

CONTRACT AGENCIES COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Contract Agencies Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York, on February 8, 2007.

Members Present:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay - Chairman

Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice-Chair

Legislator Jon Cooper

Legislator Lou D'Amaro

Legislator Ricardo Montano

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator Dan Losquadro

Also in Attendance:

Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Chief of Staff/P.O. Lindsay's Office

Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader

Justin Littel - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro

Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader

Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano

Marion Cohn - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay

Gail Vizzini - Director of Budget Review

John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Karen Boorshtein - Executive Vice-President/Family Service League

Bernice Selig - Vice-President of Finance/Family Service League

Dr. Larry Weiss - Vice-President of Program Services/Family Service Lge

F. Lombardi - IGHL Foundation

Jon Seaman - Families of TWA Flight 800

Barbara Faron - Executive Director/Federation of Organizations

Steve McCarthy - Chief Financial Officer/Federation of Organizations

Joanne Sanders - Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Michael Stolz - Clubhouse of Suffolk

Phil Lorito - Holbrook Vietnam Monument

Louis DeGuardia - Holbrook Vietnam Monument

Robin Amato - Director of Development/Long Island Cares

Kristine Lehn - Relations Manager/Long Island Cares

Bruce Gaugler - Comptroller/Long Island Cares

Bob Mitchell - Attorney-in-Charge/Legal Aid Society

Louis Mazzola - Legal Aid Society

George Roach - Senior Citizens Division/Legal Aid Society

Phillip O'Reilly - Finance/Legal Aid Society

Randi Shubrin Dresner - Island Harvest
Sondra LeBlanc - Business Manager/Island Harvest
Peggy Orsino - Friends of RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)
Monica Seidel - Bookkeeper at RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)
Randi Delirod - Chief of Staff/AME

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Kimberly Castiglione - Legislative Aide

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM*)*

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. We're going to start the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee for Contract Agencies, which is a new group this year, a new committee within the Legislature. And like everything that we do, we'll start off with the Pledge, please rise, led by Legislator Montano.

Salutation

I know our first contract agency, The Family Service League, isn't scheduled until eleven o'clock, but I see Karen is here already.

If we got to you early, would you be ready to go on early, Karen.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

No; give me 15 minutes and my Finance Director should be here.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, that's fine because we have some other stuff to do.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Good.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Although there isn't a public portion, at least envisioned in this committee, we do have one speaker that wanted to address us and I don't, you know, see any harm in that. Randi Delirod from AME would just like to address the committee. You got it, Randi?

MS. DELIROD:

Is it on?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

MS. DELIROD:

Thank you, Presiding Officer. As you said, my name is Randi Delirod. I'm the Chief of Staff at the Association of Municipal Employees, which was effective as of February first, so you'll have to forgive me if I don't know all of the new people who are on the board.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You know, excuse me. Let me just stop you there because we're like naked up here, we don't have our nametags in front of us, you know. It is still in Smithtown from last night. I should start off by introducing this committee, because it is a new committee. Legislator Lou D'Amaro is on my far left. John Cooper, Legislator Lynne Nowick, Legislator Cameron Alden, and to my immediate right is Legislator Rick Montano and Legislator Dan Losquadro.

MS. DELIROD:

Yes. Thank you for that. On behalf of the Association of Municipal Employees we just really wanted to express our gratitude for the creation of this ad hoc committee. As you are well aware, privatization is a very large problem within Suffolk County and it certainly affects our union hard, probably the hardest of all. To that end, we just want to state that we will offer you whatever assistance in whatever regard you would like.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much.

MS. DELIROD:

Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you, Randi.

P.O. LINDSAY:

In our packets is, you know, different forms to go through this process. Does anyone on the committee have any questions of that or?

LEG. NOWICK:

The packets are good.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And additionally Budget Review has given us a list of contract agencies and I thought that -- that we might take a few minutes and identify a group that you would like to see at the next meeting, which I think is March eighth. I think it's March eight -- actually one month from today. So why don't you take a few minutes to look through them.

What we've been trying to do is select contract agencies from different groupings, you know, maybe veterans, youth, social services, stuff like that, and mix them up with big agencies and small agencies so that we can get a flavor of where our money is being spent. So why don't you take a few minutes to look at that and while you are doing that I have to go get my glasses because I can't see this.

(Recess 10:26 AM to 10:30 AM)

P.O. LINDSAY:

I have a suggestion that EAC runs many programs for us and as one of the large community service administrations I think that they should be invited to the next meeting. Know though what's the name of it.

LEG. ALDEN:

If you add everything up they are real big.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, and they do good work. It's not that they don't do good work, it's just that --

LEG. ALDEN:

Yup.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the other one I had was a youth group that operates in my district as well as Legislator Caracappa's, Eddington's, and Kennedy's, and that is SYAG. He was going to come today and he had to cancel so I told him that we would invite him next month. He's anxious to come and talk about, you know, his youth programs.

LEG. ALDEN:

Sounds good.

LEG. NOWICK:

What's the full name of that?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sachem Youth Advisory Group I believe it is. Okay. That's the two I have. Do you have any, Cameron?

LEG. ALDEN:

I was going to suggest Pronto and Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, the Hauppauge Industrial Association and a smaller one would be Nassau/Suffolk Neighborhood Network.

LEG. COOPER:

Lynne, you're up.

P.O. LINDSAY:

One minute. I'm copying them down. What was the Hauppauge one?

LEG. ALDEN:

Hauppauge Industrial Association. And then the last one, Nassau/Suffolk Neighborhood Network.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I got that one. Okay. Lynne?

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm looking at the Three Village Community Services. Just curious, \$170,000. HUGS, I wanted to know more about that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I know -- I mean, we can bring them in. I know that they're a community group, a drug treatment group out east.

LEG. NOWICK:

I mean, if we already know about it that's fine. I just --

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, no. It's a small agency. It isn't a big agency.

LEG. NOWICK:

Well, we could put that at the end of the list and think about that. There's this, and if anybody knows what it is, Gerald Ryan Outreach and then there is Ryan House. I wondered if that's the same organization, St. Vincent de Paul Ryan House, 186,000, 190,000. And then on page three --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you want all of them?

LEG. NOWICK:

I wondered if they're the same, Gerald Ryan Outreach and then St. Vincent de Paul Ryan House. If we can just see if they are the same. Maybe we can get them in. I didn't know if it was duplication, and that's more my question.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That I don't know.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So what were they again?

LEG. NOWICK:

Gerald Ryan Outreach.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are they listed under the same categories?

LEG. NOWICK:

No. It's Youth Bureau -- wait. Youth Bureau is Gerald Ryan Outreach, that was 50,000 and the other is comprehensive -- oh, runaway.

LEG. ALDEN:

Which one, though.

LEG. NOWICK:

That is St. Vincent de Paul Ryan House.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's going to be a different one.

LEG. NOWICK:

It's going to be different, huh?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's 186,000. There's a lot of those runaways, different centers, and I thought part of what we were doing here is to find out about duplication, and it might be just fine, but --

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, that's a good one to start with.

MS. VIZZINI:

Legislator Nowick, the Runaway Program in the Youth Bureau is, I believe, 100% State funded.

LEG. NOWICK:

It is.

MS. VIZZINI:

It provides shelter for runaways. It would be helpful probably to have one of the providers come in and talk about it that would know, though.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You want that one?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. It's State funded but we do give them money.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's part of our budget. Good.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Let me just get -- I'm sorry. I still haven't --

LEG. NOWICK:

Page five, St. Vincent de Paul Ryan House.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Jon, do you have any that you'd like to include?

LEG. COOPER:

I have a few suggestions. On page two, towards the bottom, Long Island Senior Games. On page three, I picked a youth organization, the Huntington YMCA. Also on that same page, Literacy Suffolk. On page four, I picked an organization that gets about a half a million dollars a year, the Suffolk Jewish Community Center. On page five, Long Island Association for AIDS Care and also the Life Center of Long Island, which has gotten a lot of money over the years.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is it, The Life Center?

LEG. COOPER:

The Life Center of Long Island.

LEG. ALDEN:

Almost to the bottom.

LEG. COOPER:

It's third from the bottom on page five.

LEG. COOPER:

And last I went on page seven, I think it was, or page eight, Pedersen-Krag.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

LEG. NOWICK:

A lot of them.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Lou?

LEG. D'AMARO:

He hit most of what I had. How about like VIBS, Catholic Charities.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, Catholic Charities was invited and some of their people were out of town and, you know, I said that we would invite them. So if you want to have them at the next meeting we can see if we can schedule that. You know, what we're doing here is we have way too many names for the next meeting.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah, we'll just build a list.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah. But if this gives us some direction, you know, I'll have my staff mix them up between different purposes, big, small and we'll probably have -- we'll identify enough names for the next two meetings.

LEG. ALDEN:

When is the next meeting?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think it's March eighth.

LEG. ALDEN:

With the Senior Games you just have to watch out because it's either March or April, maybe April is when they actually put the games on. So whoever contacts them --

P.O. LINDSAY:

What we have been doing is we have been inviting people and we got, you know, a couple of turndowns regretfully that they couldn't make it for legitimate reasons and we said that's not a problem, we will schedule you for future meetings.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

LEG. NOWICK:

Are they inviting Bill to play in the games?

LEG. ALDEN:

They always invite Bill to play if he wants to. It's an open invitation.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Boy, I tell you.

LEG. ALDEN:

But I think they invited -- no, I'm not going to do that.

LEG. NOWICK:

You can't do that to me.

P.O. LINDSAY:

There goes the peace and harmony, Dan.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Did we include on the list Suffolk County -- the Coalition Against Domestic Violence? And VIBS.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You have to use your mike.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, you're on the record here. I'm sorry. I didn't realize that. I apologize. I didn't realize we were on the record. Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and also VIBS, again, looking at the overlap.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence is scheduled for today.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, they are?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay, they are the list for today. And what about VIBS?

P.O. LINDSAY:

We could add them.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Legislator Cooper and I had a similar list, so that's fine with me.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you have any, Rick?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I'm looking at this Brentwood Youth Development Corp. Development. It's on page three. I had another one but I will get back to you on that, okay?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Dan?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah. We'll just add to the list. We discussed having Friends of Karen in yet? Because I know some people weren't really aware of the services that they provide when we were talking in the Budget Work Group. So I think it would be a good idea to have them in.

And question to Budget Review. I'm looking at the Suffolk County Archeological Society -- actually maybe this one says association, I thought it was society, because I thought we did fund them this year, we put them back in.

MS. VIZZINI:

What page are you on?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'm looking at page two, about halfway down in economic development. It says Suffolk County Archaeological Association. Is that different than the society? Because that's not funded for next year and I was pretty sure we put the Archaeological Society back in.

MS. VIZZINI:

I'm not sure. I will have to check.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. If we could check that and I think they would be a good group to put in.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Suffolk County --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Archeological Society or Association, whatever -- Gail can check on that. As far as one that crosses a lot of boundaries as the youth group that you mentioned, there's one that services my district, Kate's, Jack's, Joe's and Vivian's. It's called Lifeline Mediation Center. They cover -- they have a very large catchment area. I think that would be a good group to bring in. I think that was -- that was all I have for the moment. I can go back through it. I'm sure we'll come up with more as we need more names. When we're done with this we'll probably have enough for the next few meeting, so.

LEG. NOWICK:

Bill, can I just ask you a question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

We have 23 agencies, which is probably two meetings worth.

LEG. NOWICK:

Maybe somebody can tell me what this is on page two. The SUP NUT Program, 741,000?

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is it?

LEG. NOWICK:

SUP -- S-U-P, NUT -- N-U-T Program.

LEG. ALDEN:

Where about is it?

LEG. NOWICK:

Page two at the bottom.

LEG. ALDEN:

Down at the bottom?

LEG. NOWICK:

Maybe it's short for something.

LEG. COOPER:

Oh, nutrition.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Supplementary Nutrition.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh. Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

But not a contract agency, right?

LEG. NOWICK:

741?

LEG. ALDEN:

It's a non-contract --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

They give away delicious cashews and peanuts.

MS. VIZZINI:

No. That just means that it's not specifically identified as Family Service League or Clubhouse.

There are --

LEG. ALDEN:

See, that's what we want to uncover, all these things that aren't identified in the budget. Now we're getting somewhere. I think after this we can go home, we've accomplished our goal.

MS. VIZZINI:

In the four column --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You've got to bring the mike --

MS. VIZZINI:

Okay. The fourth column, the action -- it's labeled ACT, that's where the infamous pseudo codes

are. If it's zero, zero, zero, zero, it's not specifically identified as to the contract agency that will deliver the service.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well -- question through the Chair. Looking at page two, about a little more than a third of the way down I see a quadruple zero pseudo code and it just says Economic Development Administration, non-contract agency, \$1.827 million. There has to be a way to identify \$1.827 million, even if it's to several agencies that are delivering that service.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I can't find --

LEG. COOPER:

Page two.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Oh, I see. Okay. I'm looking at the wrong column.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, that's not very identifiable, is it.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Could we go through Economic Development and have them find out what that is?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is that the budget line for Economic Development?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, it's the -- it's one of the contract agency lines for Economic Development. There's usually an explanation for these things. Either, you know, it's competitive bid or they haven't identified all the agencies or -- I'm not exactly sure. Well, first of all this is the hotel/motel money so who gets that money may be defined later in the process.

LEG. ALDEN:

We know if it's -- would you suffer an interruption? Legislator Losquadro?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes. Thank you, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Most of the money would actually go to LICVB and then there's a portion of it goes to Parks and it goes to cultural programs for Parks. So you're going to have multiple recipients, but both of those areas should be, you know, easily identified, you know, who gets the money.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Until the Director of Budget Review said that it was hotel/motel money I was a little unclear. Once she said that it started to fall into place a little bit more. But we can get a little more clarification on that. Once you said it was that money that makes a little more sense, but as we move through this some of those other unidentified items I think we should be able to break down further also. This committee would like to see that.

MS. VIZZINI:

Sure. We can put a list together of those if you want.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, this hotel/motel -- the hotel/motel money that you just referred to, that is the total amount

and it's gone into this category? In other words, the total amount collected for the year and it simply goes into this category and then it's dispersed? Is that what you are saying?

MS. VIZZINI:

No, this doesn't present the total amount collected for the year. This presents the amount that is likely to be disseminated through Economic Development. As Legislator Alden pointed out, I think Long Island Visitors and Convention Bureau gets over \$800,000 typically and we transfer that via resolution from the hotel/motel money.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. So just so I understand this, the receipts that we collected are dispersed in various accounts and this is one of the accounts. Is that basically what we're saying?

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just need to make a quick phone call.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So we have a pretty good list. Karen, you're here with your team. If you want to just come up and make yourself at home at the table. Legislator Losquadro just stepped out of the room to make a call. He's paying attention to the cell phone ban.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's good.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That is good. Karen, would you like to introduce everybody? We thank you for coming here today.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

To my right is our Vice-President of Finance, Bernice Selig, and to my left is Larry -- Dr. Larry Weiss, our Vice President of Program Services. And I'm Karen Boorshtein, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Family Service League.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think the format that we're going to follow is going through a set group of questions that we have that will give you guys ample opportunity to tell us all about your agency. You're -- I mean, I have a list here of 20 programs. How many programs do you have?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Forty-six.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Forty-six programs, okay. In five words or less can you tell us what you do? I'm only kidding you. Can you give us a brief description of the agency and all the programs and the population that you serve in what geographical area of Suffolk County.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Absolutely. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell you how critically important your funding is to us and the clients we serve who represent all 18 legislative districts in Suffolk County. In the health and human service industry the Counsel for Accreditation of Children and Family Services is nationally credited as a gold standard organization for setting the highest standards of practice and

care. And in 2001 they awarded Family Service League their seal of approval, the highest accolade an organization can achieve. We're proud to stand before you representing the only agency in Suffolk to have the seal of approval.

Family Service League is a leader in delivering services. For example, to the homeless. Helping those who were once living on the streets throughout every community in Suffolk to find safe, permanent housing. FSL is a leader in the not-for-profit world for providing some of the largest universal pre-K programs in the County to more than 500 four year old children who otherwise would never have the opportunity to go to a preschool program. And Family Service League is a leader in providing comprehensive family centers where we wrap dozens of services around individuals in one location. And a leader for providing a comprehensive scope of behavioral health services, youth and family and senior services throughout the County.

The staff of these programs is a handful of the 475 full and part-time professionals that comprise Family Service League, and yet another fact why our 53 member Board of Directors is so proud to govern this organization. Time and time again our consumer surveys and records and reports indicate that Family Service League staff are relentlessly dedicated and committed to getting the job done and helping clients to obtain the services they need most.

Family Service League is dedicated to helping troubled individuals and families and our mission stands to help individuals, children, families, to mobilize their strengths and improve the quality of their lives at home, in the workplace and in the community.

