ability to recruit and retain good employees who at the same time need to provide good customer service for the general public they serve.

DR. MARK PANDORI (Director, Nevada State Public Health Laboratory):

I am speaking in reference to Agenda Item F, specifically the item related to a new public health laboratory. It is a mark of wisdom and foresight that the leadership in Nevada has considered investing so significantly and to an institution such as a new state public health laboratory. A state laboratory is possibly the most important institution that people never hear of or think about. It is one of those institutions in the state that shows its success when something is not happening, such as illness, disease, and death. The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory finds toxins and bacteria in drinking and recreational waters and food, metabolic and genetic disorders in newborns (every child born in Nevada is tested for 55 such disorders within three days of birth), tuberculosis, drug resistant and food borne bacteria, and dozens of other infectious diseases in individuals who may not know they have them. The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory also detects and maintains the capability to detect chemical and biological agents of terror. The laboratory does all this for the entire state. The menu of capabilities is among the largest of all state laboratories in the United States. The system of transportation and couriers transports any specimen from any part of the state to the laboratory within one day.

During COVID-19, the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory was one of the first nine laboratories in the United States to be able to test for the virus. Since then, the laboratory has run 475,000 such tests.

Most citizens are not aware of this information, which means the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and the public health community are performing their intended functions. However, laboratories must constantly be able to adapt and expand. The threats of the past are still present and there are always new threats to come, particularly infectious diseases. This has been seen continuously in history, even recent history, and even since COVID-19. The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory cannot expand or adapt as it should when faced with these challenges. Also, among these challenges is opioid and drug testing. Nevada is now the only state in the nation without a state-level toxicological lab for this kind of testing.

The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory matters to the health of the people in the state. Nevada deserves to give the laboratory the ability to maintain that status and grow to face future threats.

MAUREEN SCHAFER (Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Health and Bioscience Corporation [NHBC]):

The mission of the NHBC is to develop health care assets and education, and clinic and research programming for Southern Nevada institutions. The NHBC's first project is nearly complete in delivering the Kerkorian Medical Education Building for the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. Built with generous state support, this building will serve to train and deliver more doctors to the state.

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada's tremendous growth and ambition revealed a need for increased health care services and infrastructure for the citizens and economy. The pandemic has placed even greater stress on the state, and yet in some ways, opportunity on that reality.

The NHBC is here today to request funds to develop these critical and needed health care assets for the community. The first asset is a clinical and mental health care ambulatory care center for the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine mentioned earlier by the Dean of the UNLV School of Medicine to further develop academic medicine for Southern Nevada. The second asset is a public health laboratory to deliver enhanced laboratory services to the Southern Nevada population in a more cost and time efficient manner.

The NHBC develops and delivers health care assets to the population and will work with anyone to advance increased quality and innovative health care as a public good for all citizens in Nevada. The NHBC looks forward to speaking with the Committee further about the opportunity to be part of these important requests.

MATTHEW HAHN (President, Graduate Student Association, University of Nevada, Reno [UNR]):

The Graduate Student Association represents about 37,000 graduate students at UNR. When I am not acting as the President of the Graduate Student Association, I am a student working on my PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology at the UNR School of Medicine, where research is provided not just for the community, but for a worldwide audience.

Today, I am here in support of Agenda Item F.12, which would help provide an investment for the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and the UNR School of Public Health. The reason these two investments are important in relation to graduate and undergraduate education, is that they will provide a resource for individuals at UNR to partner with individuals at the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory. To put this in perspective, during the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years, UNR researchers were able to carry out genomic sequencing from real patients in Nevada to find that there were slight variations between the differences in Northern Nevada compared to Southern Nevada. Not only did this provide information on the community and enhance education of graduate and undergraduate students locally, but it was able to provide timely information to the state. The laboratory also received renown national recognition for sequencing the COVID-19 virus and provided accurate information about single genomic mutations that were occurring in real time. As a result, this partnership between the university and state public health allows for research that is able to be carried out on a timely basis as well as a relevant basis in terms of what is happening in society and globally and for the State of Nevada.

Along with this, research at UNR has provided about \$300 million in revenue and will continue to do so with the Committee's added support through these two initiatives.

FATEMA AZMEE (Master's Student and Elected Representative, Graduate Student Association, College of Liberal Arts and Reynolds School of Journalism, and Internal Vice President, Graduate Student Association, UNR):

I am here in support of Agenda Item F.12. The School of Public Health works closely with the UNR student health center on campus. Because of their cooperative relationship and

closeness in proximity, the student health center and the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory were able to provide valuable resources to graduate and undergraduate student populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The health center provides treatment and diagnoses for little to no cost for most common health concerns and helps students attain the resources they need for more serious concerns.

During the last few years, the partnership between the student health center and the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory was able to provide an easy, quick, and safe way for students to get tested for COVID-19. I personally benefited from this when I had the virus earlier this year. Without the laboratory, it would have been difficult for me to get tested and keep my family safe as well as the students that I teach in my lectures.

By providing funds to the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and the UNR School of Public Health, these partnerships will be strengthened and will help support nearly 20,000 students at UNR.

SCOTT DOOLEY (Council Member, College of Engineering Graduate Program, UNR):

I support Agenda Item F.12. Looking deeper into the UNR School of Public Health, I continue to think about the mission statement to develop, disseminate, and apply knowledge to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities. This goes to say that UNR is more than just students, faculty, and staff. The ranking of Tier 1 related to research is a significant award that proves the university helps more than just the local community and is the reason UNR helps people statewide and nationwide. This is due to the level of projects and research that help to aid current problems, especially from the School of Public Health.

As part of the justification for Work Program #23FR132759, \$3 million will be used for renovations, recovery, and preparations. Furthermore, proposed funding will help aid from the effects of COVID-19 and mitigate future public health emergencies. As the Committee is aware, COVID-19 had a significant impact on the community. Preparing for the future is an absolute need. By aiding the UNR School of Public Health and the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, future development will put the people of the nation in a good position.

MONIKA BHARTI (PhD Student and Elected Representative of the Graduate Student Association, College of Education and Human Development, UNR):

I support Agenda Item F.12. In my opinion, public health is very much related to infrastructure. For example, infrastructure can help generate more public health professionals. Investment in public health programs saves money by preventing injuries and illness, which is important as the population ages. In popular areas of Reno, such as the university, there is more likelihood of transmission of pathogens and the coronavirus. The student health center in association with the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory was able to offer frequent testing. As a result, students were able to know what precautions to take to prevent the spread of the virus, which helped the entire university. I think this initiative is necessary and would support the university.

ROB BENNER (Secretary-Treasurer, Building and Construction Trades Council of Northern Nevada [BCTNN]):

The BCTNN supports Agenda Item F.12. The relationship between UNR and the BCTNN has been rough over the years, but that has recently changed. The UNR has worked very closely with the BCTNN on this project and has committed to negotiate a project labor agreement if the project is funded by the Committee. The project labor agreement will ensure that local workers in Northern Nevada will be selected for this project.

Going forward through the next couple of years with some economic uncertainty, Nevada needs to ensure there are projects like this in the pipeline that have labor requirements to ensure that if something does happen, local construction workers will have jobs that will provide for their families. I believe that is very important. During the previous recession, I was out of work for a while, and it was difficult to see active construction projects with out-of-state contractors and workers. The UNR is ensuring this project will be built using local construction workers.

MEGAN COMLOSSY (Associate Director, Center for Public Health Excellence, School of Public Health, UNR):

As the Committee considers the proposed investment in public health infrastructure today, I think it is important to understand public health and why a robust infrastructure is critical for the state's public health system and the health of Nevadans. Prior to the pandemic, many may not have been aware of ongoing public health efforts. That is generally because public health activities happen in the background. They are invisible when they are working and having an impact on daily life.

In contrast to doctors who diagnose and treat individuals and their illnesses and injuries, public health experts diagnosis and treat the health of entire communities. They listen to community members, use data and evidence to offer solutions, and work with community partners to implement those solutions.

Governments have been striving to keep people healthy for 150 years. These efforts have evolved with scientific advancements and involve developing basic sanitation practices, embracing water purification, sewage treatments, and immunizations, ensuring food safety, and working to prevent and manage chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease. These achievements are often taken for granted because until recently, devastating pandemics were a thing of the past. However, for many, COVID-19 provided the first concrete example of the work of the public health sector and underscored the importance of a robust public health system. It also highlighted the consequences of decades of chronic underfunding, workforce shortages, and outdated infrastructure, which limited the state's capacity to respond to public health challenges prior to the pandemic and exacerbated them during the crisis.

This one-time investment, the largest in Nevada's history, will help the agencies, laboratories and schools of public health at UNR and UNLV that work closely to comprise the public health system in Nevada to regain footing and ensure they are better prepared to successfully respond to current and future public health needs.

MUGE AKPINAR-ELCI (Dean and Professor, School of Public Health, UNR):

The UNR School of Public Health is a critical piece of the public health system in Nevada. It is a key component of the state public health workforce pipeline, and it has trained many of the dedicated public health servants who worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic and who will continue to keep communities safe and healthy after the pandemic.

In the fall of 2022, the School of Public Health will have 1,500 undergraduate students and approximately 300 graduate students. The School of Public Health is proud to say that 80% of its graduates remain in Nevada. The school's research [inaudible] with Nevada's public health practice and policy making. During the pandemic, the School of Public Health and its centers played an important role in the state's pandemic response. They were responsible for hiring, training, and managing more than 100 contact tracers; training testing site staffers [inaudible] biostatistician for local health authorities; developing essential COVID-19 training, webinars, and certification; and assisting vaccine clinics in underserved communities.

The School of Public Health is the largest school at UNR but with very limited space. Students and staff are scattered among five buildings on the campus. The proposed \$3 million to renovate a building for the School of Public Health will provide additional space and bring staff and students together in the same physical location. It will help increase the capacity to train more public health practitioners and enhance community engagement as the School of Public Health continues to work closely with the state and local public health agencies as well as the UNLV School of Public Health to keep Nevadans healthy.

BEN CHALLINOR (Policy and Legislative Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor):

Lieutenant Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead supports various items before the Committee, specifically items relating to children's mental health and community colleges. As a former educator and school administrator, Lieutenant Governor Cano Burkhead understands what these investments will mean for Nevada's youth. As a high school principal, she saw firsthand the toll that the pandemic took on her students. There are many factors that contribute to a child's mental health. These investments will ensure that the state is meeting those needs.

Additionally, the Lieutenant Governor is a strong supporter of all higher education, including universities, community colleges and trade schools. The community college investments will allow for students to gain education without incurring debt.

MELISSA SARAGOSA (Chief Judge, Las Vegas Justice Court):

The Las Vegas Justice Court handles approximately 70% of the entire state's summary eviction proceedings. I am speaking in support of Agenda Item F.57, specifically with respect to eviction diversion.

One positive outcome of the pandemic was that the Las Vegas Justice Court forged a great partnership with Clark County Social Services; the two entities are working together in eviction diversion. Eviction diversion is an important aspect of what the county can offer to individuals, and the court can partner with them to remove those cases, which can prevent evictions outside of the court system.

In a typical year, the Las Vegas Justice Court sees about 30,000 evictions. In FY 2022, the Las Vegas Justice Court opened 43,902 eviction cases. Those cases were opened by a landlord or a tenant depending upon the filing. With that volume and the limited resources, a case that opened today would not get set for hearing until January 2023, which is a very long time. On one hand, this does allow time to provide resources to individuals through a diversion program to prevent eviction and will also help remove those cases from the court system.

Part of the reason the court saw so many eviction cases last year is because when an individual has been provided rental assistance and falls behind on rent again, they file for rental assistance again. To clarify, when someone files for rental assistance, the case is stayed, and when the rental assistance request is approved, the case is dismissed. If the individual falls behind again, a new case is generated. Although the number is large, the same case is often processed multiple times. Therefore, something different needs to be done, which is the intent of the diversion program that the court and Clark County are working to develop.

The Las Vegas Justice Court is in support of eviction diversion and funds that are flexible because there are a variety of reasons that someone may come into the system and need rental assistance unrelated to COVID-19. It is critical for the county to be able to use the funds to prevent an eviction.

DAN MUSGROVE (Lobbyist and former Chair of the Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium):

Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Chair of the Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium, submitted written comments for the record ([Exhibit E-2](#)). However, I think it is important that I echo the comments of Ms. Buckley and Ms. Jacob. There are about 30 items on the agenda today that are focused on children's mental health. These items are generationally transformational for Nevada and the system of care for children. I cannot begin to express the importance of the work that has been ongoing for over a year. I had the honor of being a part of the group that met every week, sometimes more, to discuss these items and work through the process. We would not be here without the federal delegation providing the funds or without the work of the Office of the Governor, DHHS Director Richard Whitley and his team, and Clark County staff.

It is tragic what children and families have experienced. The Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium has been very involved in this issue for a number of years. I was the chair of the consortium for eight years. The consortium has come before the Legislature many times asking for these kinds of supports and services. The Committee has an amazing opportunity today to approve investments that are significant for children and families. After the funds are approved, work will begin to ensure the funds are sustainable, used to find providers, and put programs in place for the long term.

MICHELLE PAUL (Executive Director, UNLV Practice):

The UNLV Practice is a university-based, interdisciplinary, community mental health training clinic. With me today is Dr. Sarah Hunt, the Director of the UNLV Mental and Behavioral Health Training Coalition. Together, we represent mental health training at UNLV from classrooms to clinics and on to the community.

It comes as no surprise that Nevada is facing a mental health crisis. According to Mental Health America, Nevada ranks last in the nation for access to care despite the great need.

The UNLV Practice thanks the Committee for consideration of Agenda Item F.12. The proposed UNLV academic health and ambulatory care center is an important and necessary initiative to increase much needed access to quality mental health care while developing the next generation of the mental health workforce. The UNLV Practice is excited about the proposed ambulatory care center as it will collocate and integrate UNLV's two community mental health training clinics that are currently operating independently.

Every year across these two clinics, approximately 60 mental health graduate and doctoral students provide an estimated 15,000 hours of low-cost, sliding scale services to children, adolescents, and adults under the expert supervision of properly licensed or credentialed faculty. Additionally, this type of innovative clinical space will promote and expand whole-person care by allowing student therapists the opportunity to integrate and train in medical clinics, thereby expanding access to desperately needed mental health care.

The UNLV Practice is most pleased to tell you that there is a committed team behind this building working together to ensure that mental health is viewed as equal to physical health and guided in the principal that the community grows healthier when we integrate the two. The UNLV Practice looks forward to answering the Committee's questions about the mental health services and training in this proposed space. The UNLV Practice thanks the Committee for considering this space where we hope to grow, innovate, and make a difference for Nevada.

KENDRA GIPSON (Family Voice Facilitator, Statewide Family Network Program, Nevada PEP):

Nevada PEP is designated by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration as the statewide family network for the state, and as the parent partner organization for the state system of care grant, which are both focused on improvement of systems that serve families and children with behavioral health care needs.

Unfortunately, before the pandemic, Nevada struggled to meet the behavioral health care needs of children, youth and their families, ranking 51st in the nation for children's mental health. The pandemic only added to the preexisting challenges youth have faced including grief, loss, and fear of the unknown, which has resulted in more children and youth experiencing depression, anxiety and trauma. Children and youth with identified needs prior to the pandemic, such as those with emotional disturbances, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities were disproportionally represented and impacted by the pandemic as they regressed in their social, emotional, and academic skills. The systems in Nevada are now struggling to be responsive to the immediate and significant needs of children and families. Staffing shortages in schools, mental health and other community systems are further impeding Nevada's recovery. This investment in children's behavioral health care is a critical need for Nevada's children, youth and families. Without access to family supports

and effective and equitable community-based services, more children will have poor outcomes and will be at increased risk for out-of-home placements and institutionalization.

Thank you for supporting the system of care's capacity to serve the most vulnerable children and their families in Nevada.

YESENIA GONZALES (Azul Blue United by Autism):

Azul Blue United by Autism is speaking in support of the item related to the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center as it is a fundamental steppingstone in the community for many families. Many families contact Azul Blue United by Autism asking for help because of the unfortunate long waiting list. As many know, early intervention is key. The rate of children being diagnosed with autism is rising. Dr. Julie Foutz Beasley and Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba are vital in the community.

I ask the Committee as a mother of a child with autism who is on a waiting list and as a mother with autism who is advocating for the community to please help the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center and those families on the waiting lists. No child should be left behind.

It is disheartening, because Azul Blue United by Autism continually receives calls from families in need of services. Azul Blue United by Autism gives families information on where to get help but cannot guide them to the right place. I have personally been on a waiting list for three years. This investment of funds is vital to the community. I ask the Committee to please help the community.

MAGDALENA RUIZ (Family-to-Family Peer Support Services Program Director, Nevada PEP):

Families play a critical role in supporting their children's education and wellbeing and continue to need support because of the damaging effects the pandemic has had on children's mental health. The current shortage of educators, mental health and community providers makes it even more difficult for families to navigate the service systems for their children.

Family peer support services are important to help families meet the behavioral health needs of their children. Each month, Nevada PEP supports 700 families of children with autism, emotional disturbance, ADHD, and intellectual and developmental disabilities who also have behavioral health care needs. Family peer support services are a part of a nationally promoted comprehensive children's system of care, and Nevada PEP has provided this service statewide for over 25 years in partnership with the DHHS Division of Child and Family Services. The program follows national best practice standards and providers complete a two-year training and national certification process. Nevada PEP uses its own lived experience and expertise of having a child with similar needs to provide encouragement, connection, mentoring and skill-building to help families obtain the support and services they and their children need.

KRISTA CIELO:

I am the parent of a 19-year-old on the autism spectrum, also having ADHD and bipolar disorder. I fully support the Committee's investment in children's mental health care in Nevada. We spent 18 years navigating children's mental health care services in Las Vegas, which was always a fiasco and a full-time job. The waiting list was either ridiculously long, providers were subpar, or many times there were simply no providers in the entire Clark County area or even in the entire state that could provide the services my son needed.

I urge the Committee to dedicate as much funding as possible to children's mental health care services and to autism services so that the children coming up today will not have the same experience as me and my son.

NORMA IRIS MEDINA:

I am the parent of ten children, four of which suffer from mental illness. Two of my children have ADHD and were diagnosed with sensory challenges. I also have two daughters who have greatly suffered with anxiety, especially after the pandemic.

I am here because I want to express how the lack of treatment options creates issues for parents and the communities in which we live. Yet, to this day, we have not been able to receive treatment for three of my children because of the shortage of mental health services, specifically therapy. We are still on a waiting list.

Another concern is the increased number of suicides, which has been an unfortunate issue for families in Nevada, especially among youth. Suicide affects everyone. It is the leading cause of death for Nevadans between the ages of 12 and 19 years according to Nevada Suicide Prevention. Last year, my children had to witness their peers being depressed and angry, there were ongoing fights, and sadly, suicides. Parents go through that coping process with their children. The impact of loss has caused my children a great deal of emotional pain. They have experienced and are still experiencing great loss with not being able to participate in certain events and milestones at school.

I am here to support the proposals for mental health services because it is impacting families. If mental health issues go untreated, there is an increased risk of school failure as well as crime and dependence on social services, and even higher rates of suicide and addiction. As a parent, I am trying to be proactive. I want to save the lives of my children and other children. I want my voice to be heard and I want families to have access to mental health services for children of all ages.

SHAWN GERSTENBERGER (Dean, School of Public Health, UNLV):

I am here to express my support for Agenda Item F.12. In the essence of time, I am not going to reiterate all the support expressed by colleagues in the north for the laboratories in other areas, but I do support them. Nevada needs that infrastructure statewide.

I would like to take a moment to talk about how the funding would be used at UNLV. The funding for the UNLV School of Public Health would be used to support and enhance the work of the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition. The coalition is designed to assess and reduce health disparities and increase health equity across the state. Nevada

cannot be made healthier by only working with healthy people. Unfortunately, it is necessary to look at those who are the sickest. Often, those people are marginalized minority groups, disenfranchised, underinsured and low-income individuals. These are exactly the people that the coalition targets.

The Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition has over 350 members. The requested funding would provide a space for those members to work with UNLV faculty, staff and students, and provide culturally competent training to infuse the workforce with students who can address these issues and work together to bring additional federal funding into the state to address issues such as COVID-19, mental health and many other things that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

STEFANIA MOORE (Outreach Director, United Citizens Foundation):

The United Citizens Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides mental health services. I am not here to provide statistics regarding mental health or the work of the United Citizens Foundation as I am certain you all have access to that information.

I am here to share a personal story that I hope will allow the Committee to see the need for mental health care in Nevada. Twelve years ago, as a senior in high school, I sat next to a young man named Adam in a math class. Adam was an incredibly smart and kind individual. We often spoke to each other about our futures after graduation. We would discuss colleges and professions.

One day, Adam was not in class. The next day, my class along with a few other classes were taken into the auditorium and told that Adam had passed away. He committed suicide. I often wonder about that day. We had no idea he was suffering. It is not something he ever shared with us. I do wonder if there was a system in place that could have provided Adam with support. If he had a place where he could talk through his issues, he may still be here today. I believe that if Nevada put more funding into mental health services, more people like Adam could be saved.

MICHELLE JOHNSON (United Citizens Foundation):

The United Citizens Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 agency established in 2010 and dedicated to serving children, youth, families, and individuals by providing mental and behavioral health and substance use counseling. The agency's mission is to provide services and programs for underprivileged, underserved, and at-risk youth and families. This is done through school-based health clinics, home-based services, telehealth and two community-based clinics.

The United Citizens Foundation has identified a problem related to the lack of access to essential mental health services for youth and their families in Nevada. Through school-based health clinics, the agency provides services at 15 Clark County schools. The United Citizens Foundation is ensuring students and families, regardless of economic status, receive mental, behavioral and substance use counseling services. The agency's clinical and support staff includes licensed clinical mental health professionals, school and community liaisons, and community health workers.

Amongst youth, serious behavioral and mental health problems such as self-injurious behaviors, suicidal ideation, domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, difficulty adjusting to peer relational issues like bullying, and alcohol and substance abuse, are assessed, evaluated, and treated by licensed staff.

The goal is to ensure that youth have access to much needed support services to improve student performance and behavior in schools as well as to proactively avoid incarceration, victimization, homelessness and/or alcohol and substance abuse addiction.

YVETTE WILLIAMS (Chair, Clark County Black Caucus):

I am here today to speak with the Committee regarding an issue that is a priority for the Clark County Black Caucus given the disparity and access to health care among African Americans.

It is no surprise to the Committee that access to mental health professionals is critical. Currently, Nevada students are in crisis. During last year's African American Student Summit, an astonishing 98% of all students in attendance expressed that either themselves or someone they knew needed mental health support. The Committee has heard comments about the reality of capacity and the inability to meet needs locally. More than 30,000 insured students in Nevada who have sought mental health care have a copay that parents often cannot afford, especially when their child needs multiple sessions. This can mean thousands of dollars for many families that cannot afford it, which leaves them feeling helpless and desperate to help their child. That is only if they are one of the lucky few to find a mental health professional. I personally have received desperate calls from parents and sometimes students.

The Clark County Black Caucus supports funding more mental health support for students through school-based providers. The caucus has advocated for additional resources before the Nevada Legislature for the past six years.

I would like to share about one of those impactful providers that is seeing amazing results. The Clark County Black Caucus was pleased to collaborate with Clark County School District (CCSD) in addressing this crisis head on in gaining support from the school board of trustees to provide thousands of students with mental health services through telehealth at school and home, which helps keep students in school. Since January 2022, through Hazel Health LLC, the CCSD provides access to mental health professionals to every student in the district without any out-of-pocket expense regardless of insurance status, thereby reducing the access gap. Students see a professional within two weeks, and after six weeks of therapy, they are referred to a local professional for any necessary follow up. All students have access, including undocumented students and those whose parents make too much money for Medicaid and too little to purchase private insurance. Thirty percent of the mental health professionals are people of color and speak over 20 different languages, aligning cultural competency. I would note that telehealth does not replace the need for local services. It does help with the capacity challenges that Nevada will never be able to achieve.

I have attached more information about this program and its benefits to my written testimony, which includes a flyer that is given to every student. The flyer contains a QR code allowing parents to give authorization for care ([Exhibit E-3](#)).

The Clark County Black Caucus is asking that this program and similar programs continue following the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It is unimaginable that students may not have access to mental health services after the 2023-2024 school year. The caucus humbly requests that funds be allocated in the 2023-25 biennium for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost is \$15 per year, per child. The Clark County Black Caucus also asks that this program be expanded statewide.

Ms. Williams provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-3](#)).

VIRGINIA VALENTINE (President, Nevada Resort Association):

I am here today in support of Agenda Item F.16, which includes a grant to the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) for staffing.

As the Committee is aware, the SNHD Environmental Health Division oversees public health in restaurants, tattoo parlors, child care centers, and more. The division is critical to community wellbeing.

The Nevada Resort Association believes it is very important to support SNHD staffing as the state continues to recover from the pandemic and deals with critical labor shortages as well as the impacts of inflation on businesses. The Nevada Resort Association appreciates the Committee's support of Agenda Item F.16.

KATHERINE JACOBI (President and Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Restaurant Association):

The Nevada Restaurant Association is here in support of Agenda Item F.16, which would provide ARPA funds for local public health agencies and their immediate needs. The Nevada Restaurant Association recognizes that the SNHD provides critical services for residents and visitors.

Because health services are funded by revenue generated by licensed businesses, the SNHD Board voted to raise permit fees for restaurants by 27%. This fee will negatively impact the industry, which is struggling to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. The restaurant industry was severely impacted by the pandemic, causing 30% of restaurants in the state to close permanently, while other restaurants are still recovering. Businesses are impacted by food costs, which are currently averaging a 30% increase, as well as added transportation fees, increased labor costs and shortages, and inflation. Residents are also struggling with increased costs of housing, food, and services. Increasing a fee that is passed on is a serious burden at this time.

The Nevada Restaurant Association is requesting the Committee's approval of ARPA funds for the health districts.

DYLAN KEITH (Manager of Government Affairs, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce):

I am also here in support of Agenda Item F.16. The extra staffing provided through these funds will increase stability for small businesses but will also provide for many improvements for the community and its residents. During this time, as many small businesses are struggling to remain open, the consistency and additional resources this funding would provide would be incredibly beneficial.

ALEX BYBEE (Communities in Schools of Nevada):

Communities in Schools of Nevada is a statewide evidence-based, nonprofit organization providing stay-in-school support for 91 schools in Clark, Elko, Humboldt and Washoe County School Districts and case management for over 7,000 students in those schools.

Communities in Schools of Nevada is here to offer support of Agenda Item F and various investments from federal relief funds in children's mental health. Communities in Schools of Nevada has 120 site coordinators working in high-need schools every day. Over the last two years, those site coordinators have found that more students across all grade levels are demonstrating an expressed need for mental health support. Communities in Schools of Nevada is grateful to the partners and advocates that have worked to ensure these investments are on the agenda today. This support will provide needed relief to the students served by Communities in Schools of Nevada.

Communities in Schools of Nevada would like to thank its partner, UNLV's The Practice. The two entities provide tele-mental health services in Elko and Humboldt Counties given the shortage of mental health providers in the rural areas of the state. Communities in Schools of Nevada would also like to thank the Family and Child Treatment Center of Southern Nevada and Quest Counseling in Washoe County. Through these partnerships, site coordinators can bring the community into schools and alleviate barriers.

Mr. Bybee provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-4](#)).

KATHY FLANAGAN (Southern Nevada Water Authority [SNWA]):

I am speaking in support of Agenda Items F.10 and F.11. The Colorado River is experiencing a severe and ongoing water drought, which has dramatically reduced Lake Mead's water elevation to historically low levels. As a result of these dire conditions, the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery's water intake has been rendered inoperable, causing the hatchery to suspend operations until a new water delivery system can be designed and constructed.

Over the years, the SNWA has engaged in successful partnerships with many local, state, and federal agencies. This crisis has created an opportunity for collaboration and partnership. The SNWA, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife seek to partner to implement a project for the design and construction of a new water pipeline that will convey water from existing SNWA intake facilities. The SNWA intakes are located at deeper elevations than the original hatchery intake, which will provide a more reliable water source for the hatchery and better-quality water to improve conditions for fish rearing.

It is important to note that water used by the fish hatchery will be returned to the lake so the project will not impact water availability and will not contribute to a greater consumptive use of water.

This project is needed to get the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery back online so Nevada can continue to implement the goals of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program for the conservation of federally endangered fish and comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

For these reasons, the SNWA respectfully requests that the Committee approve the use of these federal funds in support of this much needed project.

Ms. Flanagan provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-5](#)).

NICK VASSILIADIS (R&R Partners Foundation):

I am testifying in favor of Agenda Item F.25, which would fund diagnostic and therapeutic provider services for the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center. Many spoke before me about the crucial time that Nevada is experiencing, especially coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I was not diagnosed with ADHD until age 20. It was a relief to find out what was causing my struggles, especially in the academic space. My life changed significantly after I found out the cause, learned coping mechanisms, and in some cases, medication to provide a path forward. I think I can speak on behalf of every teacher, that early diagnosis is the most important factor. Getting to children as soon as possible and determining what is causing their struggles and obstacles, providing coping mechanisms, and in certain cases medication, provides children with a stable foundation.

The R&R Partners Foundation is hopeful the Committee will find additional money to allocate because these services are lifechanging for students.

DR. ELIZABETH SEXTON (Mental Health Programs Administrator, Washoe County School District):

I would like to provide information about Agenda Item F in terms of caring for children. As one of the doctors said, Nevada is 51st in the country for access to mental health care and mental health outcomes. With the closing of West Hills Hospital, Washoe County was placed in the extreme range in terms of access to emergency care.

Part of my job is to assess and provide support for children with the most significant mental health and behavioral needs in the Washoe County School District (WCSD). I want to provide some statistics that might put a face to the people who are being discussed. Of the students I evaluated in the 2021-2022 school year, 55% of those children met criteria for severe complex post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This is in comparison to 7.2% in a typical population. The children who met the criteria for severe complex PTSD experienced broken bones, a caregiver nearly being killed in a domestic violence incident, sexual assault, and molestation going back to as early as seven months old. These children were trying to access school while carrying these burdens. None of them had received diagnoses, therapy, or support.

Twenty-two percent of the children met the criteria for fetal alcohol syndrome, autistic spectrum disorder, or other specified neuro-developmental disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, as well as quirky neuro-developmental disabilities without a label. This is in comparison to about 1% to 5% in a typical population. That equates to 22% who had never been diagnosed and never received therapy or appropriate support.

Seven percent of the children met the criteria for a psychotic disorder, which leads to things such as schizophrenia, a severe lifelong mental illness. That is compared to an incident rate of 0.7%. Again, none of these children received mental health intervention, care, or support.

The WCSD has a very limited mobile crisis response team capacity. The mobile crisis response team is stellar. There are just not enough resources in Washoe County and no capacity for crisis stabilization. Currently, the crisis stabilization process involves the police. Those children are then transported to an emergency room where they are either discharged or held in the intensive care unit for up to two weeks. There are also children in juvenile detention centers who are mentally ill and have developmental delays. These children deserve a life; they are the future of the state. I am asking the Committee to please fund mobile crisis response teams with a focus on Washoe County and support the system of care.

KATHERINE LOUDON (Counseling Coordinator, WCSD):

I am here in support of this transformative and transformational proposal on behalf of the children's system of care. The Committee has heard from many others so I will not duplicate those comments.

The children's system of care, intensive in-home services, wraparound and intensive care coordination, respite, and family and peer supports are essential. Specifically, Agenda Item F.15 addresses the need in Washoe County for support of the Division of Child and Family Services mobile crisis response teams. Counseling coordinators work in the schools, brokering services and support, and they need to have a community and state that can provide support. Additionally, I also support Agenda Item F.5, which involves integrating and collocating support within the community.

KENT ERVIN (Nevada Faculty Alliance) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-6](#)).

DANIEL CLARK:

I am the parent of two children, one of whom has always been a little different. We always knew he would need extra attention. My son is six years old and when he recently started expressing that he wanted to die, we did not know what to do. We started reaching out anywhere we could, but no one knew where to send us or how to help us. Eventually, we tracked down a program called mobile crisis that was able to help us navigate the issue; however, we are still waiting for a full assessment to understand what is going on with our son. We are in a better place now.

I have some privileges that many families do not. I speak English and have health insurance and an education that has helped me understand mental health.

I already have connections with some organizations in Nevada. I do not know how, but Nevada needs more psychologists and psychiatrists that can help children and parents in crisis like us.

MAYA VODEZ:

I am the mother of two autistic children, and I have a foster baby in my care who was exposed to drugs. I would like to talk about a program that was implemented a few years ago that helped my children and I would like that program to continue. My children were able to attend Ackerman Autism Center and early intervention, which made a significant difference in their lives. Now my son is higher functioning, easier to handle, and he understands, which is significant for him. However, since he aged out, we no longer have services or resources available. We have been on a list for services with another company for about six months and we are still not sure when we will get resources.

Therapists are a rotating door in Nevada because I do not think they receive enough financial support to remain in such a difficult profession. Parents are impacted by the lack of mental health services and support. I had to choose between a ten-year federal career and staying home to care for my children on a full-time basis. Without resources for my children, I am left to pick up the pieces. I had to enroll my children at Duke University for laboratory services for genome testing. The testing came back normal, but it took ages to get the results and cost \$8,000.

Imagine what \$3 million would do for children's lives compared to renovating a building. Think about the future and the next generation. When you are old and retired, think about 30% of the population needing mental health support. Mental health is crucial for future generations.

PATRICK DONNELLY (Great Basin Director, Center for Biological Diversity):

I am calling in support of Agenda Items F.10 and F.11 related to the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery. It might seem odd to provide funding to support an intake for a fish hatchery; however, the operations of the Lake Mead hatchery are essential to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. The program is part of the permit to operate Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam. The only way the operation of those dams and the Colorado River as a whole is in compliance with federal law is through the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. That, in turn, enables Las Vegas and the SNWA to get water from the Colorado River. A functioning Lake Mead Fish Hatchery is essential for ensuring the future water supply for Southern Nevada and people across the Colorado River Basin.

I urge the Committee to fund this important infrastructure project for the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery.

JULIE (LAST NAME OMITTED BY CALLER):

I reside in Washoe Valley and have a 15-year-old daughter named Ashley. She was misdiagnosed when she was 8 years old. I had her tested for autism and she has been in and out of therapy. It has been a struggle to find therapy in the Reno/Carson City area. Ashley was recently at Reno Behavioral Health for the last school year. They could not help her, so they transferred her to Copper Hills Youth Center in Salt Lake City, Utah,

which is eight hours from home. I have had to travel there several times. While she was at Copper Hills Youth Center, she was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and mental health diseases including bipolar disorder, PTSD and personality disorder.

It is really sad that I had to travel so far. It would be nice to get more support in the Reno/Carson City area. It has been a struggle for many years. Since my daughter was young, there has always been something going on with her. We have been on the wait list for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for a long time.

I wish there was more support in Nevada, because right now, it is a struggle having a child with so many disabilities and not knowing how to help her. Trying to find help is difficult. Unlike a cold, there is no medicine to fix her problems.

I would really appreciate the Committee's help in providing more services in the community. I would also like to thank Nevada PEP and Wraparound Nevada for all their help in recent months.

ANN SILVER (Chief Executive Officer, Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce):

I am speaking in support of the Washoe County Health District's request for a satellite location for clinical services. The time for reckoning with public health resources is long overdue. Extensive population growth, inability to hire much needed medical professionals, lack of school and hospital nurses, rising health care costs, and the negative consequences of illness were all experienced during the pandemic. All these things make clear the need for an expanded site where residents can be screened for infectious diseases, get vaccinated, and be seen in-person by a health professional.

The \$10 million request from the Washoe County Health District is not unreasonable given the vast scope of Nevada's ARPA money and the impact it can have on critical health care needs in the community. An additional permanent site to address future demands and the wellness of a growing population seem like a positive vote for the Committee.

Ms. Silver provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-7](#)).

CALEB CAGE:

I am here in support of Agenda Item K, which is a request to remove assessments from four counties to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for public health services. I was involved in the statewide COVID-19 response efforts, and I can say that the state learned many lessons during that time. Nevada learned there was not enough focus and investment in public health throughout the state prior to the pandemic; public health efforts and investments need to be regional; and collaboration between state and local governments is very important.

The request under Agenda Item K for the removal of the assessment for provisions of services for the state is a critical first step forward for Churchill, Eureka, Mineral and Pershing Counties as they take affirmative intentional steps towards supporting local investments in public health. I support this request and urge the Committee to support it as well.

CARLEY MURRAY:

I am the parent of two teens with mental health difficulties. I support investing more in children's mental health services in the state. When we moved to Nevada, it took nearly five months to get mental health services set up for my children. That was likely due to the lack of providers and long wait lists. During the time we were waiting for services, my children's' mental health continued to suffer, which affected our entire family. Mental health is a critical issue in Nevada and children deserve better.

JANET QUINTERO (Vice President of Internal Affairs, United Way of Southern Nevada):
United Way of Southern Nevada is a nonprofit organization that has served the community for 65 years and focuses on building capacity in student success, workforce development, and community support.

I am calling in support of various items under Agenda Item F that include significant investments in rental assistance, reducing higher education costs, and support for public, behavioral, and mental health programs that will support children and families in Nevada.

I would like to thank the Committee for prioritizing these important programs and historic investments.

ANDRE WADE (State Director, Silver State Equality):
Silver State Equality is a statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization in Nevada. I am also a member of Governor Sisolak's Advisory Task Force on HIV Exposure Modernization for the State of Nevada.

I am providing public comment on the request for funding for monkeypox campaigns (MPX). It is critically important that the funding for the MPX is approved as there may still be an opportunity to address the spread of MPX before it becomes endemic to the gay, bi and men who have sexual relations with other men populations, and before MPX spreads to other populations as the virus does not discriminate.

To date, there are 100 suspected or known cases of MPX in Southern Nevada and 8 in Northern Nevada. These are the only known cases, which has grown from about 5 known cases throughout the state at the beginning of August 2022 to 108 statewide cases in less than three weeks. Unfortunately, MPX disproportionately impacts black and Hispanic people nationwide.

Southern Nevada is faced with the upcoming Pride celebration, which will bring thousands of people to the area to celebrate. It is important to get information out to the community at large, but specifically the LGBTQ+ community, as well as visitors, health care providers, and everyone else since anyone can be exposed to MPX.

Inaction only means that the general public at large will soon have a public health crisis with which to contend. Nevada must treat MPX as a growing public health concern that has the potential to disrupt the lives of everyone.

Compared to other states, Nevada's DHHS Division of Public and Behavioral Health response has been fairly quick, which is appreciated. I urge the Committee to approve

the funding request so that information and resources can be disseminated to Nevadans and visitors.

JENSEN PARKEN:

I am the sole provider for my three children, two of which are on the autism spectrum. I am a decorated Marine Corps veteran with two tours, and an engineer by trade, but I am presently unemployed. For reasons beyond our control, my family fled to Nevada, and we are living in hiding. Despite over a year of advocacy, my children are still without services.

I want to thank all the parents who called in for the same reason. Please consider supporting children's mental health services.

GREYSON WHITEHORN (Youth Facilitator, Youth MOVE Nevada):

Youth MOVE Nevada is a youth-inspired and youth-led organization that encourages and empowers our youth peers to unite together to engage with youth serving systems. We recognize the power of lived experience and are also a strength-based bridge to improving support services for youth, by youth, through our shared experience and expertise.

I am speaking on behalf of our youth members. During the public health emergency, youth across the state were put under the enormous strain of having to navigate education in a virtual environment, and some students did not have teachers when they went back to school. Many youths also had to access mental health in a virtual environment. While many youths may be resilient enough to bounce back from the traumatic impacts of COVID-19, others are not. Those people need access to timely, quality mental health care to recover.

Even before the U.S. Surgeon General alerted the nation of the youth mental health crisis across the country, Nevada's mental health care was in crisis and ranked 51st in the nation. The agenda items before the Committee today related to children's mental health care are critical to ensuring that the youth of Nevada have access to quality services that will help to ensure that their mental health needs are addressed in a trauma-informed and culturally responsive manner.

CHAR FROST (Chair, Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board):

On December 7, 2021, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an advisory on youth mental health crisis. In Nevada, advocates for children, youth and families applauded this bold statement. Families with children and youth with mental health needs have known for quite some time that Nevada was in crisis.

Mental Health America has consistently rated Nevada's children's mental health at 51st in the nation for the last five years. In 2021, an estimated 17.93% of youth ages 12 to 17 years experienced a major depressive episode in the past year. Unfortunately, half of those same youth have not received any treatment. This was a significant increase from 2020 numbers of 15.11%.

If ignored, mental health problems lead to further issues for children and youth. Early intervention may prevent further complications and problems from arising, such as an increased risk of out-of-home placement, whether a residential treatment center, juvenile justice facility or child welfare. Even when families try to access care, they are put on a wait list or given an appointment weeks or months later. If a family is seeking a neuro-psychological evaluation, the wait can be one year or more in many instances. These issues often disproportionately impact low-income and [inaudible] populations as well as those in the rural and frontier communities. In addition, the lack of array of community-based services and supports in Nevada pushes youth into higher cost, more restrictive treatment options.

The investments under consideration by the Committee will impact children, youth and families in a positive way, making it possible for many to find the right kind of help at the right time.

DR. TIFFANY TYLER-GARNER (Children's Advocacy Alliance):

I want to echo the many who stand in support of critical investments in children's mental health. I implore the Committee to consider approving the proposed investments. I also thank the Committee in advance for consideration given to any investment that furthers the public health system and provides support to children with special needs such as those who find themselves on the autism spectrum. Today's opportunity has been a long time coming. And as Nevada faces what is a national children's mental health crisis, the fact that Nevada is at this stage, says so much about the possibilities and future for children.

TONI BLAIR:

As the parent of two children with mental health issues, I fully support more services for children and adults in Nevada. My family has had difficulty finding help for our children who have multiple medical and mental health issues. We have been turned down for many placements because of our son's medical needs; he is a Type 1 diabetic. He also has many mental health issues including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, ADHD, reactive attachment disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, attention deficit disorder, and disruptive mood dysregulation disorder. Our daughter has autism and intellectual disability.

There is nothing available in Northern Nevada, even for medical care. We have to transport our son to the University of California, Davis for endocrinology care because there are only three endocrinologists in the Northern Nevada area and they are not accepting new patients or do not accept pediatric patients, and our son is 15 years old.

We fully support the investments, including the mobile crisis response teams and rural crisis response teams. Because we live in a very rural area, they do telehealth visits, but because of our son's mental health issues, he cannot sit still for video to calm down or receive emergency help. We have had to resort to calling the police. Our son has been arrested and is currently on probation. He is a good child otherwise and he is intelligent. It would be great if Nevada had good mental health providers that could work with him and help him to be successful in life.

CARRISA TASHIRO (Attorney, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center):

I am speaking in regard to Agenda Item F, specifically, the items related to mental health. I want to echo the comments of many others. Nevada urgently needs to develop a trauma-informed, community-based behavioral health care system for children in the state. Nevada ranks 47th in the nation in overall child wellbeing. There are a substantial number of children in the state who have been impacted by mental illness and trauma. Approximately 22% of Nevada children have at least one developmental or behavioral health condition requiring treatment. The existing mental health care system deprives these children and youth of the services they need to heal, thrive and become healthy, functioning, contributing members of the community.

In my many years of working disability law, I have encountered families who were told that the only way to access services for their children was to relinquish them to state custody; families who are desperately struggling while on wait lists for services; and families who are told the only treatment option for their child is a residential facility, sometimes out of state. I have seen the horrific abuses that happen in those facilities, as well as children who languish there for years, not because they need that level of care, but because there is nowhere else for them to go and no option to receive services at home.

The services needed in Nevada are community-based, trauma-informed and evidence-supported therapeutic treatments for children with complex trauma and mental illness. These services include hi-fidelity wraparound, intensive case management, mobile crisis response services, and intensive home-based services. In addition, Nevada needs an intermediate level of care for youth who might not be ready to be served in their homes, but who also do not require acute or residential care. There are many states that have treatment foster care funded as a Medicaid service. In treatment foster care, youth with emotional or behavioral issues receive intensive services in a home setting with specially trained foster parents. If Nevada had this type of service, it would be radically transformative for many children and families who are currently turned over to state custody or a facility.

I thank the Committee for your time and for considering how the state's behavioral health system can be transformed by ARPA funding for the benefit of Nevada's children.

BRITTNEY YOUNG:

I live in Reno and am the parent of a ten-year-old son who has been diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and mental health needs. It has not been an easy road getting services and supports for my son. We were on a one-year wait list just for the ADHD diagnosis and have struggled to get mental health services in our community [inaudible]. I was told different things by many different providers and kept getting the run around when it came to my son's mental health. I felt isolated and frustrated with the lack of services and providers in the community. However, with the support of Nevada PEP, I no longer feel alone. I have learned to advocate for my son and his needs.

Please help families like mine get access to support, programs and services that are desperately needed.

VICTOR SANCHEZ:

I am calling from Las Vegas. I would like the Committee to know the importance of mental health services. My grandson is ten years old and autistic. He does not speak complete sentences so he cannot communicate, making it very frustrating when he has a simple thing like a stomach pain or toothache. Speech therapy is very important for him and his future, as well as other programs to help him to develop and become a normal person who can communicate and express himself. The city keeps growing and the vulnerable citizens should be cared for.

JERI BURTON (Co-Executive Director, Nevada Chapter of the National Organization for Women):

I am calling in support of Agenda Item F regarding using ARPA funding for children's mental health in Clark County. There is a tremendous need in the community to provide appropriate mental health services for children. I am also calling as a grandmother of two grandchildren with autism. There is little access in Nevada for children with mental health needs. When one of my grandson's was diagnosed, it was suggested that we move from Las Vegas to California where there is better care. However, we are native Nevadans. This is where my family has lived since my grandparents moved to the state in the 1930s. Moving out of Nevada is not the answer.

Nevada needs better access to mental health care. I am asking for this funding as a grandmother but also as a leader in the National Organization for Women in Nevada. This is an important issue for our members.

DEBBIE BIASOTTI:

I am a grandparent raising two young children, four and six years old. They were born from a heroin-addicted mother. Both children suffer from learning delays, hyperactivity, and major behavioral issues. My six-year-old grandson has been diagnosed with severe ADHD and mood dysregulation disorder. It took over a year to get an appointment for those diagnoses. He is barely being medicated for ADHD and there is no ability for us to get ABA therapy in Fallon. My granddaughter is in the early stages of being evaluated.

I am in my 60s and have had these children since birth with no family or friends for support. I have had to give up my job because it is a full-time job to work with my grandchildren and obtain services for them. It has been very difficult the past three years to even attend the services that we were able to get. In addition, there is not much testing or support for children of drug-addicted mothers. Testing and support are mostly centered around fetal alcohol syndrome or autism.

It is difficult to get care for children under the age of six. Ideally, providers prefer to work with children between the ages of eight and ten years. If these issues are not addressed in younger children, it puts them at a higher risk for more problems as they get older, and they are less able to function and grow positively. Behaviors are more permanently imbedded as children get older.

Nevada needs more programs for behavior problems and/or daycare for the caregivers, especially for caregivers with little or no support. Prescribed medications are necessary to help these children slow down and focus, especially for children under the age of six.

These programs are needed in the rural areas. I support the Committee's investment in children's mental health, especially in these areas.

ELISA KLINE:

When my son was about 16 months old, I started noticing changes in his development. He was eventually diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and ADHD. When we moved to Nevada, the challenges became more difficult. My son struggled with the many transitions. Since we moved here, my son has attended four different schools, and each transition is worse than the last. His behavior is becoming more challenging.

Someone in the community told me about Nevada PEP and I called immediately, anxious for any assistance they could offer. I was given a wealth of information, training, and support to become a more effective advocate for my son. I was so impressed by the support that my Nevada PEP Family Specialist gave me, that I wanted to do for other families what she had done for my family. My son and I face many challenges every day in school and the community. My son is my pride and joy, and I will continue to seek ways to help him to be more successful. There is no doubt in my mind that his future will be great. Although I continue to have great challenges with my son, I use my experiences as well as what I have learned from Nevada PEP to help support other families with their struggles. Please invest in children's mental health services in Nevada.

ANNA WHITEHEAD:

I am a parent, and an early head start educator. I struggled to find mental health services in Clark County for adults and children. Early intervention is the best prevention. Through Nevada PEP, I have been taught and empowered to become an advocate for myself and my daughter, but how effective are these skills if Nevada does not have the proper funding for services?

In support of the three-digit fast code for the suicide prevention hotline, Governor Sisolak said that children need to know there is someone who can help. They also need to know there are resources in the community that will not make them wait months or years to be heard, appreciated, and empowered to continue their lives. While suicide is the leading cause of death for Nevadans ages 12 to 18 years, it is also the second leading cause of death for Nevadans ages 8 to 24 years.

I support the investment in children's mental health and their futures as well as the futures of their families.

DASHUN JACKSON (Director of Children's Safety and Welfare Policy, Children's Advocacy Alliance):

I am a foster care alumnus and a former resident of Child Haven. As someone who has utilized mental health services in Las Vegas, I understand the importance of available access for these services. As mentioned by many others, there is a critical need to invest in the mental health needs of children in Nevada. As research has shown, the need to make an impact is now. The need to address many of the challenges families are facing is now. With rising costs, housing instability and food insecurities, the need to invest in Nevada's children and families is at an all-time high and action is imperative.

Neil Postman said, “Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” Therefore, the need to invest is now.

ANNETTE DAWSON OWENS (School Readiness Policy Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance):

I am also calling in support of mental health investments for children and families. I cannot say it better than the many parents who have called to tell their stories, share their experiences, and request the Committee’s support.

I ditto the comments of Ms. Buckley, Ms. Cano Burkhead, Mr. Musgrove, and many more. We must invest in the frontend with these mental health services. These are some of the best returns on investments the state can make while also securing Nevada’s future.

JAMELLE NANCE (Strong Start Prenatal-to-Three Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance):
I am here to advocate for the items up for consideration under Agenda Item F. I am also representing Kendall Lyons, Director of Health Policy, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, who could not be here this morning.

I want to share with the Committee the items that align with the support of children’s mental health. I echo many of the comments of my colleagues and those who spoke before me about the importance of these investments for young children.

Nevada’s children and families need these proposed investments to support them and provide needed stability to their health and wellbeing. The disruption to learning, social development and job insecurity that resulted from the pandemic is ongoing and investments in school-based mental health as well as early childhood mental health providers and other wraparound family support services are crucial as families continue to rebuild in the coming years.

I would also like to echo the comments of Ms. Buckley, including previous comments related to her support of the Ackerman Center and services that support children with autism. I urge the Committee’s support of the items proposed today under Agenda Item F.

TRAVIS HAWKS:

I live in Douglas County. I want to voice my support for Agenda Item F.11. Nevada’s wildlife populations are facing threats from all directions. Unfortunately, they do not receive the attention needed nor can they speak for themselves. The threats to Nevada’s wildlife populations include urbanization, climate change, loss of habitat, lack of devoted funds, and resource utilization that is leading to species-level impact.

Agenda Item F.11 will fund a small project that is an important opportunity to help the Nevada Department of Wildlife protect species unique to Nevada for years to come and prevent the loss of Nevada’s biodiversity in the southern part of the state.

JOANNA GONZALEZ:

I am the parent of two girls with mental health needs. I support the investment in children’s mental health care in Nevada because there is a long wait list for services. It

took three years just to get one of my daughter's evaluated because many providers do not accept our health insurance. Please provide more mental health services.

CHRISTINE KLINGER:

I am a biologist and a concerned citizen. I support Agenda Items F.10 and F.11 to provide funds for the water delivery system to the Lake Mead hatchery. Among other things, this project is immensely important for conservation of fish listed on the Endangered Species Act, specifically the endangered bonytail chub and razorback sucker fish.

MICHELLE MAESE (President, Service Employees International Union [SEIU] Local 1107):
The SEIU represents 19,000 workers in Nevada, 11 hospitals, 39 Clark County departments, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Water Reclamation District, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, the Regional Transportation Commission, and Southern Nevada Health District.

The SEIU is in support of Agenda Item F and all agenda items related to ARPA requests for funding for children's mental health. The SEIU echoes the previous comments for the overwhelming need to provide mental health services for children in Nevada.

For 15 years, I worked as a supervisor for the Clark County Department of Family Services' specialized unit for abused and neglected children, fatalities, near fatalities, and sexual abuse. Over 200 SEIU essential employees work on the Child Haven campus and provide direct care for abused and neglected children.

I also want to recognize the SEIU members who work in juvenile justice along with the thousands of nurses and parks and recreation members who work directly with the most vulnerable population and witness the need for mental health services for children.

In 2014, SEIU Clark County Department of Family Services members led a safety-first campaign for the safety of children and members. Additionally, in January 2021, the SEIU began leading conversations with DHHS Director, Richard Whitley, the Clark County Department of Family Services, and other agencies regarding the permanency, safety and wellbeing of children, increased mental health services, appropriate placements, and safe working conditions for SEIU members.

The SEIU would like to thank Chair Denis for standing in solidarity with the union on the frontlines in October 2021. Over 100 SEIU family service workers, including Child Haven staff, led a protest outside Child Haven demanding more mental health treatment, mobile crisis teams for children, safety in the workplace, and increased staffing and ratios. The SEIU asks that the Oasis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility remain open and utilized as a safe and appropriate placement for children in need of mental health treatment who cannot return to their families.

The SEIU is in support of additional mental health services on behalf of children as well as a checks and balances plan for the financial recipients to come before the IFC to ensure the timeliness and implementation of programs, recruitment and staff support, and to provide the Committee with data and progress made on the allocated funds. The SEIU believes in all children and is thankful to families, community providers, leaders,

caregivers, educators, elected officials, attorneys, advocates, and Ms. Buckley who spoke up for children today and every day. The SEIU is grateful the Committee has been tasked with the approval of these funds as allocation will be a transformative change that children need and deserve, as they are the future.

KEVIN MATCHER:

I am an outdoor enthusiast in support of Agenda Items F.10 and F.11. The Lake Mead Fish Hatchery is critical to the conservation and recovery of species such as the razorback sucker and bonytail chub fish.

APRIL HARRIS:

I am a parent in support of the investment in children's mental health care in Nevada. I was the foster mom to a boy whom I later adopted. He has ADHD, fetal alcohol syndrome, and oppositional defiance. He is now 15 years old. My son has dealt with mental illness such that he was hospitalized for more than a week and received ten-day outpatient services. Without these things in place, my child may have been lost or possibly taken his life. Please invest in children's mental health care. Mental health care is imperative because it may help save the lives of children.

BRANDON SINGER:

I am a resident of Southern Nevada. I am calling in support of Agenda Items F.10 and F.11, which will provide funding to construct a new water supply line to the Lake Mead hatchery. The unprecedented declines in water levels in Lake Mead has made this project necessary. Without this project, the hatchery cannot receive water and will not be able to operate. The hatchery raises and stocks two endangered species of fish, the razorback sucker and bonytail chub. These fish are native to Nevada and have historically been affected by the Colorado River being converted into reservoirs and the establishment of a native fish. Raising these native fish in hatcheries and stocking them back into the wild is absolutely necessary to prevent their extinction and make meaningful progress in conservation. This new pipeline will allow the hatchery to continue to raise and stock native fish for decades, ultimately playing a critical role in conserving Nevada's native wildlife. The state's native wildlife is an important part of the state's heritage. This project will support that heritage.

ISABELLE SANCHEZ:

I am the parent of a severely autistic child who is two years old. He is nonverbal but speaks selectively. I have reached out to Ms. Buckley and anyone else who has knowledge about this in the Las Vegas area. We have gone through over 150 residential treatment centers and have been denied either because the facility does not take Medicaid, or the state and school district do not want to pay. Getting help for my son has been unbelievably difficult.

My son did not attend school for the last three weeks because of summer school. He knocked one of his adult teeth out from a single headbutt. I have had critical progressive performance methodology training, and he has had ABA therapy, which is conducted via telehealth. Although he is only ten years old, he is eventually going to kill himself or someone else. My son is a good child sometimes, but he has a difficult time speaking.

I think services for mental health are needed in the state. I believe Nevada is one of the worst states in the nation for services for children. I urge the Committee to help these children.

KIM TISDALE:

I am commenting on Agenda Items F.10 and F.11. I am asking the Committee to support the water delivery project for the Lake Mead hatchery under the environmental category of the ARPA. This pipeline is essential to the ongoing operation of Lake Mead hatchery for the conservation of the bonytail chub and razorback sucker fish. These fish are native to the Colorado River Basin, and both fish are on the Endangered Species Act list due to dam and reservoir construction and other human-causes destruction, which has resulted in limited reproductive success and critically low population sizes.

Biologists working to conserve these fish have had success rearing fish from captive stock in the Lake Mead hatchery. Those fish are then released into their native habitats to support and augment these declining populations. A reliable water source to the Lake Mead hatchery is critical for allowing these efforts to continue to ensure the future of these endangered fish.

SOPHIA SANCHEZ:

I am the temporary legal guardian for my nephew, who has autism, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and many other mental health issues. I support the proposal to invest in children's mental health in Nevada.

We only receive ABA therapy, which he has been in since he was four years old. The therapy has not helped in the home because we were not told about parent training until this year. We were told the only other option would be to surrender him to child protective services or press charges, but we would be responsible for making sure he follows the court's direction. However, that would be impossible because of his behavior. We can barely take him to the bus stop for school. I have been told by two different people who have worked in this field for over 20 years that my nephew is the worst case they have ever seen. He has severe self-injurious behaviors, he attacks us as if he is going to kill us, and he causes property damage. We often need help from our neighbor to control him. If we surrender him to child protective services, we will have charges against us. I have experienced barriers to finding residential treatments centers and group homes in Nevada and facilities out of state that are contracted with Medicaid.

Again, I wholeheartedly support investment in any services and programs that would provide families with increased and much needed children's mental and behavioral health care.

ANDREA GREGG (Chief Executive Officer, High Sierra Area Health Education Center [AHEC]; Alumnus, School of Public Health, UNR):

I have spent the last 15 years leading an organization that serves as a critical convener between academic, employer and community-based partners to develop, diversify and distribute health care and public health workforce needs in the state.

I am commenting on Agenda Items F.12 and F.15, which propose \$172 million to improve Nevada's public health system. A sound and sustainable public health infrastructure is an urgent matter. The proposed academic health departments are an innovative solution for the public health ecosystem, bringing together interdisciplinary professionals and cross-sector collaboration.

These investments will provide an historic opportunity to invest in the public health workforce and build for the future of all, ensuring that health outcomes improve over the long term. In addition, this investment will yield a substantial rate of return and provide an invaluable opportunity to restore the state's public health as well as behavioral health, primary care, and social service systems, ultimately protecting and improving the health of Nevada residents, improving health care workforce capacities, eliminating disparities, and advancing health equity.

Ms. Gregg provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-8](#)).

TESS OPFERMAN (Nevada Women's Lobby and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees [AFSCME] Retirees):

The Nevada Women's Lobby strongly supports the allocation of \$25 million to rental assistance and eviction diversion, which will help women and families stay in their homes. Economic issues do not operate in a silo, and housing is the foundation that helps protect women and minorities from violence and supports job economics and education stability.

Secondly, the Nevada Women's Lobby wholly supports the allocation of nearly \$50 million to children's mental health. Mental health is chronically underfunded in Nevada, and Clark County is in a state of crisis. Limited funding has led to dangerous conditions for children and staff at Child Haven. These funds will help bolster state mental health programs as well as school resources.

I would also like to speak on behalf of AFSCME retirees who strongly support the allocation of nearly \$2 million to the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) to help with COVID-19 testing. Further, I echo the statements of Ms. Laird and Mr. Ervin. The AFSCME retirees look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to return the PEBP funding to pre-pandemic levels.