As I mentioned, we offer 46 different programs in 19 different communities that stretch from Suffolk's western border to Greenport and East Hampton on the east end. In 2006 Family Service League reached approximately 46,000 adults and children. We don't have a duplication of services as we continually develop new initiatives in response to community need and our programs meet the demand of consumers.

Our operating budget is \$18.5 million for 2007. Funding comes from myriad of sources, including all levels of government, program fees, Medicaid and Medicare payments, fund-raisers, direct contributions and private grants. Our contracts with Suffolk County total \$6 million in 2006, of which approximately 4% comes from the Omnibus Budget. It's also important to point out that from every dollar 86 cents goes back to program keeping our administrative costs low.

The funding from the County is critical to us to be able to provide the services we do and without it Family Service League will look very different today. In fact, we'd have to close many, many programs. The additional funding we receive through the Omnibus Budget is truly a life saver, a life saver to those we serve who are the most vulnerable and disenfranchised living in Suffolk. Without the help of you, our County Legislators, we would have to reduce services and turn people away.

With your support we are able to keep programs whole. For example, without your help we would not have a presence in many school districts providing cost saving family strengthening programs like the FAST Program. Programs such as these are preventive and cost relatively little when compared to what it would cost taxpayers if we wouldn't intervene early in the lives of children. Programs such as these cost less than an average of 1,000 per child and compare that to the cost of an institutional placement for over \$70,000 per year per child. We thank you Legislators Montano, Browning and Cooper for helping to sponsor this.

Oftentimes people may not think that when someone commits suicide the impact isn't far reaching and all consuming. We're here to tell you that it does. Suicide affects the entire family, friends, coworkers, and classmates. Without the help and intervention in the wake of the aftermath of a suicide, friends and family members are sure to have residual long lasting problems. Without your help in the Omnibus Budget, we would not have been able to implement our new initiative Suicide Prevention Program. And we thank you Legislators Lindsay and Losquadro for taking the lead on this.

In addition, your funding helps us to help families from low income areas who want -- and children who want to do well in school and struggle to do well and to keep up with their peers but whose parents don't have the resources to pay for expensive tutors on an hourly basis for once or twice a week. Instead with your help in the Omnibus Budget we're able to provide at no cost to children from Riverhead to Bay Shore tutors one on one to help with homework. The results, we have happier, healthier more successful children and parents. This could not be done without your support and we thank you Legislators Montano, D'Amaro and Romaine for sponsoring this.

Your funding goes a long way with Family Service League as we co-locate many services under one roof through our family centers. Within this model, while we may receive funding for youth services, for example, that same child coming to the center, they and their parents can avail themselves of all other programs at our site such as counseling, case management, vocational training program, and much more, oftentimes at no cost. So when you hear from John, who once said that he was homeless and now rehoused, working and is self-sufficient and free of alcohol abuse, we do say thank you to the Suffolk County Legislature for your trust and confidence in us and working with our shared constituency. Thank you. And now your questions?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You want to start, Rick?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes, if you don't mind. Karen, good morning.

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Hi.

LEG. MONTANO:

My mike is on, I just think it is not loud enough. Good morning Karen, John, Bernice. Karen, you just made one statement that I'm not sure I understood, or maybe I didn't get it right. You said that you receive six million in County contracts but that 4% comes from Omnibus?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

Explain that to me.

MR. BOORSHTAIN:

The add-ons, the legislative add-ons that we come to individual Legislators to help to sponsor. That's comprise as about 4% of the budget. About 256,000 comes from legislative add-on grants for {FAST}, for the Family --

LEG. MONTANO:

What you are saying is that when the budget -- just so I understand this. When the budget is recommended you get a certain amount allocated in the recommended budget and then we add on an additional 4% to that?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just to follow-up. That's an average? I mean, it doesn't -- it isn't the same every budget cycle.

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

No, it's not.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Cameron, do you want to?

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi Karen. Thanks for coming down.

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Hi.

LEG. ALDEN:

What is your percentage between monies that you get from governmental agencies and money that you get from your fundraising?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

I will let Bernice Selig answer that.

MS. SELIG:

We get approximately half a million dollars from fundraising, but through events and annual appeal. And on an 18 and a half million dollar budget that's not a huge amount of money. But it allows us to be innovative in some of the programs that we have.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

You have an 18 and a half million budget you just said.

MS. SELIG:

That's correct.

LEG. NOWICK:

And I don't know if you touched upon this, and I'm not sure if we're going to have a copy of what you were reading. But the CEO of your agency, is the CEO making excess of 20% of the total budget?

MS. SELIG:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

LEG. COOPER:

Of the total budget of 18 -- good morning.

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Hi.

LEG. COOPER:

The total budget of 18.5 million, you said that about six million from the County, half million from your own fundraising efforts. The balance is made up where exactly?

MS. SELIG:

About a little over eight million dollars comes through Medicaid third party insurance and direct client fees. We have contracts with every town, with New York State, all the way up to the Federal Government, and that's what makes up the rest of the budget. Of the \$6 million that we have direct contracts with Suffolk County, approximately 1.3 of that is State money that's passed through to us with Suffolk County dollars and another \$350,000 is federal funds passed through. So within that \$6 million, 1.7 comes from other sources and not Suffolk County.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm sorry. Could you repeat that? How much?

MS. SELIG:

Sure. Of our six million signed contracts that we have, that we receive checks for from Suffolk County, approximately \$1.7 million is pass through money from New York State or the Federal Government.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, okay. And just to get the whole picture, the other 12 million in government funding is either from the federal or the State.

MS. SELIG:

Well, eight of that 12 million is in Medicaid and third party insurance and fees.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. SELIG:

Okay, Medicare and so forth. The rest of it comes from a multiple foundation grants as well as all the town funding, school district funding.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So the eighteen million -- half a million of your 18 and a half million dollars is private fundraising. The other 18 million I was assuming was all government grants, but not necessarily so. Some comes from foundations.

MS. SELIG:

That's correct.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Lou, did you have any questions?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. Just to the follow-up one more time on those figures. Eighteen point five is the overall and what percentage of that goes to administrative, to run Family Service League, administrative fees and salaries as opposed to delivery of services.

MS. SELIG:

Approximately 14%.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Fourteen percent?

MS. SELIG:
It varies between 14 and 15%.

LEG. NOWICK:
For administration.

MS. SELIG:
Uh-huh.

LEG. D'AMARO:
And just very briefly, what would you include in administrative fees?

MS. SELIG:
The three of us, officers and directors, insurance, our audit fees, our legal fees. Anything that is not easily identifiable to a client or a program.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Do the administrative fees in a given fiscal year ever exceed the amount that you actually budgeted for them? And if so, how come?

MS. SELIG:
No. It's usually within the budget.

LEG. D'AMARO:
It's within the budget?

MS. SELIG:
Right. Our administrative budget has been fairly steady over the -- we have not added administrators, we have not expanded what we needed to run the Family Service League, so we have a fairly good idea of what it's going to cost at the beginning of the year. The percentage changes by the number of programs we have and how we can cost it out among our programs. But the figures we know what they are going forward.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Cameron?

LEG. ALDEN:
Karen, have you been audited by Federal Government, Medicaid, Suffolk County, and how recently.

MS. BOORSHTEN:
Yes, we have. Medicaid was last year?

MS. SELIG:
Different programs have had Medicaid audits over the years. Probably two years ago was the last one and I believe 2001 was our last Suffolk County audit.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. As far as success of your program, how do you establish those criteria and measurements?

MS. BOORSHTEN:

Each program is charged with the responsibility to have outcome measures and they can vary from whatever the program sets up to reducing placement. Say, for example, one of our programs, Home Base and Home Safe, has a 98% success rate in averting residential placement. We look at those dollars of what it would cost had we sent those children into residential placement as compared to what's in the budget. So we look at a cost measure that way.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now does Suffolk County require you to provide that information?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Our contracts do, yes. We have to list outcomes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So at the end of the year you have to justify?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Absolutely. There's an explanation of costs every year that you have to complete for every budget, every program going forward, and showing them, you know, why should they fund, continue to fund the program and weighing those outcomes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So your individual programs, that would -- that type of cost analysis and success analysis would go to the individual departments that -- like Social Services?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Rick?

LEG. MONTANO:

Karen, I just received the other day, and I don't have it in front of me, a request for funding for a gang prevention program in Brentwood.

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

Uh-huh.

LEG. MONTANO:

I think it was a request for 50,000 the first year and then 350 for the two years. Are you familiar with that?

MS. BOORSHTAIN:

I am. Yeah, I know I was told that you had looked at it, the Anti Gang Task Force. We presented it to the District Attorney's Office for funding.

LEG. MONTANO:

Oh, okay. Here's the question I had, though. It had to do more with the proposal itself. It in the proposal it called for the hiring of a project director and then other expenses that would be within the 50,000. But there was a category that said administration and it was about, if I remember correctly, about 7,000. So if you took the 7,000, that would be 14%.

Now, what I'm asking is that that's an administrative cost that I guess the corporation applies to this particular proposal. Is that across the board? So for every program that the County funds, the 46, there's a certain percentage that goes into administration?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Yes.

MS. SELIG:

Every year we fill out a CFR for the New York State.

LEG. MONTANO:

CFR meaning?

MS. SELIG:

Certified Financial Report. It goes to the County. It's demanded by OMH, we list each one of our programs. And at that we use the cost ratio averaging method. We take our administrative cost, the exact cost of each program, and spread it across.

LEG. MONTANO:

So it generally runs -- each program, then, each of the 46 in terms of delivery of services, 14% of that goes towards administration? Is that how I understand this?

MS. SELIG:

It averages out to about 14. One year it could be 14.6, the next year it could be 14.2, it could be up as high as 15 depending on the total budget for that year.

LEG. MONTANO:

And for the charitable organizations there's generally a standard, that's standard of measurement, either by the government or by the Attorney General's Office. I know that there's a certain number when you hit administrative costs over a certain amount you're really in an area where, you know, you're questionable. Do you know what that percentage is overall?

MS. SELIG:

Our auditors tell us it is about 20%.

LEG. MONTANO:

Twenty percent. Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And just to the follow-up on that. I'm familiar with some of our universities that they could take anywhere between 25 and 33% of grants coming in to those institution.

LEG. MONTANO:

For administration.

P.O. LINDSAY:

For administration. So 14 is on the low side.

MS. SELIG:

We're proud of it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just real quickly, can you name three or four other agencies that provide similar services?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

You know, every organization out there, Legislator Nowick, has their niche in Suffolk County. But there's, as you all know, there's a huge demand for these services. There are mental health services provided by Pedersen-Krag or FECS so there are agencies out there that do other -- similar services but in different, you know, different geographic areas as well. But, you know, everyone out there has developed their individual niche as an organization for the services they provide.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Karen, I'm interested in the family centers. That's an interesting concept. How many family centers do you have across the County?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

We have four family centers. A small community based one we call in Huntington Station, we have our regional center in Huntington on Park Avenue, it's our administrative headquarters. One in Bay Shore and in Riverhead. And then, I'm sorry, another one we just developed in Brookhaven.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the concept there is it's a one stop type of thing that you --

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Exactly. We co-locate services there because -- so people can, you know, go from different places in our building. If they come in with one problem and their counselor is talking to go them and they say gee, you know, I have a problem with my elderly parent who is in a nursing home and I'm really not happy with what's going on in the nursing home, how can you help. Well say you know what? We need you to see Ruth Berger or we need you to see our elderly counselor in this building and we're going to get you set up.

We really have found that model to be absolutely stellar in providing services and insuring that clients follow through with services because it really is reported in the literature that we read that oftentimes if someone is at one center and you say well, you know, Mr. Lindsay we'd like you to go over here, you know, take a bus and go down to this office, you are not going to go. So we know that the likelihood of someone getting all of those services and getting their needs met in a comprehensive manner is really well met and well suited to the model that we have as family centers.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

One thing that we're going to be looking at over the coming months is whether there is -- if there is duplication of effort, various agencies being funded to do more or less the same job, whether there's any way of reducing costs by consolidating the programs into one agency, reducing overhead, administrative costs.

So, for example, take mental health services. There are a number of Family Service League programs in that area. As you mentioned FECS of course has programs, Pedersen-Krag has programs. Do you see if they were consolidated under one roof, either PK or Family Service League, do you think realistically it would result in any reduced costs? And if not, why.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

I don't think so, and I will defer to Larry and Bernice in a minute. But I don't think so because, you know, you're going to have to invest those same dollars. I mean, Pedersen-Krag, FECS and Family Service League, we're huge, we're huge for a reason. We attract a lot of contracts and we're, you know, very grateful that we have the confidence of every branch of government to award these

contracts. But because the County is so huge, if we were to absorb another agency, the same money would have to go to us. We'd need more administrative oversight and more program people to do it.

They're wonderful agencies, I am not taking away from those agencies. Please, they're really terrific. We know what we provide, we know what our cost of operation are. We know we run a very cost effective, outcome driven program, so we do a great job, but I don't think you'd be reducing costs dramatically to consolidate services such as that.

You know, a small agency that has one program that, you know, there might be costs realized by providing that, you know, under the umbrella of one agency. But an organization such as those you mentioned, they really would be too big to really, I think, realize any costs. Do you have anything to add?

MS. SELIG:

Yeah, I agree. Most of the mental health programs that are duplicated, you know, we have, Pedersen-Krag has, FECS has, the areas that we serve are very different. So if we would let's say take over someone else's program serving in a different area, the cost would be the same, we would just be now the people presenting the service in a different area.

The only difference is sometimes with a small agency we have -- it doesn't cost us any more money to put another ten employees on our payroll. We have an HR department to handle it where a small agency might be spending more money on the administration of that program or developing it. They can't share a secretary between two programs, they need their own secretary to handle it. But that's small compared to the larger programs and the larger agencies.

LEG. COOPER:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think you were really hitting on what I was driving at and you mentioned it when you were giving the example to Legislator Lindsay. Consolidation of, you know, perhaps administrative functions is one thing, but if we don't have -- really the point of any of these, and your agency, other agencies, is to provide a service that people are going to use. And really it's about geographic location, as you pointed out earlier. If we tried to consolidate all of this into one brick and mortar facility, the likelihood of people outside a certain geographic area using it I think would be very small. So a lot of the -- you know, maybe perceived costs and consolidation would not be realized because you need to have those various satellite offices to be able to service the population. Would you agree with that?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Oh, absolutely. And, you know, so many of our clients drive bicycles, you know, to offices because they can't get from one place to another. We have people going on bicycles in this time of year to get to one office. If we didn't have that office in Bay Shore, you know, they are not going to drive a bicycle to get to Wyandanch to another providers, so I absolutely agree.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Just to follow-up a little bit more on that whole issue of efficiency, consolidation, something that Legislator Losquadro and I are familiar with on the School Commission as well we're looking at this. And there is a whole school of thought out there that says if you consolidate administrative functions and facilities and services and purchases you can realize an effective cost savings.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Uh-huh.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And -- I'm sorry. Whose the financial officer here? I apologize. Have you ever explored on a more formal basis with the other agencies that deliver similar services whether or not it might make sense to combine efforts on any level?

MS. SELIG:

No. We have occasionally done a joint project with them, but we have never talked about it. We on our own belong to certain organizations -- you know, umbrella organizations to purchase goods or to save money in that respect. But no, we've never just sat down with another large agency.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand and agree with your perspective that it's more, and what Legislator Losquadro said, more about geographic location. I don't think we just put up a building and say there is the service and this is efficient. I understand that.

But our perspective is when we go through this budget process and we have several contract agencies requesting from the County and through the Legislature funding for what appears to us on paper to be very similar services, one thing that I am very interested in finding out is why those discussions never take place. Is it more just about -- and this is in no way meant as a criticism of what you do in a day and we appreciate that very, very much. But I just wonder why you don't think about that or explore that.

MS. SELIG:

I think that we are really out there delivering the services with waiting lists on almost every one of our programs--

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. SELIG:

-- that it never occurs to us as we're doing this. We're looking at the client, we're looking at the demand for service, we are looking at what the client is asking for that we don't have the resources to provide.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand that. Let me give you an example, and I am going to relate this to something unrelated which is schools. One of the things we talked about, geography, where you have two school districts and there's a line drawn between those districts. And there may be a house 50 feet on one side of the line and a house on 50 feet on the other side of the line. And two different school buses go within a hundred feet of each other at roughly the same time to pick up schoolchildren. One of the things we're thinking about is well, is there a way to have at least the districts speaking with each other and doing their schedule perhaps on a larger scale.

The same could be said for the delivery of services where what you are telling me that you have a waiting list, let's say. But what if there's three other agencies offering that same service that could possibly cover, just as a matter of scheduling, something that simple, some of those folks that are

waiting. It goes to efficiency at that point. Is that something that you ever explore or do you work with other agencies that deliver similar services?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Yes, we do. Absolutely. We could collaborate, we refer people. Oftentimes consumers are very educated and, you know, if they have a mental health issue and they go down that list of mental health agencies they are going to go to the one who gets in first, but oftentimes when someone comes to us if it's not something we provide or there is a wait list we absolutely do give recommendations for other really good providers nearby where they might want to consider going.

DR. WEISS:

We belong to any number of consortiums, coalitions, with other organizations that provide like services. We work very collaboratively with them. For example, on the east end we have three licensed out-patient clinics. The geographic expanse is enormous throughout the County, so the three that we have, one on the North Fork with a satellite in Greenport and two on the South Fork, there are two other agencies that also provide services further west. We are always referring back and forth to each other and we all have fairly extensive waiting lists. But it would never occur to us not to refer to them.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's great to hear.

DR. WEISS:

The difficulty is not in the referral process, it's in finding an organization that has the capacity to take somebody, always.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's encouraging to hear. I just don't have the knowledge of how you operate in a day so that's one of the purposes of why we're here. That does go to efficiency and that makes a lot of sense to me.

The other aspect of -- we have a limited amount of funds to give out that comes from taxpayers and we have to be mindful of that is, you know, we touched on the administrative duplication where you have let's say two or three agencies doing or basically servicing the same needs in the communities.

DR. WEISS:

But not the same populations. We don't have two organizations in the same neighborhood serving the same populations.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

DR. WEISS:

We have multiple organizations in different not necessarily formal catchment areas, but different parts of the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

DR. WEISS:

And typically there is not a great deal of overlap.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and I understand that. But what I'm saying is when you run your organization there is a trend taking place over many years of companies merging with other companies and they do it for a reason, and the biggest reason they do it other than to maximize their profit, one of the ways they do that is through economies of scale and, you know, why have four support staff when you can

have two? Just by combining it make a lot of sense. Now, we touched on that but I just wanted to ask is that -- or maybe I did ask this. But that's not anything that was ever formally explored or considered by your agency?

MS. BOORSHEIN:

No, it hasn't. As I said, we certainly try to do that through the model that we have as an agency through our family centers where we can have economies of scale by having one secretary service multiple programs, but no, not formally with other agencies.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. And it's encouraging that you do that within your agency, and I'm sure, you know, that makes you much more efficient than if they were just free standing facilities operating on their own.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Absolutely. And over the years, I mean, you know, we didn't always operate this way. These family centers have evolved over time and over the years we have consolidated more and more of our programs under this model to help reduce our costs.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I thank you, Karen, for bringing your staff here. It was a very informative for us about the different operations of your agency. And just, you know, a quick follow-up. I know that you have been in my office with other mental health delivery agencies as a coalition --

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- to talk to us about the overall scope throughout the County so I know you do work cooperative. Thank you very much for coming in.

MS. BOORSHEIN:

Thank you.

MS. SELIG:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. We have Mr. Lombardi here from IGHM and Mr. Seaman from Flight 800. You guys want to come up together?

MR. SEAMAN:

Sure.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Mr. Seaman, you know, I heard you were in Florida and came up for this meeting which wasn't necessary. I don't know whether my staff explained that to you. We could have rescheduled you.

MR. SEAMAN:

They did but, Legislator Lindsay, the families are very honored to have the opportunity to address this group. We're very respectful of the efforts that you've put forth on our behalf, and we recognize you have a full agenda also. We're more than happy to travel to expedite this process and to have the opportunity to talk about the memorial that we have created for the loved ones we lost.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. We understand that, specifically with the Flight 800 Memorial that your two groups work together to provide the maintenance of the facility. But I also know that Mr. Lombardi, you have other extensive programs throughout the County that -- your other programs are funded by the County as well?

MR. LOMBARDI:

No. The majority of our programs -- we have an annual budget of approximately \$70 million that's predominately funded through the Federal Government and New York State through Medicaid.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So you don't have many other County funding.

MR. LOMBARDI:

It's very, very limited. We do have a number of County contracts, but they're more of the -- on the maintenance side of things and it's not funding that's provided from the County.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What do you mean maintenance?

MR. LOMBARDI:

We provide a lot of park maintenance throughout the Parks Department so we have signed contracts where we go and provide park cleanups over at the Vietnam Memorial, also down at Flight 800 at Smith Point County Park and a number of other parks.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Then let me just be quiet and let you two guys give us a brief description of your agencies and the programs and what population you serve. We know the geographical area is Smith Point, okay, so.

MR. SEAMAN:

If I could start. I would like to introduce myself. My name is John Seaman and for the past ten years I have served the Families of TWA Flight 800 as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and as their spokesperson. Our organization is a family organization. It's comprised of families who lost children, parents, spouses in the crash of Flight 800.

Our organization was formed at the hotel in New York City where we spent three weeks waiting for the recovering and the identification process. Our Board of Directors is made up completely and has always been completely made up of family members who served unreimbursed, unsalaried, if you would. It's never been about money for us. It's about love, it's about grief, and they say grief is the price you pay for love.

Our organization was incorporated almost ten years ago with the assistance of a prominent attorney at the time, a man by the name of Dennis Vacco. I believe he was serving as the State's Attorney General at the time. He came to us at the hotel and warned us that we would be subject to exploitation and victimization and he had some of his attorneys work with us to draw up incorporation papers and help us to incorporate within the State as a not-for-profit organization.

We set out certain goals, what do we do. Over the last ten years we've traveled around the country and Europe and we have been instrumental in passing -- having Congress pass the Family Assistance Act which extend a level, the minimum level of care and required certain minimum standards being met by the airlines when their planes crash and kill the did passengers.

We also were active and instrumental in working with the airline industry and Boeing in particular and U.S. Congress in having the Death on the High Seas Act amended for the first time since it was passed in 1925. I'm sure you are all familiar with Death on the High Seas Act and the implications it has for accountability when there's a disaster and also compensation for the victims. The Death on

the High Seas Act was passed in 1925 to protect the industry when ships went down at sea and couldn't be accounted for. So rather than litigate to try to figure out what went wrong, they set a cap of \$75,000 per person in liability for the industry. And the liability only applied to, excuse me, it only applied to men. Children and women were considered worthless and there was no compensation for the loss of your girl child your boy child or your wife. We found that to be offensive. Of course I was completely unaware of it until the Flight 800 crash. We had that law changed. It took several years.

We also traveled to Paris and Berlin at our own expense and worked with European authorities to have the Warsaw Pact changed, to extend that protection to families in Europe. In our flight there are some very, as everyone knows, there were a number of people on Long Island on that airplane, but the bulk of the passengers were not from around here. And at the hub and spoke system everybody flies to New York to get the flight to Paris. Many people from -- about 80% of the passengers were American, but they were from California, Florida, Baltimore, the west coast, Pennsylvania. There were 40 people from PA. So we were instrumental in the force behind changing these laws to protect people from the things that happened to us, which I won't go into.

One of the goals that we had also was to improve safety and the FAA will tell you they made a hundred changes to improve safety since Flight 800. I think the real number is closer to 40. There's one remaining issue that our organization is still pressing on and that's the inerting of the fuel tanks, which is the probable cause that was identified as the cause for Flight 800 to explode offshore. We have been working on that for ten years. We are not going to give up.

Last the summer we enlisted the help of Congressmen Bishop and Senator Schumer. They had hearings and they were able to get a commitment from the FAA to finally make a public ruling and determination to cause the planes to be changed. In the meantime, we worked independently with Boeing which, as you know, is the biggest manufacturer of airplanes in the world and in American, and they have been kind enough to listen to us and have agreed for the first time in history without requirement by the FAA to modify their new airplanes as they come off production. For a year now they have been building airplanes with this inerting system. But we still want it to apply to all the existing fleet.

People don't realize it, but before Flight 800 three or four planes around the world blew up from the same thing that our plane blew up from and subsequent to Flight 800 blowing up two more planes have blown up from the fuel tanks exploding. The truth of the matter is these things have been happening in remote parts of the world and several times while the planes were still taxiing on the ground. Not a big loss of life, and certainly not 230 people in a fireball in the shadow of the biggest media capital, New York, in the world. So you don't hear about it as much but we're aware of it and so is the FAA and NTSB.

One of the other goals of our organization was to create an appropriate memorial for the people that were lost and also to commemorate and acknowledge the help that was extended to us by the many, many people involved in the recovery in this community and around the country. That's a goal that we set out for ourselves and in 1998 the then Executive, Robert Gaffney I believe, announced that the County was aware that we had this goal in mind and they announced that they would provide us a location that would allow us to build this memorial.

In 1999 the Suffolk County Legislature passed a resolution enabling us to create a memorial in Smith Point Park and in that resolution they said that if we would build it at our expense the County of Suffolk would provide perpetual maintenance. We took that as a commitment and another challenge that we had to undertake and we set out ourselves to raise the funds to design the memorial and construct it.

I couldn't help but overhear from the previous folks that were talking about, I know there are some questions about does anybody else do similar things. You might be thinking that Flight 800 is unique, but I will mention just briefly two other airplane crashes that have happened subsequent to

us in this neighborhood, so to speak. One was the crash of Flight 587 a couple months after 9/11, crashed into Queens into the homes. In that case comparable services are being provided by the City of New York. They provided the land, a couple of million dollars at least for construction. They provided the staffing, the administration, the contract management, the construction management, a team of professionals and consultants who have spent a lot of time with us asking us how we did this. They even sent busloads, the Mayor sent busloads of families out to Flight 800's memorial to use it as a benchmark for their own.

The second example I can give in the neighborhood is the crash of one of the 9/11 planes in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. And for that the Federal Government again undertook -- the Federal Government in this case undertook all the expenses. I believe last I heard it was 58 million dollars to build a memorial and a professional staff to maintain it and a foundation to provide a perpetual memory.

But in our case we undertook to do this ourselves. It took us a little while to raise the money. We raised about one and a quarter million dollars. But one and a quarter million dollars was really not enough. If it wasn't for the help that we got from this community, I'm talking about over a million dollars of labor was donated by the unions on Long Island -- operating engineers, electricians, plumbers, laborers, everyone came out. Presidents of the unions dug trenches with the families to lay electrical lines, to lay plumbing lines, to lay irrigation. And the U.S. Navy sent a battalion of SEABEE's who worked with us for several months, six days a week, 12 hours a day. Families came from all over, Europe and America. We worked side by side with the men and the volunteers and in 15 months we created the Flight 800 Memorial.

We like it. Most of the people who have seen it are -- take great comfort from it. It's hard to be objective a little bit but we think that it's the -- the memorial serves the purpose of alleviating grief and creating a healing opportunity for families as well as other people who were involved in the crash.

A sense of the success of the memorial can be had by the fact that towns on Long Island have sent representatives to see us to talk about the memorial, how did you do that. The County Exec's Office -- the current County Exec's has been in contact with us asking us some of the logistical problems that were solved in their efforts to build a 9/11 memorial. Westchester County has been in contact with us. The Department of Interior asked for our advice on how to handle the approach to designing and constructing a memorial in Pennsylvania for the 9/11 crash. People around the country have come to see this memorial and people all around the east coast have contacted us, our family association, and we've provide the help we can in terms of advising them on how to deal with some of these issues in this type of an undertaking.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you, Mr. Seaman. But maybe, Mr. Lombardi, you could tell us a little bit about your organization briefly because we have some time constraints.

MR. LOMBARDI:

Sure. IGHL was formed in 1978 as a result of the Willowbrook Consent Decree. I'm sure everyone remembers the Heraldo Rivera expose when they uncovered the horrors that took place at Willowbrook. Walter Stockton, the founder and CEO of IGHL took eight people directly out of Willowbrook with three staff members back in 1978 and we've grown to an agency that employs over 1400 staff members and we care for over 5,000 members of this community. We operate over 50 group homes throughout Suffolk County from as far west as Smithtown and as far east on the North Fork out to Southold and on the South Fork out to Southampton.

We also began developing three years ago a number of programs down in the State of Florida where there is a huge need for services. We operate a number of day programs, residential facilities. And there are other agencies similar to ours. Most people are familiar with Maryhaven or UCP of Suffolk, so there are other agencies that are similar to us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And -- well, I will turn it over to the committee. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

John, I think the money that we have given you in the past is a direct flow through to IGLH. Is that correct?

MR. LOMBARDI:

IGHL. Yes, that's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

IGHL, sorry. And much?

MR. LOMBARDI:

Yes, we -- yeah, go ahead.

MR. SEAMAN:

Legislator Alden, we have a handout for you. If I can give it to you you'll get a sense of how we're organized to do the maintenance.

LEG. ALDEN:

Frank, if you could just tell us basically what do you do with the money and what maintenance performance do you actually do.

MR. LOMBARDI:

When the families first started to discuss the memorial it became obvious they needed some help within the local community and it was something that we wanted to get involved with. Being headquarters in the Moriches area they just seemed that they needed our help in a number of different areas. One of which was to help, you know, along with the \$72,000 grant, we have the finance people in place that can help manage the money and the receipts that come in. I know John and Eleanor they spend a lot of time down here on Long Island, but it really is critical to have a local presence, you know, and also having an agency that has worked with the County. Even though we don't get funded directly through Suffolk County we have worked with you guys for the last 29 years, so it seemed like a perfect fit.

MR. SEAMAN:

If I could just say one thing about maintenance. We spent 15 months building the memorial, but about a month or two the memorial was complete we had two things happen. Officials from the Parks Department told us two things. Number one, I know the Legislature said we're going to maintain this, but we really can't do that. Our idea of maintenance is mowing the lawn once a month. And number two, we need your help because our beach is going away and we need your help. We have been working for years, we can't get the permits to protect the beach and now that you're there, you need to protect yourself as well.

I would like to say one other thing. This has been brought up a couple of times. It's kind of important about the location of the memorial. We asked for an opportunity to build a memorial somewhere in the Smith Point area. The actual area that the memorial is built in is an area that prescribed by the administration at that time. In fact, we didn't want to build the memorial 20 feet from the maintenance garage and the ladies room. We asked if we could have the location a little further back in the dunes, away from that, because we wanted something that would be a little more private, a little more intimate. We were told this is the place and that's why we put it there. When we were approached to do this we realized that if they can't do the maintenance, we have to, it's important to us. And number two, for better or worse, if the pavilion washes away and the memorial washes away that's not good, so we agreed to do that. Within six months we had all the permits from {FINS}, the Department of the Interior, the Army Corp of Engineers, the New York

State DEC, and then we came to you and requested funding and you were kind enough to provide it.

But this chart in front of you talks about how do we handle this maintenance responsibility which we didn't anticipate having, because we thought once we completed the memorial we could lay our burden down. This is what we're doing right now. The Family Association continues to directly manage and administer the memorial. You can see from this little chart that in '06 we put in about \$85,000 and most of that, 60,000, was for improvements, most notably the 8,000 pound sculpture that was the last finishing piece that sits on top of the personal effects in the center of the memorial.

We have on-site manager which IGHL pays, a full-time manager and will full benefits. And then we have, the way we do it is IGHL you can they provide funding, they provide administrative services, staffing equipment, vehicles and insurance. Insurance is a big one. And they also administer the County grant for us because we don't have an office, we work out of our homes, our board members. We have computers, we have fax machines, we don't charge rent for anything. We don't have heating bills, we don't have staff, we don't have a personnel department, we don't have a way of hiring people, but IGHL does. The grant goes to them and it is used primarily for staffing and materials. I have an additional handout that will detail every dollar.

We also deal with community service workers because this is not enough. It is a labor intensive thing. We have over 8,000 plants at the memorial. Remember, it is an ocean arboretum. Those of you who have been there, and I know quite a few of you have and helped us build it, but the inner areas, the stone work, is more the somber area, but it symbolizes the lives lost. But the gardens are the living part of the memorial and they symbolize the positiveness of life.

We have community service workers through the Red Cross that administers it here in Suffolk County through the courts and we had -- last year we had 2,300 hours of community service workers, 40 to 50 people working from a week to a month, whatever they have to serve. We use those folks. We also had this year 1,200 hours of volunteers, family members and local volunteers in the community who come out to help with the gardening. And we also have the Sheriff SLAP Program, which is terrific because nobody works like those convicts. They're strong, they're young, and they are motivated. We have those for 13 days. They come out with a team and they do a lot of the heavy work. Every year we put down 200 yards of mulch. I don't know if you know how much that is -- it's truckloads and truckloads. It's a lot and I'm getting too old to shovel, so they provide a great service to us.