CHRIS DALY (Nevada State Education Association) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-9](#)).

DAN SAF:

I have two children with special needs. I would like to talk about wait lists. My son experienced long wait times for services. For example, it took six months to receive an evaluation and over one year to begin ABA therapy. My daughter has had to wait for services to become available multiple times while in crisis. Nevada needs the funds to do better for children and youth. I support the Committee's investment in Nevada's children.

KAMILAH BYWATERS (President, Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators; Co-Chair for Education, for the National Action Network, Las Vegas Chapter):

I am calling in support of Agenda Item F regarding using ARPA funds for children's mental health services. As an educator, I know the importance of supporting children and ensuring they have appropriate mental health services. During the pandemic and over the past couple of months, there has been a rise in violent threats occurring in many schools in Clark County. This is the perfect example of why additional funding is needed to support children and provide access to appropriate resources.

JEFF MIRENSETZ:

Our family moved to Henderson, Nevada about three years ago after I retired from the military. We have an 11-year-old son with autism and other diagnoses. These last few years have been a struggle to find the right help and services close to where we live. We must drive 45 minutes to our son's psychiatrist because there are a limited number of pediatric psychiatrists available. Our son is also in need of a residential treatment center. After exhausting local resources, we had to go outside the state; however, we have been rejected 11 times for residential treatment. As many other callers have noted, we are doing the best we can, but without local resources, we must seek help elsewhere.

During the same period, we have reached out for ABA therapy, but we are still on the wait list for those services. We are also connected with Wraparound in Nevada services and Nevada PEP. We have a Tricare case manager, a primary care pediatrician, and a therapist. Unfortunately, we cannot get local therapy, so we use telehealth services with a therapist in Utah. I have also been researching other resources through Facebook groups. We have used mobile crisis response and Boys Town in the past. As time continues without proper services, behaviors are continuing to worsen, and we are running out of options.

ARIEL LAURIA:

I am calling on behalf of a good friend. She has a 12-year-old disabled nephew and they have exhausted the limited leads they can find in Las Vegas. She has even reached out for long-term treatment in other states. My friend and her family are in need of financial support to get the medical care and treatment her nephew needs so that he does not harm himself or others. I have witnessed his behavior firsthand. I have tried to help but he needs more help than we can offer. I am sure there are many other children who are in the same situation.

DR. MARIO GASPA DE ALBA (Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, UNLV) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-10](#)).

SARAH GUINDY (Bank of Nevada) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-11](#)).

DAVID KIMMERLE provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-12](#)).

SUSAN HARROWA (AFSCME) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-13](#)).

CHRISTIAN HOWARD provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-14](#)).

GERRY SHEAR (SHEAR Family Foundation) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-15](#)).

DR. MERVYN FOUSE provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-16](#)).

IRENE AND DUNCAN LEE (Nevada Community Foundation) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-17](#)).

STEVE LEHMAN provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-18](#)).

GARY PATTERSON (Shelby American, Inc.) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-19](#)).

DR. IKRAM U. KHAN (Quality Care Consultants, LLC) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-20](#)).

DR. JAVAID ANWAR (Quality Care Consultants, LLC) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-21](#)).

BRUCE BECKER provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-22](#)).

DENNIS SILKNITTER (Silknitter Event Consulting) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-23](#)).

DR. PAUL KRAKOVITZ (Intermountain Healthcare) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-24](#)).

BILL HORNBUCKLE (MGM Resorts) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-25](#)).

MICHAEL E. MINDEN (Michael E. Minden Diamond Jewelers) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-26](#)).

JOHN F. MARCHIANO (John F. Marchiano Law Corporation) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-27](#)).

KEVIN AND AMY HOOKS provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-28](#)).

TIMOTHY R. O'REILLY (O'Reilly Law Group) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-29](#)).

LEE W. BUTLER (Ascent Automotive Group) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-30](#)).

HEATHER CRISWELL provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-31](#)).

MISHA MUNOZ (Divine One Customs) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-32](#)).

DEBORAH HINDS provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-33](#)).

MARK L. FINE provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-34](#)).

DIANA BENNETT provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-35](#)).

LISA DEHART provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-36](#)).

BOYD MARTIN (Boyd Martin Construction LLC) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-37](#)).

BARRY BECKER provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-38](#)).

SYDNEY HILL provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-39](#)).

STEVEN COHEN provided public comment in support of Agenda Items F.25 and F.26 for the record ([Exhibit E-40](#)).

STEVEN COHEN provided public comment in opposition to Agenda Item F.24 for the record ([Exhibit E-41](#)).

ED AND KATHY ROGICH provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-42](#)).

SHANE TAYLOR provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-43](#)).

DR. NUDRAT R. NAUMAN (Advanced Pediatrics) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-44](#)).

DR. JOHN PACKHAM (Nevada Public Health Association) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-45](#)).

KENNETH A. KEFALAS (Bombard Electric) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-46](#)).

DR. JULIE FOUTZ BEASLEY (Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-47](#)).

GARY ACKERMAN (Gaudin Motor Company) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-48](#)).

ERIC PATTERSON provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-49](#)).

PAT CHRISTENSON (Las Vegas Events) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-50](#)).

BRIAN HAGER (Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-51](#)).

DR. MARTA MEANA provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-52](#)).

BRENDA WILLIAMS provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-53](#)).

BLANCA HERNANDEZ provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-54](#)).

SCOTT VOELLER provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-55](#)).

MELINA NICOLATUS provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-56](#)).

RANDY GABE provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-57](#)).

IVAN SHER (The Ivan Sher Group) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-58](#)).

BLANKITA HERNANDEZ provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-59](#)).

HAZEL HEALTH NEVADA provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-60](#)).

DOUG NIELSEN provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-61](#)).

HELLEN CHEATHAM provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-62](#)).

DEBRA MARCH (City of Henderson) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-63](#)).

GAVIN ERNSTONE (Simply Vegas) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-64](#)).

GEANNITTA JONES provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-65](#)).

DIONNE STANFILL provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-66](#)).

MARIA AYALA provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-67](#)).

JOSE L. MELENDREZ provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-68](#)).

SHAWNA LIEN provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-69](#)).

MARKIE WILDER provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-70](#)).

RUSSELL KUHLMAN (Nevada Wildlife Federation) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-71](#)).

LYNN PURDUE (Children's Advocacy Alliance) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-72](#)).

DR. BARBARA ATKINSON provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-73](#)).

LESLIE LACOMBE provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-74](#)).

JOSE L. MELENDREZ (Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-75](#)).

ERIC P. BROWN (Washoe County) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-76](#)).

DR. TARA C. RAINES (Children's Advocacy Alliance) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-77](#)).

TODD LANGBAUM provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-78](#)).

KENDALL LYONS (Children's Advocacy Alliance) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-79](#)).

THOMAS MORTON (Switch) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-80](#)).

RANDY A. GARCIA (Investment Counsel Company) provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-81](#)).

STEPHANY BANDONI provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E-82](#)).

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2022, MEETING.

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item D.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2022, MEETING.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2022, AND MAY 5, 2022, MEETINGS.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

E. STATEMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND OBLIGATIONS AND REMAINING RESERVE BALANCES WITHIN THE COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS BUDGET ACCOUNT.

BRODY LEISER (Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):
The statement of American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) obligations and remaining reserve balances within the COVID-19 Relief Programs budget account begins on page 179 in Volume I of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)).

The items submitted for consideration today total \$249 million. If all items submitted for consideration are approved by the Committee, the remaining unobligated balance of CSFRFs would total approximately \$847 million. Of that amount, when accounting for the \$250 million reserved for the Home Means Nevada Initiative, the remaining unobligated balance is approximately \$597 million.

The obligations located on pages 180 through 184 ([Exhibit A](#)) detail the commitments approved by the Committee to date. The items submitted for consideration by the Committee today are noted on page 185 ([Exhibit A](#)).

The breakdown statement for select CSFRF obligations is located on pages 187 through 191 ([Exhibit A](#)). There are four items located on page 190 ([Exhibit A](#)) under the section for allocations of the \$100 million in authority for state agencies that were approved by the Office of the Governor and did not require approval of the IFC. These four items are on the list with the dates of July 21, 2022, and July 22, 2022.

On page 191 ([Exhibit A](#)), there is a revision to Agenda Item F.30 that was received after the statement was finalized for the meeting packet. This revision was made by the Governor's Office of Finance to reduce the request from \$1,581,115 to \$1,462,644 with no change in purpose. If approved today, the statement that is presented to the next meeting of the IFC will reflect the reduced amount.

F. APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The following items have been identified for additional discussion: Agenda Items F.1, Office of the Governor; F.2, Office of the Governor, and F.3, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) will be heard together. Agenda Items F.4, Office of the Governor, and F.5, Department of Education will be heard together. Agenda Items F.6, Office of the Governor, and F.7, DHHS, DCFS, will be heard together. Agenda Items F.12, Office of the Governor; F.15, Office of the Governor; F.16, DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), and Agenda Item K will be heard together. Agenda Items F.17, Office of the Governor; F.18, DHHS, DCFS; F.19, DHHS, DCFS; F.31, DHHS, DCFS; F.36, Office of the Governor; F.37, DHHS, DCFS; F.38, DHHS, DCFS; F.39, Office of the Governor; F.40, DHHS, DCFS; F.41, DHHS, DCFS; F.42, Office of the Governor; F.43, DHHS, DCFS; F.44, Office of the Governor; F.45, DHHS, DCFS; F.46, Office of the Governor; F.47, DHHS, DCFS; F.48, Office of the Governor; F.49, DHHS, DCFS; F.50, Office of the Governor; F.51, DHHS, DCFS; F.52, Office of the Governor; and F.53, DHHS, DCFS will be heard together. Agenda Items F.55, Office of the Governor; F.56, Department of Business and Industry (B&I), Housing Division, and F.57, B&I, Housing Division, will be heard together.

There is a revision to Agenda Item F.30, DHHS, DPBH. This is the second revision and was received after the agenda was posted. The original revision is reflected on List F ([Exhibit A](#)). The original request was for \$1.58 million, and the second revision is a request for \$1,462,644.

CHAIR DENIS:

I have received requests to pull Agenda Items F.8, Office of the Governor, and F.9, Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP), which will be heard together; F.11, Department of Wildlife; F.23, DHHS, Director's Office; F.32, Department of Employment, Training and

Rehabilitation, Employment Security Division; F.36, Office of the Governor, and F.54, DHHS, DPBH.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I would like Agenda Items F.10, Office of the Governor, and F.11, Department of Wildlife, to be pulled for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I would like Agenda Items F.44, Office of the Governor, and F.45, DHHS, DCFS to be pulled for additional discussion.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

There are many items dealing with the ARPA funds. To save time, I will make a general statement that applies to everything before the Committee. I am very supportive and appreciative of efforts to help with mental health issues and other issues. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature discussed that these types of funds should be used for one-shots, of which I support.

I may be voting no on some items if the item requires ongoing staff, which will create a budgetary hole for the future that should have been addressed during the 2021 Legislative Session. I have always indicated that I would prefer to see more money spent on mental health issues, even if those funds have to come out of education, because it solves future problems.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO
APPROVE THE REMAINING WORK PROGRAM
REVISIONS AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS,
INCLUDING REVISIONS NOTED ON THE RECORD,
UNDER AGENDA ITEMS F AND G.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE
MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support a subaward to the Nevada System of Higher Education to implement the Workforce Incentive Grant pilot program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FR132720**

DANIEL STEWART (General Counsel, Office of the Governor):

I would like to provide some background on the Workforce Incentive Grant. The grant originated during the 2021 Legislative Session with the creation of the A.B. 450 Workforce Development Committee, which was comprised of members of the community across the state and co-chaired by Crystal Abba, Executive Vice

Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and Derrick Hill, Division Vice President of Sales, and Market Operations, Cox Communications. The first meeting of the Workforce Development Committee was held in January 2022 with a final report due by August 2022. The final report includes numerous recommendations by the committee.

The Workforce Development Committee had to pivot on several occasions. When the committee was originally established, the main focuses were on community college funding and workforce development. Shortly thereafter, ARPA funds were made available, and in February 2022, during the State of the State address, the Governor made a commitment to make community college and training more affordable for more Nevadans and free for more Nevadans by 2025.

In discussions with the Workforce Development Committee, a commitment was made to make a recommendation for ARPA funds if the committee could develop a plan.

The Workforce Incentive Grant addresses two important needs in the community. The grant was designed to target those who do not currently have scholarship opportunities, specifically non-traditional students attending a community college on a part-time basis. To qualify, students must be enrolled in a certificate course or pursuing a degree in one of the high-demand occupations that the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation has listed as the most in-demand jobs in the state. The Workforce Incentive Grant will pay tuition for those students. The Workforce Incentive Grant will also help meet the needs of industries and the demand for a skilled workforce.

It was determined that most of the individuals who were no longer eligible for some of the other scholarships were those that had been impacted the most by the pandemic.

The Workforce Incentive Grant is just one step. There are capacity issues at community colleges that no amount of scholarship funds will fix. A workforce subcommittee is working to develop solutions and wraparound services. The A.B. 450 Workforce Development Committee has recommended a comprehensive study of the funding formula going into the 2023 Legislative Session to better account for community colleges.

CRYSTAL ABBA (Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, NSHE):

I would like to thank the Office of the Governor's staff for its support as the A.B. 450 Workforce Development Committee had to pivot several times during the process. The original proposal was for a study, not a pilot program. The committee felt very strongly that it would rather put these dollars directly in the pockets of students, particularly those facing additional economic challenges that resulted from workplace displacement related to the pandemic.

This was a unique opportunity to create a pilot program. As the committee worked on the development of the program, one of its focuses was to look at existing

state-supported financial aid programs including the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, the Silver State Opportunity Grant, and the Nevada Promise Program. Those programs serve very specific populations, and each program is unique and distinct with its own eligibility criteria. In looking at those scholarship programs, there is some overlap. As the committee developed the pilot program, the aim was to consider certain students who were not being served by those other programs.

When developing the pilot program, the committee wanted it to be linked to programs that support in-demand occupations. Much time was spent culling through the in-demand occupation list and holding conversations with NSHE Presidents, because there has been some concern about the programs that are outlined for eligibility for this pilot program. It is important there is enough capacity within those programs. As such, the Board of Regents will be considering an item that will essentially couple with the pilot program. The request is an item for special consideration, or an enhancement request, in NSHE's biennial budget for a workforce development investment fund that would provide funding directly to community colleges to build capacity for certain programs and provide support services to ensure students enrolled in these programs have the services necessary for the success of these programs.

The fall 2022 semester will be starting soon, and financial aid has already been awarded for the most part. The goal is to award Workforce Incentive Grant funds beginning in the spring 2023 semester and again in the following academic year. It is possible the Workforce Incentive Grant will continue into fall 2024. It is anticipated that between 1,250 and 2,500 students will receive grant funds given the award level.

Unlike the Silver State Opportunity Grant, where the focus is on full-time students, the Workforce Incentive Grant program will also be available to students who are enrolled part time.

I want to thank the Committee for this opportunity. We are grateful for any opportunity to provide dollars directly to students while at the same time supporting economic development opportunities for the state.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

If I understood correctly, up to 2,500 students will receive the grant awards?

Ms. ABBA:

The range is between 1,250 and 2,500 grant recipients.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

What areas will be targeted by each institution? Or will that be determined later?

MS. ABBA:

The full proposal is included in the backup documents. The proposal contains lists for each institution. The lists vary by institution because as the committee analyzed the in-demand occupation lists, it was determined that in-demand occupations in Northern Nevada differ from those in Southern Nevada. Also, at some institutions, there were limited capacity programs versus programs that were approaching capacity. There is a lot of flexibility in the lists, but over time they may change, and the authority to change them has been included in the proposal.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Is there staffing and sustainability at each end of the state?

MS. ABBA:

Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

There is some flexibility in the grant distribution. For example, the College of Southern Nevada will be provided \$3 million and some of the smaller community colleges will be provided \$300,000 to \$400,000. If the program is successful, can the funds be transferred between institutions?

RENEE DAVIS (Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges, NSHE):

Yes, much like the Silver State Opportunity Grant program, there is an initial distribution and then the program will be monitored. In the spring of 2023, the Workforce Incentive Grant program will be closely monitored because it will be the first time for the program. The funds will be shifted as necessary based on demand.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I think the community colleges are frequently overlooked and it is good to acknowledge them. I am concerned about whether there will be enough interest. Is there an outreach plan to promote the Workforce Incentive Grant program?

MS. DAVIS:

The beauty of this program, much like the Silver State Opportunity Grant, is that the only application is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students complete the FAFSA, which the campuses are versed in reviewing, then the school will evaluate and determine which students are enrolled in these degree programs and meet the eligibility requirements.

Should the Workforce Incentive Grant program be approved by the Committee, NSHE would begin with recruitment and outreach. The campuses will build the program into their recruitment and outreach efforts in the fall for the spring semester.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will NSHE not be partnering with the school districts? Many districts offer dual credit programs where students can earn college credits while attending high school.

MS. DAVIS:

Because there are three programs in place in Nevada that focus on recent high school graduates, the focus of the Workforce Incentive Grant program is to work with students who are not eligible for those other programs. NSHE will not exclude recent high school graduates, but the main focus will be on older students and non-traditional students in an effort to make gains in expanding the workforce and bringing people back who are either underemployed or unemployed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am always concerned about the government doing things that private industry should be handling. If the focus of the Workforce Incentive Grant program is to ensure there are qualified employees available for businesses, is NSHE reaching out to those businesses to discuss prospective partnerships? Also, are the recipients of Workforce Incentive Grant funds obligated to work in Nevada?

MS. DAVIS:

There are no plans during the pilot phase to reach out to businesses to fund a portion of the Workforce Incentive Grant program. However, the community colleges have partnerships in place with many employers, so that may be something to consider in the future if the program were to continue.

The programs that are proposed for each institution are based on two things, one of which is the in-demand occupation lists established by the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (GOWINN). Those lists, which are regional and statewide, were compared to the programs offered at the community colleges. That is how the programs were selected. NSHE did not work directly with employers.

Recipients of the Workforce Incentive Grant are not required to work in Nevada. However, in general, it is usually safe to assume that students who attend a community college are more likely to remain in the region where they attend college versus students who attend a university.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

During the Tahoe Summit, there was discussion about the need for U.S. Forest Service staff and some of the grant and scholarship opportunities for those students as well. I am glad to see things are rounding out in other areas.

I wanted to affirm there is administrative capacity at all the institutions. It does not appear there is funding for administrative tasks.

MS. DAVIS:

NSHE has considered the financial aid offices and limiting the burden on staff while at the same time balancing the desire to get as many of those funds to students and avoid carving out administrative dollars. NSHE has tried to make the program

as streamlined as possible, which began with using the FAFSA to determine eligibility for the grant. Each financial aid office already processes and is familiar with FAFSAs. Students do not need to have much knowledge about the Workforce Incentive Grant program to know they need to complete the FAFSA.

In the next phase, Jose Quiroga, NSHE Research Analyst, will begin working with the financial aid offices on a streamlined process. There will be additional work for staff, but the goal is to streamline the process, and the financial aid directors at the community colleges will stand ready to assist.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Regarding the dual credit program, people assume that students attending any high school can be enrolled in a dual credit program. Many times, dual credit means the student is working on their Associate in Arts degree while going to high school; therefore, that student must also be enrolled in college classes.

SENATOR HARRIS:

How does the number of students who may be eligible for the Workforce Incentive Grant compare to the need? What percentage of students will be able to attend community college due to the grant program?

MS. ABBA:

NSHE currently serves over 100,000 students so comparatively, the impact of the Workforce Incentive Grant program is very small. However, the desire is to prove the efficacy of the program to eventually expand it. In the vein of full disclosure, 1,200 students relative to over 100,000 students is small, but this is an opportunity to bring students in where they will not have out-of-pocket expenses because the grant can be combined with federal aid and other aid. Getting the program started with \$5 million will only go so far.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Yesterday there was no investment, so \$5 million is significantly more. I am happy to see this investment and have no doubt that it will be worthwhile.

CHAIR DENIS:

A requirement of the Workforce Incentive Grant program is that students must complete a FAFSA, which means the student may not actually need the Workforce Incentive Grant depending on if they are awarded other financial aid and grants.

MS. DAVIS:

In the Nevada Promise Program scholarship, students who receive a Pell Grant do not typically receive the Nevada Promise Program scholarship as well. However, the Workforce Incentive Grant is meant to be complementary. Pell Grant recipients are being targeted for the Workforce Incentive Grant because that is one of the affected classes in the ARPA guidelines.

With regard to the financial aid package mentioned earlier, it would be ideal if there was a single grant that provided \$12,000 to a student, but that is not possible in the current climate. The Pell Grant combined with the Workforce Incentive Grant and possibly a scholarship will likely cover registration fees, books, living expenses, etc. The ultimate goal is to cover the total cost of attendance including less obvious things such as foregone income for students who cannot work while attending school.

CHAIR DENIS:

This will also incentivize individuals who may not think they could attend college.

MS. DAVIS:

Yes, absolutely.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Earlier, there was discussion about the workforce pipeline, particularly related to mental health. In looking at GOWINN's list of in-demand occupations, I wonder how Nevada can utilize the Workforce Incentive Grant program to build the pipeline for mental health, teaching, nursing, etc. Those are not typically careers that can be accomplished within a few semesters. Some Associate in Arts degrees come close but oftentimes a four-year degree is required for those professions. Is Nevada prioritizing building the pipeline to ensure the state has people to fill in-demand positions such as those in the mental health field? Also, how will the state assess whether the program can be a steppingstone to a bachelor's degree or master's degree to help fill some of the higher in-demand positions in health care and teaching professions?

JOSE QUIROGA (Research Analyst, NSHE):

An important part of this proposal is that many of the occupational areas at each institution, especially those in health care, are stackable credentials. For example, the pipeline for licensed professional nursing would begin with a certificate degree followed by an Associate in Arts degree and a bachelor's degree. Each step of the way, students can either become part of the workforce or continue through the pipeline to higher-level occupations. Nursing and teaching professions are included at all four community colleges, because they are in-demand occupations statewide. Emergency medicine is included at two of the colleges. Along with that, there are individual needs at each institution.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

What stood out to me as I looked at the GOWINN list is that I did not see anything that will help build the pipeline for mental health professionals. As was discussed earlier, those positions can be funded, but if they cannot be filled, they are not helpful. I have read many reports over the years, and I think part of the crisis is that Nevada does not target the recruitment of mental health professionals. Until that time, I am concerned that Nevada will continue to have these pipeline issues.

MS. ABBA:

I agree. The challenge is that this program is for community colleges, and many of the mental health professions require award levels higher than a program certificate or an Associate in Arts degree. However, as Mr. Quiroga indicated, some of these have stackable credentials, such as nursing. Students can begin at a community college and then move on to a university where higher-level programs are available. That said, I would imagine that after this discussion, and based on the mental health crisis that Nevada is facing, that this is going to be an ongoing discussion for higher education institutions. It is already a discussion for the Board of Regents relative to how NSHE's faculty, staff and students are suffering in the realm of mental health. Your point is well taken.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM F.1

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS
PRESENT.

2. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$5,072,061 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services to fund the hardening of the Desert Willow Treatment Center. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.3. Work Program #23FR132755**

Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.3.

3. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$5,072,061 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support the hardening of Desert Willow Treatment Center (DWTC). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from ARPA for DWTC 2 category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.2. Work Program #23FRF36463**

Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 were discussed jointly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

These items go hand-in-hand with other discussions from today's meeting related to children's mental health and child welfare. Based on the average occupancy of 15 youth per month over the last three fiscal years, why is the division requesting to "harden" additional space at Desert Willow Treatment Center (DWTC)?

DR. JAQUELINE WADE (Deputy Administrator, DCFS, DHHS):

I believe the division reduced beds at the DWTC during the 2017 Legislative Session, while in 2019, the number of beds were increased. With the increase of those beds, the division inherited youth that were diverted from juvenile justice facilities, which increased a level of complexity regarding outward expression of emotions that resulted in high-acuity levels, aggression, and staff injuries. The acuity level has been so high that staffing ratios had to be adjusted so the youth could be safe and adequately monitored. The number of beds has been kept to a minimum to provide safety within the hospital.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

What is the estimated total cost and number of positions that would be needed for the DWTC to operate all 50 beds?

DR. WADE:

The number of new positions needed would be approximately 100, because staffing ratios would have to be doubled given the violence. If a youth is on suicidal watch, the staff-to-youth ratio is 1:1, but if assault levels are up, the ratio is 2:1. When acuity is high, more staff is required.

KATRINA NIELSEN (Interim Deputy Director, DCFS, DHHS):

The additional cost of those positions is currently estimated at \$2.5 million in FY 2024 and \$3.425 million FY 2025.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I assume the funding for these staff moving into the 2023 Legislative Session and possibly the 2025 Legislative Session will be included in budget enhancements to address the ongoing cost. What is being discussed today is an immediate need. What is the long-term plan?

MS. NIELSEN:

The request is only to establish funding to harden the facility. The positions will follow in FY 2024 and FY 2025 because it will take time to undergo the construction project.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

When you say "hardening" that essentially means patient proofing the facility to provide for the safety of patients and staff. It is about the security of the facility, not turning it into a prison, correct?

DR. WADE:

Yes, that is correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEMS F.2 AND F.3.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$4,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support an allocation to the Nevada Department of Education to provide supplemental funding for school-based mental health providers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.5. Work Program #23FR132754**

Agenda Items F.4 and F.5 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.5.

5. Department of Education - Safe and Respectful Learning - FY 2023

Addition of \$4,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide supplemental funding for school-based mental health providers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Trauma Supplemental category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.4. Work Program #23FRF27211**

Agenda Items F.4 and F.5 were discussed jointly.

JHONE EBERT (State Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE):

The NDE will be able to complete its work through the work programs that the Committee approved earlier today. I thank the Committee for approving the NDE's hiring of 100 school-based mental health professionals across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic using ARPA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funding and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) II funding. Lyon County School District Superintendent Wayne Workman told me earlier this morning that the work done in his school district would not be possible without the use of the prior allocation of ARPA ESSER and GEER funding. There have been 6 school districts and 14 charter schools in Nevada that have received funding to employ or contract school-based mental health professionals, with funding subgranted through a competitive grant process. Funding was not authorized for school districts and charter schools to use in employing or contracting with school-based mental health professionals until January 2022. As such, the NDE has just begun awarding funding for the hiring of these positions for the 2022-2023 school year.

The NDE is before the Committee today to ask for additional ARPA funding to hire more school-based mental health professionals. Prior to the pandemic, Christine McGill, Director of the NDE Office of Safe and Respectful Learning, applied for a \$10 million federal workforce development and mental health grant that the state received over two years ago. Funding from the grant was used to ensure that the NDE built its own pipeline in Nevada for the hiring of mental health professionals. The NDE works collaboratively with the University of Nevada, Reno,

which currently has students enrolled in a mental health professional program placed in Washoe and Churchill County School Districts. The goal of placing these students within Nevada school districts is to have them continue working for Nevada schools after they are licensed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The hiring of school-based mental health professionals is very important, and the Committee had hoped that more of the approved funding would have been made available to school districts and charter schools in Nevada. However, less than 5% of the NDE's current available funding has been reimbursed to school districts and charter schools, which does not give the Committee an accurate description of final expenditures and the success of the program. The Committee needs more data before it can approve additional funding for the NDE to hire more mental health professionals. So far, the NDE has reported that a little over \$300,000 of the original \$7.5 million awarded to school districts and charter schools has been reimbursed. I would like to wait until October 2022 to approve this funding, as that will allow the NDE more time to gather information regarding how this funding is being spent. Please address the 4.2% of funding expended thus far or provide an update if additional information is available.

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, NDE):

According to NDE reports compiled as of August 16, 2022, the NDE has reimbursed school districts for approximately \$1.2 million worth of expenses related to this subgrant. There is approximately \$600,000 already owed to school districts for the rest of FY 2022 and the first month of FY 2023. The expenditure pattern is in alignment with what the NDE expects for subgrants that became effective in January 2022, understanding that school districts need to recruit and hire staff. If approved, the NDE is hopeful that the additional funding requested through Agenda Item F.5 will show school districts that the state has confidence in their recruitment efforts in hiring district staff or contracting with providers. The employees who are hired or contracted need a level of certainty regarding the continuity of their employment through the duration of time these funds are available.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I appreciate the information and understand there can be a lag between when work programs are submitted and then heard by the Committee. However, even when considering any possible requests for funding that the NDE may currently be processing, there is still approximately \$5 million remaining of the original funding that the NDE has not yet reimbursed to school districts. Knowing unexpended funding will balance forward into future fiscal years for the NDE's use on the program, I would like more information on the program's progress and expenditures before the Committee approves more funding.

CHAIR DENIS:

The NDE currently has approximately \$7 million for the program and is now asking for an additional \$4 million. Why is the department requesting additional funding

when it is taking so long to expend the original \$7 million? What will happen if the Committee does not approve this funding today?

BAILEY BORTOLIN (Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor):

The Office of the Governor reached out to the NDE to inquire about how effectively the original \$7.5 million was being spent. The NDE reported that there is often a reluctance to accept a school-based mental health professional position due to the positions being funded with short-term funding. It is a very difficult time to be a mental health professional in Nevada's schools, and if potential applicants can see that funding is being extended and approved to continue funding these programs, it may encourage more people to apply for these positions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

There is still approximately \$5 million remaining of the original funding that the NDE was awarded for this project, showing that there is still plenty of funding left for the NDE to use for the program. Is there a problem with workforce development or is another issue occurring? I do not believe that putting more funding towards the program will help the NDE in hiring more school-based mental health professionals.