For your purposes I did something, I hope it's okay. I tried to convert the hours that the volunteers and the community service workers work into dollars. I use the living wage standard. We pay the living wage. We are happy to pay the living wage. It's expensive down here. I live Upstate. But \$12 an hour without health benefits is approximately the formula, plus mandatory fringe, which is about 11%, that's FICA, Social Security. Plus you have to pay for vacation, sick leave and everything. It comes out to about \$15 an hour. I put this on the chart and converted it so you can see the value of those services and how they effect the total cost of operating the memorial.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are you done? Go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, so, John, Frank would be more the operations guy as far as, you know, like the ongoing maintenance, the ongoing -- and I going to call it -- it's more like gardening, then, that type of maintenance? Because the stone and things like that should be minimal as far as --

MR. SEAMAN:

You'd be surprised. We were surprised because we never did this before. But gardening is a big part of the manpower requirement, but also the stone work -- the Park Department estimates we have over 200,000 thousand visitors a year. That's a lot of cigarette butts, it's a lot of Popsicle, the skateboarders do damage. They scratch up the stone work. We have to bring in the stone guys to

sandblast and clean or repolish. There's a lot of work that has to be done for the electrical systems.

LEG. ALDEN:

So our \$72,000 is a fraction of what actually goes into the maintenance and the upkeep on this garden.

MR. SEAMAN:

That's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because we want to get it right for the future, too, so that there is no, you know, debate on it or anything like that. If we've made a commitment we should get it right. That's safe to say, then? I see what you did with the conversion.

MR. SEAMAN:

The reason we did that is because a lot of people have never taken the time and attention, we appreciate this, to understand what's involved in this. We wanted to give the context of the grant. I have here another handout that details the budget for last year, the Family budget, not the IGHL budget, what we put in and for maintenance, not including the sculpture and how the \$72,000 that we got last year we were so happy for, how that was allocated so you can see the details.

LEG. ALDEN:

You have copies of all that or we should make copies. Do you have enough?

MR. LOMBARDI:

No, we have copies for everybody.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anyone else on the committee? Legislator D'Amaro, we are running a late, too, so if you could be brief.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Just in the 72,000 that is provided by the County, you have on this flowchart staff and materials and so that is -- but that goes towards the general purpose of maintenance of the monument. Is that correct?

MR. SEAMAN:

Yes, it is. This paper will show you -- this is not exact, but usually a little less than half for staffing and the rest for materials. This will give you breakdown of the materials.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Does the budget, looking at your chart I just quickly added up the numbers. I appreciate that you put the dollar amounts on the labor just to give us a rough idea. But if you had to go out and hire that would be the cost roughly. You are looking at about 209 to 210,000 a year in cost and labor to maintain the memorial.

MR. SEAMAN:

Actually a little more than that. It is about three hundred.

MR. LOMBARDI:

It's closer to 300,000 if you take all the costs into consideration.

Obviously, you know, IGHL is a not-for-profit. There's only so much that we can -- so many costs

that we can eat.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand.

MR. LOMBARDI:

We made a commitment eight years ago to the families to get involved in this. It really has been a unique program. One of the things that we quickly realized was how harsh the environment is down there just in general on the plant material. You will see a lot of plant costs in there. You guys have a lot of deer down at Smith Point and when it gets cold there's not a lot of stuff for the deer to eat and they come down to the memorial, you know, to get their food.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just one more question, because I know we want to move on. We have a lot to do today. How is the budget trended over time? You know, what kind of increases are you looking at per year?

MR. LOMBARDI:

As far as the County is concerned or?

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, as far as your overall budget for maintenance of the memorial. You know, not including the building of it of course.

MR. SEAMAN:

I would say that the costs have trended to stabilize because we have completely redesigned and relandscaped the memorial to move in -- the original landscaping was done at the advice of the nursery men and landscape architects on Long Island. Everybody underestimated the deer damage and the difficulty of the salt and the wind. We redesigned everything to bring in more natural elements, grasses, atamesias, things that grow at the beach.

I would say our costs are pretty stable. We had a couple of issues with the memorial itself, some settlement and some imperfections in some of the original work which has all been replaced. So I would expect this to be a stable cost structure I would say don't expect 60,000 in improvements a year because that was a unique thing.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Great. So when you saw the problems arise over time you addressed them and that's --

MR. SEAMAN:

We adapted to the environment.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- flattening out your budget. Okay, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Actually, you just addressed my question, which went to the improvement costs. The sculpture is obviously a one time cost and taking some of your experience into account, you've sort of redone how you've looked at this and expect to lower those costs. That was really my question, was about the improvement costs. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I just have real quick ones. John, your organization is total volunteers.

MR. SEAMAN:

We have been so for ten years.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes. And, Frank, yours has 1,400 employees.

MR. LOMBARDI:

That's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you know what percentage of your overall budget goes towards administration expenses?

MR. LOMBARDI:

Yes. I couldn't help but overhearing the other agency prior to us. It is about 14%. That seems to be kind of the standard for a lot of our agencies. And I know you guys are pressed for time. If you'd like, we do have some experience in some of the questions that were asked to the prior agency in terms mergers and acquisitions, economies and scale and whatnot.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't think we want to go into that.

MR. LOMBARDI:

No, not now, but, you know, in the future if you'd like.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right. Because primarily you are not a major County contract agency. Your only involvement is through the memorial.

MR. LOMBARDI:

That's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What did you say your total budget was, 18 million?

MR. LOMBARDI:

No. We are up close to 70 million dollars.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seventy million. And of course the CEO, you don't make more than 20% of the 70 million.

MR. LOMBARDI:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

If you did, you'd be hearing -- okay. Thank you very much, fellows, for coming. I really appreciate it and I thank you for your extraordinary effort, John, to come up from Florida.

MR. SEAMAN:

Thank you. Mr. Lindsay, can I make one closing comment?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sure.

MR. SEAMAN:

The maintenance of the memorial is very important to us and to a lot of other people as well. We

appreciate the efforts that you have gone through to help us to keep it nice, keep it the way we have it. We have continued to do bring people in the community and to make improvements, but there is a resolution laid on the table, I believe Tuesday, to try to restore the funding to last year's level. I believe it goes to the Park Committee next on the 28th of this month. We'd like very much if we could ask you to -- if you have any additional questions or uncertainties or things you'd like to clarify we are very happy to do it.

We are hoping that you would grace us with approving this budget amendment on your next meeting on the sixth so that we know going into the spring that we can continue to keep our gardeners on staff. It's a little difficult when you don't know each year if you are going to have enough money to hire the people to keep them.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Frank, does any of your clients work on the maintenance there?

MR. LOMBARDI:

Yes. We have a number of disabled people that do go down to the memorial. However, the gardens themselves are so complicated that it is beyond their ability to really work in the garden. So they go down there and they do, you know, trash pickups, you know, they polish the walls. They do some light granite work and cleaning and whatnot. But that's about as much as they can do.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Dan, last question, because we have to move on.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I was just going to echo your comments. John, I appreciate you coming. We do certainly understand the importance of this maintenance. Looking at all of these contracts obviously we just want to see where our money is being spent. But I know for myself it took me five years to get down to ground zero after losing my neighbor on September 11th and it was a very difficult thing for me to do. I just want to say thank you for all of your work and to the other families.

MR. SEAMAN:

You are very welcome. And in the future going forward I wouldn't want you to read this in the paper. We feel like the Legislature and the County has been partners with us. We realize that even though it's only a small amount of money in a \$2.7 billion budget, everything counts. Everything has got to be accounted for. For us this maintenance process has been pretty grueling. We thought we put the burden down in '02, and it is a gift that seems to keep giving. It's difficult. It's painful, the uncertainty and the complexity.

Our plan going forward is we had some meeting with Congressman Bishop. We believe we will have the support from our two State Senates. We have asked Congressman Bishop to look into what options would be available to us in terms of, I'll use the word -- this is, I'm sure, the wrong word -- federalizing the Flight 800 Memorial. Whether it is being declared a national historic site or a national memorial, something that would do two things. It would maybe provide some protective mechanism for us and the building there because it would suddenly become a federal protection, and possible advantageous funding mechanisms, because we realize it is a burden. We didn't want to create a burden. We didn't want that plane to crash.

Also, a number of people have suggested, including Marsha {Lauer}, a number of people have suggested that maybe the long run is you have to build a trust fund, a privately raised monies to build a perpetual trust fund that will provide for the maintenance and take this burdensome process off you. I mean, you have a lot of work to do. This is \$70,000 or 100 which we asked for. And try to, maybe over a period of time, set up a perpetual fund and then make this completely privately maintained. But we hope that you could help us in the meantime because the experts we talk to in Wall Street to set this up, a trust fund like this you need five to seven million dollars and that is going to take us a little while to try to raise privately.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thanks, John. Thank you for coming.

MR. SEAMAN:

Thank you very much.

MR. LOMBARDI:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is Barbara Faron in the audience? Please come forward. Barbara is with the Federation of Organizations.

MS. FARON:

Yes, I'm the Executive Director of Federation of Organizations. This is Steve {McCarthy}, who is our Chief Financial Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Maybe you could give the committee just a brief description of your agency and the programs and what population you serve in what geographical area of Suffolk County.

MS. FARON:

Well, we are a not-for-profit providing services in mental health and aging. It is some of our aging programs that are partly funded by Suffolk County. We work throughout Suffolk County, all areas of Suffolk County. Our mental health programs are funded through direct State money and fee for service for Medicaid. The programs -- do you want me to address the programs that are funded by Suffolk County?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sure.

MS. FARON:

The programs that are funded by Suffolk County are the Foster Grandparent Program, which is a program which employs low income seniors to work in schools throughout Suffolk County with children at risk. We have approximately 175 foster grandparents that are working in something like 60 different sites with about 700 children a day in Suffolk County.

For the Foster Grandparent Program we receive approximately 125 -- \$175,000 from the County and bring in \$492,000 from the Federal Government to support the program in addition to other fundraising that we do. But the major funding for Foster Grandparents comes from our federal grant of \$492,000.

The other program that we also receive support for --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could I just stop you there?

MS. FARON:

Sure.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I probably should know this, but foster grandparents is connecting grandparents with children that don't have parents or don't have grandparents?

MS. FARON:

Basically the Foster Grandparent Program is one of the Older American Volunteer Programs created under federal law in 1972. And the idea of Foster Grandparents was to enable low income seniors to find volunteer opportunities in the community and remain productive after their normal retirement age.

The program name is Foster Grandparent, of course, and the people who are doing the role of foster grandparents are 59 and a half and older. Usually they work in schools, day-care centers and other settings where children are cared for or taught every day. The role of the foster grandparent is to work one to one with children who need special attention, who need help in concentrating, and most of them work in school districts in classrooms where there are classroom teachers and aides.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I'm sorry to interrupt you. Continue with what you were saying about your agency.

MS. FARON:

Yeah. The other program for which we receive County funding is the Suffolk County Respite Program. There again that program provides time off for individuals who are caring for an elderly family member. Very often it's one spouse, one older spouse caring for another. Sometimes it could be other family members, children who are caring for their elderly parents. We employ respite workers who are paid the living wage to go into the home to give the caregiver a little time off to take care of their own needs, whether it be a doctor appointment or whatever.

There is a sliding scale fee that is charged for the program, but most of the people cannot afford the \$11.41 an hour so we subsidize that fee. The way that program is financed is we receive a member item from the State Legislature for the administrative portion of the program. The Suffolk County portion is what we call the fee subsidy, that is, the amount of money that's required to help subsidize the fees that we charge the families. In other words, the difference between what the family pays and the actual hourly wage of the individuals is subsidized by that fee subsidy amount and that comes out the Suffolk County budget. Also for that program we do receive a little bit over like -- it's about \$9,800 from the County to make a special outreach to the east end, Riverhead and east.

We also have been able to obtain federal funds to help enhance the program by getting \$92,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which is the federal agency that sponsors both the Foster Grandparent Program and another program called the Senior Companion Program. Seniors are paid a stipend to help other seniors remain in their homes.

So we use the -- we get 62,000 for the administrative grant from the State. We get about -- I think this year we were looking for about 50 some odd thousand dollars from the County to help -- 58,000 to subsidize the fees for the respite workers, another 9,000 from the County for the east end outreach effort, and we bring in an additional \$92,000 from the Federal Government for the program.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Any questions? Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

What is your total budget?

MS. FARON:

Total budget for all our programs is -- well, we're using the budget figures from '05 because those are the audited figures, but this year I guess our budget is going to be about 18 million. '05 audited figures were over 15 million.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, so 18 million. And how much money do you get from Suffolk County?

MS. FARON:

The money from Suffolk County is a total of 175 plus another 70,000.

LEG. ALDEN:

So two and a quarter.

MS. FARON:

Yeah.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

What's the additional 70? Sorry, I missed that.

MS. FARON:

Oh, I'm sorry. We have it exactly here. Pardon me. Well, you have put that -- you've added a 62 in which is not correct. So it's 175, 58, and let's say 10,000. So it's 165 -- 175 and 60 -- 70,000. So it's about 245.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, your other money out of the 18 million comes from other government sources and how much comes from private fundraising?

MS. FARON:

About \$600,000.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anyone else? Yes, Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I just had one question about the Foster Grandparent Program. Are the participating seniors compensated financially or is it all volunteer?

MS. FARON:

Yes, they are compensated financially. That's one of the differences of our program. We are working with people of low income so the program is income tested and they receive what is called a stipend and it's protected under federal law from consideration as income for any purposes. So the individuals, I think the stipend is now, you know, it's not a lot, it is 2.55 an hour. And as I said, it is a special category under federal law. They also receive paid sick days, vacation days and personal leave time and a free -- and a meal is provided each day and we assist them with transportation to their place of assignment.

LEG. COOPER:

I was wondering why it was restricted to low income but that explains it.

MS. FARON:

Yes, and that it, because of that. And it really -- it enhances the well-being of seniors who need a little extra money and it gives them a very valuable role that's very much appreciated by the children, the school districts and the teachers.

LEG. COOPER:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anyone else? Barbara, how many employees does your agency have?

MS. FARON:

We have 339 employees.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I guess I will ask one of the standards.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll ask one of our standard questions. What percentage of your overall budget goes towards administrative expenses?

MS. FARON:

I think it is roughly around 10%.

MR. {McCARTHY}:

Yeah, nine to 10%.

MS. FARON:

Nine to 10%.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I guess that fluctuates year to year.

MS. FARON:

Yeah.

MR. {McCARTHY}:

It's typically always around nine percent.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

But it is within that range?

MR. {McCARTHY}:

What was that?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

It's within that range, nine to ten percent range, annually?

MR. {McCARTHY}:

Yup.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's very good.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you have a question, Lynne?

LEG. NOWICK:

I don't know if we can actually ask this question, but I assume it's public knowledge. Can you tell us how much the CEO of the agency makes?

MS. FARON:

That's me. I think, what do I make, about 150?

MR. {McCARTHY}:

Yep.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you really need the County funding?

MS. FARON:

If anybody tells you no I think you would probably be startled, right?

LEG. ALDEN:

I would be, but, thank you.

MS. FARON:

Well, we do really need it. One of the efforts that we make and a commitment to the County is to always try to bring in additional federal money so that your money is potentiated. In other words, for 175,000 that you are giving us for Foster Grandparents, which is extremely helpful, does allow us to get 492,000 from the feds.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's a good answer. Okay. And your programs seems very unique. There's no other not-for-profits that have similar programs in our County.

MS. FARON:

As far as the Foster Grandparents, definitely not, and the Senior Companions, because we are the local sponsors of the programs under the auspices of the federal agency that oversees the Foster Grandparents and the Senior Companions. They have only one in each locality. Of course, some of the programs -- we work very closely with the Office of Aging in regards to the Suffolk County Respite Program. They send us referrals and we work with their {ISEP} Program and the things that they are doing there. So we cooperate very much with the Suffolk County Office of Aging in terms of the Suffolk County Respite Program.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Thank you very much for coming in. We appreciate it.

MS. FARON:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

JoAnne Sanders, are you here? Wonderful. JoAnne is from the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Good morning. Thank you for coming.

MS. SANDERS:

Before I -- when I got your letter I called Barbara and she gave me a little bit of an overview of the questions that you would be asking so I tried to be prepared as much as possible. So I have some information in this folder and there is a summary and I can go over it with you. It explains our

contracts.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That would be wonderful.

MS. SANDERS:

Great. It's being passed out now. Would you like me to start that or would you like to ask me questions?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, if you could start off by giving us a description of what your agency does.

MS. SANDERS:

Okay. The Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which I'm sure you are very aware, you've been very supportive of our program over the years. We last year celebrated our 30th anniversary. We provide shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence in Suffolk County. We opened the first shelter in 1983 and the geographical area that we serve as far as our shelter goes is the entire County. And also we are licensed by the State of New York so we also take in victims from other parts of the state as well. However, Suffolk County is the primary area that we serve. As far as our non-residential services, most of those are focused on the five western towns.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many shelters?

MS. SANDERS:

We have one shelter which is -- we have three shelters in Suffolk County. We operate one and then you'll -- I'm sure you will hear the other agencies. There is one in Brookhaven and one on the east end.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. SANDERS:

As far as shelters go, it's actually a lot of people think we need more shelters for victims, and it is not the case. It's usually we are either at capacity, a little lower. We have found over the years because of all our non-residential services that we have many less victims looking for shelter.

I give a statistic which is when I started with the agency, I am the agency historian, I have been there a really long time, about one out of every two victims were looking for shelter, and now it's approximately one out of every 200. And I think it's thanks to the work of the Police Department and the courts and us advocates working with them.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So there's three different agencies that provide shelters for victims of domestic violence in Suffolk County.

MS. SANDERS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And your agency provides one of them and you kind of work together, the three agencies, so that you are not in the same catchment area?

MS. SANDERS:

Yeah. I mean, our catchment area is all Suffolk County, so sometimes somebody from the east end is going to be safer on the west end so we will -- but when our shelter is full then we call the other

shelters. We work together in making sure that the victim will get space within the County.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. SANDERS:

Actually, we may have someone close to our shelter that it is just not safe for her to be at our shelter so we are going to refer her out.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. How many employees do you have, JoAnne?

MS. SANDERS:

We have 35 full-time, five part-time and we have ten consultants.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Any questions from the committee?

LEG. ALDEN:

JoAnne, hi.

MS. SANDERS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

On your fiscal statement that you gave us, total revenues are one million almost five?

MS. SANDERS:

Uh-huh.

LEG. ALDEN:

All of those come through programs or do you do private fundraising?

MS. SANDERS:

Our fundraising is about \$306,000. That's between -- that's the very last bullet there on the funding. Fundraising, grants, and United Way is 306,000. And if you look, too, I don't have the 2006 numbers, but most of the contracts we have with Suffolk County reimbursement comes to the County anywhere from 61 to 100% for federal and State dollars.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much?

MS. SANDERS:

Anywhere from 61 to 100%. Our contract with the Police Department, for example, is 100% federal money. One of the contracts with DSS is 100% federal. The shelter is paid through a fees for services and that's a 100% federal.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, just taking your numbers, general administration, expenses. So your admin is like less than 10%?

MS. SANDERS:

It's about 11%. I also included a fiscal summary -- a fiscal status. This was our annual report and it has a little pie chart and it shows you that kind of stuff, too.

LEG. ALDEN:

You also show that you are running at a deficit of 55,000?

MS. SANDERS:

It's not -- it's a fundraiser. We have to fundraise that. A deficit -- in 2005 -- no, 2005 we ran a deficit because we had low occupancy in our shelter, correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes. JoAnne, just -- I'm sure you are aware that there are other agencies that provide same similar services. How is your agency different than perhaps maybe VIBS?

MS. SANDERS:

Right. Well, I think that, first of all, as many of you know, we have formed an alliance to work together to best serve the victims of Suffolk County and I think we all have own uniqueness, and I will let the other agencies speak for themselves.

As far as our agency goes, we have been very proactive in helping victims. We like to say a hand up rather than a handout. We have programs that are not available through the other agencies, which is an employment program, which is extremely important because most victims who want to leave the situation have a very difficult time financially. We have computer classes right on site in our office. We have an employment specialist that helps them find jobs, and we have a -- it's a very aggressive kind of program. We work with companies in Suffolk County to place clients in their corporations.

We also have -- we're the only agency that has a staff attorney, which is another really important part of what we do because many victims cannot afford an attorney. What we -- we -- we're not doing divorces, though. What we're concentrating on is the immediate crisis intervention, which is the safety of the kids. So we go into Family Court and we represent victims for custody, visitation and support.

We're very proud of that program. We just submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Justice working with Touro and The Retreat, and if we get funded we will be -- we will have a law clinic right within our agency, more than one staff attorney, working directly with Touro's Family Law Center and the students. We're all very excited about this and we think we have a very strong proposal which would bring a lot of dollars into the County, but primarily to serve -- I mean, a lot of victims would be served.

And we also have our precinct project which is very unique. We are the first County in the country to have advocates working directly in the precincts. They are there three nights a week and then two -- one day a week they're in court and another day they are working out of the office doing follow-up, support.

And the precinct advocates, which started in 1989, is -- it has been one of the best relationships that we have been able to fuse with the Police Department. We really didn't understand all the issues they had to deal with, and they didn't understand all the issue that victims had to deal with. So working together has been really a very beneficial program. Yesterday I just signed an MOU with the Police Department to the Office of -- to the U.S. Department of Justice to expand that program so we'd have advocates in the precincts six nights a week, which would be 100% federal.

We're always working to bring more service in but that -- that's -- we have counseling and we have

educational programs and that's similar to the other agencies. I just highlighted really the services that we have that are different from the others.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anyone else? Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I will just add that until the year before last the 7th Precinct, the easternmost precinct, did not have a victim's advocate.

MS. SANDERS:

Right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

And if not through the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence we still would not have one. So it was a very important step we took and I'm glad to hear that we're looking to expand that and there's some additional funds available.

MS. SANDERS:

Yeah, and the 7th Precinct is only funded because of the Omnibus money.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right.

MS. SANDERS:

It's not part of the County Executive's budget, which is unfortunate because it really is the only precinct that's not part of the County budget without the Omnibus money.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We're getting close to not being the stepchild anymore, but we're not quite there. Yes, I would very much like to see that money included in the overall budget, so it was not something we would have to be considering as one of our Omnibus contracts adds. It should be something that is not considered as part of that and is just considered part of the overall services that we provide.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

You probably answered this when I stepped out of the room. I just want to know what your total County funding is in dollars. Not -- and I understand you pass -- you get some money passed through the State.

MS. SANDERS:

Most of it is passed through the State. Most of it is federally reimbursed to the County. But you mean just County dollars?

LEG. MONTANO:

Just County dollars.

MS. SANDERS:

Just County dollars, oh.

LEG. MONTANO:

Or an approximation.

MS. SANDERS:

I'm going to say about 600,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But isn't that reimbursed? Is any of that reimbursable?

MS. SANDERS:

Well, we get about 1.5 from -- maybe 1.7 -- no, 1.6 from the County. One point six million. So I'm saying about 600,000 could possibly be County dollars. You know, I don't know until -- I'm basing this on 2005 numbers also because I don't have the 2006.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right, so it's approximate. You get approximately 1.2 million.

MS. SANDERS:

One point six million.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What's your overall budget?

MS. SANDERS:

One point eight five. Well, the shelter is a fee for services, so that's about 500 and some odd thousand.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. SANDERS:

So our contract is with Suffolk County, but it's 100% TNAF money. So it's just -- it's 100% public Assistance money that comes from the feds, so.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Temporary assistance grant.

MS. SANDERS:

I really have to -- off the top of my head, I'm sorry. I really should figure that out for you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's all right. It gets complicated.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'm just curious.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody else? Because if you didn't have any County funding it would be devastating to you?

MS. SANDERS:

Well, we wouldn't exist.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And we got the -- you're the CEO?

MS. SANDERS:

Yup.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you make more than 20% of your total budget?

MS. SANDERS:

No way.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Any other questions? Thank you very much for coming in.

MS. SANDERS:

Thank you. I just want to point out I included the Department of Social Services did a program audit of us last year and I included that in the packet also because it's really pretty glowing, so. Thank you very much.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome. I apologize to everybody. We're running a little bit late. Is Michael Stoltz here? Come forward, Michael. What time. And Michael is so efficient he didn't wear a coat so he didn't have to take it off.

MR. STOLTZ:

I took it off in the car. Sorry I'm late.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're not late. We're just up to you this very second. So catch your breath and tell us a little bit about the Clubhouse of Suffolk and the services you provide our citizens.

MR. STOLTZ:

Clubhouse was formed in 1991 by a group of family members who were associated with the National Alliance for the mentally ill, all of whom who had adult children affected by serious mental illness, most of whom had been in the State hospital at some point. In the past 16 years we have established a site in Ronkonkoma and in Riverhead serving only adults whose lives have been affected by serious psychiatric disabilities.

We now serve about 1,200 people a year through psychiatric rehabilitation and support services, services that help people to stay out of the hospitals, stay out of emergency rooms, improve their quality of life, health, go to get jobs, go to schools. In addition, on the east end, east of the William Floyd Parkway we provide case management services to 380 people also similarly.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All out-patient?

MR. STOLTZ:

All out-patient, correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is the 300 and some in addition to the 1,200?

MR. STOLTZ:

No. Some of them -- they are part of the 1,200 in fact.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I hate to interrupt, but you said -- is that the location? Just east of William Floyd on Route 25 by

the firehouse?

MR. STOLTZ:

I'm sorry. We have two settings. One is in Ronkonkoma, one is in Riverhead for our two Clubhouse model psychiatric rehabilitation support programs. In addition, based out of our Riverhead site we provide case management services to about 380 people. Ninety of those people live in three adult homes through a special project through New York State, two of them in Port Jeff Station and one in Ridge.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But you don't operate the adult homes.

MR. STOLTZ:

No, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Any other questions from the committee? Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes. Hi, Michael. How much funding does your agency receive from the County?

MR. STOLTZ:

We get zero dollars through 2006. We get zero from Suffolk County but \$2 million of our budget is managed in State funds that come through the Department of Health.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it's pass through money.

MR. STOLTZ:

It's a pass through, correct.

LEG. NOWICK:

So two million pass through Department of Health?

MR. STOLTZ:

Correct. So the County manages -- I'm sorry.

LEG. NOWICK:

Take your breath, you ran in here.

MR. STOLTZ:

We have basically three contract numbers through Suffolk County that accounts for 12 individual programs, and again, all State dollars.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are you done, Legislator Nowick?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, on the contract agency report that we have it indicates that \$72,199. Is that -- maybe that's not a question for you. Maybe, John, is that the actual dollars that come from Suffolk County?

MR. ORTIZ:

That's just one of the 12 programs he was talking about. That's Clubhouse --

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So -- but those are all pass through, those are all pass through monies.

MR. ORTIZ:

Yeah. Like you said, it's just over \$2 million, but it's a hundred percent State funded.

LEG. ALDEN:

So zero contribution from Suffolk County. It's all just passed through from New York State.

MR. ORTIZ:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay? Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, this is someone we still choose to do business with, so I'll just ask some of the normal questions. What percentage of your overall budget goes towards administrative expenses?

MR. STOLTZ:

Nineteen percent. Understand that our total budget is about \$4 million dollars, so about half comes from -- a little less than half comes from Medicaid, billing Medicaid. And of course when you are billing Medicaid and ultimately we are billing Medicare as well, you know, your administrative costs are significantly higher, your quality controls are higher, so it's a little more expensive.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Are you trying to tell me that those programs are burdensome to deal with? I can't imagine that.

MR. STOLTZ:

I didn't say burdensome. I said when you strive to be efficient and effective you do the right thing, so.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I understand your point, Mike. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anyone else?

MR. STOLTZ:

Mr. Presiding Officer, I also -- I don't know if this is appropriate at this time or I can come another time, but I Chair the Suffolk Coalition of Mental Health Service Providers which is about 24 mental health agencies. I would like or we would like to be able to collectively give you some of our experiences with the County contracting processes and how some of these experiences affect or impact our operations and the people that we serve.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think that could probably be the subject of another meeting in itself.

MR. STOLTZ:

That would be fine.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees does your agency have?

MR. STOLTZ:

About 78, that's full and part-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And because if you -- I mean, the County funding, there wouldn't be any consequences because all the dollars you get are pass through dollars anyway.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Bill, can I ask a question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Have you received County funding in the past or do you anticipate applying for County funding in the future?

MR. STOLTZ:

We have been offered County funding in the past and this happened with a number of other agencies as well. I believe it's a couple of different County Executive administrations offered a 1% or a 2% match against State dollars to be able to enhance what we do. We and a number of other agencies turned that down because after looking at the requirements to be able to account for us it was about 45,000. We would have spent about \$26,000 in administering the \$45,000, so the impact was not worth it.

Currently in our contracting we're not -- because it's pass through we don't have to do line item budgeting claiming requests for personnel hires, training, things like that, under that. If we were to accept those dollars we would have had to do a lot of micromanagement that would have been extremely expensive.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Anybody else? Nope? Okay. Did we ask the total budget?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

He said it was about four million. I have one question.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go ahead.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Other agencies throughout the County that provide similar services, you're aware of any? Do you -- obviously you said, you know, the Coalition of Mental Health Care Providers, I apologize if I got that wrong, but just tell us a little bit about that, what other agencies provide similar services and how you work with them.

MR. STOLTZ:

Well, I'd have to get into about another hour about talking about the community mental health system. But basically there are a number of agencies whose mission has to do with supporting people who have serious mental illness. And since basically the 1960's, as the State hospital system

has reduced, the community mental health system has taken over the responsibility for care, treatment, rehabilitation, support for people with mental illness. So a number of us, basically we're spread out across the County. For some programs there is catchment areas, for others there is some overlap, and for others there are just different kinds of programs. There are other programs who provide similar services, some of them are exclusive to certain catchment areas, and some of them, you know, have different services. For example, we're pretty good at getting people jobs and we're pretty good at -- we have a relationship with Suffolk Community College so we get a lot of people with disabilities into Suffolk Community College. Other agencies have other specialities and populations that they work with. So we all work together in that way.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

And you indicated a willingness on your part to come back at some other time and explain to us some of the, you know, like the good things and the bad things I guess about the providing of services. And just to leave you with this, also a request, maybe if you can compare a little bit about whether the system has produced, you know, good results since the closing or pretty much emptying out of the hospitals or whether there is, you know, like a mixed result or something along those lines. Like you said before, that's for another day that we're going to have to have probably a full session on just that. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Last question. Michael, you are the CEO?

MR. STOLTZ:

Executive Director.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you make more than 20% of your overall budget?

MR. STOLTZ:

No, sir. Not even close.

LEG. ALDEN:

That would be close to a million, right?

LEG. COOPER:

Would you like to?

MR. STOLTZ:

Would I like to? Not with the consequences I would probably face, thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much for coming.

MR. STOLTZ:

Thank you. And again, if we can come back as a coalition to address this issue we would love to.

LEG. ALDEN:

That would be great.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think that that probably should be a presentation that should be scheduled by the Health Committee at one of our committee meeting in total, because I think that presentation is long overdue. I think it belongs on the record before the entire Health Committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, maybe a joint Health and Budget Committee, something along those lines.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MR. STOLTZ:

There are a few groups that are looking at the whole issue of County contracting on our side, too.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Michael, if my staff was to contact you could you set that up from the provider point of view and we'll set up the joint committee meeting?

MR. STOLTZ:

Sure. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Maybe, Barbara, maybe you could follow-up on that. Thank you very much.

MR. STOLTZ:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

John, with respect to this list you gave us, which I'm working off, this list, the amount that the agency receives. But like in the case of the Clubhouse, they receive money but in reality it's a pass through. We're getting that back. I'm just curious how is that reflected on the revenue side, because it looks like -- if you looked at this list it looks like the County is giving out all this money to all these agencies in the form of grants, but in reality this is reimbursable. So it's not really -- it's not County money. What we're doing, I gather, is laying the money out and getting it back later.

MR. ORTIZ:

That's correct. That's why in the Omnibus budget bill we don't ever take or give money away from mental health agencies because it would just wreak havoc.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, we don't distinguish in the budget which are County dollars and which are reimbursable dollars, do we?

MR. ORTIZ:

Internally in Budget Review we keep track of that.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay, but not for -- in terms of -- in other words, if I looked at this I'd be saying well, we're granting \$2 million to this agency from taxpayer, you know, dollars as discretionary items, but in reality we're getting this money back from the feds. So it's not as it appears to me. That's the point I am getting to.

MR. ORTIZ:

Correct. A lot of the Health Department funds are reimbursed between 36 and a hundred percent.

LEG. MONTANO:

Go ahead, Cameron. I'm getting the point.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

An interesting number to look at is if you take the total budget and you subtract our sales tax revenues and our property tax revenues and fees and things like there, there's huge number left. That doesn't come out of the air, that comes from New York State and the federal government.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Absolutely.

LEG. ALDEN:

That would be an interesting number for us to actually post to the public, too.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think the point that Legislator Montano is making is a point that deserves to be on the record and should be echoed by all of us that a lot of the not-for-profit agencies that supply services aren't being gifts, number one, given gifts, they're providing vital services. And number two, we're just a conduit to provide services that's being funded by either the Federal Government or the State Government.

LEG. ALDEN:

Absolutely.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you. We're -- Long Island Cares isn't in the auditorium yet, but I see Phil Lorito from the Holbrook Vietnam Monument. Phil, do you want to go on early?

MR. LORITO:

Sure.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Come on forward.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Where is that one, Bill?

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's after -- it's 115. There was a last minute change. There's a revised schedule. Catholic Charities couldn't make it today and we filled in with Phil. It's actually Phil represents the VFW in Ronkonkoma, the Taylor Post, right? What's the number, Phil?