MS. EBERT:

The NDE had to utilize a competitive grant process to make the \$7.5 million available to school districts and charter schools, which meant the funds were not available for use by schools until January 2022. The original \$7.5 million must be expended by September 2023, but the NDE plans to have this amount expended by the end of FY 2023. Even though school districts could use an additional \$7.5 million, the NDE is only requesting \$4 million, as it believes that reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) can also be used to pay for the services of school-based mental health professionals. Less ARPA funding will be needed as school districts are able to use more CMS funding to become self-sufficient. There will be no overlap of the original \$7.5 million and the additional \$4 million being requested today as the \$7.5 million will be fully expended by September 2023 and the \$4 million will be available for use by the NDE until September 2024.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

Is the NDE or school districts having trouble hiring the positions?

MS. EBERT:

There is a labor shortage within some of Nevada's school districts, with the shortage varying by district. Specifically, for those school districts that would find candidates there has been an issue with ensuring the job offered to those candidates will be there longer than a short-term period.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Are you saying that the NDE has the infrastructure to hire school-based mental health professionals but that it needs to ensure that funding for the positions will be available long-term?

MS. EBERT:

Yes, people like to know that they are being hired for a long-term job.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

I would like a better understanding of how this funding flows to school districts for hiring school-based mental health professionals. I have worked with some of the schools receiving the funding, and there seems to be an issue regarding the timing of when funding is awarded. Schools applied for the NDE's competitive grant in the winter of 2021 and notices of award went out in January 2022. It was already the end of the 2021-2022 school year before schools began expending the funding, with school district budgets approved over the summer of 2022 not showing a reimbursement of funding.

Many schools are contracting the services of their mental health professionals and will request reimbursement from the NDE in a single request. Additionally, grants awarded in the winter can be tricky because schools are winding down one year's budget while simultaneously approving tentative budgets for the next year. Is the NDE expecting to receive many requests for reimbursement as the funding is finally in place for schools to begin hiring more mental health professionals? Will the NDE be able to provide more updates on the use of the funding in the coming weeks and months?

CHRISTINE MCGILL (Director, Office of Safe and Respectful Learning, NDE):

Yes, the timing and flow of the funding can cause issues. Winter grants are always problematic when hiring and contracting personnel in schools. Because this was a competitive grant process, the NDE will be checking with school districts in September 2022 to gauge how the project is going. If a specific school district says it is not able to find qualified applicants due to a workforce shortage, the department will reallocate funding to schools not experiencing this issue.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Who licenses the school-based mental health professionals, and do school districts advertise the need for the positions? Can a delay in licensure impact the program's timeline?

MS. MCGILL:

It depends on the license that the mental health professional is seeking. A licensed clinical social worker is granted a license from both a board of examiners and the NDE. The NDE has not encountered too many delays regarding licensure as the need for these positions in Nevada's schools is so great. The NDE has different scopes of work that apply to the varying levels of licensure, with many different positions being open based on the type of qualification. The mental health

positions being hired range from community health workers to licensed clinical social workers, with the latter being dually licensed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I have a constituent who is a former teacher and is now experiencing issues with obtaining a substitute teacher's license even though he is overqualified. I am concerned that funding for this program is not being spent due to unforeseen delays with administrative processes.

MS. EBERT:

Over the last two months, the NDE and its hiring team have worked closely with school districts to process almost 4,000 teacher licenses. I am not aware of any delays with administrative processes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am concerned there is a backlog of mental health professional applications at the school district or state-level that is causing a delay in the hiring of positions. I want to ensure the NDE has the staffing necessary to grant licensure in a timely manner.

CHAIR DENIS:

I would like the NDE to bring this request back to the Committee during its October 2022 IFC meeting so that reports received in September can be included in the information provided. The NDE understands the concerns of the Committee, and everyone agrees that these positions are necessary. I do not want to tie up the funding; however, considering that the additional \$4 million is available for use by the NDE until September 2024, the department should take more time to ensure the funding achieves the desired results.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I support the hiring of the positions but need more data before I can move to approve these agenda items.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO DENY
AGENDA ITEMS F.4 AND F.5 AND DIRECT THE
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RESUBMIT
THE WORK PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE A STATUS
UPDATE AT THE OCTOBER 20, 2022, MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

CHAIR DENIS:

The Committee is not rejecting the proposal, as the motion being made will allow the NDE to bring its request back before the Committee in October.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will support the motion, but I would rather the funding be approved today. More mental health professionals need to be hired in Nevada's schools as quickly as possible.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

I agree that Nevada's schools are in dire need of more mental health professionals. The Committee does need more information from the NDE, but funding for the program needs to be in place quickly for it to move forward. The program's progress will continue to be delayed the longer the Committee waits to approve the funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

The NDE has approximately \$5 million of the original funds remaining that it still needs to utilize to help the program move forward. The IFC needs to know why reimbursements are not being made to school districts with available funding before the Committee can approve more funding for a program that is not working to its full capacity. The NDE currently has enough money to hire and train mental health professionals and to get the program off to a good start. I do not believe that waiting until October to approve more funding will negatively impact the program. I want to see the NDE utilize the funding it already has.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The 2022-2023 school year is about to start, and if not approving the funding prevents even one person from applying and taking a job as a mental health professional then the needs of students may go unmet. The Committee's hesitancy on approving the funding may make people wary of applying and indicate to them that the positions may not be funded in FY 2024. Issues like the massacre that occurred in Uvalde, Texas could be better avoided if the appropriate mental health resources were available to students.

CHAIR DENIS:

I am amenable to waiting until the October IFC meeting to approve the funding, but I do not want to wait longer than that. Waiting until October will not slow down the program, as it already has the necessary support in place to hire more positions.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,674,380 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services for temporary staffing at the Oasis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.7. Work Program #23FR132756**

Agenda Items F.6 and F.7 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.7.

7. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,674,380 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support temporary staffing for the Oasis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from ARPA For Oasis category exceeds \$75,000.
RELATES TO ITEM F.6. Work Program #23FRF36464

Agenda Items F.6 and F.7 were discussed jointly.

DR. CINDY PITLOCK (Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]):

The funding being requested will support temporary staffing for the DHHS Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to continue services at the Oasis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center. The division has already issued a request for proposal (RFP) to go out to bid for a contract provider to take over the services of the temporary positions. Until the RFP process is complete, the division needs to be fully operational to continue providing services for the youth in the residential homes.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Given the current high staff vacancy rates, why did the division choose to use ARPA funds for the temporary contract positions instead of anticipated vacancy savings in the division's budget?

KATRINA NIELSEN (Interim Deputy Director, DCFS, DHHS)

Regarding its request through Agenda Item F.7, the division was open to either transferring authority from an existing personnel services category or requesting ARPA funding to cover the costs associated with the temporary contract positions. The Governor's Office of Finance decided that ARPA funding should be requested to fund the positions.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Given the workforce challenges faced by the DCFS, does the division believe a pool of qualified and eligible candidates exists to be able to hire temporary staff at the Oasis campus?

DR. PITLOCK:

The division has found greater success when going through its contract staffing company than it has in trying to recruit temporary positions through the state hiring process. Because the RFP process is not yet completed and a new vendor has not been found, it makes sense to use temporary staffing at the Oasis Campus instead of bringing in staff from full-time state positions that will then have to be relocated once a vendor is secured in five or six months.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Agencies often come before the Committee to ask to use vacancy savings for other projects. Does the division plan to utilize vacancy savings to hire temporary staff or does it think that the one-time ARPA funds would be better to use for this project?

Ms. NIELSEN:

The division believes that using ARPA funds to hire the temporary contract positions would be better, although it is not the division's intent to use savings from the Personnel Services category for another purpose.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS F.6 AND F.7.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2022

Transfer of \$1,950,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support an allocation to the Public Employees' Benefits Program to provide reimbursement for at-home COVID-19 test kits. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.9. Work Program #22FR132749**

Agenda Items F.8 and F.9 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.9.

9. Public Employees' Benefits Program - FY 2022

Addition of \$1,950,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 rapid antigen tests. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Employee Insurance Cost category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.8. Work Program #22FRF13381**

Agenda Items F.8 and F.9 were discussed jointly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am concerned about transferring ARPA funds to the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) for the reimbursement of at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests due to concerns regarding the accuracy of the at-home test kits. Will companies that sell the test kits to the state be held accountable for the accuracy of the tests and will they be held responsible for refunding any money used to purchase tests that did not provide accurate results?

CARI EATON (Chief Financial Officer, PEBP):

I am not aware of any concerns surrounding the accuracy of the at-home test kits, and I do not have any information regarding PEBP being reimbursed by companies that sold the tests. PEBP entered into an agreement through a third-party administrator to receive the at-home tests, paying for the tests through claims costs. The funding requested today is for reimbursement of PEBP's actual costs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Has PEBP already provided funding to companies for the provision of at-home test kits?

Ms. EATON:

Yes, it has.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Can PEBP follow up with the companies it purchased test kits from to determine if any of the tests did not provide accurate results?

DUANE YOUNG (Policy Director, Office of the Governor):

This program was initiated through PEBP as a means for employees who had not been initially vaccinated to test themselves at home for COVID-19. The program was then expanded to vaccinated employees so they could test themselves as the virus evolved. It was originally proposed that a surcharge be implemented, but costs began to decrease once a vaccination threshold was reached. As employees were able to return to work, PEBP decided not to implement any future surcharges.

PEBP is now requesting ARPA funds to pay for at-home tests that have been distributed to employees. There were issues involving certain tests and testing sites licensed by the DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, but these issues are separate from what PEBP is requesting today. The tests PEBP is currently requesting reimbursement for are from vendors and were acquired through an RFP process. The at-home tests that PEBP purchased are also used by the federal government, with PEBP asking state employees to test themselves at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ultimately reduce health care premiums.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am glad state employees are being provided with accurate test kits, as I do not want to approve funding for inaccurate tests at the same time state employees are being charged surcharges.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS F.8 AND F.9.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

10. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$3,119,500 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Environmental category to support an allocation to the Nevada Department of Wildlife to fund the design and construction of a new water supply line for the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Environmental category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.11. Work Program #23FR132757**

Agenda Items F.10 and F.11 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.11.

11. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2023

Addition of \$3,119,500 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to design and construct a water supply line for the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Lake Mead Hatchery category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.10. Work Program #23FR446501**

Agenda Items F.10 and F.11 were discussed jointly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I enjoy fishing and support the use of fish hatcheries. I think that fees from fishing licenses should be used to support hatcheries instead of ARPA funds. I do not support the use of ARPA funds to design and construct a water supply line for the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery. The \$3,119,500 in ARPA funds would be better used in addressing the high staff vacancy rates across the state. I think Sportsmen Revenue should be used instead of ARPA funds for this request.

TONY WASLEY (Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife [NDOW]):

The Lake Mead Fish Hatchery was refurbished in 2006 and originally produced coldwater fish such as trout. As Lake Mead's water levels receded, the water temperatures became unsuitable for coldwater species. Aquatic invasive species and quagga mussels further complicated the production of coldwater fish species that could not be transplanted into other waters. The combination of these two factors resulted in the repurposing of the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery.

Up until January 2022, the hatchery was providing mitigation required for the operation of Hoover Dam. The mitigation was for razorback suckers and bonytail chub, both of which are federally listed species. The only production of these species was occurring at the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery, which was previously receiving its water supply from Basic Water Company in Henderson, Nevada until the intake was affected by the drought and no longer able to provide water to the hatchery. Beginning in January 2022, all the federally listed aquatic species were removed from the hatchery as there was not enough water. The U.S. Bureau of

Reclamation has been the primary funder of all the hatchery's operations and has assisted NDOW in providing the mitigation required to operate Hoover Dam and in impounding the water necessary to generate power for 40 million people.

Through Agenda Item F.11, NDOW is requesting \$3,119,500 in ARPA funds to augment an existing \$8.9 million provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to design a replacement water supply line that will be below current lake levels. This will allow for the mitigation of federally listed aquatic species and the continual impounding of water to generate electricity. The total cost of the project is approximately \$12 million, with the project replacing the existing pipeline that is currently above water level. This will allow for a suitable water source to produce federally listed species. The raw water will be directed into the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery for the purpose of producing the federally listed species and returning these species to the lake.

The project will not affect available water sources or impact storage levels other than what is necessary to improve the mitigation required to produce razorback suckers and bonytail chub. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation already provides the bulk of the funding for the operation of the hatchery. These funds are used in conjunction with other federal funds coming from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act. A small portion of General Fund appropriations are also used to operate the hatchery.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I understand and support the project, but I do not support using ARPA funds to design and construct the new water supply line. I believe the state's ARPA funding can be better spent elsewhere.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

What would be the consequences if the Committee did not approve allocating ARPA funds to the project right now and waited to go through the budgeting process during the 2023 Legislative Session?

MR. WASLEY:

Ironically, the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery is without fish now because there is no water to support the hatchery. The mitigation requirements under Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act are specific, with the only reproduction of razorback suckers and bonytail chub occurring at the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery; these species are now functionally extinct. There must be some mitigation to operate Hoover Dam and generate electricity. I do not know what the specific impacts of not approving the ARPA funds will be, but without water, NDOW will not be able to rear the fish and provide the mitigation required by the Endangered Species Act. The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) or representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation may be better suited to provide additional information. The longer the hatchery goes without water and fish, the more the state prolongs its commitments in providing mitigation for the federally listed species.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

The Colorado River is in dire condition, with the river supplying power to 40 million people in 7 states, approximately 30 tribal nations, and the Country of Mexico. The problems occurring at the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery are not the only issues related to the inability to provide power and water, but they are a piece of the puzzle. I visited the gorgeous Lake Mead Visitor Center and am excited to have the opportunity to make improvements to the hatchery while it is void of water. I would like the hatchery to be operational and am concerned regarding the cascading impacts of not approving funding to remedy this emergency. Using ARPA funds to make investments in Nevada's water resources is a noble way to spend this funding.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Is NDOW's request for ARPA funding a consequence of the drought?

MR. WASLEY:

Yes, it is.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I believe I heard that ARPA funds cannot be used to address conditions caused by the drought.

ASSEMBLYMAN HAFEN:

I am disappointed that the other states receiving water from the Colorado River have not addressed drought conditions and conservation as aggressively as Nevada. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature voted to remove turf from non-residential properties to save water, and now the state is tasked with taking action to protect federally listed aquatic species. I am not opposed to approving ARPA funding for this use, but if this request is approved, I would like a letter to go out asking other states to step up and negotiate how to address drought concerns and the dwindling water levels of Lake Mead.

CHAIR DENIS:

I agree that other states need to step up in addressing the drought conditions at Lake Mead but asking them to do so should not be a part of the motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN HAFEN:

I support the efforts of the SNWA in addressing water concerns at Lake Mead. Nevada has been at the forefront of these efforts, and it is time for other states to help.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN:

My district encompasses rural and urban communities, and I feel that I am having to choose fish over farmers and ranchers. Farmers and ranchers are experiencing hardships due to drought conditions and inflation, yet ARPA funds are not being set aside to provide relief for them. Nevada is experiencing a drought while California is worried about mega floods. Due to the tumultuous environment, I cannot support the motion at this time.

CHAIR DENIS:

The issues at Lake Mead impact all of us and need to be addressed. As part of Nevada's agreement with federal authorities, the state should use any funds available to remedy the situation. I do not think the issue comes down to choosing farmers over fish as this is a water resource issue impacting all of Nevada.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS F.10 AND F.11.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I support the motion. I want to state on the record that NDOW plans to use the ARPA funds to address drought conditions.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Hansen and
Assemblywoman Titus opposed the motion.)

12. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$151,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health category to provide subawards to expand the capacity and infrastructure of Nevada's public health system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Public Health category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FR132759**

Agenda Items F.12, F.15, F.16 and Agenda Item K were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item K.

13. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,283,619 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support an allocation to the Nevada Department of Education to fund a contract for End-of-Course assessments for the 2022-23 school year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.14. Work Program #23FR132760**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

14. Department of Education - Assessments and Accountability - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,283,619 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund End-of-Course assessments for the 2022-23 school year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the End-of-Course Assessments category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.13. Work Program #23FRF26971**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

15. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$20,800,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, to provide subawards to local public health agencies for staffing and/or infrastructure needs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Public Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.16. Work Program #23FR132758**

Agenda Items F.12, F.15, F.16 and Agenda Item K were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item K.

16. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Office of Health Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$20,800,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide subawards to local public health agencies to support staffing and/or infrastructure needs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Public Health System category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.15. Work Program #23FRF32232**

Agenda Items F.12, F.15, F.16 and Agenda Item K were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item K.

17. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,570,516 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to provide for Mobile Crisis Response Team services for Clark and Washoe County School Districts. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.18 AND F.19. Work Program #23FR132762**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

18. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$361,982 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund Mobile Crisis Response Team services for Washoe County School District. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.17 AND F.19. Work Program #23FRF32813**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

19. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,208,534 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund Mobile Crisis Response Team services for Clark County School District. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.17 AND F.18. Work Program #23FRF36466**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

20. Department of Administration - Enterprise Information Technology Services - Telecommunications - FY 2023

Addition of \$548,809 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund a unified communications pilot project and state agency telecommunications technology survey to help modernize state government services and reduce future costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Funding category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF13871**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

21. Department of Administration - Purchasing Division - FY 2023

Addition of \$367,956 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support a new Program Officer 2 position and associated costs as well as operating and contract staff to support warehouse operations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FR135802**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

22. State Public Charter School Authority - FY 2023

Transfer of \$15,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) - Assembly Bill (A.B.) 495 (2021 Legislative Session) category to administer grants to qualifying charter schools in Nevada to augment programs implemented to address the impacts of learning loss experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA FRF - A.B. 495 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF27112**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

23. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Grants Management Unit - FY 2023

Addition of \$250,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support an information campaign about the ArrayRx prescription card program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ArrayRx Media Campaign category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF31951**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

What will the campaign for the ArrayRx prescription card program look like? Will state funds be used, and will DHHS be working with pharmaceutical companies to roll out the campaign?

SHANNON LITZ (Public Information Officer, Director's Office, DHHS):

Earlier this year, Nevada joined Oregon and Washington in this initiative, with the state working to enroll Nevada pharmacies and helping them prepare Nevadans to sign up for the ArrayRx prescription card program. The prescription card will be available to all Nevadans, and this work program, if approved, will be used to develop a campaign in English and Spanish to inform people that they can enroll in the program for free. The program aims to lower the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM F.23.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

24. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Desert Regional Center - FY 2023

Addition of \$87,690 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund new flooring in several buildings at the Desert Regional Center. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF32791**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

25. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$8,527,243 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Services for Specific Populations category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, to fund diagnostic and therapeutic provider services through the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Services for Specific Populations category

exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.26. Work Program #23FR132763. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

26. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Desert Regional Center - FY 2023

Addition of \$8,527,243 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund diagnostic and therapeutic provider services through the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center to reduce the current waitlist and create a new, self-sustaining business model. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Funds for Neurodevelopmental Disorders category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.25. Work Program #23FRF32794**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

27. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Health Care Financing and Policy Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$160,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund contractual obligations for a biennial internal security risk assessment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF31581**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

28. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Behavioral Health Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$862,544 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the upgrade of the agency's electronic health record software from the Netsmart myAvatar to the NX platform to maintain security compliance, meet accreditation standards, and provide the ability for clinicians to meet reporting requirements and submit treatment and medication reports for the clients served. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Netsmart NX Upgrade category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF31681**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

29. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$475,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund anti-ligature furniture upgrades in patient rooms at the Stein and Rawson-Neal Hospitals. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount

added to the ARPA Anti-Ligature Upgrades category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF31612**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

30. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Facility for the Mental Offender - FY 2023

Addition of \$250,000 ~~\$1,581,115~~ in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the replacement and installation of security cameras and related equipment at the Lakes Crossing Center. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Camera Upgrade category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF36451. REVISED 8-5-22.**

Agenda Item F.30 was revised from \$1,581,115 to \$1,462,644. Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

31. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Information Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$364,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the upgrade of the agency's electronic health record software from the Netsmart myAvatar to the NX platform to maintain security compliance, meet accreditation standards, and provide the ability for clinicians to meet reporting requirements and submit treatment and medication reports for the clients served. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA myAvatar Upgrade category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF31431**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

32. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Employment Security Division - Special Fund - FY 2023

Transfer of ~~\$45,397,557~~ **\$12,781,250** from the Reserve category to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Information System category to fund a contract for the implementation of the of the new UI information system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the UI Information Systems category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FR477103. REVISED 7-29-22.**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Assemblyman Hafen and I would like assurance that this new program will limit the amount of fraud and abuse seen by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Employment Security Division.

ELISA CAFFERATA (Director, DETR):

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, DETR has implemented several measures to reduce fraudulent claims in its existing system. For the modernization of its Unemployment Insurance Information System, DETR has included several requirements that will make it easier for the department to help clients process claims and verify identification using an array of available resources. Fraud protection is part of the request being made through Agenda Item F.32 and will be built into the new system.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will the modernization of the unemployment system expedite the claims process? How long does it currently take to process a claim?

MS. CAFFERATA:

The requirements that DETR has asked its vendor to incorporate are designed to provide more information to claimants and help streamline the claims process. During the pandemic, the U.S. Congress implemented an additional series of new unemployment programs in response to the crisis. Each of the new federal programs had to be built into DETR's systems, and the department has asked that its new unemployment system be adaptable and agile so that it can respond to changes in federal programming. DETR is designing a flexible unemployment system that can scale up quickly to incorporate new federal programs as they are rolled out.

Final appeals regarding the U.S. Department of Labor's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program will be heard in a few months, and DETR expects to be completely done with providing disbursements from this program by the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023. Due to a loss of staff, DETR is experiencing a backlog in regular adjudications for regular unemployment claims. It is important for Nevadans to file claims that do not contain issues causing a delay in payments. The biggest issue delaying payments relates to separation pay. Once someone leaves their job, it is best for them to use up any vacation hours before filing an unemployment claim so that separation pay does not need to be reported.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will people be able to access DETR's new unemployment system from their smartphones?

MS. CAFFERATA:

Yes, the modernization requirements also pertain to mobile accessibility. DETR's current unemployment insurance program can be accessed on phones, but this is not ideal. In the future, all the agency's programs will be mobile friendly.

SENATOR TATRO:

What is DETR doing about fraud that was previously committed and is the department retroactively pursuing people who defrauded the system?

MS. CAFFERATA:

DETR is working with law enforcement on local, state, and federal levels to investigate fraudulent claims. If the Committee prefers, the department can provide a quarterly report detailing the number of updated prosecutions and seizures that have occurred. Depending on how complex a fraudulent claim is, law enforcement investigations and prosecutions can take months and even years to complete.

SENATOR TATRO:

I am glad that DETR is making progress in solving fraudulent claims.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM F.32.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

33. Department of Public Safety - Division of Parole and Probation - FY 2023

Addition of ~~\$243,972~~ **\$239,112** in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to purchase and install security cameras at various Nevada Parole and Probation (NPP) offices statewide. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NPP Security Cameras category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF37401. REVISED 8-2-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

34. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$359,795 in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support the replacement of two mechanic service vehicles. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Replacement Vehicles category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF41953**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

35. Commission on Ethics - FY 2023

Addition of \$37,800 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide for a training management system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Funding category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #23FRF13431**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

36. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$326,354 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to fund ten public service intern positions and associated costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.37 AND F.38. Work Program #23FR132770. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

37. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$186,468 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund six new positions for behavioral health workforce development. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.36 AND F.38. Work Program #23FRF32812. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

38. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Addition of ~~\$139,886~~ **\$139,866** in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund four new positions for behavioral health workforce development. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.36 AND F.37. Work Program #23FRF36465. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE. REVISED 8-2-22.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

39. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$4,885,798 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services to provide funding to China Spring Youth Camp and Aurora Pines Youth Camp and Clark County Child Welfare for mental and behavioral health services for children, youth and families. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000.

RELATES TO ITEMS F.40 AND F.41. Work Program #23FR132761. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

40. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$4,198,804 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the System of Care services for a special populations program of children and families through the Clark County Department of Social Service and Department of Family Services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Clark County Mental Health Improvement Plan Clinical Division category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.39 AND F.41. Work Program #23FR314510. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

41. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Youth Alternative Placement - FY 2023

Addition of \$686,994 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund services for special populations of children and their families at the China Spring Youth Camp and Aurora Pines Youth Camp. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.39 AND F.40. Work Program #23FRF31471. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

42. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$400,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services to fund a unified billing support software system for school-based care coordination for the Nevada Department of Education. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.43. Work Program #23FR132769. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

43. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$400,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund a statewide unified billing support system for the Nevada Department of Education. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Unified Billing Support category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.42. Work Program #23FRF31459. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

44. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$2,041,322 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services to fund 16 new positions for the establishment of a Children's Behavioral Health Authority and to provide oversight of the ARPA funding received by the division. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.45. Work Program #23FR132765. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

45. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of ~~\$2,041,322~~ **\$2,014,322** in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund eight new positions for the establishment of the ongoing Children's Behavioral Health Authority (CBHA) and eight new positions to enable the Division to implement and manage ARPA projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CBHA and ARPA Support category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.44. Work Program #23FRF31458. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE. REVISED 8-2-22.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

46. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$7,314,984 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to fund a new Clinical Program Planner 2 position and wraparound and intensive care coordination for youth with intensive needs. Requires Interim Finance

approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.47. Work Program #23FR132764. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

47. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$7,314,984 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund one new position and wraparound and intensive care coordination for youth with intensive needs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Wraparound/Intensive Care Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.46. Work Program #23FRF31454. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

48. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,430,349 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to fund one new position and emergency and planned respite services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.49. Work Program #23FR132768. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

49. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,430,349 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund one part-time position and system-of-care services for statewide emergency and planned respite. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Trans in Fed ARPA Respite category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.48. Work Program #23FRF31457. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

50. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$2,431,165 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to fund one new position and intensive family in-home services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.51. Work Program #23FR132767. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

51. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$2,431,165 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund one new position and intensive family in-home services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Intensive Family In-Home Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.50. Work Program #23FRF31455. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

52. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$977,346 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Children's Mental Health category to support an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services, to fund one new position and Family-to-Family Peer Support resources. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Children's Mental Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM F.53. Work Program #23FR132766. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.53.

53. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$977,346 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund one part-time position and an increase in Family-to-Family Peer Support (FPS) resources to families who care for children and youth with disabilities, including behavioral health needs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FPS category exceeds

\$75,000. RELATES TO ITEM F.52. Work Program #23FRF31456. RECEIVED ON 7-25-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.

Agenda Items F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, and F.36 through F.53 were discussed jointly.

DR. CINDY PITLOCK (Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services [DCFS], Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]):

Children and youth have experienced unique negative effects due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in isolation, loneliness, school closures, and disrupted relationships with caregiving adults. This highly vulnerable population has been hit hard by these pandemic-related stressors during critical periods of social, emotional, cognitive, and neurological development.

COVID-19 has caused the loss of a parent or caregiver for 1 out of every 360 Nevada children. Since the onset of the pandemic, many children have developed symptoms of depression, anxiety, or behavioral health disorders. Those who were already suffering experienced a severe exacerbation of symptoms.

This combined package of work programs represents a significant effort by a team of stakeholders, many of which are present today. A collaborative group has been meeting, planning, and researching to determine the most impactful way to respond to Nevada's children during this time of crisis. I am grateful for their support, passion, commitment, and mentorship. Relative to the saying, "It takes a village," we brought a village before the Committee today.

These requests seek to further build out and strengthen a children's system of care that is currently insufficient. In doing so, new services will be brought to Nevada that will allow more youth and families to fully participate in services in their home and communities, and conversely, provide greater access to inpatient and residential services when home and community services are not medically appropriate. The requests will also serve to improve opportunities for a smooth transition back to home and community services after inpatient or residential admission and reduce the risk of recidivism in absence of these services. I would note that other states have realized significant cost avoidance and return on investment after implementing a comprehensive system of care approach.

These components represent the essential services, supports, and infrastructure within a robust and complete system of care. Each of these components work as part of the entire system, and work together to create an interwoven system of services and support rather than a menu of choices and options. The entire system must work in concert so that youth may move up and down the continuum as needed. Infrastructure must be present to monitor and manage the system as a whole; provide training and technical assistance; ensure quality and fidelity; and continue data gathering and evaluation. Sustainability plans for these programs will include exploration of braided and blended funding sources, working with Nevada's Medicaid program for possible plan amendments or waivers, and

gauging the impact of these programs on youth and families through data collection and quality review. Through the transparent budget process, future legislative cohorts may decide collectively on feasibility and necessity of continuation.

BAILY BORTOLIN (Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor):

On behalf of Governor Sisolak, I wanted to note his appreciation for the team of stakeholders as well as community members that have provided input. Governor Sisolak is committed to making a significant investment in children's mental health in the Governor's recommended budget because Nevada has a moral imperative to continue this work and the state will not create fiscal cliffs from these items.

TIM BURCH (Administrator of Human Services, Clark County):

Over the last few years, there have been many long public comment sessions railing against various state efforts. Today, it was nice to hear a level of support for the state's efforts to help families. Also noted during public comment is the gap in the system of care that is present in Nevada and how significant that gap is for families who cannot obtain services. The gap becomes more significant when children fall into a child welfare system that is not engineered or designed to receive them solely because they cannot receive mental health services in the community. Almost 100 families in the last 12 months have fallen into that gap. Many families have reached the point where they are willing to risk abandonment charges out of desperation to get their child the necessary services. That is not the system that Nevada wants for children. The changes proposed today will help close the gap for families.

KEVIN SCHILLER (Deputy County Manager, Clark County):

One of the pieces I would echo from the public comment today is the continuum of care. There was much discussion about people entering the system at the highest level; however, the goal is to help people enter the system at the lowest level. If the state can create diversion and establish the necessary services, it will reduce costs at the higher level and reduce outcomes like suicide and depression.

I would also like to address the sustainability discussion from Clark County's perspective; "the buck stops here" from the perspective of when somebody arrives at Child Haven or in the care of social services. Clark County has no choice but to figure out the continuum of care. Sustainability is tied to all the funding pieces presented to the Committee, of which Medicaid is a large portion. However, Clark County is also a significant contributor and wants to ensure the Committee that the county can maximize reimbursement to avoid returning to the IFC.