MR. LORITO:

Okay. It's -- well, I have a statement. It's VFW Post 9486 in Ronkonkoma.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But before you read the statement there is just -- one of our members just went to the facilities. If you could just hold up for a minute.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

What was that post number again? I'm sorry.

MR. LORITO:

VFW Post 9486, Lake Ronkonkoma.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Phil's going to tell you this, but they maintain a small County park that's a memorial to a Vietnam fatality and they do a great job. Phil is going to explain it all to you. It's one of our small, small Omnibus grants. Go ahead, Phil, why don't you read your statement and the other Legislators will be filtering into the room.

MR. LORITO:

On the subject of grants for the Holbrook Vietnam Monument I have gladly accepted this invitation to address the Ad Hoc Contract Agency Oversight Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. In my statement to you I hope to include answers to the ten questions you have submitted to me. I believe I'm speaking to you on behalf of the people of Suffolk County, the residents of Holbrook, military veterans and especially Vietnam era veterans.

I would like to thank the Suffolk County Legislators, both past and present, for the three grants they have issued over the years to VFW Post 9486 of Lake Ronkonkoma. These funds were extended to Post 9486 for the express purpose of maintenance and beautification of the Holbrook Vietnam Monument. I believe it is important for you to know some of the history regarding this monument.

Louis DeGuardia was a decorated World War II veteran member of Post 9486. Louis's son, Alexander Nicholas DeGuardia was killed in action while serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Alexander, thankfully, was the only resident of Holbrook killed in action during the Vietnam War. Louis, wishing to build a monument in memory of his son, searched out a suitable site in Holbrook. He was allowed to use a small parcel of land, which was at the time owned by the Holbrook Civic Association.

In 1972 a stone wall monument was built by Louis and several family members totally by hand with material that was donated by the people of Holbrook. Other than the stones above the heads in Pinelawn and Calverton, this monument became the first structure built in New York State to honor a fallen Vietnam serviceman and the second such monument of its kind in the United States.

Over the years the Holbrook Civic Association fell in debt and continuously threatened Louis with the sale of the property to a neighboring business who intended to destroy the monument and turn the property into a parking lot. The monument fell into great disrepair, subject to continuous vandalism, neglect, unattended, and frequented by loitering youth. The trees and bushes so overgrew the property that it was nearly impossible to understand what it was and what the site represented.

Louis fought a continuous battle to keep the Civic Association from selling the property. In his declining health he expressed to his fellow veterans his worst fear, that upon his death the monument would be destroyed and the property lost and sold. Louis passed away in June of 2000. In October of that year a resolution was passed by Post 9486 to continue the battle to preserve the monument. In November a similar resolution was adopted by VFW Suffolk County Council.

In 2001 it was learned that the Holbrook Civic Association's property was about to be seized by Suffolk County because of a failure to pay property tax. The thought of this property being lost at an auction on the Town Hall steps was appalling to Vietnam veterans of Suffolk County. Members of VFW Post 9486 approached Suffolk County Legislator William Lindsay about this ongoing problem.

We found Legislator Lindsay to be sensitive, caring and willing to work on behalf of preserving and saving this historic site, for not only the people of Holbrook, American war veterans, but for all of us who live in Suffolk County. To make a long story shorter, Legislator William Lindsay was able to successfully have the Suffolk County Parks and Recreation Department take the property into its inventory with one proviso. In October 2003 Suffolk County entered into a cooperative maintenance license agreement with Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States William F. Taylor Post 9486.

And therefore, VFW Post 9486 has an responsibility and obligation to oversee the upkeep and maintenance of this park.

The purpose of all the grant money received has been to provide material assistance and the maintenance and upkeep of the Holbrook Vietnam Monument, which is located east -- on the east side of Grundy Avenue between Terry Road and Clarice Boulevard in Holbrook. There is no actual street address since there is no building on the property.

The Holbrook Vietnam Monument benefits the community in many ways. It serves to educate all remind all residents of Suffolk County about the great sacrifices that are made by our military men and women as well as their families. It teaches that freedom is not free, and that other Americans have purchased this freedom with their lives. This monument highlights one such purchaser of freedom, Alexander Nicholas DeGuardia. The plaque at the monument reads, "In loving memory, Alexander Nicholas DeGuardia. God, country, Family. September 30, 1946, October 26, 1967, Vietnam. When you go home from this place, tell them of me, for all of our tomorrows are freedom. He sacrificed all of his."

To further understand the great significance and importance of this monument, what follows is the inscription of a four by eight foot sign that sits on the monument property. Often cars pull over to the side of road and it's occupants stand on the sidewalk to read the sign. People walking by stop and read.

"Holbrook Vietnam Monument. This Monument honors the memory of Specialist Force Class Alexander Nicholas DeGuardia, the only military service personnel from Holbrook, New York, killed in action during the Vietnam War. As a member of the US Army's 25th Infantry Division, he made the supreme sacrifice on October 26, 1967 while engaging enemy forces in Bin Dow, Republic of South Vietnam. The monument was constructed by Alexander's father, Louis, who was decorated World War II veteran, his Uncle Iggy DeGuardia and Ralph DeLuca in 1972, after a long struggle to find a suitable site in Holbrook. All aspects of the construction were done completely by hand. All building materials were donated by the Holbrook residents. This was the first monument constructed in New York State and the second monument built in the United States to honor a member of the armed forces who was killed in action while serving in Vietnam. The monument stands on property owned by the people of Suffolk County. It shall remain forever a reminder of the great sacrifice made by the men and women of the armed forces and their families to keep us free and live in safety in a land with liberty and justice as the cornerstone of our great society. Veterans of Foreign War Post 9486 in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, in agreement with Suffolk County, shall maintain and preserve this monument on behalf of the people of Holbrook and Suffolk County".

The Sachem School District has used this monument as a field trip educational experience for elementary school students. The park has served as a work project for Boy Scouts working to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Every fall Cub Scouts and their parents rake leaves at the park site as part of the Town of Islip's {KICK} Program.

The park is the terminating point of the Holbrook Memorial Day Parade and there is a wonderful Memorial Day ceremony that takes place. All Holbrook youth sports organization, the American Legion and Am Vets, Veterans of Foreign War, Holbrook Fire Department, Sachem School District, Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, and most importantly, the DeGuardia family, are all present. Many of our elected and appointed government officials attend this parade and {replaying} ceremony.

There is a Memorial Day Sunrise ceremony conducted by a joint American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Holbrook Fire Department honor guarding which a three volley gun salute takes place and VFW and American Legion chaplains do a reading. There are two benches at the monument and often individuals will sit there and quietly reflect. The monument is a very special and sacred place to Suffolk County as well as to all New York State Vietnam veterans.

I would like to take a moment to tell you about a very moving experience I had this past July on a Saturday afternoon. While weeding the flower bed at the monument, I noticed two young neighborhood girls, about 10 or 11 years old, standing on the sidewalk reading the sign. They walked up the walkway leading to the monument and one of them asked me in the most sweetest voice if it would be okay for them to say a prayer in front on the monument. There was a moving and defining moment for me, which I will never forget.

I do wish that every family member who lost a loved one in Vietnam, all of our nation's Vietnam Veterans who were so maligned and disrespected upon returning home, and Legislator William Lindsay could have been standing there and share in that moment with me. It certainly made all efforts and every penny spent on this monument very worthwhile.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Phil, why don't you just catch your breath.

MR. LORITO:

Okay. Thank you. I just have one more paragraph. Okay. Mostly all physical work done on and about the park is conducted entirely by volunteers from VFW Post 9486 and residents of Holbrook. There are no employees of VFW Post 9486 or the Holbrook Vietnam Monument, none whatsoever. What might be considered administrative expenses are non-existent. Other than paid professionals who have rendered their services in working at the monument, no one is paid ever anything. We're adhere to strict conflict of interest rules and no one either directly or indirectly related to the monument or VFW Post 9486 members are hired to do any work on behalf of Post 9486 or the monument. All work is done voluntarily.

On every Saturday or Sunday this last summer you would have noticed me mowing the property grass, and often Post 9486 wives planting flowers and plants. Every fall local Cub Scouts and their parents rake the fallen leaves on the park property as part of the Town of Islip's {KICK} Program.

I can say with 100% certainty that not a single employee of Suffolk County has so much as lifted a twig on this County park property. The funds, \$7,000 in all, received in grants since 2003, has had a major impact on the appearance of this park. It has covered the cost of a new bronze plaque, professional tree trimming, the laying of sod, the installation of a sprinkler system, the connection to Suffolk County Water Authority, and the planting of evergreen trees.

Other than funds which have been donated by VFW Post 9486, which would total \$1,000 -- under \$1,000 in the last five years, the only funding we have received or would expect were those from Suffolk County. Frankly, I think it would be somewhat embarrassing to both this body and the Executive Branch if we were to seek a few thousand dollars from the State or Federal Government to maintain a tiny park of this historic significance, which is actually Suffolk County property. Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much, Phil. Does anybody want to ask -- Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

I apologize if it was in the first part of your presentation, but how much per year? You said 7,000 since 2003.

MR. LORITO:

Yes, we have received three grants. I brought folders with my records of what we received. The first grant was back in 2003. It was \$1,000. I believe we received another one in -- it might have been 2004, for a thousand, and then the final grant we received, which actually the paperwork was done in November of 2005, but we only recently got the money, which was for \$5,000. It took over a year and several months to receive this money and the VFW Post doesn't have a lot of, itself, doesn't have a lot of capital to work with, so it's very tight under the circumstances.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just very briefly. Do you find the paperwork that you have to go through fairly burdensome or is it clean cut or?

MR. LORITO:

The first two grants I have in the folder that's probably quarter of an inch thick. This last one is probably three-quarters of an inch thick. The procedure and the oversight is no problem. As a matter of fact, the oversight is done by Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency and this time they actually required Susan {Ericson}, who works for the agency, to make a physical inspection of the site to make sure that the money is spent for what we say we are spending.

LEG. ALDEN:

Your money comes through Vets, not Parks.

MR. LORITO:

We receive no money from Suffolk County Parks at all. We don't expect the Park Department to expend money with employees at the property. Veterans are there doing all the work. I mow the grass every weekend during the summer.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody else? Phil, I just want to thank you and the VFW for all the work you do in maintaining this very small but very important park. I think we're all proud to have it as part of our park system.

MR. LORITO:

Thank you very much, Legislator Lindsay. I think the County should be very proud to have this park here and our hopes are someday it will actually become a New York State Historic Site, because it is the only -- it's the first -- it was built long before the Wall in Washington or the monument up on Bald Hill in Farmingville. So, it is very significant and very historic. Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thanks for coming, Phil. Do we have Long Island Cares in the audience? Yes? Come on forward.

LEG. ALDEN:

Basically what we have been asking organizations to do, and you have to use the microphone, but identify yourself and then give us a little overview of, you know, what you do.

MS. AMATO:

Thank you for inviting us here today. My name is Robin Amato. I am the Director of Development for Long Island Cares. I'll begin and then I will turn it over to Kristine.

Long Island Cares is a member of America's Second Harvest, which is a nationwide network of food banks. There are eight food banks that serve New York State. We are the regional food bank for Nassau and Suffolk County. We distribute emergency food to a network of agencies and at this point I will let Kristine talk about that.

MS. LEHN:

Hello. My name is Kristine Lehn. I'm the agency Relations Manager for Long Island Cares. What we do with our food when we receive the donations is we have a network of over 600 member agencies that we distribute our food to. Those agencies consist of food pantries, soup kitchens, Kids Cafe Daycare Program, senior nutrition sites, emergency shelters, and day rehabilitation sites. In order to become a member of Long Island Cares we ask all of our organizations to have a 501C3, they're a

non-profit organization. They have an annual site inspection and they file the appropriate paperwork with us. Last year we distributed over 500,000 pounds of food to our -- no, I'm sorry, five million pounds of food to our member agencies.

In the food bank itself we carry three different kinds of programs. We have a donated program, which consists of food that is donated to us on a local level from suppliers that are here in Nassau and Suffolk County. It's always donated because we're a member of American's Second Harvest on a national basis. So we do get donations from major organizations across the United States. We also run the New York State Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program, which is called the HPNAP Program, to our member agencies and Emergency Food Assistance Program, which is the {TFAP} Program, that's USDA Government Commodities.

MR. GAUGLER:

Okay. My name is Bruce Gaugler. I am the Comptroller for Long Island Cares and I would like to point out that in each of your packets there is a brochure on our organization. There is our annual report for 2005. There's also a newsletter that we send out to our agencies and our regular donors.

Also in that packet are two other documents. One is the program budget explanation of costs, and the other is the work plan for our contract. Our contract is with, as you know, the Suffolk County Department of Social Services. Basically I'm here to answer any technical questions you may have on that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. How many -- it might be in here, but I didn't see it. How many employees do you have?

MR. GAUGLER:

We have 31 employees; 26 full-time, five part-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the service that you provide, is there any other not-for-profits that do a similar service in this County?

MR. GAUGLER:

We are the only regional food bank in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Really your agency is a model for consolidation of -- I mean, because of your operating County-wide and the five million pounds is certainly a lot of food, really is a consolidation of the collection and purchase and then you distribute it to your contract agencies or your associated agencies to distribute it. That's the model, right?

MR. GAUGLER:

Right. Our role is to make that process more efficient. We are the collection point for national donors and local food drives. We also purchase food and by purchasing the amount of food that we purchase we get --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Half-price.

MR. GAUGLER:

-- price discounts, all of which is done through us and then distributed to our agencies, our member agencies, and we do it more efficiently than they could on their own.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So you're the only agency in the County that does exactly what you do.

MR. GAUGLER:

Food banking, yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I was just going to ask, obviously you're dealing with all packaged food, so to speak, differing from Island Harvest that collects food, excess food, from establishments that prepare it. Am I correct on that?

MR. GAUGLER:

Yes. If you would indulge me I would like to read you the definitions between the two because they're, excuse me, there sometimes is confusion over what each organization does, so I would like to read you the official definition of a food bank.

A food bank is a charitable organization that solicits, receives, inventories, stores and distributes foods and grocery products from various sources. A food bank may purchase food from funds provided by government agencies or charitable grants or may receive food donated by manufacturers, retailers, or individuals. The food bank is responsible for ensuring that all food and grocery products that it receives and distributes comply with industry and regulatory standards. These products are distributed to charitable human service agencies which provide the products directly to their clients. That's food bank.

Island Harvest is a food rescue organization. As differentiated from a food bank that handles warehoused foods and grocery products, a food rescue organization specializes in soliciting donations of leftover perishable food from restaurants, catering halls and the like and delivering this food immediately to emergency food programs. Unlike food banks which must deal with the logistic management of bulk inventories, a food rescue organization is likely to consist of a dedicated core of volunteers who use their own vehicles to make food pickups and deliveries in the same day. These definitions, by they way, are available on our website. Does that answer the question?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Absolutely.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon. I just -- I don't know if you said this. What is your County funding? Total amount of that.

MR. GAUGLER:

In 2006 it was 117,729. In 2007 it will be 130,284.

LEG. MONTANO:

And your overall budget?

MR. GAUGLER:

You're talking about expenses, overall --

LEG. MONTANO:

Overall receipts from various sources, government, fundraising. What is your -- the dollars that your agency administers a year. More or less. I'm not looking for an exact amount. I think you may have it in the package, right?

MR. GAUGLER:

Our expenses and our revenue are pretty much the same every year. It's about seven and a half million dollars. Is that the question?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes. And so you got seven and a half million. A hundred and thirty comes from the County. The rest comes from where?

MR. GAUGLER:

Well, in this business we value the -- we record the value of donated food.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MR. GAUGLER:

So of that, 4.2 million is donated food. So cash revenues are only about 3.3 million.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. I'm really looking at the cash revenues, 3.3.

MR. GAUGLER:

Three point three million in 2005.

LEG. MONTANO:

And where does that -- is that contributions, is that federal money, is that State money, is that pass through?

MR. GAUGLER:

Public support and fund-raising, 1.5 million. Government support was about 1.8 million.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that government would be the State Government or the Federal Government.

MR. GAUGLER:

State, Federal and County.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right, but the County is about 130,

MR. GAUGLER:

One-hundred and thirty thousand, yeah. It's about 140,000 from the Federal Government through the USDAT FAP Program, which is surplus foods and they give us \$140,000 lump sum to administer that. We do about one million of the five million pounds that Christine mentioned through {TFAP}, and we get 1.2 million from the New York State Department of Health.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

MR. GAUGLER:

You're welcome.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just the percentage of your budget that goes to administration and expenses?

MR. GAUGLER:

In 2006 -- I'm sorry, 2006 we don't have yet. In 2005 -- you said administrative?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

MR. GAUGLER:

Thirteen percent.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's pretty steady through the years?