RYAN GUSTAFSON (Division Director, Child Protective Services, Washoe County Human Services):

Washoe County is seeing the same things as Clark County and the rest of the state. Washoe County has spent several legislative sessions working with the Legislature and system partners to get ahead of the problem, including implementing preventative

measures, mobile crisis response teams, and in-home services; however, the pandemic caused some delays.

In Washoe County, one of only two acute psychiatric hospitals was closed, which resulted in a loss of nearly 100 beds. Washoe County also lost an early childhood program and a program that worked with young men who had been adjudicated of sex offenses. These closures exacerbated the previous issues related to the lack of psychiatric services.

In the last year, Washoe County has experienced a 300% increase in emergency shelter bed days for children. Prior to the pandemic, emergency shelter bed days for children in Washoe County had remained in the single digits for about 18 months. When the pandemic began, the county lost a lot of mental health service providers, which created a challenging situation.

Washoe County has seen an increase in emergency care for children causing a bottleneck at hospitals while waiting for beds to become available at other facilities. The county had been working on resolving the issue through the mobile crisis response program, but the problem has reemerged. The issue is not just related to mental health services, as there are often not beds for children and the county is approaching foster care rates and other things that have not been this high in over a decade.

What is being discussed today is of the utmost importance for children. Child welfare and children's mental health go hand-in-hand.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

How will the funds be used to fill staffing shortages? Currently, it is difficult to hire staff of any kind, including psychiatrists and mental health providers.

DR. PITLOCK:

Staffing shortages are definitely an issue. Because there is discussion of standing up programs that could potentially impact thousands of families, it is important to have enough staff to provide those services. Everyone is working together for a robust array of expansion of the workforce. The division is working with partners at universities and community colleges. There are some other items on the agenda today that will feed into the workforce by bringing in students and paying them the equivalent of a stipend if they were doing the work for a private entity. Consequently, it will give those students the clinical hours they need to feed into the workforce.

It is a very large process to make Nevada a great place to live and work in order to attract employees and businesses to Nevada to provide mental health services. The DCFS will not be able to stand up all these programs and provide these services singlehandedly; the division needs to lean in on community partners to provide a great place to live and work and to provide these services for Nevada's youth.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

People that spoke during public comment need to understand that the response efforts will not be quick. It is going to be a long process that could potentially take years to build.

CARA PAOLI (Division Director, Child Protective Services, Washoe County Human Services):

I want to reiterate how important it is to work with state partners for them to have the staff to get the job done. As Mr. Gustafson said, emergency shelters are exploding, and part of that is due to the lack of mental health beds. The other piece to that is there are situations in which young children are being housed with children who are almost old enough to be adults, which is not an ideal setting. Staff is committed to keeping children safe, but it is not the best situation for children and families. On the other side, there are children who are aging out of care that also need support, and public and behavioral health does not always have the staff and resources available for them. Ultimately, the division is bottlenecked on both sides.

Assembly Bill 387 (2019 Legislative Session) is intended to help families keep their children out of child welfare. The state really needs to invest in that issue. I am aware that state agencies are trying; however, the hiring and staff retention crisis is preventing that from happening. In the meantime, families are suffering.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Children's mental health is in crisis in the state, it has been for a while. The state has tried to address the issue piece by piece. I remember the first autism bill I signed onto for former Assemblyman James Ohrenschall, now Senator Ohrenschall. Now the state has an opportunity to make generational change for children's mental health. However, as Senator Goicoechea noted, it will take years to build, so those efforts need to begin immediately. The agencies and stakeholders have collaborated for over a year to develop a plan to address children's mental health.

I appreciate Ms. Bortolin's comment about not creating a fiscal cliff. She and I have had many conversations about this. I know the Office of the Governor has committed to addressing children's mental health and it will be a top priority during the budget building process. I am certain children's mental health will be addressed by the state because Nevada has to take care of its children and families.

There have been comments regarding sustainability of these programs, specifically Medicaid rates and how to ensure that there are an adequate number of providers willing to accept Medicaid. If the state can obtain more of these providers, then more children can receive services. Would someone address the Medicaid piece?

DR. ANTONINA CAPURRO (Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy [DHCFP], DHHS):

The DHCFP has been working with stakeholders to sustain the projects identified for funding. Earlier this year, the division came before the IFC with a request to use federal Title XIX grant funds and Home and Community-Based Services reinvestment funds to procure a consultant to research and recommend strategies to enhance Medicaid-funded children's behavioral health services. The DHCFP is currently working with Health Management Associates to identify long-term strategies to support the projects that are before the Committee. The division is methodically reviewing those strategies to identify service delivery models, and any Medicaid authority or federal approval that might be needed to sustain those projects. In addition, Nevada was awarded a State Planning Grant for Mobile Crisis Intervention Services. The enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage will come along with the grant. The division is working with stakeholders and partners to build the continuum of care.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Please discuss how these programs and projects will be addressed in the upcoming budget.

KATRINA NIELSEN (Interim Deputy Director, DCFS, DHHS):

The preliminary cost to continue these services would total approximately \$28 million, of which \$18.6 million would be funded by Medicaid, or 66%, and \$9.4 million will be funded with General Funds, or 34%.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Will this be a budget enhancement?

MS. NIELSEN:

Yes, the division will submit an enhancement request for the funding. ARPA funding will end in FY 2024 and then the division will present new funding streams to reinstate the positions and services in FY 2025.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

As a physician, it has been difficult referring patients for mental health services. As someone who works for the Lyon County School District and is a member of the behavioral health board, I often hear about the lack of services.

There are 46 new positions being requested; however, the state has a staff vacancy rate between 25% and 33%, which makes me concerned about how these positions will be filled. I am also concerned about such a significant expansion. It looks good on paper but hiring the staff to perform the work will be a challenge. If providers do not accept Medicaid patients, they are in the wrong. However, there is no guarantee there is going to be enough incentive. Why would providers accept Medicaid patients if they lose money? I am concerned that you are setting people up with this expansion without stating how it will be fulfilled. What is the current staff vacancy rate at the DHHS?

DR. PITLOCK:

The current DHHS staff vacancy rate is between 22% and 50%. I can provide the Committee with specific details at a later date. (A follow-up memo indicated the DCFS vacancy rate on August 23, 2022, was 31.4%.)

What I would highlight for you is that these programs are new and have never been offered in the state. With that, the programs require fidelity, fiscal, and programmatic oversight to ensure the funds are being expended in a way that outcomes are predictable because these are evidence-based programs.

If some of the vacant positions were utilized for these programs, it would reduce the number of staff in existing programs that are already taxed, short-staffed, and not operating well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Your response creates more concern. Existing programs are not operating well due to staff vacancies, yet new programs are being proposed.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I am receiving a lot of texts after my earlier comments so I hope that some things can be clarified. Sometimes new positions are not necessarily new, meaning that many times positions are changed from part-time to full-time status because there will be adequate funding to do so; therefore, maybe it is not as problematic as I originally thought. Also, perhaps the state will be able to fund positions that existed before they were cut last session. Of those 46 new positions, what percentage would fall into that category?

MS. NIELSEN:

The requested positions are all new positions. The positions that were restored with ARPA funding during the 2019-21 biennium were for the juvenile justice facilities, not children's mental health.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN:

I feel similar today as I did when the Legislature addressed the budget crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. I came to this meeting today with humility due to the amount of money being discussed and the amount of mental health services that are needed in Nevada. I was convinced during my first legislative session in 2019 that Nevada was experiencing a mental health crisis, particularly for the youth in the state.

I share some of the same concerns as my colleagues. If the projects take a few years to complete, where will the money reside if staff vacancies cannot be filled? Who will have oversight of the funds?

DR. PITLOCK:

Some of funds will be passed through to other entities, some will be used to contract with community providers to provide services, and some of the funds will

be provided to the DCFS. The DCFS will be the oversight authority for the funds and programs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN:

If these funds are provided but not being utilized, is there a guarantee the funds will be preserved and not used for another purpose? Also, is the staffing shortage due to low wages or because there are not enough qualified mental health professionals in the state?

CHAIR DENIS:

I would ask that you reach out to staff to answer that question.

STEPHANIE WOODARD (Medical Epidemiologist, DPBH, DHHS):

With regard to workforce issues, the department has continuously studied why DHHS is experiencing high vacancy rates and the types of positions that are occupying those vacancies. The department has had a difficult time maintaining clinical staff, especially during the pandemic. The rates the DHHS pays these staff are much less due to an increased demand for health care professionals, especially nurses. I think it is important to differentiate the kinds of positions the department is struggling to fill. I believe Dr. Pitlock can provide some granular information on the specific vacancies within the DCFS.

The vacancies also have to do with the available workforce in the state, which has been discussed with the Legislature for many years. As it relates to the children's system of care and the services that are in the work programs before the Committee, Nevada has an opportunity to diversify the kinds of services that are available within the community. Not all these services would be considered traditional clinical services. For example, emergency and planned respite are included, which are not necessarily licensed behavioral health providers that could be pulled from an existing area of the state's workforce to provide those services. In addition, wraparound services are included, which require case management and care coordination.

What is seen in other states that have done this is the broadening of the amount of eligible workforce to provide these critical services, which then allows some of the very finite resources for licensed providers to be able to work at the top of their scope without having to work in other capacities. Ultimately, it is anticipated that services that are represented in the package today will help to alleviate some of the pressures on the formal behavioral health system and be able to add complementary services.

CHAIR DENIS:

I would note that nearly every department in the state would give a similar answer to the reason for staff vacancies, which is that the state does not pay enough, as well as the other reasons noted by the department.

SENATOR NEAL:

Regarding Agenda Item F.19 and care coordination, on page 328 in Volume I of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)), it is indicated that one of the expected benefits is that the program will support school staff and educators. I know care coordination is a true need. Oftentimes a teacher does not know how to manage a child with certain mental health issues, such as severe ADHD. Please provide additional details on care coordination.

DR. PITLOCK:

Agenda Item F.19 relates to the mobile crisis response team outreach and support provided to Clark County and Washoe County schools; however, care coordination relates to the wraparound program.

SENATOR NEAL:

I was addressing the mobile crisis response team, which is also care coordination. I apologize if it is delineated differently.

DR. PITLOCK:

The mobile crisis response teams will be working directly with both Clark and Washoe County schools. Representatives from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) are available to answer questions and provide support if necessary.

This is an excellent opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder and partner with school districts, resource officers, and embedded mental health services to provide a more robust, comprehensive, and clinically appropriate response. The mobile crisis response teams are trained in emergency response for youth and are happy to partner with the school districts.

SENATOR NEAL:

I will reach out to the NDE offline for further questions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

I would like to speak to the comprehensiveness of the package that is before the Committee. In the course of one legislative session, the Legislature may only get to one or two of the items included in the package. This package includes in-home and out-of-home services, rural and urban area services in Southern and Northern Nevada, Medicaid billing resources, etc. The package designs a system of care for children from crisis through treatment and stabilization. The package before the Committee is reflective of the "can-do" Nevada spirit and I want to congratulate the entire team for its efforts.

SENATOR HARRIS:

I would like to note that my vote today is not just in support of the programs, but it also represents my commitment to ensuring these programs are ongoing. I urge my colleagues to join me in making that commitment. I see no reason to wait when these programs are in front of the Committee today.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I want to commend the work that has been done by so many people to create a comprehensive package. I understand this is both a runway to help create positions for new services and to build in supports within the other pieces that exist in Nevada to help grow professionals to take on these roles. This also gives me confidence in the fact that the state will be funding some personnel within these departments and divisions for crisis teams that will work with the schools, etc. I think there is a lot of value in that, and the Committee will not simply be authorizing additional positions in hopes that the positions can be filled. Thus, I feel very confident in supporting this package for that reason as well.

This is also a commitment from the Governor. I commend Governor Sisolak for not only taking on this task but also bringing this package before the Committee, as well as the commitment in ensuring the programs are ongoing through budget requests and enhancements. I am noting these things because this package is more than just authorizing new positions.

I thank all the brave parents and the people who work with children who are not only facing this issue by coming to the Committee and providing testimony, but also dealing with these issues on a daily basis, where their hearts are breaking, and they are looking for solutions where there are none.

I understand this is an acute, immediate need, not something that can wait until after the 2023 Legislative Session when the budgets and other items have been funded.

I understand the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the fact that this is an ongoing problem and something the state needs to address, and the solution is before the Committee today in the form of a comprehensive package. Nevada cannot afford to wait, and the parents that provided testimony today also cannot afford to wait. The Committee needs to be responsive to that fact. The ARPA funds are designed to deal with crises coming out of the pandemic. I believe that is what the funds will accomplish through the package presented to the Committee. That does not mean that the state is only beholden to fund specific one-time requests when there is a commitment on the other end to ensure that as these programs work and continue to serve parents, solutions are provided to help raise and grow children and keep families intact. The Committee should not ignore it when the Governor is willing to include these programs in the state's budget.

Unlike some of my colleagues, I guarantee you, I will be returning next session and look forward to supporting and ensuring that these programs are continued and that the state can produce the right people for the jobs so these types of programs can be expanded. This will allow the state to address mental health needs through mental health professionals, wraparound services, and everything else that has been discussed today.

I know the Committee is typically uncomfortable using one-time funds for ongoing programs and staff. However, in this circumstance, I think this is a very appropriate and necessary use of the funds.

I feel comfortable voting in favor of these items knowing that the Committee will be acting as a legislative body by providing solutions to parents in need. I have an ongoing commitment to continue this conversation and continue to invest and provide these types of services.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

This discussion has brought many things to light that makes it easier to consider voting on this package. I do not think Nevada should have shut down the schools for as long as they were closed. It created many problems throughout the system, which is why several people tried to introduce a special session to intersect all those powers that were taken to put these decisions outside the reach of parents and the people, rather than just being within one bureaucrats' control. Even if the state doubled the wages for the Department of Public Safety, Nevada Highway Patrol, it would still be difficult to hire state troopers. Therefore, maybe in that respect, there is no real problem in voting to create new positions since it will not create a budgetary hole because I think it will be difficult to fill those positions, especially with a 20% vacancy rate.

I also see the ability to accept these funds and put them into budgetary accounts for later use when there are people to fill the positions. Nevada needs to grow professionals in these fields because there are not enough mental health professionals in the state or the nation as more problems are developing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

It is very encouraging to have this conversation. I want to applaud the agencies that acknowledged the problem and developed these solutions. It is unusual for a large group of people to come together to address a problem.

These problems did not occur just because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada was experiencing these issues long before that; however, the pandemic put a microscope on the issues. I have not been in the Legislature as long as some of my colleagues, but in my six years as a legislator, I have tried to change the way state leaders look at the way the state budget is built as well as changing the state's mindset about bringing federal funds into Nevada to help meet essential needs that have positive effects on families. I think the agencies have done just that in the package that is before the Committee. ARPA funds are available now and the Committee, as leaders in the state, has a responsibility to ensure that the money is not one-time in nature and that there are not holes in the budget that will leave families "holding the bag." By voting in favor of these items, the Committee is acknowledging that it has heard what families and providers are saying. Nevada may not have enough mental health professionals right now so the state will have to grow those professionals. The Legislature will need to assess whether the state is paying a wage that will attract the staff it needs in every department and division, especially for positions related to children's mental health.

I will also be returning for the 2023 Legislative Session as well as the following legislative session to ensure that the policies and programs that are approved today are successful and continue to grow.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

As the Chair of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the 2021-22 Interim, I want to reiterate how impressive it is that these agencies have come together to address this issue. I have enjoyed working with all of you and hearing from you in multiple ways as we have discussed the needs of Nevada's children and the needs of mental health care and payroll health care in the State of Nevada. I have full faith that in the 2023 Legislative Session, the state is going to be looking at how to successfully ensure that behavioral and mental health care is available for all people and that there are collaborative care models and continuums of care that are accessible to all the people in the state.

I want to express my thanks to everyone for working together on this issue. I look forward to the 2023 Legislative Session and ensuring there is a full conversation and fully funded programs.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I think it would be ridiculous not to support this package. Nevada needs to invest in the mental health issue because it is a significant problem in the state. However, it is going to take time to accomplish. I will be returning for the 2023 Legislative Session as well. During the 2021 Legislative Session, I brought forward some bills to facilitate health care providers coming to the state. It will take more than just money, Nevada needs to grow professionals, and get them trained and on the ground.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

As many people stated, there are many issues, and I am supportive of these programs. I will also be returning for the 2023 Legislative Session, and I know these programs will be reviewed in The Executive Budget.

Although I am supportive of these programs, I would like a commitment from the DHCFP and others. As Senator Goicoechea said, there are ways that Nevada can improve access to care in the state. Bills have been brought forward in the past to bring providers to the state, but those bills have been ignored. However, I know mental health issues will be discussed again during the 2023 Legislative Session because everyone has the best intentions related to the topic.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

This package was a long time coming and I know that from conversations publicly and privately, Nevada desperately needs this. The state is experiencing a crisis, particularly mental health across the board and for youth. I am grateful for all the collaboration and for the testimony of families and advocacy groups that came forward today.

I would like to make a comment regarding distribution. The Committee heard a lot from families across the state who talked about the need for mental health services. I have heard from Washoe County families in my district and the surrounding area about the lack of services, including in the rural communities. As I look at the list, I want to note my concern about whether these resources will be distributed equitably to the entire state based on need. I know there are some specific items for Southern and Northern Nevada as well as China Springs, and there are also some general items for the state as a whole.

CHAIR DENIS:

In my 18 years with the Legislature, every time there has been discussion about mental health, there has not enough money to address the problem. I am glad I was able to be part of the discussion today because solutions have been offered to address the problem.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS F.17, F.18, F.19, F.31, AND F.36 THROUGH F.53.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

Chair Denis called a recess at 1:14 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

54. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2023

Addition of \$345,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide support for an intensive campaign for providers and targeted populations regarding the transmission of monkey pox. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Monkeypox MSM category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23FRF32191. RECEIVED ON 7-27-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I approve of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding being used for these types of infectious disease programs, with this being one of many requests that the Committee will see in the future. What will the information involving the monkey pox campaign look like and what population does the division plan to target?

MELISSA PEEK-BULLOCK (State Epidemiologist, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]):

Although monkey pox transmission can occur among all populations, across the country and in Nevada it is being seen that the gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men communities are disproportionately affected. The division is requesting ARPA funding for a campaign to provide messaging on risks and

harm-reduction strategies to mitigate risks of acquiring monkey pox. The division is partnering closely with members from at-risk populations, Andre Wade and his team from Silver State Equality, the DHHS Office of Minority Health and Equity, local health authorities and other community partners, as these stakeholders know their communities best and understand how to run the campaign effectively and what the messaging should look like.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

This issue cannot be ignored, and the division needs to aggressively identify and reach out to community members who may not be proactive in practicing the best methods of health care or who may not have access to health care resources. I appreciate the division's work on this initiative.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM F.54.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

55. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2023

Transfer of \$25,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects category to support an allocation to the Department of Business and Industry, Nevada Housing Division, to continue to provide rental assistance and eviction diversion services in Clark County. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.56 AND F.57. Work Program #23FR132771. RECEIVED ON 7-28-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.55, F.56 and F.57 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.57.

56. Department of Business and Industry - Housing Division - Account for Low-Income Housing - FY 2023

Addition of \$15,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund an extension of the CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) in Clark County. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA CHAP Rental Assistance category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.55 AND F.57. Work Program #23FRF38381. RECEIVED ON 7-28-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.55, F.56 and F.57 were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony and motion for approval under Agenda Item F.57.

57. Department Of Business and Industry - Housing Division - Account for Low-Income Housing - FY 2023

Addition of \$10,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the Eviction Diversion Program in Clark County. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Eviction Diversion Program category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS F.55 AND F.56. Work Program #23FRF38382. RECEIVED ON 7-28-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items F.55, F.56 and F.57 were discussed jointly.

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry [B&I]):

The requests before the Committee are for federal ARPA Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) for the extension of the CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) and the Eviction Diversion Program. Since the onset of the pandemic, the Housing Division has been instrumental in providing conduit funding to allow rental assistance to be distributed to those in need. Combined funding from the division's state partners, including Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) 1, ERA 2 and Coronavirus Relief Funds, has been used to provide over \$350 million in rental assistance. As of June 30, 2022, all grantees in the state have expended 94% of ERA 1 funding and 51% of ERA 2 funding. Because ERA 1 funds will soon be exhausted, the division anticipates an increase in the use of ERA 2 funds to support the balance of the CHAP. However, that support will only last for a limited time before ERA 2 funds are also exhausted. The proposals before the Committee will add an additional \$15 million for the use of rental assistance to ensure the CHAP will continue for the remainder of calendar year 2022 and that the companion piece of \$10 million will support an eviction diversion program.

TIM BURCH (Administrator of Human Services, Clark County):

Because of the partnership between Clark County and the State of Nevada, more than \$300 million in rental assistance has been issued to over 65,000 households in Southern Nevada. Specifically, the state was very helpful in subgranting Clark County \$20 million from the original Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds and \$138 million from the ERA funds for emergency housing. The county has stood up non-congregate shelter programs; more than 500 hotel/motel units shelter families on any given night in Clark County. Also, \$12 million was used for the rapid rehousing program called Operation HOME! The programs before the Committee will help flesh out that continuum and remove some of the COVID-specific impact that the federal dollars have required in the past to be designated purely for rental assistance. This will allow the county to examine fixed income and rising rental costs and other types of issues that are causing people to lose their housing.

KEVIN SCHILLER (Deputy County Manager, Clark County):

Going back to the beginning of the pandemic and CARES Act dollars, transitioning through ERA 1 and ERA 2 funding, I believe the Committee is aware the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) changed throughout that period.

With the \$300 million, malleable pieces were changed in terms of requirements. Echoing my earlier testimony in terms of eventually being a one-stop shop, the reality is there are non-COVID-eligible residents in conjunction with these same funds. From a social services perspective, the Eviction Diversion Program is a direct collaboration with the courts in that process. Clark County is embedded with the courts and legal aid. The county is essentially mediating eviction as the “last door” in terms of intervention; however, the county also tries to get in the “front door.”

With regard to the 500 hotel/motel units of transitional emergency housing, those are for individuals where eviction diversion is not successful and/or Clark County has to assist with housing on the non-traditional homeless side. ARPA funds will be used to intervene on the eviction diversion side in the courts but will also be used upstream to help people maintain their housing.

One question is where people go after they are evicted; Clark County has dedicated \$142 million toward affordable housing and workforce housing. The county is in the process of finalizing those projects for awards. The Committee is aware that construction costs are high right now, but those projects will create capacity, which will allow the county to create the affordable continuum. The ARPA funds may be considered a Band-Aid fix, but people need housing. The second part of that is how to help people on a fixed income.

These requests will address critical needs. They will address the human services pandemic, which has not peaked; it will not flatten for approximately two more years. This is critical infrastructure that can be established to help families, seniors, and traditional and non-traditional homeless. The reality is making these funds go further through the collaborative process with eviction diversion. I think the Legislature will hear more about this as the 2023 Legislative Session approaches because the county is considering how to engage social services to be proactive instead of reactive. I think the crisis created an opportunity to change the system.

BARBARA BUCKLEY (former Nevada Assemblywoman [1995-2011]; Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada):

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) has been working with Clark County on the eviction crisis since the beginning of the pandemic. The LACSN is here in strong support of the items before the Committee. I also wanted to mention how exciting it is to be implementing eviction diversion. The Committee heard Judge Saragosa’s comments earlier stating that the Eviction Diversion Program is a game changer.

The plan is to work on a couple pilot populations such as the elderly and people with disabilities. With rising rent costs across the state and in Clark County, there are 80-year-olds on oxygen getting eviction notices. This program will allow those evictions to be diverted; to get someone from the DHHS Aging and Disability Services Division that said they would be part of the diversion program along with Clark County to assist. The landlord may be paid one month of rent while other options are considered. The Eviction Diversion Program will allow time to find a solution that will keep the landlord paid and the tenant housed, which is a win-win situation, instead of allowing an 80-year-old to become homeless.

The Eviction Diversion Program is a holistic solution that is being piloted. The goal is to provide the Legislature with data and results during the 2023 Legislative Session so that the program might be considered as a statewide model. In the rural courts, many judges already have a similar process of working things out between the parties; however, in the larger jurisdictions, the volume of cases (over 40,000 evictions per year) is overwhelming. When having a program that involves the courts, the county and the nonprofit partners will help prevent homelessness.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

In the interest of full disclosure, as the Executive Director of the United Labor Agency, I often partner with Clark County. The United Labor Agency is very appreciative of all the work the county has done.

When people hear “eviction diversion” they are concerned they will have to go to court to receive assistance. Many seniors are nervous about the thought of going before a judge. It is my understanding that this program is to prevent people from going to court. Is that correct?

Also, Mr. Schiller mentioned affordable housing units that will be coming online. Please provide additional information regarding those affordable housing units.

Lastly, with some of the new funding, there are people who have capped out on all other available assistance. During the CHAP process, many people experienced rent increases when their leases renewed. Will this funding be available to people who have maxed out other types of assistance but are still in need?

MS. BUCKLEY:

The goal of eviction diversion is to keep the tenant out of court. It is going to be interesting how the program will be implemented, because the Nevada summary eviction process is the strangest and most curious process in the United States. Instead of the landlord filing a complaint for eviction, the tenant must file first. The 2023 Legislature will receive a bill draft request to reverse that process. I believe that bill draft request may be supported by landlords, tenants, and the courts. Then, when the landlord serves a complaint, it can go right to diversion to prevent the need for a court appearance. It is more difficult with the current summary eviction process. The goal is to avoid a court appearance because going to court scares people.

MR. BURCH:

Regarding the eviction process, even though the current summary eviction process is disjointed, a pilot program has been possible in Clark County with all the justice courts in Southern Nevada. A process by which after paperwork is filed, prior to the individual having to appear in court, social services receives a spreadsheet, which allows staff to reach out to households that received an eviction notice to see if they need assistance. That process has led to approximately \$42 million going directly into those specific cases. Clark County was working the pilot program before funding was requested to ensure the program was feasible.

With regard to the affordable housing piece, in addition to the \$500 million contributed by the state, the Clark County Board of County Commissioners contributed \$142 million toward affordable housing development. That is in addition to the county's existing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development affordable housing development that Clark County does annually. Each year approximately three affordable housing projects come online, and the requested funds will allow that to double. The goal is to have 2,000 more new units in the next few years; however, that is based on the progress of the development timeline and hopes that some of the backlogs and supply chain issues ease up.

With regard to timelines, these funds are new dollars without restrictions. The previous time constraints were established by the funder, the federal government. These dollars are flexible and will allow the counties to determine how to best assist people. Currently, there are about 22 families with a voucher that have been looking for housing for over a month trying to find a place that will accept the voucher. The county will continue to assist by having housing harvesters and navigators look for places while at the same time keeping those families safe until they can be rehoused. That is part of the Operation HOME! program. Again, the county is trying to tie it into the existing continuum of programs that have been successful over the last two years.

SENATOR NEAL:

When someone goes through the CHAP process on the Clark County website, it still asks whether the applicant was affected by COVID-19. If the applicant says no, they are considered ineligible. Will the CHAP requirements be revised?

MR. BURCH:

The CHAP requirements are still present because the funding stream that is being used is still the ERA 2 funds, which has those requirements. Once those dollars are expended, which should be in the fall of 2022, the requirements will be revised to reflect the more flexible requirements of fixed income, facing eviction due to higher rents, etc.

SENATOR NEAL:

Because of the increase in rent costs, there are people seeking rental assistance. Those people may have a higher income, but with children and higher costs overall, those people cannot afford to pay higher rent and they are not eligible for assistance

through CHAP. The state has always had this issue with middle-income people who are impacted by inflation and are in need. Is that population being considered?

MR. SCHILLER:

There are many people in emergency housing, and I want to answer your question by talking about the continuum. There is the COVID-19 Treasury guidance, which evolves between ERA 1 and ERA 2 and the flexibility. At the end of the day, I think your direct question is what happens to those households that are not eligible for these funds. From a county perspective, Clark County is the regional entity for social services. Whether the county has ERA funds or is using county general fund related to indigent dollars, that is Clark County's reset in the programming. Clark County also has a similar program that will come online in September 2022, which is specifically for that vulnerable client population. Approximately \$3 million has been dedicated to start the program to fund those households that are falling into the category you are speaking about. At the end of the day, that gap still ends up at the county's door. Clark County's normal and social services will never look like it did prior to COVID-19.

As the Committee looks to approve these dollars with eligibility requirements, the county still has additional programming and a new normal that is being revamped, utilizing dedicated funds for restricted use on indigent, homeless, and other vulnerable populations. I think you will see this evolution as we go into the 2023 Legislative Session and over the next year and a half. In fact, Clark County is revamping its policies. The county has been so reactive in emergency housing, getting to this issue of workforce training, all those pieces that tie into this are critical components.

Clark County recognizes there is a large group of ineligible clients that still need housing. The county is spending upwards of \$50 million just on emergency transitional housing. These are not apartments; they are hotels with services onsite. The county has moved from a sheltering component into a transitional emergency housing component. As such, there are better outcomes because there are individuals who are in their own space and not a congregate setting. When I say the human services pandemic is yet to peak, that is the piece.

To your question specific to what is happening on affordable housing, the river is completely backed up. The county can add another 300 units of emergency transitional housing, but through Operation HOME! there are a limited number of units on any given day. I will note that there is movement in those units. I want to explain it that way, so the Committee understands that dollars that are being invested are part of a continuum. Without these dollars, those people are going to be added into the continuum and take away from seniors. The funds are allowing the county to take its general fund dollars and care for the non-COVID-eligible clients and get them housed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I have some concerns that this is specifically for Clark County. This is a pilot program, correct?

MR. BURCH:

Clark County has been piloting work with the court for early warning, which will alert the county when people first file for eviction. In the past, people had to come to the county for assistance. In working with the courts, the county has found that less than 20% of individuals who receive an eviction notice appear in court to fight the eviction, and fewer than that ask for help. This program is a way to target individuals who do not know there is help available. The pilot program specific to eviction diversion will codify that program with the systems, coding, and support services that are needed to move away from personnel-dependent processes into a more systemic approach.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will the program be available in areas outside of Clark County?

MR. BURCH:

The hope is that the Clark County pilot program will do so well that it is worthy of a statewide model.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will the money go directly to landlords?

MR. BURCH:

The approach is to stabilize people who are behind on their rent because the likelihood they will find affordable housing immediately is small. In that stabilization process, with paying the landlord and working with them, which was done in the CHAP process, the past due rent is verified on the day the check is issued. That amount is meant to bring the tenant whole and current. Then the county will work with the tenant to rehouse, which may include down payment and moving assistance to another landlord.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Does Clark County know the number of homeless or those who were facing eviction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic? Now the state is in the post-pandemic period where jobs are plentiful but rent prices have increased tremendously. Are there more homeless now? How has the Clark County population been affected? I would like population numbers pre-pandemic, during and post-pandemic.

I like the fact that the county has a public/private partnership to provide more affordable housing.

MS. BUCKLEY:

The LACSN sees 4,000 people being evicted monthly in Clark County. As people began to get their jobs back, the rising rent costs crushed them. The rising rent costs are affecting seniors, people with disabilities, and families who make less

than \$50,000 annually. Someone who gets paid \$12 per hour cannot afford rent in Southern or Northern Nevada. It is affecting young adults who generally start out at a lower income level. It is a serious problem in the state. One part of the solution is to build more affordable housing. The Governor's package, the county's package, and the Committee's efforts are leading toward beginning that pipeline. However, there is need for these programs and an alternate approach to avoid homelessness for individuals who cannot afford the average rent.

MR. SCHILLER:

I wanted to provide an example of something that I believe is important. Earlier today there was testimony regarding children's mental health. The cost of child welfare, when a case is opened and a child is brought into the system, is 30 times higher than diverting that client and family in the context of housing. Of the child welfare cases that are seen, 85% are neglect, but neglect by default is a family that is employed, but their rent has increased and by default, they lose their housing.

When discussing these dollars and what they will support, one of the key pieces is that the state is still experiencing unemployment. For example, in the hospitality industry, the unemployment rate is upwards of 30%. The second piece that I wanted to highlight is that the county rented an entire hotel of approximately 159 rooms and it was filled in one week. Almost 80% of those clients, by virtue of those placements, avoided default neglect. The county would have had to house the children because they were living in a park. If necessary, Clark County will come before the Committee again requesting funds to support child welfare as the caseload and outcome are much worse.

To Assemblywoman Titus' question regarding whether the numbers are worse because the county has established rental assistance programming, I do not think the numbers are worse. I think the issue is the need due to rising rents and the convergence of the "hurricane" is all over the place. There are people who have abused rental assistance, but overall, I would say that Nevada had done a good job. The state has stepped up and put those funds into the community.

If we did not have these dollars and phased out of rental assistance, the county would have to reach out to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority or somewhere else to set up a 500-bed emergency shelter because that would be the only option.

I believe the question is about case management and how to make it sustainable rather than a short-term fix. The county has been in reaction mode for over two years, but it has evolved. It is not easy to put \$300 million on the street and I do not think there is a perfect solution, but I also think the case management side of this is where the outcome is found. If the funds are approved by the Committee, the county will provide reports.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

As a provider, seeing someone discharged from the emergency room and knowing that they have somewhere to go is critical to avoid them returning to the emergency room. In the long run, I believe it costs society less if people are discharged to a home. I also want to make sure there is balance and not just a revolving door of assistance provided by the state. As a taxpayer, I want to make sure there is some accountability and success. How will the impacts be documented?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN:

In talking about diversion, if the demand is high and the supply is low, where are people diverted?

MR. BURCH:

Earlier I mentioned Operation HOME!, which is a rapid rehousing program that is used for relocation. Clark County has about five staff whose job is to recruit landlords and work with them. The county hosts landlord summits three times a year where satisfied landlords are used to recruit other landlords. There are also incentive bonuses for sign on, which includes \$500 for the first unit and up to \$1,000 for the second unit. The county will also put down the deposits. If the client causes damage that exceeds the damage deposit, the county will be there with a backup account.

Clark County is in a private/public partnership with landlords. It is not just \$4,000 of back rent, there is \$12,000 on average of case management that goes into each client. If there are multiple units in a particular location, there is a case manager onsite to intervene before law enforcement or anyone else is contacted to try to help people learn how to be good neighbors now that they have housing. This is a significant investment. The county already has about 1,200 families in just the last year in this tight market, when the vacancy rate was approximately 4%. The latest numbers show the vacancy rate is about 6.7% so it is starting to soften a bit. There are more units coming online and the county hopes that it will continue to build on the success and continue to work with landlords that are willing to partner with the county. A big part of that is that this program is available to people who own a second home or want to rent a room in their home. Information on becoming a partner can be found at <https://helphopehome.org/>. All the information is there to learn about what Southern Nevada is doing around continuum of care and homelessness.

MR. SCHILLER:

The issue of the community housing fund where Clark County is building affordable housing is great, but it takes time. A large percentage of that is rehabilitation of existing affordable units. The county can assist the landlord with rehabilitation costs to maintain the affordability for another 25 to 30 years. That is a big piece of how the county is using those dollars. If new affordable housing is constructed but existing housing is not maintained, the county will end up with a net zero or worse. Rehabilitation of existing units keeps people in those units and the landlords are incentivized because the rehab costs are paid by Clark County and the landlords have guaranteed rent.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS F.55, F.56 AND F.57.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

G. APPROVAL OF GIFTS, GRANTS, WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION CHANGES NOT INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 353 OF NRS.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The following items have been identified for additional discussion: Agenda Items G.12, Department of Administration, Hearings Division; G.43, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD); G.51, DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), and G.64, DHHS, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) will be heard together. Agenda Items G.112, Office of the Military, and G.113, Office of the Military will be heard together. Agenda Items G.122, DHHS, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), and G.123, DHHS, DHCFP will be heard together.

The DHHS, DHCFP would like to request a revision to Agenda Items G.122 and G.123 on the record.

Revisions for Agenda Items G.49, DHHS, DPBH, and G.50, DHHS, DPBH were received after the agenda was posted. These are companion work programs that transfer General Fund appropriations between FY 2022 and FY 2023. The amount of the transfer has been revised from the \$44,000 to \$5,299.

Agenda Items G.26, Department of Agriculture; G.42, DHHS, Director's Office; G.90, Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol Division; G.109, Department of Wildlife, Habitat Division, and G.114, Department of Veterans Services have been withdrawn. The request to withdraw the work programs was received after the agenda was posted.

CHAIR DENIS:

I have received requests to pull Agenda Items G.37, Governor's Office of Economic Development, Rural Community Development; G.46, DHHS, DPBH, and G.62, DHHS, DCFS. Senator Neal requested that Agenda Items G.20, State Public Charter School Authority, and G.21, State Public Charter School Authority, be pulled for additional discussion.

1. Office of the Governor - State Energy Office - Office of Energy - FY 2023

Addition of \$296,016 in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds transferred from the Office of the Military, Division of Emergency Management, to support the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program.

Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BRIC University Medical Center Microgrid category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59322**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

2. Office of the Attorney General - Extradition Coordinator - FY 2023

Transfer of ~~\$98,745~~ **\$104,065** in General Fund appropriations from FY 2023 to FY 2022 to fund a projected shortfall in extradition costs for the remainder of FY 2022. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.3. Work Program #C59562. REVISED 8-5-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

3. Office of the Attorney General - Extradition Coordinator - FY 2022

Transfer of ~~\$98,745~~ **\$104,065** in General Fund appropriations to FY 2022 from FY 2023 to fund a projected shortfall in extradition costs for the remainder of FY 2022. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.2. Work Program #C59580. REVISED 8-5-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

4. Office of the Secretary of State - Secretary of State - FY 2022

Transfer of \$987,596 from the Personnel Services category to the Credit Card Discount Fees category to fund a shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Credit Card Discount Fees category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59330**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

5. Office of the Secretary of State - Secretary of State - FY 2022

Addition of \$190,961 in election recount funds to cover costs related to a candidate request for a recount of the 2022 primary election pursuant to NRS 293.403. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Election Recount category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59772**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

6. Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act Election Reform - FY 2023

Addition of \$128,160 in federal Homeland Security Grant funds transferred from the Office of the Military, Division of Emergency Management, to continue Netflow and Intrusion Detection System monitoring services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Homeland Security Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59710**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

7. **Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act Election Reform - FY 2023**

Addition of \$214,375 in federal Homeland Security Grant funds transferred from the Office of the Military, Division of Emergency Management, to support physical, technological, and cyber measures for controlling admittance to critical locations and systems for county election offices. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Homeland Security Grant Program Election Office Security category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59999**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

8. **Department of Administration - Enterprise Information Technology Services - Office of the Chief Information Officer - FY 2023**

Addition of \$632,293 in Cost Allocation revenue transferred from FY 2022 to fund the increase in the cyber liability insurance premium. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Insurance Premiums category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59751**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

9. **Department of Administration - Fleet Services Division - Fleet Services - FY 2022**

Transfer of ~~\$108,255~~ **\$218,513** from the Reserve category to the Vehicle Operation category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance category **approval** since the amount transferred to the Vehicle Operation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59527. REVISED 7-21-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

10. **Department of Administration - Fleet Services Division - Fleet Services - FY 2023**

Transfer of \$277,200 from the Reserve category to the Information Services category to implement a vehicle tracking system to monitor and report on state-owned vehicles. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59717**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

11. **Department of Administration - Hearings Division - FY 2023**

Transfer of \$34,643 from the Operating category to the Information Services category to fund an increase in the document management system annual software renewal. 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 #C59569**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

12. Department of Administration - Hearings Division - FY 2023

Addition of \$299,003 in Workers' Compensation and Safety funds to support two new Hearing Officer positions and two new Legal Secretary positions and associated operating costs to address the increase in requests for hearings. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59776**

LAURA FREED (Director, Department of Administration):

Through Agenda Item G.12, the Department of Administration, Hearings Division is requesting an allocation for two Hearing Officer and four Legal Secretary positions to help the division comply with NRS 616C.330(1)(a), which requires that hearings be scheduled within 30 days from the date a hearing request is filed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

When did the division fall out of compliance with NRS 616C.330(1)(a)? If this request is approved, will the four new positions help bring the division into compliance with NRS? How long will this take?

MICHELLE MORGANDO (Senior Appeals Officer, Hearings Division, Department of Administration):

The department began to fall out of compliance with NRS 616C.330(1)(a) in FY 2020, with FY 2021 and FY 2022 proving to be very challenging. During FY 2020 and FY 2021, the division was dealing with concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic such as office closures and Hearing Officer positions and related support staff being unavailable. During FY 2015, the division was at 99.4% compliance with NRS 616C.330(1)(a). In FY 2022, this dropped to 32.7% compliance, which is unacceptable.

The addition of two new Hearing Officer positions will allow the division to schedule at least 160 additional hearings per week. If approved, the two new Legal Secretary 2 positions will serve as support staff to the Hearing Officer positions and will be a major component in scheduling hearings. Once the division begins recruiting and staffing the new positions, it hopes to comply with NRS within three to four months.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G.12.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

13. Department of Administration - Risk Management Division - Insurance and Loss Prevention - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,342,751 from the Reserve category to the Insurance Premiums category to fund an increase in insurance premium renewals. Requires

Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Insurance Premiums category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59822**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

14. Department of Administration - State Public Works Division - Buildings and Grounds - FY 2022

Transfer of \$228,136 from the Reserve category to the Utilities category and \$22,429 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Utilities category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59644**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

15. Department of Administration - State Public Works Division - Buildings and Grounds - FY 2022

Transfer of \$244,713 **\$348,700** from the Reserve category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category **and transfer of \$2,851 from the Reserve category to the Operating category** to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59853. REVISED 7-21-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

16. Department of Taxation - FY 2023

Transfer of \$267,164 from the Personnel Services category to the Compliance Audit Investigations category to cover an anticipated shortfall related to the transportation, destruction, and storage of seized contraband. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Compliance Audit Investigations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C58857**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

17. Cannabis Compliance Board - Marijuana Regulation and Control Account - FY 2023

Transfer of \$66,843 from the Reserve category to the Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) Hearing Room category to fund the construction and installation of a board hearing room in the Las Vegas office. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the CCB Hearing Room category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59539**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

18. Department of Education - 1/5 Retirement Credit Purchase Program - FY 2022

Transfer of \$101,037 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2022 from FY 2023 in accordance with Section 14 of Senate Bill (S.B.) 458 (2021 Legislative Session) to continue supporting the 1/5 Public Employees' Retirement System Hiring Incentive

Program in Clark and Washoe County School Districts. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 14 of S.B. 458. **RELATES TO ITEM G.19. Work Program #C59501**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 19. Department of Education - 1/5 Retirement Credit Purchase Program - FY 2023**
Transfer of \$101,037 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2023 to FY 2022 in accordance with Section 14 of Senate Bill (S.B.) 458 (2021 Legislative Session) to continue supporting the 1/5 Public Employees' Retirement System Hiring Incentive Program in Clark and Washoe County School Districts. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 14 of S.B. 458. **RELATES TO ITEM G.18. Work Program #C59486**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 20. State Public Charter School Authority - FY 2023**
Addition of \$190,114 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief funds to provide support for students experiencing homelessness. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Homeless II category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59600**

Agenda Items G.20 and G.21 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G.21.

- 21. State Public Charter School Authority - FY 2023**
Addition of \$41,923 in federal McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Act funds transferred from the Nevada Department of Education to provide support for students experiencing homelessness. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the McKinney-Vento category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59611**

Agenda Items G.20 and G.21 were discussed jointly.

SENATOR NEAL:

How is the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) managing the homelessness among the youth attending school at its facilities? Is the SPCSA using existing dollars for wraparound services and coordinating with other agencies to support the homeless students that have been identified across its campuses?

REBECCA FEIDEN (Executive Director, SPCSA)

The SPCSA and its schools are responsible for supporting and removing barriers to education for all students, including those who are homeless. Currently, the SPCSA has funding set aside from Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is available to its schools to purchase supplies, materials, toiletries, and to aid in transportation. Funding from the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless

Children and Youth Act (McKinney-Vento Act) is different than funding from the ARPA Homeless Children and Youth Grant. Funding from the McKinney-Vento Act is competitive and offered to schools specifically for expanding educational access and resources. The SPCSA proposed several projects to the NDE that require McKinney-Vento Act funding, and a few of those projects were funded.

The ARPA Homeless Children and Youth Grant is formula-based and offered by the U.S. Department of Education, with funding allocated to local education agencies in Nevada. Funding from the ARPA Homeless Children and Youth Grant is similar to funding that was set aside from the McKinney-Vento Act but will provide additional resources. There has been an increase in the number of homeless students served over the past few years, and the SPCSA anticipates an increased demand for additional services for homeless students.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G.20 AND G.21.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

22. State Public Charter School Authority - Public Charter School Loan Program - FY 2023

Transfer of \$112,000 from the Reserve category to the Charter School Loan category to fund a loan to assist Sage Collegiate Public Charter School which is approved to open for the 2022-23 school year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Charter School Loan category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59575**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

23. Nevada System of Higher Education - Prison Education Program - FY 2023

Transfer of \$89,025 from the Personnel Services category and \$88 from the Operating category to the College of Southern Nevada - Prison Program category; transfer of \$10,922 from the Personnel Services category and \$9 from the Operating category to the Western Nevada College - Prison Program category; and transfer of \$103,783 from the Personnel Services category and \$115 from the Operating category to the Truckee Meadows Community College - Prison Program category to align personnel services and related costs in each institution's specific category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the TMCC - Prison Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59724**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

24. Nevada System of Higher Education - Capacity Building Enhancement - FY 2023

Transfer of \$581,149 from the Personnel Services category and \$617 from the Operating category to the Great Basin College category; transfer of \$418,491 from

the Personnel Services category and \$441 from the Operating category to the Nevada State College category; transfer of \$3,955,265 from the Personnel Services category and \$4,057 from the Operating category to the College of Southern Nevada category; transfer of \$285,493 from the Personnel Services category and \$265 from the Operating category to the Western Nevada College category; and transfer of \$187,262 from the Personnel Services category and \$177 from the Operating category to the Truckee Meadows Community College category to align personnel services and related costs in each institution's specific category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the College of Southern Nevada category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59718**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

25. Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Registration and Enforcement - FY 2023

Transfer of \$62,926 from the Reserve category to the Pesticide Disposal Fund category to fund an increase in services for pesticide disposal. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Pesticide Disposal Fund category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59638**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

26. Department of Agriculture - Veterinary Medical Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$500,000 in federal U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service grant funds to support surveillance, testing, management, and response activities related to Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting disease. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Feral Horse Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59666**

This item was withdrawn.

27. Department of Agriculture - Nutrition Education Programs - FY 2022

Addition of \$295,313 in federal U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service grant funds to support the Child Nutrition School Meals Equipment Grant program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the National School Lunch Program School Equipment Assistance Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59661**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

28. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2022

Addition of \$180,976 in federal U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service grant funds to support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59660**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

29. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2023

Addition of \$652,983 in federal U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service grant funds to fund The Emergency Food Assistance Program Reach and Resiliency (TEFAP R/R) Project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the TEFAP R/R category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59640**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

30. Commission on Mineral Resources - Division of Minerals - FY 2023

Transfer of \$400,000 from the Reserve category to the Public Agency Securing Funds category to provide funds to local entities for closing abandoned mine hazards. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Public Agency Securing Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59383**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

31. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - FY 2023

Addition of \$136,527 in Workers Compensation and Safety Fund revenue to support completion of phase one of a digitization conversion. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Digitization Project category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.32. Work Program #C59778**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

32. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement - FY 2023

Addition of \$199,290 in Workers Compensation and Safety Fund revenue to support completion of phase one of the digitization conversion effort. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Digitization Project category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.31. Work Program #C59461**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

33. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - Safety Consultation and Training - FY 2022

Addition of \$137,959 in federal Occupational Health and Safety grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to support safety consultation and training for employers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59460**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

34. Department of Business and Industry - Real Estate Division - Real Estate Recovery Account - FY 2022

Transfer of \$36,480 from the Settlement Disbursements category to the Transfer to Education and Research category to allow for a required transfer to the Real Estate Education and Research account pursuant to NRS 645.842. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Transfer to Education and Research category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59210**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

35. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Financial Institutions - FY 2023

Transfer of \$116,674 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to cover the increased cost of the lease for the Nevada Business Center in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.36. Work Program #C59546**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

36. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Mortgage Lending - FY 2023

Transfer of \$49,198 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to cover the increased cost of the lease for the Nevada Business Center in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM G.35. Work Program #C59542**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

37. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Rural Community Development - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,620,125 in federal Community Development Block Grant, Recovery Housing Program (RHP) funds to assist individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder to become stably housed. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the RHP Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59375**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Where will the \$1,620,125 in federal Community Development Block Grant, Recovery Housing Program funds be directed?

JESSICA SANDERS (Rural Community Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development [GOED]):

The \$1,620,125 will be used to start up a competitive pilot program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; GOED will begin soliciting applications for the program shortly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I am interested in the progress of the pilot program. Where can members of qualified housing programs go to apply for funding?

MS. SANDERS:

Information regarding the pilot program and how to apply will be made available to GOED's partners and will be solicited in newspapers in Reno, Las Vegas, and rural areas.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G.37.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

38. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Nevada Catalyst Account - FY 2022

Addition of \$1,815 in Office of the State Treasurer interest distribution funds, transfer of \$198,608 from the Reserve category to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category and a transfer of \$2,000 from the Business Assistance and Development Program to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category to return unused appropriations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59284**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

39. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada Account - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,000,000 in Wage Assessment revenue transferred from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to support the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center program in collaboration with Truckee Meadows Community College and Panasonic Energy of North America. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Grants to Authorized Providers category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59756**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

40. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Division of Museums and History - Nevada State Railroad Museums - FY 2022

Addition of \$171,745 in Ride Charge funds to align authority due to unanticipated revenue collection. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59733**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

41. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Upper Payment Limit Holding Account - FY 2022

Transfer of \$479,013 from the Transfer to Other State Agency category to the Transfer Tobacco to Budget Account (BA) 1090 category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year and a transfer of \$69,932 from the Transfer to Other State Agency category to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer Tobacco to BA 1090 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59749**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

42. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Patient Protection Commission - FY 2023

Transfer of \$12,721 from the Personnel Services category to the In-State Travel category, \$78,179 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, and \$1,036 from the Personnel Services category to the Information Systems category to continue to fund a contract consultant and purchase of computer equipment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59171**

This item was withdrawn.

43. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$80,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Public Health Workforce Assistive Technology grant funds; \$78,610 in federal ARPA Public Health Workforce Aging Network grant funds; \$116,757 in federal ARPA Public Health Workforce State Health Insurance Program grant funds; and \$115,789 in federal ARPA Public Health Workforce No Wrong Door grant funds to expand the public health workforce and enable the Aging and Disability Services Division to better address health disparities and gaps in services for people with disabilities and older adults. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Public Health Workforce category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #23ARP32661**

DENA SCHMIDT (Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division [ADSD], DHHS):

This work program requests the addition of ARPA Public Health Workforce Coordination and Literacy funding designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living to establish new positions to expand the public health workforce. The creation of three new positions to serve as regional coordinators will increase awareness of social service programs to help health care providers address health disparities and gaps in services for people with disabilities and older adults. Public health promotes and protects the health of people in the communities where they live, work, and play. The ADSD's network plays an essential role in this work. This was especially true during the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, where the ADSD's network collaborated to ensure that people with disabilities had access to health care, vaccinations, and other essential services such as food and prescription drugs.

The federal funding for the three proposed positions will be available through September 2024 and is intended to help cover staff costs related to conducting crucial public health activities and to help alleviate the strain the division's network has experienced during the pandemic. If approved, the three unclassified positions will be maintained with a combination of Nevada Medicaid administrative funds; Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title III (Title III) administrative funds; General Funds; and appropriate discretionary grants. The concept of the regional coordinator positions is something the division had intended to build into its future biennium budget request, but this funding opportunity became available before that was done.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

I am excited about the three new Aging and Disability Regional Coordinator positions. Given the temporary nature of this funding, what are the division's plans to fund the three positions in future fiscal years, if approved?

Ms. SCHMIDT:

The division will continue to look for additional discretionary funds as they become available. If ARPA Public Health Workforce Coordination and Literacy funding remains available, the division plans to apply for it again. The positions will also be maintained with Nevada Medicaid administrative funds, Title III administrative funds, and General Funds.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

There is an assumption that all the division's hard work in putting together programs is acknowledged by the community and health care providers and that there is a general awareness of all the division's programs and services, but this is not always true. I am glad the regional coordinators will spread awareness of the division's important programs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G.43.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

44. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Health Care Facilities Regulation - FY 2023

Transfer of \$433,687 from the Reserve category to Temporary Management Services category and \$56,813 from the Reserve category to the Division Cost Allocation category to provide temporary facilities management services for distressed licensed health care facilities statewide. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Temporary Management Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59317**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

45. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - FY 2023

Addition of \$113,448 in Nevada's Highway Safety Plan funds transferred from the Department of Public Safety to support the State Health Trauma Registry database. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Trauma Registry category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59469**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

46. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2022

Addition of \$4,159,532 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds transferred from the Division of Emergency Management to provide reimbursement for lab supplies, lab material and personal protective equipment to support COVID-19 prevention, testing, and surveillance. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FEMA COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C58060**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

In the justification section of the work program's backup materials, it states the addition of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds would allow for activities aimed at combating the COVID-19 pandemic to be expanded throughout the state. I do not see documentation detailing which activities should be expanded. Is the work program meant to reimburse for costs incurred?

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health [DPBH], DHHS):

A strategy of the DPBH and other state agencies is to bring in as much federal funding as possible to expand and extend services in the fight against COVID-19. Regarding this work program, the DPBH looked at how it could get 100% reimbursement from FEMA for programs funded with the division's epidemiology and immunization grant funds. The projects for which FEMA will be reimbursing the division are projects that have already been completed using Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) COVID-19 grant supplements. The DPBH is seeking to expand its COVID-19 and epidemiological response activities, and the use of FEMA funding will free up over \$4 million of ELC funds that the division can devote to EPI-TRAK, its shared infectious disease reporting system. The FEMA funding will also allow the division to extend contracted staff positions and epidemiological activities dedicated to combating monkeypox and other infectious diseases. The additional FEMA funding will also allow the division to get enhanced data security systems in place for its infectious disease reporting system and other data systems within its Office of Public Health Investigations and Epidemiology.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The work program says that FEMA funding will be used to reimburse the DPBH for lab supplies, lab materials and personal protective equipment used to support

COVID-19 prevention, testing, and surveillance. Will FEMA funding have to be used specifically for these purposes? Can the funding be used by the division to free up funds for other appropriate uses?

MS. PEEK:

The scope in which FEMA reimburses is very narrow. Through the requested work program, FEMA funding was used directly for the purchase of lab supplies related to COVID-19. The division made many purchases within this budget category using FEMA funds, freeing up ELC funds. The ELC funds have a much broader scope and can be used to expand epidemiological activities.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Is the DPBH stockpiling lab supplies? If so, how long will the stockpiles last? I do not want the division to stockpile supplies that are no longer needed.

MS. PEEK:

The division also submitted information related to COVID-19 test kits through Agenda Item P.7. The division is not trying to store or stockpile supplies that expire and is not ordering supplies until they are needed. The division has a small supply of antigen testing kits within its Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program warehouse that were purchased by the laboratory at the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD); there is not a large supply of these materials as they do expire. The products proposed to be funded through this work program do not include at-home test kits and are instead related to lab equipment and supplies purchased by the SNHD.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G.46.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

47. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Community Health Services - FY 2022

Transfer of \$35,177 from the Personnel Services category to the County Participation category and \$35,457 from the Personnel Services category to the Division Cost Allocation category to fund a shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Cost Allocation category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59165**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

48. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Emergency Medical Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$6,912,251 in private Helmsley Charitable Trust grant funds to provide automated external defibrillators to law enforcement officers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Helmsley Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59470**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

49. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Problem Gambling - FY 2022

Transfer of \$44,084 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 to support problem gambling treatment and prevention. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.50. Work Program #C59823**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

50. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Problem Gambling - FY 2023

Transfer of \$44,084 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 to continue supporting problem gambling treatment and prevention. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494. **RELATES TO ITEM G.49. Work Program #C59270**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

51. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services - FY 2023

Transfer of \$228,021 from the Personnel Services category to the Information Services category and transfer of \$24,145 from the Operating category to the Information Services category to fund a health care claims processing platform. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59261**

Agenda Items G.51 and G.64 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G.64.

52. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Facility for the Mental Offender - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,003,985 from the Personnel Services category to the Professional Services category to continue services with contracted psychiatric clinical staff and mental health technicians to meet the needs of clients. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Professional Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59228**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

53. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2022

Transfer of \$1,009,065 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 to cover a projected shortfall in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.56. Work Program #C59365**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

54. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2022

Transfer of \$99,500 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 for the automation and modernization of the current Medicaid Waiver Eligibility process. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.55. Work Program #C59502**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

55. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2023

Transfer of \$99,500 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 to support the automation and modernization of the current Medicaid Waiver Eligibility process. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.54. Work Program #C59310**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

56. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,009,065 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 to cover a projected shortfall in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.53. Work Program #C59377**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

57. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - FY 2023

Transfer of \$125,000 from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance category to the TANF Diaper Program category to provide diapers to eligible TANF families. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the TANF Diaper Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59217**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

58. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Welfare Field Services - FY 2022

Transfer of \$3,345,973 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 to cover a projected shortfall in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.59. Work Program #C59394**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

59. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Welfare Field Services - FY 2023

Transfer of \$3,345,973 in General Fund appropriations transferred to FY 2023 from FY 2022 cover a projected shortfall in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.58. Work Program #C59343**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

60. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2022

Addition of \$1,058,096 in County Reimbursements funds to support the associated indirect costs per the Cost Allocation Plan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59172**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

61. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2023

Addition of \$894,294 in federal Title IV-E grant funds to provide authority to reimburse attorneys representing children and their parents in child welfare legal proceedings. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the IV-E Attorney Reimbursement category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59329**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

62. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Clark County Child Welfare - FY 2022

Transfer of \$2,518,361 from the Clark County Ongoing category to the Subsidized Adoptions category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Subsidized Adoptions category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59320**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The justification for this work program states that there continues to be a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate. Also, in addition to the increased collection of federal Title IV-E funding, the average cost of adoption subsidies has risen from \$629 to \$638 per month, leading to an authority

shortfall for the DCFS to distribute additional Title IV-E funds. Costs experienced by the DCFS due to the increased cost of adoption subsidies should be offset by the temporary FMAP rate increase. Why is the Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) paying more to support its child welfare programs? Is Agenda Item G.62 a request to transfer or passthrough funding?

KATRINA NIELSEN (Interim Deputy Director, DCFS, DHHS)

The temporary 6% increase in the FMAP rate was due to the COVID-19 pandemic and allows agencies to bring in additional Title IV-E funding. The DCFS is experiencing a shortfall in its adoption subsidies budget category. This issue is related to an expenditure category shortfall not a revenue shortfall, and the division does not need additional Title IV-E revenue. The division is instead asking to increase the adoption subsidy category to fully fund it with the increased cost of the subsidy rate.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Is this issue unique to the division's Clark County Child Welfare budget?

MS. NIELSEN:

No, adoption subsidies are also included in the DCFS Rural Child Welfare and Washoe County Child Welfare budgets; however, the division is not experiencing the same shortfall in these budgets. The division is experiencing a budgetary shortfall in its Clark County Child Welfare budget due to an increase in the average adoption subsidy payments provided by the CCDFS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

How long will the increase in the FMAP rate continue?

MS. NIELSEN:

I can provide that information to the Committee at a later date.