MR. GAUGLER:

Yeah. It was 90% percent for a number of years. It's fallen down to 87 because of some of our fundraising costs have gone up, but we're looking to move it back up to 90 if we can. So 87% last year, of our expenses, went to our programs.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. How much has your budget increased over time? Is it a difficult thing to deal with increased costs, are you -- do you have pretty much a steady budget year to year? On the cash side, not on the donation side.

MR. GAUGLER:

You're talking about overall, not just Suffolk County DSS, right? Our overall budget.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Correct. And then I want to get to the County portion and the second part of the question was is your County funding growing at a similar rate or are you relying more and more on the State and federal assistance.

MR. GAUGLER:

Well, up until 2002 we were located on grounds of Pilgrim State Hospital in a former dormitory cafeteria and it was free of charge, so we didn't have much expenses for overhead in terms of -- even utilities were paid for. But as you know, part of that property was sold to a developer and we were asked kindly and politely to leave, so we had to buy a building in Hauppauge for I believe it was 2.9 million -- 1.9 million. I should know that, but I didn't bring that.

Anyway, so since 2002 of course our expenses for our building have dramatically increased. We have to pay off the mortgage, we still have a balance of 340,000, that I know, to pay off on the mortgage. And of course utility bills keep rising.

The only thing that we're having difficulty with is fuel costs for our trucks. We have four trucks that do deliveries throughout Nassau and Suffolk County. Agencies have the option of coming to us or waiting for the delivery per our schedule, so our trucks go all over the Island and the cost of fuel has been dramatically rising.

So while we are still doing all right, basically we budget every year to break even with our increased

fundraising and whatever government support comes our way. The Suffolk DSS, I'm pleased to say, increased 25% since 2004. 2007 over 2004 is an increase of 25% which we very much appreciate.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's what brings you up to the 130,000 from the County in the '06 budget?

MR. GAUGLER:

'07 is 130,000, right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So when you say 13% was administrative, that's 13% of which number, your overall --

MR. GAUGLER:

It's 13% of our total expenses for the year, the 7.5 million.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The seven point five million. Okay.

MR. GAUGLER:

Seven point four million.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Seven point four. Okay. Thanks.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah. I just had one or two follow-ups. In terms of the 130,000 that you get from the County, is that for a specific -- I just want to get an idea of how it's spent. Is that for a specific program or does that go into your General Fund to, you know, parcel out over all your activities? Is it a designated person? That's all I want to know.

MR. GAUGLER:

You can get a nice overview of that in your packet, the two page document on the left, but I will briefly summarize that. Over the years whatever amount has been allocated to us has been divided historically into 45% for the purchase of food and household goods that are delivered to the ten Suffolk County Department of Social Services emergency food sites.

LEG. MONTANO:

So right off the top 45% goes into purchase of food.

MR. GAUGLER:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

That leaves you about maybe 160,000 left.

MR. GAUGLER:

Yeah. The purchase of food includes household goods, you know, our contract manager has decided are in demand at these emergency food sites. The other 55% has always been historically looked at as support for the rest of our programs in Suffolk County, rest of our operations. And what we do, if you look at this document I gave you, is we calculate what that money will be, that 55% will be as a proportion of typical costs that are involved in food banking in Suffolk County.

LEG. MONTANO:

So you essentially parcel out the 55% along your various expenditures.

MR. GAUGLER:

Right. You will see seven individuals, from Executive Director on down, and it also goes towards insurance, vehicle expense and -- I'm sorry. Insurance on trucks as well. It's for commercial liability and vehicle insurance as well as the cost of one truck to be used in the delivery of food.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's basically what I would consider that 55% is more or less discretionary within the agency. It's not like you have to take 10,000 of that money and, you know, hire a particular employee. It's just spread out, absorbed in your overall costs. And 45 goes to -- all right.

MR. GAUGLER:

Right. Ongoing expenses, right.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you. I appreciate that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much did you say that you raised annually for your fundraising?

MR. GAUGLER:

Fundraising in 2005, what we call public support in fundraising, is 1.455 million.

LEG. NOWICK:

And could you tell me please the CEO of your agency, what that salary is?

MR. GAUGLER:

That's pretty close to a hundred thousand right now.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very briefly, just a follow-up. Is it fair to say, then, the funding you receive from Suffolk County is really allocated towards stocking the DSS centers? Is that in effect?

MR. GAUGLER:

Forty-five percent of the money, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, that's for the food only.

MR. GAUGLER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, but then there's administrative costs to get it there and transport it, so.

MR. GAUGLER:

Yes, some of that money you could make a case for saying it's for the same agencies as well. For example, we have to deliver {TFAP} food, USDA surplus food, to those same agencies. So the 55% is also going towards those specific ten DSS emergency sites.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. GAUGLER:

Plus the rest of it, it's all for the Suffolk County agencies that we deliver to.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand that, but it's also that a part of that 55% is used again towards Suffolk County and the ten sites throughout the County.

MR. GAUGLER:

Yes, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

A couple of quick questions. What percentage of the food pantries in Suffolk County are dealing with Long Island Cares at this point?

MS. LEHN:

What percentage of the total amount of food pantries?

LEG. COOPER:

Right. Even a ballpark. I mean, is it a majority, minority?

MS. LEHN:

I hate to venture something like that. I'm not really sure -- what percentage of Long Island Cares food pantries? We have over 300 active food pantries right now, but how that breakdowns to all of the percentage of food pantries in Suffolk County?

LEG. COOPER:

I didn't know whether there were 320 food pantries you serve 300 or are there 3,000.

MS. LEHN:

You know what, because we don't actively solicit agencies, they come and ask us for food support.

LEG. COOPER:

So you may have no way of knowing.

MS. LEHN:

I really have no idea. There's a lot of churches that are running food pantries that we're unaware of and they don't come to us because they're well supported by their member congregations. There are some community programs that are also well supported by the immediate community. I might know of them but I don't, you know, we don't have any contact with them. Once they come to us, that's when we start supporting them with the food programs.

LEG. COOPER:

I happen to know that there's a food pantry in my district that always has empty shelves. I have done a few food drives through my district office to help out. Should I suggest that they contact your organization?

MS. LEHN:
Absolutely.

LEG. COOPER:
I mean, do you have additional resources available so if more food pantries come to your door would you be able to serve the need?

MS. LEHN:
Well, you know, the piece of the pie does have to get a little bit smaller, but that's what we're here for. We are here. And then the other side of it is then we're going out to solicit more food as well.

LEG. ALDEN:
They'll take some away from the 10th Legislative District.

LEG. COOPER:
Whose is that?

MR. GAUGLER:
Plus I might add that in 2006 we did 5.2 million pounds of distributed food. What was that figure in 2005, Christine? Was that four million?

MS. LEHN:
It was a lot less.

MR. GAUGLER:
Yeah. We had a new arrangement with America's Second Harvest. Is everybody familiar with that organization? American's Second Harvest is like the General Motors of the food banking industry. They're nationwide. They're an organization really comprised of 200 and some odd food banks cross the country. They are really the go-between in a lot of these food donations whereby Kraft will come to them and say I have several truckloads of this surplus food to donate. They will donate that through America's Second Harvest and America's Second Harvest will contact us with the opportunity, along with all the other food banks, to take whatever surplus food has been donated by Kraft.

Last year they started up a new way of allocating food so that we benefit tremendously on Long Island from that and much of the food that was the increase from 2005, 2006, came through the America's Second Harvest Network. I'm thinking that your food pantry, sir, will probably be benefitting that. If they aren't already, they will be shortly from that increased amount of food.

P.O. LINDSAY:
I don't know whether it's because of the subject matter, but as soon as you're done we're going to eat.

MR. GAUGLER:
You're hungry?

P.O. LINDSAY:
And I just have one last question. The County funding is a very small portion of your overall funding. What would have happen if the County didn't fund your program at all?

MR. GAUGLER:
Even though it's a small portion it is a significant portion of our operating expense budget. First of

all, to answer your question regarding the 45%, I wanted to come up with a figure for you in terms of how many pounds of food we actually did for those agencies. I think it's more than six tons for ten agencies, that would not happen, but for the 55% it would be significant detriment to operation expense budget and we would feel it strongly.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Thank you very much for taking the time to come in and inform us of the good work that you do.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

MR. GAUGLER:

Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The committee will recess until 1:30.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Or thereabouts.

(The meeting was recessed at 1:15 PM and reconvened at 1:36 PM)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you fellows for coming.

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you for having us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm sorry. We're running a few minutes late. Bob, why don't you introduce your team to us.

MR. MITCHELL:

Okay. We gave you a handout in a manilla envelope.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yup, we got it.

MR. MITCHELL:

Wait a second, Lou. Take it easy. See I make all the mistakes. He's the one that's right all the time. All right. I'm Bob Mitchell. I'm the attorney in charge of Legal Aid. To my right is Mr. Louis Mazzola. He is my associate and he's in the administration, as well as does appeals and also sits at trials. To his right is George Roach, our poster boy. He's the ex-president of the Bar Association and head of the Senior Citizens Division. And to his right is Mr. Philip J. O'Reilly. He's our finance man, also handles our pension and medical as amasses from NYU and tax. And he's the one who saved our pension when the County was losing money. We did all right.

In addition to that, we have a woman, Bobbi Baker, who is in our office. She's getting ready to retire so we hired someone else to be trained. All right? That's pretty much the administration. And I just want to just give you a two minute brief overview.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, I was going to just ask you to give us a brief overview of what Legal Aid does, which -- how do you qualify for a Legal Aid Attorney, you know, give us a description of the program.

MR. MITCHELL:

Okay. If I could just respond. Cameron Alden asked me in regards to the 18B, the money that was put away in our budget for -- was given to us from 18B. There was an extra million dollars put in by Levy, and I understand we got part of that money. I spoke to Dave {Beso}, Dave {Beso's} budget, he's the 18B attorney, got \$3.6 million from the County and the State gave him an extra 600,000. And the letter I gave you shows that it's a State charge. This is that new law that came into effect for the Supreme Court. You remember that?

LEG. ALDEN:

Right.

MR. MITCHELL:

So I just wanted to share. Here's -- the proof is right there that it's a State charge.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. MITCHELL:

Another thing, just very briefly, is that we were up in Albany last week and we were told that Judith Kay is preparing a bill to have the -- all of the defenders in the State of New York be taken over by the State and become a State charge. There's an article in Newsday today, I gave you a copy, but the Law Journal has a long article saying that Spitzer's on board with her. It's supposed to be a plan. If they pass it, it'll be a three plan taking effect next year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So does that mean that Legal Aid would not be funded all by the County?

MR. MITCHELL:

That's correct. That's her plan, and if you read the Law Journal article it's -- he's evidently on board with that. How far it's going to get in the Legislature I don't know, but she's really pushing for this. As a matter of fact, she had another study done of all of the defense organizations in the State and Suffolk County turned out to be one of the best and we also have that in the packets. Now --

P.O. LINDSAY:

If that was to happen --

MR. MITCHELL:

You'd be very happy.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Not only would we be happy, our County Executive would be happy and -- but would there -- would the 18B program still exist then?

MR. MITCHELL:

No, because they would also take over the conflict cases. The provision is for one of -- for Legal Aid and also for Conflict Legal Aid. They would take over both. So that would alleviate a lot of problems for the County.

Now they -- when we were at this meeting Thursday they seemed very strong over the fact that this was going to happen. Now, I have no idea. I'm not politically involved, but you fellows could make a phone call and probably find out. We understand March 27th is the date that this is supposed to come forward.

And the judge's salaries are going to be passed April 1st. They're going to get retroactive two years. I gave you a list of that. And we gave you financial statements that we have, certified financial statements.

MR. MAZZOLA:

They're not certified. What did we give them, the financial statements?

MR. O'REILLY:

We have financial statements certified every year.

MR. MITCHELL:

Oh, we have -- okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

There's some financials here, you know.

MR. MITCHELL:

Yeah, we've got everything here.

MR. O'REILLY:

There's a little packet there, sir, with an explanation in the letter.

And the cost to the County, how much funding we get to different contracts.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Let's go back to basics. Explain when does Legal Aid get involved, with what types of cases, what's the criteria?

MR. MITCHELL:

Okay. Basically the way it is the judges have the final say as to whether or not we represent, who we represent, and when we represent them. We handle Family Court, and we also handle the District Court and the County Court, which are criminal cases. In addition to that, we have the Law Guardians for children.

Now what happens is people apply and we have certain standards as to whether or not they meet the criteria for legal aid, but the judge makes the final call. In other words, a gentlemen can walk in there with a diamond ring and a gold tooth and they'll say give him legal aid. Another fellow can walk in and be barefoot and they'll say no legal aid. The judge makes the final call as to who represent. But once we represent them, we represent them. As I said, we cover all the District Court, County Court, and Law Guardians and the Family Court.

We have a staff of at any given time of 87 attorneys covering these different parts. We also have an Appeals Division, which is probably one of the best in the State.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is that separate from the 87?

MR. MITCHELL:

I'm sorry?

LEG. NOWICK:

Is that separate from the 87?

MR. MITCHELL:

No, that's included in the 87 attorneys. Now, in the District Court they have these boutique parts we call them, and that's where they have the Drug Court. I think that you went to one of the -- to the -- this is Judith Kay, again, who initiated the Drug Court. She initiated the domestic violence part, and now she also has a mental health part. And these are all new courts that she's initiated and we have to cover.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I know Legislator Montano is chomping at the bit because you said something that caught his interest.

MR. MITCHELL:

What's that, Rick?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, that was earlier when you mentioned the pay raises for the judges, you said that's going to be passed. And I just was wondering where you got that information. But that's not what I am going to question you on.

MR. MITCHELL:

I got that from Albany. The fellows up there tell me that Spitzer's behind it and it's going to go April 1st or April 30th.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's going to be separate from the Legislative pay raises, right?

MR. MITCHELL:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

They are going to separate that?

MR. MITCHELL:

Evidently yes, he made it separate from the Legislative pay raises. This is what I'm told. I just want you guys to know what I know.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. That peaked my interest but that's not our interest here. Bob, I wanted to just go over some numbers with you because I know we had a conversation during the Omnibus process about, you know, increasing in funding to Legal Aid. But just generally for the record, how much -- you're entirely funded by the County?

MR. MITCHELL:

We're funded by the County, and also there's State money that comes in.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. Overall --

MR. MITCHELL:

Law Guardians is a separate division all together and so it -- that's paid by the State, the Law Guardians.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Overall, what's your budget?

MR. O'REILLY:

Sir, if you would open your packet.

MR. MITCHELL:

Just give him the number, Phil.

MR. O'REILLY:

The second page -- it's answers to your questions.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Microphone.

LEG. MONTANO:

I see here General Criminal nine million eight-hundred -- so total contracts are 11,236,00.

MR. O'REILLY:

That's for 2007, correct, Sir.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. And out of that, how much -- I'm looking here less funds received by County. I don't want to go through this now. But just overall, how much do you get from the County?

MR. MITCHELL:

The total is I think is about \$8,800,000.

MR. O'REILLY:

We get \$11,236,369 from the State and Federal Government. The County receives directly 703,161 towards these programs. That would be a net of 10,533,208.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's what you get from the County?

MR. O'REILLY:

Yes. The County is reimbursed from that money and the estimate for 2007, by the Indigent Legal Service Fund is 1,645,659. That would be a net cost to the County of 8,887,518.

There's an explanation on the next page with regard to the asterisk. In 2006 the County received 2,071,230 from the ILS Fund. It is estimated, we received this the other day from the State that the amount the County will get for the total 18B will be 2,571,343 in 2007. Eighty percent approximately is due to the funds paid to the Legal Aid Society.

LEG. MONTANO:

Bob, I just want to ask you one of the questions, one of the topics we discussed, and that had to do with the parity of pay scale between the legal aid and the District Attorneys. Where are we now in terms of these pay scales? Because having been, you know, being an attorney and, you know, having been in this process, having handled some 18B, that's always been an issue in terms of doing the same work. Legal Aid is doing the same work on the other side of the table as the D.A.'s -- D.A.'s Office, and there's always been a disparity. So I'm just trying to -- where are we at with that?

MR. MITCHELL:

We still don't have parity. It probably would take us two or three million dollars to give us parity, so I don't know if that's ever going to take place. What we are trying to do is try to keep some type of semblances to try to stay close, you know, try to get that three to 6% every year.

LEG. MONTANO:

So as the DA's Office goes up -- you're trying to stay in place is what you're saying.

MR. MITCHELL:

Trying to stay in place. In other words, we start at 48, DA starts at 52, 54. They have steps and grades, we don't have steps and grades. I mean, if we hire you at 48 -- I can't hire you at 60. It just doesn't happen that way.