CHAIR DENIS:

Fiscal staff can also research and provide the information to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G.62.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

63. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Nevada Youth Training Center - FY 2023

Transfer of \$52,788 from the Personnel Services category to the Contract Services category to cover a temporary teacher contract due to a shortage of teaching staff. Requires Interim Finance approval since the

cumulative amount transferred to the Contract Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59045**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

64. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Transfer of \$60,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to fund a barrier installation project at the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility North Building 8A to increase the protection and safety of the program staff. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C60026**

Agenda Items G.51 and G.64 were discussed jointly.

JOHN BORROWMAN (Chief Fiscal Officer, DPBH, DHHS)

Through Agenda Item G.51, the DPBH is requesting funds to improve the billing system it uses to collect insurance recoveries when it provides direct hospital services.

CHAIR DENIS:

What is the current policy of the Governor's Office of Finance (GFO) regarding requiring agencies to revert vacancy savings to the General Fund rather than expending the savings on one-time expenditures that potentially require ongoing costs?

AMY STEPHENSON (Director, GFO, Office of the Governor):

The GFO requires agencies to revert vacancy savings to the General Fund on a case-by-case basis. Because I am new in my position, I can provide additional information to Fiscal staff at a later date.

CHAIR DENIS:

What is the justification for seeking to fund these one-time costs now instead of during the 2023 Legislative Session when the Legislature can more thoroughly evaluate these requests?

DUANE YOUNG (Policy Director, Office of the Governor):

State agencies are experiencing a staffing crisis, with any salary savings not utilized reverting to the General Fund. The billing system enhancement proposed by the DPBH will change reversions, ending fund balances, and budgeting projections for the 2023 Legislative Session. Using salary savings to enhance the division's billing system will allow for more accurate billing of private payers and Medicaid insurances from the DPBH's inpatient facilities. Agencies must submit their budgets for the 2023-23 biennium by September 1, 2022, but the budgets can constantly change until the Governor releases The Executive Budget in

January 2023. Having an enhanced billing system in place will enable the DPBH to have more accurate budget projections for the next session.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS G.51 AND G.64.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

65. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2022

Transfer of \$109,000 from the Operating category to the Mental Health Placements category to cover a projected shortfall in emergency acute hospitalizations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Mental Health Placements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59272**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

66. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Transfer of \$686,925 from the Personnel Services category to the Temporary Contract Staffing category to fund temporary staffing to maintain sufficient staffing levels in 24-hour facilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Temporary Contract Staffing category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59281**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

67. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2023

Transfer of \$348,555 from the Personnel Services category to the Mental Health Placements category to fund a projected shortfall in emergency acute hospitalizations through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Mental Health Placements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59282**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

68. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Rehabilitation Division - Vocational Rehabilitation - FY 2022

Transfer of \$356,632 from the Client Information System category to the Case Services category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Case Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C60085**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

69. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Employment Security Division - Workforce Development - FY 2022

Addition of \$35,251 in Filing Fee revenue to align state budget authority with projected expenditures through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Displaced Homemaker Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59307**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

70. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Employment Security Division - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2023

Addition of \$2,304,499 in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tiger Grant funds to improve Unemployment Compensation systems and processes. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the UI Tiger Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59835**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

71. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Administrative Services - Research and Analysis - FY 2022

Transfer of \$46,427 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59476**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

72. Department of Corrections - Prison Medical Care - FY 2023

Transfer of \$1,913,270 from the Personnel Services category to the Professional Services category to fund contracted services for licensed health care professionals for the period ending December 31, 2022. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Professional Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59595**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

73. Department of Corrections - Ely State Prison - FY 2022

Addition of \$303,867 in Budgetary Transfers and a transfer of \$100,000 from the Personnel Services category to cover a projected shortfall of \$144,974 in the Inmate Drivens category and \$258,893 in the Utilities category for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.76. Work Program #C59596**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

74. Department of Corrections - High Desert State Prison - FY 2022

Transfer of \$389,571 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Utilities category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Utilities category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59552**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

75. Department of Corrections - Southern Desert Correctional Center - FY 2022

Transfer of \$50,990 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Personnel Services category and \$43,156 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Utilities category to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deleted from the Inmates Drivens category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59567**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

76. Department of Corrections - Lovelock Correctional Center - FY 2022

Deletion of \$303,867 in Budgetary Transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department for the remainder of the fiscal year, transfer of \$39,979 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, transfer of \$9,416 from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category and transfer \$135,361 from the Personnel Services category to the Inmate Drivens category to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.73. Work Program #C59590**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

77. Department of Corrections - Three Lakes Valley Conservation Camp - FY 2022

Transfer of \$16,785 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Utilities category to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Utilities category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59551**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

78. Department of Corrections - Humboldt Conservation Camp - FY 2022

Transfer of \$12,513 from the Personnel Services category to the Utilities category to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59549**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

79. Department of Corrections - Jean Conservation Camp - FY 2022

Transfer of \$8,367 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Utilities category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to/from the Inmate Drivens category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59563**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

80. Department of Corrections - Offenders' Store Fund - FY 2023

Transfer of \$248,376 from the Retained Earnings category to the Transfer to Inmate Welfare Account category to cover a projected shortfall associated with the renegotiated contract for satellite TV services for inmates. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Transfer to Inmate Welfare Account category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.81. Work Program #C60009**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

81. Department of Corrections - Inmate Welfare Account - FY 2023

Addition of \$248,376 in transfers from Offenders' Store funds and a transfer of \$78,370 from the Retained Earnings category to the Satellite TV Costs category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Satellite TV Costs category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.80. Work Program #C59616**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

82. Department Of Corrections - Prison Ranch - FY 2022

Addition of \$53,981 in Farm Sales and \$127,567 in Wild Horse Boarding to support the operations of the Wild Horse Program through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Wild Horse Program exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59633**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

83. Department of Corrections - Prison Ranch - FY 2023

Transfer of \$690,650 from the Retained Earnings category to the Wild Horse Program category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Wild Horse Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59585**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

84. Department of Motor Vehicles - Administrative Services Division - FY 2022

Transfer of ~~\$300,000~~ **\$371,408** in Highway Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 to fund projected credit card expenditures for FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 49 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.85. Work Program #C59824. REVISED 7-25-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 85. Department of Motor Vehicles - Administrative Services Division - FY 2023**
Transfer of ~~\$300,000~~ **\$371,408** in Highway Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 to fund projected credit card expenditures for FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 49 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.84. Work Program #C59825. REVISED 7-25-22.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 86. Department of Motor Vehicles - Verification of Insurance - FY 2022**
Addition of \$434,846 in registration fees to align state revenue authority with the Department of Motor Vehicles' revised revenue projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Transfer to Highway Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59207**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 87. Department of Public Safety - Director's Office - Forfeitures - Law Enforcement - FY 2023**
Transfer of \$96,000 from the Reserve category to the Training category to fund the Joint Emergency Training Institute interlocal agreement with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for the purpose of conducting law enforcement specific training. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Training category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59376**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 88. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2022**
Addition of \$404,286 in Contract Services Reimbursement funding to align FY 2022 revenue and expenditure budget authority associated with special events and uniformed traffic control activities for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Contracts and Uniformed Traffic Control Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59393**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

- 89. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2023**
Transfer of \$38,559 from the In-State Travel category, \$475,881 from the Operating category, and \$2,674 from the Information Systems category to the Contracts and Uniform Traffic Control Services category to consolidate all contract service-related expenditures into one special use category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Contracts and Uniform Traffic Control Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59688**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

90. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - Highway Safety Grants Account - FY 2023

Addition of \$1,523,750 in Federal Motor Carrier Administration - High Priority Information Technology Deployment Program grant funds to support one mobile e-screening van for the agency mobile roadside commercial inspection activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Innovative Technology Deployment Grant Program category exceeds \$75,000.

Work Program #C57650

This item was withdrawn.

91. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications and Compliance Division - Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History - FY 2023

Transfer of \$85,250 from the Reserve category to the Senate Bill (S.B.) 212 Use of Force category, transfer of \$59,750 from the Reserve category to the S.B. 7 Juvenile Protection Order Program category, and transfer of \$7,584 from the Reserve category to the S.B. 147 No Contact Orders category to support the collection and tracking of use-of-force incidents data. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the S.B. 212 Use of Force category exceeds \$75,000.

Work Program #C59437

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

92. Department of Public Safety - Office of Traffic Safety - FY 2023

Addition of \$575,000 in federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Section 1906 grant funds to support the development and implementation of a statewide model of data collection, analysis, and reporting of traffic stop data. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Racial Profiling 1906 category exceeds \$75,000.

Work Program #C59427

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

93. Department of Public Safety - Office of Traffic Safety - Motorcycle Safety Program - FY 2023

Transfer of \$105,000 from the Reserve category to the Highway Safety Plan (HSP) Projects category to support training for motorcyclists on life saving skills at crash scenes and funding various marketing activities designed to support, expand, and improve activities of the Nevada Motorcycle Safety Program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the HSP Projects category exceeds \$75,000.

Work Program #C59429

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

94. Department of Public Safety - Office of Criminal Justice Assistance - Justice Assistance Act - FY 2023

Addition of \$104,977 in Reimbursement revenue and addition of \$1,482 in Assessment Fees-1122 Program revenue to purchase three Ford pickup trucks for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Requires Interim Finance approval since the

amount added to the 1122 Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59657**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

95. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Administration - FY 2022

Transfer of \$8,377 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, \$5,838 from the Personnel Services category to the Air-Operations-Administration category, and \$16,183 from the Personnel Services category to the Utilities category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59205**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

96. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Natural Heritage - Nevada Natural Heritage - FY 2022

Transfer of \$8,804 from the Off-Highway Vehicle Citizen Science Grant category to the Personnel Services category, \$7,554 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant category to the Personnel Services category, and \$6,000 from the Hold - Revert to Nevada Department of Transportation category to the Personnel Services category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the U.S. EPA Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C58852**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

97. Department of Wildlife - Director's Office - FY 2023

Deletion of \$104,086 in federal Sport Fish Restoration grant funds and \$21,341 in federal State Wildlife grant funds, addition of \$77,432 in federal Wildlife Restoration grant funds, addition of \$717,907 in federal Boating Access grant funds, and addition of \$358,194 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to realign state authority with federal authority. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Boating Access Improvement category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59424**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

98. Department of Wildlife - Data and Technology Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$15,018 in federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant funds and \$29,617 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support the Geographic Information System program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Geographic Information Systems category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59425**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

99. Department of Wildlife - Data and Technology Services - FY 2023

Addition of \$89,009 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to fund a new Information Technology Professional position to oversee the network and systems administration across all divisions and locations within the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59630**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

100. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2023

Addition of \$642,875 in federal Wildlife Restoration grant funds, \$101,386 in federal Sport Fish Restoration grant funds, and \$102,439 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to realign state authority with federal authority and continue funding wildlife programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Hunter Education category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59584**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

101. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2023

Addition of \$59,593 in license plate funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to support wildlife education, launch the Nevada Wildlife Discovery Trail, and fund a K-12 education classroom pilot program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the License Plate Wildlife Education category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59977**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

102. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2023

Addition of \$130,000 in License Plate funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to fund a portion of a property purchase located near the 12th Street Bridge along the Humboldt River, in the City of Elko, for the establishment of the Elko Community Pond. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the License Plate Wildlife Education category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59978**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

103. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2023

Deletion of \$288,936 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account; addition of \$1,157,265 in federal Wildlife Restoration grant funds, \$68,713 in federal Clean Vessel Act and R8 Competitive grant funds, and \$234,363 in All Federal Small Grant funds; and a transfer of \$79,661 from the Predation Management Nevada Department of Wildlife Projects category to the Mountain Goat and Bighorn category to align state authority with federal authority and continue funding game management activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Mountain Goat and Bighorn category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59431**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

104. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2023

Addition of \$771,385 in Elk Damage Fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to fund the construction of three new elk fences to prevent long standing elk depredation issues on private property. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Elk Damage category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59497**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

105. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2023

Addition of \$333,419 in Trout Stamps transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to fund infrastructure repairs at the fish hatcheries and to purchase fish food. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Hatchery Refurbishment category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59473**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

106. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2023

Addition of \$97,188 in federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant funds and deletion of \$9,706 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to support the Aquatic Wildlife Diversity program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Wildlife Grants Aquatic Conservation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59514**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

107. Department of Wildlife - Diversity Division - FY 2023

Deletion of \$2,443 in Clean Vessel Act and Region 8 Competitive grant funds and addition of \$21,772 in federal Sport Fish Restoration grant funds, \$236,291 in federal State Wildlife Grant funds, \$288,423 in All Federal Small grant funds, and \$28,228 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to realign state authority with federal authority and continue funding wildlife programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the All-Small Grants category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59435**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

108. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2023

Deletion of \$25,886 in federal Sport Fish Restoration grant funds and addition of \$94,880 in All Federal Small Grants funds, \$6,437,592 in federal Wildlife Restoration grant funds, \$150,000 in Miscellaneous Private (Non-Federal) grant funds, and \$231,089 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to realign state authority with federal authority and continue funding wildlife programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Wildlife Management Area System category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59436**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

109. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2023

Addition of \$447,643 in Dream Tag Projects funds and \$34,366 in Sportsmen Revenue transferred from the Wildlife Fund Account to support wildlife rehabilitation and restoration projects and realign personnel costs inadvertently charged to Dream Tag funds. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Dream Tag Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59483**

This item was withdrawn.

110. Office of the Military - FY 2022

Addition of \$72,200 in federal Department of Defense grant funds to cover a projected shortfall within the Utilities category for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Utilities category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C60020**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

111. Office of the Military - FY 2022

Transfer of \$153,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Youth Challenge category to cover projected shortfalls through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Youth Challenge category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C60025**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

112. Office of the Military - FY 2022

Transfer of \$56,363 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 and a deletion of \$169,087 in Department of Defense grant funds to support the Nevada Youth Challenge program activities in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 45 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.113. Work Program #C60092**

Agenda Items G.112 and G.113 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G.113.

113. Office of the Military - FY 2023

Transfer of \$56,363 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 and the addition of \$169,087 in Department of Defense grant funds to support the Nevada Youth Challenge program activities in FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 45 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.112. Work Program #C60087**

Agenda Items G.112 and G.113 were discussed jointly.

CHERYL TYLER (Administrative Services Officer, Office of the Military):
Through Agenda Items G.112 and G.113, the Office of the Military (Office) is requesting approval to balance forward remaining funds from FY 2022 to FY 2023 for the continued operation of its Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The Committee supports the Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program and understands the difficulties the program has been facing; the program is very valuable for Nevada's children. Please provide an update on the Office's efforts to increase student enrollment for the program and the anticipated date classes will resume. Considering that 75% of the program is federally funded, what is the impact to the federal grant funding by not having a class for the period of July 2022 through December 2022? In the future, can the state compensate for a lack of federal funding to support the program?

MS. TYLER:

Classes for the Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program will resume in January 2023. The Office did not provide a class for the period of July 2022 through December 2022 due to low enrollment and challenges in recruiting positions for the program.

LAUREN SCHULMAN (Administrator, Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program, Office of the Military):

Existing positions within the Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program are currently focusing on the recruitment of vacant positions. Regardless of position title, Office staff travel throughout the State of Nevada and attend virtual meetings with schools and different stakeholders to spread awareness regarding opportunities for youth to join the program. Federal funding for the program will not be impacted, and the Office will continue to receive the 75% federal match rate for the 25% state match.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Did the Office miss out on receiving federal funding by not having a class for the period of July 2022 through December 2022?

MS. SCHULMAN:

No, the federal funding was not impacted by not having a class during that time.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Has the Office been able to recruit additional staff for the Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program? There is a lack of staff for the program in Elko County. It can be challenging to recruit students with such a small number of staff. Even though Elko County School District funds the program's teaching positions, there are still not enough staff to maintain the program's facility.

MS. SCHULMAN:

When traveling throughout the state, Office staff focus on the recruitment of vacancies and have set quotas for each month. Office staff met their quota for this month by recruiting two additional positions. The Office is on track to hire the number of cadres it needs to bring in a class of 70 students in January 2023.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will the Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge Program be fully staffed by January 2023?

MS. SCHULMAN:

Yes, the Office is on track to meet that goal.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

A lot can change before then that could prevent the Office from fully staffing the program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS G.112 AND G.113.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

114. Department of Veterans Services - Office of Veterans Services - FY 2022

Addition of \$5,268,723 in federal Department of Veterans Services grant funds to expand the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SNVMC Expansion Grant NV-19-16 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59722**

This item was withdrawn.

115. Public Employees' Benefits Program - FY 2022

Transfer of \$1,235,541 from the Reserve category to the State Medicare Retiree Insurance Cost category to cover a projected shortfall though the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the State Medicare Retiree Insurance Cost category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59568**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

116. Department of Indigent Defense Services - Office of the State Public Defender - FY 2023

Addition of \$37,179 in federal John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive grant funds, which provides student loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders as well as local and state prosecutors who commit to extend services in these roles. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the John R. Justice Grant category exceeds 10% of the

legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C59061**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

117. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Transition from Foster Care - FY 2022

Transfer of \$133,258 from the Reserve category to the Transition from Foster Care category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transition from Foster Care category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59218. RECEIVED ON 7-27-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

118. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Victims of Crime - FY 2022

Transfer of \$174,356 from the Reserve category to the Victims Payments category fund to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Victims Payments category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59811. RECEIVED ON 7-27-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

119. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation - FY 2022

Transfer of \$6,181 from the WIOA Grant category to the Personnel Services category to cover a projected shortfall though the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C59935. RECEIVED ON 7-27-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

120. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Conservation Camps - FY 2023

Transfer of \$398,488 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 to complete deferred maintenance projects. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 36 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.121. Work Program #C59670. RECEIVED ON 8-4-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

121. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Conservation Camps - FY 2022

Transfer of \$398,488 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 to complete deferred maintenance projects. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 36 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES**

TO ITEM G.120. Work Program #C60304. RECEIVED ON 8-4-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

122. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2023

Transfer of \$20,783,077 in General Fund appropriations to FY 2023 from FY 2022 and addition of \$71,418,082 in federal Title XIX grant funds to align federal funds with the additional Federal Medical Assistance Percentage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO G.123. Work Program #C60158. RECEIVED ON 8-4-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items G.122 and G.123 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G.123.

123. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2022

Transfer of \$20,783,077 in General Fund appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2023 and addition of \$1,001,342 in federal Title XIX grant funds to align federal funds with the additional Federal Medical Assistance Percentage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Section 35 of Assembly Bill 494 (2021 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO G.122. Work Program #C60227. RECEIVED ON 8-4-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Agenda Items G.122 and G.123 were discussed jointly.

PHILLIP BURRELL (Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy [DHCFP], DHHS):

Back language in Section 35 of Assembly Bill (A.B.) 494 (2021 Legislative Session) allows the DHCFP to transfer General Fund revenue between state fiscal years with IFC approval. The DHCFP is experiencing a budgetary surplus in FY 2022 due to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provided an extra 6.2% FMAP rate to eligible states during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increased FMAP rate results in the DHCFP relying on less State General Fund revenue, with the public health emergency caused by the pandemic being extended on a quarterly basis. The deadline for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to notify states of the October 13, 2022, end date for the public health emergency was August 14, 2022. In the absence of a federal notice, the division can assume the public health emergency will be extended an additional 90 days. As such, the division can also assume that the increased FMAP rate will last through the first quarter of Federal Fiscal Year 2023, which ends December 31, 2022.

As a result of the public health emergency, there has been a significant increase

in Nevada Medicaid caseloads, which have increased by more than 36%. There were more than 904,000 Nevada Medicaid recipients in June 2022, which equates to approximately 1 in 4 Nevadans. The division anticipates the Medicaid caseload growth will have an impact on its budget for FY 2023, but a shortfall is not expected. The funds the division is requesting to transfer through these work programs are impacted by revenue that flows into the DHCFP Intergovernmental Transfer budget account 3157, which funds the division's supplemental payments and state savings. The division had continued to accept State General Fund revenue as late as possible for calendar year 2022; this was prior to revising the work programs being requested today. The division has been fortunate to work with LCB Fiscal staff and the GFO on these work programs impacting the state's large Medicaid budget.

CHAIR DENIS:

What are the revised amounts contained in the work programs?

BILL FARRAR (Administrative Services Officer, DHCFP, DHHS):

For Work Program #C60227, there was a reduction in State General Fund revenue of \$104,581,650 and a reduction in Title XIX federal funds of \$205,993,026, for a total reduction of \$310,574,676. For this work program, Category 11 is being reduced by \$952,370; Category 12 is being reduced by \$51,704,895; Category 13 is being reduced by \$45,259,300; Category 14 is being reduced by \$67,070,819; Category 15 is being reduced by \$4,614,537; Category 17 is being reduced by \$4,498,278; Category 19 is being reduced by \$4,124; Category 20 is being reduced by \$16,999,999; Category 24 is being reduced by \$13,999,999; and Category 28 is being reduced by \$105,470,356.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The amounts stated for Work Program #C60158 (the work program for FY 2023) were not the inverse of reductions from FY 2022. For example, the General Fund reduction for FY 2022 was proposed to be approximately \$104.6 million, but the augmentation stated by the DHCFP for FY 2023 was only approximately \$91.5 million. The Committee and Fiscal staff were expecting the numbers from FY 2022 and FY 2023 to be the same.

MR. BURRELL:

You are correct, the numbers reported for Work Program #C60158 should be the inversion of the FY 2022 holdover for Work Program #C60227.

MR. THORLEY:

The numbers reported for the augmentation of Work Program #C60158 are the inverse of the numbers reported for Work Program #C60227 as revised. Is that correct?

MR. BURRELL:

That is correct. The revised numbers reported for Work Program #C60158 are the inverse of the numbers reported for Work Program #C60227.

MR. THORLEY:

The revisions to FY 2022 Work Program #C60227, including the General Fund and federal Title XIX reductions to the various budget categories, are correct as stated by the DHCFP. As such, the revisions to FY 2023 Work Program #C60158 will be the inverse of the revisions made to Work Program #C60227. The negative amounts for General Fund appropriations or federal Title XIX funds within the various categories in Work Program #C60227 are shown as reversed in Work Program #C60158.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS G.122 AND G.123.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

124. Department of Motor Vehicles - Field Services - FY 2022

Addition of \$314,356 in Motor Vehicle Governmental Services Tax Commissions fees and \$306,897 in Penalties fees to align state revenue authority with the agency's revised revenue projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to Transfer to Highway Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C60326. RECEIVED ON 8-5-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

125. Department of Motor Vehicles - Central Services - FY 2022

Addition of \$58,182 in Expedited Title Fees to cover increased postage costs in the Operating category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C60327. RECEIVED ON 8-5-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item F.

Agency	Agency/ Account Number	Position Number	Present Class, Code, Grade & Salary	Proposed Class, Code, Grade & Salary
Department of Education	300/2697	0095	Program Officer 2 Code: 7.647 Grade 33/04 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$53,598.96	Education Programs Professional Code: 5.232 Grade 39/07 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$79,719.84

Department of Health and Human Services	409/3259	0047	Group Supervisor 2 Code: 12.538 Grade: 31/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$43,346.88	Administrative Assistant 3 Code: 2.211 Grade: 27/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$36,790.56
Department of Health and Human Services	402/3266	0407	Developmental Specialist 3 Code: 10.140 Grade 35/09 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$72,871.20	Social Services Program Specialist 2 Code: 12.318 Grade 35/09 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$72,871.20
Department of Transportation	800/4660	011-020	Administrative Assistant 2 Code: 2.212 Grade 25/10 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$49,151.52	Engineering Technician 4 3 Code: 6.308 6.313 Grade 33/07 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$61,011.36 \$53,598.96 REVISED 8-2-22
Office of the Military	431/3650	4028	Food Service Cook/Supervisor 1 Code: 3.206 Grade 25/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$34,305.84	Registered Nurse, BBYCA Code: 10.379 Grade 35/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$51,803.28

H. STATEMENT OF CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BALANCE.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The Statement of Contingency Account Balance is located on page 149 in Volume IV of the meeting packet ([Exhibit D](#)). As this is the first Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting of FY 2023, and FY 2022 is still open, this meeting bridges the two years.

There is a detailed statement for FY 2022 on pages 151 through 152, and a detailed statement for FY 2023 beginning on page 152 ([Exhibit D](#)). The summary on page 149 shows the seven requests before the Committee today for allocations from the IFC Contingency Account. If all requests are approved, the balance will be \$21.7 million.

I. REQUESTS 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. STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 - a) Division of Water Resources - Request for an allocation of ~~\$191,399~~ **\$105,293** to fund additional costs needed to complete the repair and maintenance of the South Fork Dam not previously funded through Assembly Bill 465 (2021 Legislative Session). **REVISED 7-28-22.**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The Committee has been hearing about risks associated with not maintaining the South Fork Dam for quite a while. Has the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Division of Water Resources started the bidding process for repairing and maintaining the dam?

MICHELINE FAIRBANK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Water Resources, DCNR):

Construction on the project is ongoing, with work having begun in May 2022. Through Agenda Item I.1a, the division is requesting additional funding on top of funds already appropriated to address conditions necessary to complete the construction and repair of the South Fork Dam.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

What process does the division use when putting bids out for dam repair projects? Money has also been allocated to repair the Cave Lake Dam, but that project has not yet gone out to bid. When will the division start the bidding process for repairing and maintaining the Cave Lake Dam?

MS. FAIRBANK:

The Division of Water Resources is not the recorded owner of the Cave Lake Dam. However, as the regulator of dam construction and ownership within the State of Nevada, the division is involved in the repair process taking place at the dam. I will have someone contact the Committee to explain the status of the bidding process regarding the Cave Lake Dam.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am concerned the state will lose bond funding it can use to repair the Cave Lake Dam if the project does not go out to bid soon.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO
APPROVE AGENDA ITEM I.1a.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

- b) Division of Forestry - Request for an allocation of \$1,910,743 to cover costs associated with emergency response expenses within the Forest Fire Suppression account.

KACEY KC (Administrator, Division of Forestry, DCNR):

Through Agenda Item I.1b, the Division of Forestry requests an allocation of approximately \$1.9 million to pay for obligated fire suppression costs to close its Forest Fire Suppression budget for FY 2022.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

This request is similar to those that the division has brought before the Committee in the past.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO
APPROVE AGENDA ITEM I.1b.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

2. DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

- a) Request for an allocation of \$107,830 to reimburse Churchill, Lincoln, Carson City, Humboldt, and Pershing Counties for costs associated with case-related expenses for indigent defense services.

Agenda Items I.2a, I.2b, I.2c, and J were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item J.

- b) Request for an allocation of \$429,860 to reimburse Douglas, Eureka, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties for costs in excess of the estimated maximum contribution amount for indigent defense services.

Agenda Items I.2a, I.2b, I.2c, and J were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item J.

- c) Request for an allocation of \$225,591 to reimburse Elko and Storey Counties for costs in excess of the estimated maximum contribution amount for indigent defense services.

Agenda Items I.2a, I.2b, I.2c, and J were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item J.

- d) Office of the State Public Defender - Request for an allocation of ~~\$143,857~~ **\$109,375** to fund one new unclassified Deputy Public Defender position starting on October 1, 2022. **REVISED 8-3-22.**

MARCIE RYBA (Director, Department of Indigent Defense Services [DIDS]): Through Agenda Item I.2d, DIDS is requesting an allocation from the IFC Contingency Account to fund an additional staff position needed to address an increase in trial-related workload as a result of the passage of A.B. 424 (2021 Legislative Session) and Senate Bill (S.B.) 7 (2021 Legislative Session). Bail hearings are now occurring on weekends and holidays, and the Office of the Public Defender has insufficient staff to cover all the hearings.

CHAIR DENIS:

Given the authority of the 2021 Authorizations Act (S.B. 459) to accept additional funds from Carson City and/or Storey County beyond the limits identified in Section 9 of the bill, does either Carson City or Storey County have available funds to support a portion of the salary and operation costs for the new Deputy Public Defender in FY 2023?

MS. RYBA:

The cost of a public defender in Storey County exceeds the maximum contribution rate. As a result, there are no additional expenses DIDS can request from Storey County. Pursuant to NRS 180, a cost estimate was sent to Carson City in May 2022 and became a final bill. There is no authority under statute allowing the department to ask for additional funding after a cost estimate becomes finalized.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM I.2d AND DIRECT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER TO REQUEST THE POSITION AS AN ENHANCEMENT IN ITS BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

- J. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO SECTION 80 OF ASSEMBLY BILL 494 (2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION) (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested) - DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES** - Request for an allocation of \$834,240 to reimburse Douglas, Eureka, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties for costs in excess of the estimated maximum contribution amount for indigent defense services.

Agenda Items I.2a, I.2b, I.2c, and J were discussed jointly.

MARCIE RYBA (Director, Department of Indigent Defense Services [DIDS]):

DIDS is requesting reimbursement for certain rural counties in Nevada for expenses associated with the provision of indigent defense services that are over the maximum contribution amount.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Through Agenda Item J, DIDS is requesting restricted IFC Contingency funds to reimburse six counties (Douglas, Eureka, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties) included in the *Davis v. Nevada* consent judgement (*Davis* counties). These six counties have met the maximum contribution amount for the provision

of indigent defense services pursuant to Section 80 of A.B. 494 (2021 Legislative Session). Is that correct?

MS. RYBA:

That is correct.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Through Agenda Item I.2a, DIDS is requesting unrestricted IFC Contingency funds to reimburse five non-*Davis* counties (Churchill, Lincoln, Carson City, Humboldt, and Pershing Counties) for case-related expenditures. Is it correct that these five counties have not yet met the maximum contribution amount? The Committee previously had an issue with approving funding to reimburse non-*Davis* counties for the provision of indigent defense services.

MS. RYBA:

It is correct that Carson City and Churchill, Lincoln, Humboldt, and Pershing Counties have not met the set maximum contribution amount for indigent defense services as detailed in the first part of the maximum contribution formula. However, Churchill and Lincoln Counties are *Davis* counties, whereas Carson City, and Humboldt and Pershing Counties are non-*Davis* counties.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

In examining this request, the Committee is trying to keep the *Davis* counties separate from the non-*Davis* counties. What is the rationale for reimbursing non-*Davis* counties for costs in excess of the maximum contribution amounts, especially when these counties have not met their maximum contribution amount?

MS. RYBA:

This is a discretionary part of the maximum contribution formula, and it will be up to the Committee to determine whether to fund this request. Pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 180.320, the Board on Indigent Defense Services (Board) was granted authority to adopt regulations to establish a formula for determining the maximum amount that a county may pay for indigent defense services. The adopted formula consists of two parts, with the first part using a calculation consisting of the average costs of providing indigent defense services for FY 2018 and FY 2019, plus inflation. The resulting amount of the calculation is the maximum out-of-pocket cost that a county is required to pay, with anything above this amount being a state expense.

The second part of the maximum contribution formula pertains to the Board using its discretion when reimbursing certain counties. The Board wanted to create separation from the Judicial Branch in reviewing requests for reimbursement of case-related expenses. At the time these regulations were written, public defenders commonly had to request reimbursement for case-related expenses from the judiciary. The process was different for prosecutors, as prosecutors have budgets within their own departments and can spend money on case-related expenses without having oversight from the judiciary. The purpose of the second part of the maximum contribution formula is to provide the same judicial oversight for a

public defender that a prosecutor is afforded. To encourage counties to create the separation from the judiciary in their plans, the Board adopted a provision stating that if a county creates a separation from the judiciary, the resulting expenses may be a charge against the state and reimbursable to the county.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

The state should not be asked to reimburse counties for case-related expenses if those counties have not met the maximum contribution amount. Counties can set up their own budgets to pay for these services without approval from the judiciary. The regulation that was implemented by the Board says that the state may reimburse counties, not that it must reimburse them. I do not approve of using unrestricted IFC Contingency funds to cover costs for counties that have not met the maximum contribution amount.

Through Agenda Item I.2b, DIDS is requesting \$429,860 in unrestricted IFC Contingency funds to reimburse six *Davis* counties (Douglas, Eureka, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties) for the remainder of costs in excess of each county's calculated maximum contribution amount pursuant to A.B. 494. Is this correct?

MS. RYBA:

That is correct.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Through Agenda Item I.2c, the department is requesting \$225,591 in unrestricted IFC Contingency funds to reimburse non-*Davis* counties (Elko and Storey Counties) for indigent defense costs in excess of each county's calculated maximum contribution amount. Again, I do not approve of reimbursing non-*Davis* counties for costs associated with the provision of indigent defense services.

SENATOR TATRO:

Were counties made whole regarding defense funds when they were still being reimbursed by the judiciary? At that time, were counties required to meet the maximum contribution amount before being reimbursed for services?

MS. RYBA:

DIDS was created in 2019. Because the department was recently created, it had the opportunity to create the maximum contribution formula for counties and allow counties to receive reimbursement from the state for the provision of indigent defense services. Assembly Bill 480 (2021 Legislative Session) was drafted in recognition that counties had been taking 100% of the financial responsibility for expenses related to the provision of indigent defense services. The preamble of A.B. 480 discussed how the State of Nevada wanted to assist counties with these expenses. The state is already responsible for assisting counties with costs related to representing individuals in prisons.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM
I.2b. AND AGENDA ITEM J TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE

DAVIS COUNTIES THAT HAVE EXCEEDED THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT; DENY AGENDA ITEM 1.2a TO REIMBURSE CASE-RELATED EXPENDITURES FOR COUNTIES THAT HAVE NOT EXCEEDED THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT; AND DENY AGENDA ITEM 1.2c TO ALLOCATE UNRESTRICTED IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT FUNDS TO REIMBURSE NON-DAVIS COUNTIES FOR COSTS THAT HAVE EXCEEDED THE CALCULATED MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

This motion is consistent with the action the Committee took during its June 21, 2022, meeting. It is important for the Committee to be consistent with its actions pertaining to the *Davis v. Nevada* consent judgement.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The *Davis* counties that exceed the maximum contribution amount can come back before the Committee to request reimbursement for the provision of indigent defense services, but the counties that chose not to be a part of the *Davis v. Nevada* consent judgement (non-*Davis* counties) will never be reimbursed for their costs. Is this correct?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

The Committee may choose to act differently on this request in the future, but that would be inconsistent with A.B. 480 and A.B. 494, which designated an additional set-aside of funding to be used to reimburse counties for the provision of indigent defense services. I do not think the state is currently in a position to reimburse costs for non-*Davis* counties.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Churchill and Lincoln Counties are considered *Davis* counties that have not yet met the maximum contribution amount. Will these counties be reimbursed for costs associated with the provision of indigent defense services when they meet the maximum amount?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I do not want to talk about the actions the Committee may take in the future, but the current motion I have made is to reimburse the *Davis* counties that have exceeded the maximum contribution amount.

ASSEMBLYMAN HAFEN:

Is the current motion to deny Agenda Item 1.2a? Will the motion only deny reimbursement to non-*Davis* counties for case-related expenditures, or will it also deny reimbursement to *Davis* counties?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Two counties under Agenda Item I.2a are *Davis* counties. Regardless, the motion is to deny reimbursement for case-related expenses to those counties because none of the counties under Agenda Item I.2a have exceeded the maximum contribution amount.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

- K. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM PAYING COUNTY ASSESSMENT FEES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PURSUANT TO NRS 439.4905** - Request for an exemption for Churchill County, Eureka County, Mineral County, and Pershing County from paying assessment fees to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the provision of public health services.

Agenda Items F.12, F.15, F.16 and Agenda Item K were discussed jointly.

BAILEY BORTOLIN (Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor):

I will discuss the multiple parts of Agenda Item F.12, which is a work program for \$151 million with five subrecipient/subgrants. This is a significant investment in health preparedness for Nevada that together with Agenda Items F.15, F.16 and Agenda Item K, create the Governor's statewide plan to invest federal relief dollars that present a unique opportunity for the state to utilize and serve Nevadans with critical public health and health care needs.

As the Committee is aware, the COVID-19 pandemic stretched and tested the state's health infrastructure in unimaginable ways. This investment will ensure that Nevada takes the lessons learned and puts them into action. The work program before the Committee reflects over a year of work and collaboration between the state and community stakeholders on the correct way to meet this moment to best position Nevada for the future.

First, there is a \$75 million investment in the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). As many are aware and have seen firsthand, the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory was pushed to the limits during the pandemic. This investment will increase the space and capacity of the laboratory to meet the demands of the state. UNR President Brian Sandoval recognized early in the pandemic that the state requires this critical investment, and he has worked closely with the Office of the Governor to ensure the plan before the Committee is reflective and responsible to the needs of the state and will improve future services and response times.

I would note that the next two investment amounts were revised slightly from what the Committee has seen. The amounts in the document show \$35 million and \$35 million for the next two projects; however, those figures are actually \$40 million and \$30 million.

The next investment is for \$40 million toward an ambulatory care center and academic health center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Medicine. Unlike the previous item, and in partnership with the Nevada Health and Bioscience Corporation (NHBC), this is not a single source project; other dollars will be involved in this project. The Governor is proud to support the continuation of the UNLV School of Medicine's contribution to meet the critical needs of the community.

This facility will provide services targeted to meet the needs of residents, with a focus on eliminating health disparities and access challenges, including critical mental and behavioral health needs. This is a high priority for UNLV President Keith Whitfield and the Office of the Governor appreciates his leadership that focuses on serving the community.

The third investment is a partnership between the state, the University Medical Center (UMC), and the NHBC. If approved, \$30 million will go to the NHBC to standup a public health laboratory, which UMC will operate.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has worked hard to identify a number of laboratory deficiencies within the state, specifically in Southern Nevada, some of which are services that must currently be sent out of state. I would be remiss not to recognize UMC for its incredible leadership and partnership throughout the pandemic. The UMC has been a trusted partner that also stood up new testing and services overnight when the community was in need. A new laboratory under UMC leadership will not duplicate efforts but will instead fill critical gaps and will be transformational for the state's health infrastructure.

The last two investments include \$3 million for UNR's and UNLV's Schools of Public Health. There has been a lot of discussion today about how the workforce is a piece that cannot be left behind as the state tries to progress in these areas. The workforce that is produced by these schools is critical to the success of all the public health investments before the Committee.

The UNR will use this investment to transform what is currently its health laboratory into a robust space to allow the School of Public Health and the DHHS to collaborate and prepare for the next public health emergency. The UNLV will house the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition to improve the health outcomes of the most disenfranchised and vulnerable populations.

These items are before the Committee today because they are transformational for the state and have been vetted and developed as strategic priorities for use of the ARPA funds.

The full amount before the Committee looks different than proposals that have undergone the Department of Administration, State Public Works Division (SPWD), Capital Improvement Program process. I would note that labor standards are a high priority for Governor Sisolak, so both the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and the proposed Southern Nevada laboratory will be built, if approved, with project labor agreements. The UNLV School of Medicine building will be

constructed with the same standards as the initial creation of the school, using prevailing wage and a union general contractor. If approved, the state will remain active in the work with its partners as it reports back to the federal government and works under the timelines and rules of the ARPA funds.

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health [DPBH], DHHS):

I am speaking today on Agenda Item F.16 (Work Program #23FRF32232), which requests ARPA funding to support infrastructure and staffing resources for local public health systems.

The DHHS and the Office of the Governor reached out to Nevada's local health agencies requesting a list of funding priorities that would allow them to better offer routine health services to their residents to improve the health of their communities as well as items that would allow them to continue to respond to COVID-19 and future public health issues.

After considering the requests, the projects noted in this work program were supported by the DHHS and the Office of the Governor and prepared to be presented to the Committee for consideration.

For Churchill, Mineral, Pershing and Eureka Counties, this request would support the development of a building to serve as the Central Nevada Health District in Fallon. This building would be a central location for administrative operations and clinical services.

The request also includes an investment for the Washoe County Health District for a building that would serve as a satellite location for services to the community. The funds would also be used to update the tuberculosis clinic, which provides care for patients with a highly infectious disease who need to be in a negative pressure room.

Carson City Health and Human Services has requested to extend staffing retained during the COVID-19 response that the city would like to continue through December 2026. These staff include community health workers, bilingual nursing staff, and staff to support the ongoing vaccination and epidemiology needs.

Lastly, the Southern Nevada Health District provides a critical role for the community, specifically as it relates to environmental health services. The Southern Nevada Health District needs to increase fees, which have not been increased for over ten years. The request would allow the health district to defer the approved fee for one year so as to not require businesses to pay an additional expense while still recovering from the pandemic and to also avoid passing that expense on to the public and consumers who frequent those businesses.

In summary, the investments total \$20.8 million and are noted below. The local health agencies must not exceed these amounts.

- Central Nevada Health District - \$1.6 million
- Washoe County Health District - \$10 million
- Carson City Health and Human Services - \$3.7 million
- Southern Nevada Health District - \$5.5 million

I appreciate that this is a very large request for public health. The demand that has been placed on these teams has been significant over the last couple of years and the funds would allow the state to right public health in a number of ways.

Moving on to Agenda Item K, I would like to thank the Governor for approving the request to remove assessment fees for Churchill, Eureka, Pershing and Mineral Counties. This is just one step in the formation of Nevada's first regional rural public health authority, which has been over a decade in the making.

It was through the COVID-19 response that these counties were able to see the need for local public health services and develop this plan to move forward.

As required within *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 439.4905, these counties put forward a request to remove county assessments paid to the DPBH to support public health nursing, disease investigation and environmental health services within these counties. The assessment funds could be retained by the counties so that they could provide the services locally.

This request was reviewed and supported by the DPBH and the Office of the Governor prior to the presentation to the Committee today.

The counties plan to cease the payment of the assessments to align with the biennial budget starting on July 1, 2023, so there will not be an impact on the current year assessments.

Though this plan has many moving parts to ensure optimal public health service delivery and a seamless transition to local support, there are two parts that require formal approval. The first part is the request before the Committee for the assessments and the second is a request for the Board of Health to form a regional health authority. These counties will be presenting to the Board of Health later this year for approval.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

My question is specific to Agenda Item K. Standing up a new Central Nevada Health District is very exciting. The new health district will take over services in a year, which will allow enough time to become operational. I also noticed in the backup documentation that there will be a public health laboratory in Fallon.

Please discuss how this project will move Nevada toward a more robust public health infrastructure and how the new health district will contribute to that goal.

MS. PEEK:

In my observation during the COVID-19 response efforts, the public health delivery system performs very well at the local level. Nevada is one of the few states that still maintains a largely decentralized public health department. The state's public health department geographically covers many counties, but not by population size.

Something that was seen during the pandemic was the ability to understand the needs of the community. A local health district is run by people who live in the community and serve the community, compared to the state level, where those staff may not live in that community and are unable to mobilize services as quickly.

During the pandemic, the collaboration related to the local emergency management response was incredible when done locally, and those staff could reach out to the state when they needed additional support or other things. As done locally, that represents a mature public health system. Many states have the formation of locally delivered services with a level of state oversight and support, and even surge support, but to have the services at the local level is a much better delivery of the public health model.

JIM BARBEE (County Manager, Churchill County):

I would echo the comments made by Ms. Peek. To see what a local health district will look like, the state only needs to look to the pandemic and the successes related to public health response. When the pandemic began, it became apparent that the state was going to struggle in terms of having the outreach, especially with two central locations serving most of the state's population. The rural areas stepped up as eager partners and it has been a good partnership. It will continue to be a productive partnership beyond the formation of the Central Nevada Health District, because the rural areas will continue to rely on the state for guidance.

The building will be constructed on a site that has been partially funded and has infrastructure in place from the COVID-19 response. The project would add better facilities and carry forward beyond the pandemic on to other health concerns. During the pandemic, the existing site was visited by Washoe, Douglas and Eureka County residents as well as people from other states, including California and Texas, for testing and vaccinations. The current infrastructure will remain in place, and a building will be constructed onsite that will provide greater functions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

My questions relate to Agenda Item F.12 and the various projects that are cited. Please provide information regarding how the amounts were determined for each of the projects and provide the timelines.

MS. BORTOLIN:

The entities will speak to the calculations for each project. I would note that with the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, for example, the amount has changed as inflation and the cost of doing business has changed. Because the projects are funded with ARPA funds, time is of the essence in completing the projects. The

funds must be committed by 2025 and the projects must be completed by 2026 so the projects can commence as soon as possible.

MAUREEN SCHAFER (President and Chief Executive Officer, NHBC):

With regard to the ambulatory care center, the building has been assessed in consultation with the UNLV Kerkorian School of Medicine and the Dean and there was discussion about current needs. A business planning process is currently underway regarding current and prospective needs and the size that would fit on the nine-acre site. We have conservatively looked at the costs considering capital needs and furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E), and the current services that would go into the building. The estimated cost of the building is between \$125 and \$140 million. In addition to the appropriation of ARPA funds, a financing stack will be assembled using current philanthropic catalytic contributions that the NHBC is prepared to make using corporate donations that are currently in abeyance, new market tax credits, etc., which is similar to how the first building was financed.

On the second building, a similar process was used without launching the business planning process with UMC. Biosafety Level 3 labs are built with “performance specs” so it is clear what the building must include. If the ARPA funds are approved by the Committee, a similar financing stack with different sources of funding would be used and the needs and wants for these services in the community would be determined.

Regarding timelines, I believe this particular funding source needs to be spent by the end of 2026. Pre-development in terms of planning takes between six and ten months so pre-development would begin immediately, after which the planning phase would begin. The goal would be to break ground within a year. The ARPA funds would be spent first because of the time restriction.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

These two buildings would be owned by the NHBC, not the State of Nevada or the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). Is that correct?

Ms. SCHAFER:

Yes, that is correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I ask that because NSHE has a formula based on square footage. If the buildings are not owned by NSHE, it will be outside that formula. It is important for the Committee to understand the buildings will be owned by the NHBC and would be outside the formula.

SCOTT BROWN (Senior Project Manager, UNR Planning and Construction Department):

For the new Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, UNR retained an outside design firm, Van Woert Bigotti Architects, that put together a pre-design package. As part of the pre-design, UNR determined the square footage totals for the building in working with Nevada State Public Health Laboratory staff and the other

entities. From that, as part of the pre-design, UNR retained a third-party cost estimator that put together the budget, which was reviewed with the UNR Planning and Construction Department and Van Woert Bigotti Architects.

Regarding the timelines, UNR is ready to contract with Van Woert Bigotti Architects to begin design immediately.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Will the building be owned by NSHE and included in the operations and maintenance budget? NSHE staff can provide an answer at a later date.

SENATOR NEAL:

Regarding Agenda Item K, the amount of the assessments for the four counties is approximately \$192,000 per year, which totals about \$384,000 per biennium. Are there other sources of funding to sustain the Central Nevada Health District?

MS. PEEK:

The group has done an excellent job of planning and working with the UNR and DPBH teams; however, \$384,000 will not be enough to sustain a public health agency. The funds will help support the Environmental Health Services disease investigation and some clinical services, similar to how the DPBH uses the funding. However, the DPBH is also considering categorical grant funds, which fund the local health departments. A portion of those funds will be redirected now that the Central Nevada Health District will be providing those resources. Also, the Central Nevada Health District will be a partner in applying for grants. As the DPBH looks at new competitive opportunities to offer services, the health district will also be going through the process. The Central Nevada Health District can also apply for grants that are available to rural health districts or for rural health services.

SHANNON ERNST (Director, Social Services, Churchill County):

A draft budget has been developed which includes a fee for services for environmental health clinical services, grants, and a cost-per-population fee for each of the participating counties. The budget will become effective July 1, 2023, to sustain the project in the future.

MR. BARBEE:

I would note it has recently been identified that the City of Fallon will also be joining as a municipal, which will help share the costs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEMS F.12, F.15, F.16 AND AGENDA ITEM K.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I am not supportive of having project labor agreements for some of these projects. I think it increases the costs to taxpayers and limits what can be done with some of the funds. However, overall, these projects are very good, and I will be supporting the motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

When projects are built under a project labor agreement, they are usually completed on time and under cost, and time is of the essence for these projects. Also, with prevailing wage, Nevadans will be making good wages and taking care of their families.

In conversations with the Office of the Governor's staff, there was consideration of using the SPWD for these projects; however, this would have required increasing the SPWD's staff by 30% to 50% and the projects may not have been completed on time. This is the rare occasion where I believe having everyone in the state work on all these projects at the same time will benefit the families. The families of these workers will receive good paychecks, because the projects will be on the ground and underway.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

- L. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT FOR FORECLOSURE MEDIATION ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO NRS 107.080(13)(b)** - Request for the transfer of \$175,053 from the Account to Home Means Nevada, Inc. for support of the program for foreclosure mediation.

PERRY FAIGIN (Deputy Director, Director's Office, Department of Business and Industry; President, Home Means Nevada, Inc.):

The Board of Directors of Home Means Nevada, Inc. requests an allocation of \$175,053 from the Account for Foreclosure Mediation Assistance to continue operations of the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM L.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

- M. REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS PURSUANT TO NRS 353.335.**
1. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - Division of Museums and History

- a) Request for approval to accept a donation from the Wilma La Rocca Living Trust in the amount of \$60,625 for the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.
 - b) Request for approval to accept a donation from the Robert H. Carlson and Edith P. Carlson Living Trust in the amount of \$80,000 for the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas.
2. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE - Request for approval to accept a donation from Nevada Gold Mines, LLC in the amount of \$150,000 to partially support the purchase of property for the establishment of the Elko community pond.

There was no discussion on these items.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS M.1a, M.1b, and M.2.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

- N. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE ACCOUNT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PURSUANT TO NRS 701.585(3) - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR** - Governor's Office of Energy - Request to expend ~~\$50,000~~ ~~\$52,779~~ to *fund a portion of the* purchase *of* electric vehicle testing equipment for the State Department of Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards to measure electricity discharge from electric vehicle charging stations. **REVISED 7-29-22. SECOND REVISION 8-3-22.**

DENISE FROHLICH (Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Energy [GOE]):
The GOE is requesting approval of expenditure from the Account for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation pursuant to NRS 701.585(3). The GOE is seeking to expend \$50,000 to fund a portion of the purchase of electric vehicle testing equipment for the State Department of Agriculture (SDA), Division of Measurement Standards to measure electricity discharge from electric vehicle charging stations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Is the plan to go to every electric vehicle charging station in Nevada to ensure the stations are producing the amount of electricity being reported? How will the stations be tested and how often will the tests need to be repeated? Will certifications be provided to stations that pass inspection?

MS. FROHLICH:

I am new to my position and am still learning the details of the project. The use of electric vehicle testing equipment would ensure that electric vehicle charging stations are properly dispensing electricity to consumers and that merchants are properly collecting associated costs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I would like the GOE to submit more information to the Committee regarding the plan to test electric vehicle charging stations throughout Nevada.

MR. FROHLICH:

The GOE will provide more information on the project to the Committee at a later date.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

The GOE is only going to test electric vehicle charging stations where people pay to charge their vehicles, correct? There is no reason to test stations that are not charging consumers for electricity.

MR. FROHLICH:

My team and I will investigate and provide the Committee with that information at a later date.

CHAIR DENIS:

It costs merchants money to dispense electricity. Are merchants reimbursed based on the amount of electricity provided?

CADENCE MATIJEVICH (Administrator, Division of Measurement Standards, SDA):
I will provide that information to the Committee at a later date.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM N.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE
MEMBERS PRESENT.

- O. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY - Housing Division - INFORMATIONAL ONLY** - Status report on the Home Means Nevada Initiative for affordable housing as requested during the April 7, 2022, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry):

New developments since the July 26, 2022, IFC meeting regarding the Home Means Nevada Initiative include the opening of the New Development and Rehabilitation application period, which closes on August 26, 2022. The Housing Division has elicited requests for quotes (RFQ) for those interested in scoring the financial aspects and developer qualifications of the New Development and Rehabilitation applications, with responses to the RFQs being due by August 31, 2022. The division is also forming a scoring committee to score the Project Narrative, Site Information and Amenities, and Project Accessibility categories of the applications. The division plans to hold meetings with

scoring committee members by the time applications start coming in. An application process for the Home Ownership and Rehabilitation category of funding is currently underway with a proposed application opening date of August 2022. The division is also developing the Land Acquisition category for applications.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Thank you for answering my questions from a previous IFC meeting regarding senior housing and for including that information in the reports that the Housing Division will be submitting to the Committee. Nevada's vulnerable population is at risk of losing their homes due to the skyrocketing costs of rent.

There was no further discussion on this item.

P. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The following agenda item has been identified for additional discussion: Agenda Item P.1.b, Office of the Governor, Office of Project Management.

1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - Governor's Office of Finance
 - a) Budget Division - Quarterly report on Executive Branch agencies contracting with current or former employees of the state, for the period ending June 30, 2022, pursuant to NRS 333.705(5).

There was no discussion on this item.

- b) Office of Project Management - Silver State Modernization Approach for Resources and Technology in the 21st Century (SMART 21) - Semiannual report on the efforts to replace the state's existing financial and human resource information systems for the period January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022 (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session).

MELISSA LAUFER-LEWIS (Administrator, Office of Project Management, Governor's Office of Finance):

Agenda Item P.1b pertains to the Office of Project Management's (Office) semiannual report on the Silver State Modernization Approach for Resources and Technology in the 21st Century (SMART 21) project, which replaces the state's existing financial and human resource information systems for the period January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

CHAIR DENIS:

When will the LSI Consulting Exit Plan and the Gartner project review be completed?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

The Office is currently working with LSI Consulting to come to a formal agreement regarding items of the SMART 21 project that are currently stalled, but a formal agreement has not yet been reached.

CHAIR DENIS:

Are some components of the SMART 21 project currently available for the state to use? Will the project components that do not work correctly be rebuilt from scratch with a new vendor?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

Yes, that is correct.

CHAIR DENIS:

It is unfortunate that not all the components of the SMART 21 project are working correctly as the state has already spent money on the project. Please provide an overview of the various options for continuing the SMART 21 project. When is it anticipated that updated project implementation timelines and costs will be available?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

The Office discussed the possibility of reverting back to the state's previous human resource information system, but this was not viable as the recruiting, employee central, and learning management systems are already live. The Office decided to continue working with LSI Consulting on upgrading these services. However, the remaining upgrades to the human resource systems, including employee management, payroll, and time and attendance, are currently on hold pending a new systems integrator contract in which a new vendor can be onboarded to meet with the state to determine system requirements and configuration. The Office is currently paying monthly software licenses for the SMART 21 project, with any additional configuration and implementation resulting in future costs.

Regarding the state's existing financial system, there were concerns from large state agencies that the SAP system software may not work, and that implementation of the software would require a large learning curve. The Office decided to place this part of the SMART 21 project on hold and to request an independent assessment to compare the current state processes with all available enterprise resource planning solutions to ensure that the state chooses the best financial solution necessary to comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements. The Office is currently working with the Department of Administration, Purchasing Division to request an independent assessment. Upon results of the assessment, the Office will either continue with the SAP system software and the vendor implementing the human resource component of the software, or it will issue another request for proposal (RFP) for a new enterprise resource planning solution and a new vendor to integrate the solution.

CHAIR DENIS:

What benefits does the Office of Project Management expect from conducting an additional assessment of state financial business processes? When is it anticipated the results of the assessment will be available?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

The Office is planning to have the independent financial assessment contract completed by October 2022 or November 2022. Based on market research, it will take approximately 60 to 90 days to conduct the assessment and for the state to get the results. Conducting an additional assessment of state financial business processes will alleviate many concerns of large state agencies regarding banking, federal reporting, and auditing. Many state agencies were concerned that information resulting from the assessment would not align with the new financial system when considering the state's current statutory requirements regarding budget accounts and budget categories. The Office is also requesting more information on how to report its annual comprehensive financial reports to ensure that the SMART 21 project is implemented correctly.

CHAIR DENIS:

Does the Office anticipate that the state financial business processes may look different than originally designed?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

Based on additional feedback the Office has received through partnering with state agencies, there appear to be requirements that were in the beginning stages of the RFP process but were not completed to the level necessary to meet statutory requirements. For example, NRS 353 is not referenced in the financial requirements of the state's financial business processes.

CHAIR DENIS:

Will the costs of the SMART 21 project be higher than originally planned for the portions of the project that are not finished?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

That is a possibility.

CHAIR DENIS:

When will the amounts paid to LSI Consulting for system implementation services be finalized?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

The process of finalizing the appropriate reimbursement amounts for the components of the SMART 21 project that have been delivered is pending negotiations with LSI Consulting and legal counsel, but the Office has processed all invoices currently eligible for payment; this was a deliverable-based contract instead of a contract where payments were issued based on time and effort. I do not have a timeline for when all amounts paid

for system implementation services will be finalized as final negotiations with LSI Consulting have not yet occurred.

CHAIR DENIS:

Can the amounts paid to LSI Consulting be finalized in the near future?

MS. LAUFER-LEWIS:

It is the goal of the Office to wrap up this process as quickly as possible.

There was no further discussion on this item.

2. OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER - Report on the Bond Interest and Redemption Fund pursuant to Section 18(3) of Assembly Bill 492 (2021 Legislative Session).

There was no discussion on this item.

3. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- a) Purchasing Division - Semiannual report on preference for bid or proposal submitted by a local business owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability for the periods of July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, and January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, pursuant to NRS 333.3368.
- b) State Public Works Division
 - 1) Information regarding the Project Status Exception Report pursuant to NRS 341.100(8)(g).
 - 2) Report on Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities Bidders' Preference for the period January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, pursuant to NRS 338.13846. **RECEIVED ON 8-1-22, AFTER THE 7-22-22 SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.**

There was no discussion on these items.

4. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Quarterly report on the funding awarded through the DonorsChoose program for the period ending July 19, 2022, as requested during the August 18, 2021, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. LIST OF INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOM PROJECTS IS ON FILE WITH THE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION AND IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST.

There was no discussion on this item.

5. NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION - University of Nevada, Reno - School of ~~Medieie~~ **Medicine** - Quarterly report on the progress made in obtaining federal approval for a research program on the medical use of ~~Marijuana~~ **marijuana**, as well as the status of activities and information received through the program for the period ending June 30, 2022, pursuant to NRS 678C.700(5). **REVISED 7-26-22.**

There was no discussion on this item.

6. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY - Taxicab Authority - Report on the Taxicab Authority's long-term plan for financial stability to align existing revenue sources and expenditures (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session).

There was no discussion on this item.

7. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - Report regarding the approved funding of \$17.6 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds for free at home COVID-19 test kits, community-based testing sites, and a contract for a testing call center as requested during the April 7, 2022, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.

There was no discussion on this item.

8. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - Status report on the issuance of technology fee refunds as required by the stipulation agreement dated November 1, 2021, for the period ending July 31, 2022.

There was no discussion on this item.

9. STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Division of State Parks - Annual report regarding expenditures authorized pursuant to NRS 407.0762 (Budget Account 4605 - Account for Maintenance of State Parks) and NRS 407.0763 (Budget Account 4604 - Account for Maintenance of State Park Facilities and Grounds) for the period ending June 30, 2022 (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session).

There was no discussion on this item.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE - Notice of the addition of one new classified, full-time, Equipment Mechanic 2 position to oversee the Department of Wildlife's vessel fleet equipment maintenance and repair program.

There was no discussion on this item.

11. Reports on the use of consultants for the January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, reporting period:
 - a) Reports from school districts pursuant to NRS 391.155.
 - b) Reports from boards and commissions pursuant to NRS 333.705(7).
 - c) Reports from the Nevada System of Higher Education, pursuant to NRS 333.705(7).

There was no discussion on these items.

Q. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Nevada's agriculture and livestock sectors are in trouble. The costs of feed, fertilizer, and fuel are up by at least 30%, and the receipt of products being sold is down by the same amount when compared to pre-pandemic levels. There are sheepmen from my district that cannot get a bid on subtle lands because last year's crops are still on the feed lot and cannot be moved. Tomorrow, the state's agriculture industry is meeting with the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation and state cattlemen are meeting with the SDA to formulate a plan to generate revenue.

R. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Denis adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Interim Finance Committee

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