See, when Gaffney got out, Gaffney in his last budget said that we should have parity with the District Attorney and he gave us a few extra dollars. That's where this parity comes from. Now, a number of people are misled thinking that we do have parity. We never had parity. And then you fellows were kind enough to give us a few extra dollars over the last few years. And so -- especially with the AME contract. We would have been left out in the cold all together. But you've closed the gap a little bit, quite a bit. But right now the gap is still there.

LEG. MONTANO:

And how is the turnover in the office?

MR. MITCHELL:

I just lost three people yesterday -- during the week, so the turnover is there. You know, they come, you never know when it's going to happen. You know, all of a sudden you lose six people, three people, whatever it is.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. That's it.

MR. MITCHELL:

We'd like to, you know, hire them at 52 and get closer to the DA if we could, but we'll put that in the next budget. Whatever can be done we'd be very grateful.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody else?

LEG. ALDEN:

Your next budget is the State budget.

MR. MITCHELL:

Well, no. If this -- if what they told us in Albany is true and the bill passes this year, it's a three year turnabout. It wouldn't be until the following year or two. We still have a couple of years.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just through the Chair. The numbers that you gave us before for your overall budget, that includes the program that Mr. Roach had --

MR. MITCHELL:

Yes, it does.

MR. O'REILLY:

Yes, it does. It goes to senior program. What we did is we prepared a response to the questionnaire that was sent by your staff and on paragraph four, page two, you'll see the different contracts we have. The General Criminal, Aid to Defense, Defend a Base, Senior Citizen. Now in the senior, 218,031 comes from the Federal Government and 30,000 comes directly from the State. But there's a contract that we have for that 532. We're expecting the contract that we signed. We haven't received it yet. But that figure includes Mr. Roach's division.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And just to -- really, a standard question we're asking everybody, and I think I know the answer. But if, you know, the Executive in his budget doesn't fund you to the level that you need and it comes over here and we don't pick up the ball and fund you, what happens? The burden is just shifted? You don't have enough attorneys.

MR. MITCHELL:

Then it goes to 18B and --

P.O. LINDSAY:

It goes to 18B and we wind up paying in freight anyway.

MR. MITCHELL:

You wind up paying three times the amount. I mean, our cost is like 400 versus 1,100. Those rates, 18B now are \$75 an hour inside and outside a court.

MR. O'REILLY:

The budget narrative is the second part of this package that we gave you gentlemen and ladies. There we put that in because we think it explains what would transpire basically. Our cost per case, particularly with this money from the Indigent Fund to the County, is \$300 probably at most. That's all inclusive from start to finish.

You know, we don't just take a file. We have to bring the clients in, we got to keep our files according to the law, we have to represent them properly, we have to maintain records, we get phone calls all the type. You know what I'm saying? It's relatively cheap. If you talk to practicing lawyers, and some of you are or were practicing lawyers, you know that. Just open a file up.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

And just for the record, this isn't something that Suffolk County set up that's unique. I think the Constitution guarantees everybody a right to --

MR. MITCHELL:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

To representation. So one way or the other the public is going, whether it's called the Public Defenders Office, whether it's called Legal Aid, the public is going to pay.

MR. MITCHELL:

Absolutely. If you take 18B it would be three times our budget, at least two-and-a-half times our budget.

MR. O'REILLY:

Just on the information we had, the 18B cases were coming in at approximately \$806. Ours, without taking into consideration the ILS Fund, was \$363, and it's less than that. And as another point, our 2006 caseload went up by 10% in the areas where the County funds. That's the criminal and the seniors over the 2005 year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't know whether this is a typo or not, but you list in your paperwork that your administrative expense is .04?

MR. O'REILLY:

Percent. Four percent.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Four percent, okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Not four one-hundredths of 1%.

MR. MITCHELL:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That sounds a little more realistic. And just something that the committee should know, in talking to Bob, you know, we put more money in Legal Aid in the Omnibus process and he thought that he could give everybody a decent raise and then he got his health care bill for health coverage and it went up, what, 50%?

MR. MITCHELL:

Yeah.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Which meant that a lot of his people didn't get anywhere near the raise that they thought they would get.

MR. MITCHELL:

We're working on that now. We haven't given any raises out. We're negotiating trying to knock that figure down. We have some phone calls, some people we are going to see next week.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Huh?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I was just saying after -- I know you made presentations during budget time and part of that was the funds that were increased from the prior year really went to the benefits or the health benefits and then you just slammed right into that wall again this year.

MR. MITCHELL:

Right. It's unfortunate, but I don't get the figure until after the budget's passed. All of a sudden they come in and they give me the figure. I got to have this figure, you know, in July or in June.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's an across the board problem, you know, with the health care cost.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But at least if he knew that going into our process you got to change your health care policy to expire earlier in the year so we know what your expenses are going into the next year. It'll help us to justify, you know, increasing your budget line.

MR. O'REILLY:

In our budget presentation, our request, it was indicated that our health care costs and our pension cost would be two-and-a-half to 3%. So when the County Executive came out with an approximately 3% increase, what happened was that all of that was going to be taken up with non-salaried employee expenses basically. All right?

And one of the reasons why the health care was that we had gotten the very low health care rate the year before because we got a credit coming through the way they -- the plan number. And that's why that happened. When the Legislature added the money it allowed us to give raises, so there will be money for some raises.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Last night I heard, and it was an offer from Suffolk County to some of the school districts, that if we

pool our resources we can get some economies of scale, so to speak, with the health care, especially with health care, and that was specifically mentioned. Is that applicable to you?

MR. MITCHELL:

I don't follow you. What do you mean?

MR. O'REILLY:

We had talked to the County --

MR. MITCHELL:

Oh, the County. Yeah, we spoke to them.

MR. O'REILLY:

-- about five or six, seven years ago, ten years, maybe, I forget, a couple of times. It was when the crisis with the stock market etcetera and health care was going up, about potentially joining into the same plans that the County had. And we were told that it would not be feasible, that we would not qualify and could not do that. So that has been approached, sir.

MR. MITCHELL:

I've approached that every year except last year. I was away when we made the presentation. But every year I ask them that and they just laugh, they just smile and walk away.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thanks.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just to follow-up on that. When dealing with your -- what I'm hearing is that you were trying to hook up into the County health plan but that was -- that was denied for I'm sure for a lot of technical reasons. But then the question is whom -- what lodge or agencies do you hook up with in terms of getting your benefits? Are you part of a statewide defender association or is it individually?

MR. MITCHELL:

What we do is we put it out for bid. We get an agent and he goes out and he bids it out and they come in with the number, and hopefully this is the best number that's available.

LEG. MONTANO:

For you individually. You're not part of a bigger bargaining unit, I guess, is the question.

MR. O'REILLY:

Stand alone.

MR. MITCHELL:

Stand alone. We're stand alone, yeah.

LEG. MONTANO:

You're standing alone, okay. And then following that up, could you be part of, not the County, but could you be part of, do you qualify, is there a larger defender association or legal aid association that basically can assist you in getting a lower rate if you're part of a larger group?

MR. MITCHELL:

Not that I'm aware of, no. We've spoke to the people in Albany.

MR. MAZZOLA:

We do that for our malpractice insurance. We are members of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. We're able to get in there for our malpractice insurance, but not the medical. We haven't been able to do it with anything else but malpractice.

LEG. MONTANO:

The reason I mention, of course, is there is a commission that's studying how to consolidate, some kind of buying and services and this is one of the areas where being part of a larger group would benefit because you have more members going. But you know that of course, so.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay fellows. I don't see anything else. Most of the answers are on your paperwork. I'm glad to see, Bob, that you don't make 20 -- more than 20% of the 11 million budget, you know, otherwise I'd probably assassinate you for your job. But thanks for coming in.

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you very much.

MR. O'REILLY:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Island Harvest. Come on forward, ladies.

MS. DRESNER:

Hello.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Randi?

MS. DRESNER:

Yes. Hi.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you for coming. Maybe you could introduce your --

MS. DRESNER:

Absolutely. I have a little prepared statement actually if that's okay with you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's wonderful.

MS. DRESNER:

Good afternoon. I'm Randi Dresner, President and CEO of Island Harvest. I'm joined today with our business manager, Sondra {LeBlanc}. Thank you for giving us the opportunity today to tell you how critically important your Omnibus funding is to us and the large network of soup kitchens, food pantries and other non-profit organizations we serve in all of Suffolk County's 18 Legislative Districts.

Charity Navigator is a nationally recognized evaluator of non-profit organizations across the United States. They have just notified us that Island Harvest earned a four star rating, their highest ranking, for the second year in a row. Their report indicates that Island Harvest is the most fiscally responsible agency, differentiating themselves from our peers. So as Legislators concerned about the credibility and stability of organizations that you support, you could be assured of our accountability.

When most think of hunger, the image of homeless people usually come to mind. And while of

course hunger exists in this population, a more typical picture is that of a working family just not making enough to keep up with the high cost of living on Long Island. I can tell you that based on the results of our recent hunger study that we found that 47% of households who access food from our network of emergency food programs have at least one working adult in the household.

In fact, as you came to work today, you may have passed many who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. It's hard to tell because hunger is not something people talk about. After all, if you couldn't put food on your table last night, would that be something that you would share with others today? It's not likely. Hunger is what we call the local disaster that the rest of us never really think about.

It's hard to imagine, but there are 259,000 people accessing food from our network each year, and of that number, 93,000 of them are children, yep, 93,000 children. You could fill Shea Stadium twice with the number of children going hungry right here on Long Island. And hunger affects senior citizens, children and adults, many of who are struggling with one or two jobs, desperately trying to make ends meet for their families. Fifty-six percent have indicated that they must choose between paying for food and other essentials. Imagine not eating just to conserve resources so that you could get through the month.

Although these are all sad statistics, it's important to realize that Island Harvest is part of the solution. Island Harvest has been recognized by America's Second Harvest as the third largest food rescue organization in the country. Through smart business practices, relying heavily on volunteers, enlisting the support of Long Island businesses, and engaging the broader community, we have tripled the amount of food we have rescued since 2001 while maintaining a greater than 90% cost to expense ratio.

The \$50,000 we will receive from the Omnibus budget in 2007 will enable Island Harvest to move an additional 247,000 pounds of food, nutritious food, right here in Suffolk County to our network of member agencies. This 240,000 pounds of food is valued at close to \$400,000. A more than eight fold return on the County's Omnibus investment.

I should note that in Suffolk County last year we delivered 3.5 million pounds of food to 290 food programs, which is about half of the food we rescue overall. We rescued seven million pounds of food in 2006. The three-and-a-half million pounds of food that we delivered here in Suffolk County supplemented about 2.7 million meals.

We do all of this with a small and dedicated staff of 18 people, four part-time people and 14 full-time people, plus we have a huge corp of volunteers. Our budget and goals have increased this year in order to keep pace with the increasing demand for food assistance on Long Island. We ask nothing of our member agencies other than an agreement that they will store and serve food according to our strict safe food handling regulations, that they will not sell our donated food, and they will not require anyone to sit through a religious service before getting the food.

And Legislator Montano, Cooper and Mystal can be assured that your support that you gave us through member item grants helped us to collect and distribute healthy food in 2006.

I've mentioned a lot of statistics, but behind the statistics are real stories, like the Port Jefferson breast cancer survivor raising a daughter on \$630 monthly SSI benefit, or the Selden couple who started their own business but can't meet monthly expenses for themselves and their children. Or the Amityville Food Pantry Director who told us recently that the people just keep coming, they keep coming she said. They need so much more food, how can I turn them away?

The food we will deliver in this County with the support of the Suffolk County Omnibus budget will dramatically change lives. Once you take away the heavy burden of knowing where your next meal will come from, our clients can shift their efforts on finding more secure employment, housing and other support that they so desperately need.

Island Harvest is pleased that we are not the only organization providing food to those who need it in Suffolk County. Even rescuing and delivering three point million pounds in this County alone we're only scratching the surface. We are the largest hunger relief organization on Long Island, and we have created signature programs often duplicated across the country.

Our methods of using volunteers is quite unique. In fact, we have a corp of more than 500 volunteers trained in safe food handling practices right here in Suffolk County. Some are corporate volunteers, like the 40 plus KeySpan volunteers who rotate their lunch hour to pick up locally donated food and immediately deliver it to our network of member agencies in that district, in that area. Other people are disabled -- people with disabilities, retirees and children, students and families looking to give back to their community.

Without funding from the Omnibus appropriation, we would struggle to keep pace with the increasing demand for food in Suffolk County. Our response to this demand is to increase our food rescue efforts and delivery efforts by 7% in 2007. Fellow Long Islanders strongly support our mission. Close to 80% of our \$1.7 million budget comes from individuals, businesses and foundations across Long Island. Through your Omnibus funding you are joining with your constituents in supporting this mission to end hunger in our community. Your funding leverages a significant percent of support from the community and it gives an important message that the Legislature shares the public concern about hunger.

Finally, let me talk a little bit about how we involve the greater community in our food rescue efforts. We have an extensive education and outreach program that issues important bulletins on safe food handling, nutrition, government and corporate assistance programs, such as food stamps and more. We organize hundreds of food drives at companies across the County and we give hundreds of hunger awareness presentations at schools to sensitize and rally the next generation. And we have implemented a new Train the Trainer Workshop Series to empower our network of agencies.

In closing, this Omnibus appropriation will allow us to continue to better serve your constituency and increase the amount of food we rescue and deliver right here in Suffolk County. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome, Randi. How many employees do you have?

MS. DRESNER:

We have 18 employees; four are part-time, 14 are full-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

On your -- hi. Thanks for coming down.

MS. DRESNER:

Hi. Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

What percentage of your budget is administration? You just have to grab the microphone.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Hello, can you hear me?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

As you know, the first thing that we like to point out is that a significant part of our daily activities is we get in kind donations. Our office is in Mineola, our storehouse in Holbrook, our storehouse in Uniondale, are all donated spaces. We do not pay utilities, we do not pay phone, and we don't pay rent. So -- and many of our trucks are donated as well. So, therefore, over 90% of our costs go to program services, and we distribute the other 10%, and I would say less than 5% -- around 5% of our costs are administrative. And those all include -- those, just so you know, include in kind donations as well.

LEG. ALDEN:

And does your CEO or Director make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Much less.

LEG. ALDEN:

Much less?

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Much less.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Sondra, I'm sorry. I'm looking at the sheet here. Just go over the numbers for me. How much of your funding is -- well, let's go back. Your total funding for the year, let's say last year, is approximately how much?

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Can I go by our budget for 2007?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes, either way. We're just getting general numbers here.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Our budget for 2007 is 1.7 million.

LEG. MONTANO:

One point seven million. How much of that comes from the County?

MS. {LeBLANC}:

The County?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

The County or from the Legislature?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, the County, the County of Suffolk.

MS. DRESNER:

The County of Suffolk?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes. That's us.

MS. DRESNER:

Fifty-thousand dollars from this Omnibus appropriation. That's it.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's total.

MS. DRESNER:

That's it.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that came from the Legislature in various member items.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

Well, this is 2007 budget. 2006?

MS. DRESNER:

Well, we have not been noticed of any member item additional to the 50,000 in 2007.

LEG. MONTANO:

Whatever was passed in the budget was 50,000. That's all you get from the County.

MS. DRESNER:

Fifty-thousand, that's it. That's it.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

That's correct, of the 1.7 million.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes. I hear you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What would be the effect if you didn't have that \$50,000?

MS. DRESNER:

The \$50,000 that we're getting from this budget is helping us to move an additional 240,000 pounds of food. Were we not to get this funding, we would seek funding from elsewhere, because our mission is to find the food and deliver the food.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But if you didn't have the \$50,000, right now you wouldn't be able to move another 240,000 pounds of food.

MS. DRESNER:

We would absolutely be behind 247,000 pounds.

LEG. ALDEN:

And as a footnote to that, through the Chair. The value of that food is \$400,000. So it's a

significant multiplier.

MS. DRESNER:

And 240,000 pounds of food supplements about 300,000 meals, I believe. Close to that, a little bit more. The multiplier is 1.28.

MS. {LeBLANC}:

One point two eight.

MS. DRESNER:

Yes, so it's a little bit more than that actually. And the food we rescue, by the way, is perishable non-perishable product. We get a tremendous amount of product from the farms out east. We get a tremendous amount of product from supermarkets. Pathmark just started a program with us six months ago where we now get 12,000 pounds of product a week from all the Pathmark stores across the Island. And that's food that would have been thrown away. It's canned and dented foods. It's when there's a four pack of yogurt and one container is broken they used to throw that product away; we now get that. We also get product from wholesalers and distributors. We get about a million pounds from America's Second Harvest, and we get from caterers, country clubs, restaurants, and national chains as well.

LEG. NOWICK:

Do you also do individual fundraising?

MS. DRESNER:

We do fundraising.

LEG. NOWICK:

You do.

MS. DRESNER:

Nearly 100% of our income is fund raised dollars aside from legislative money.

LEG. NOWICK:

That 1.7 million.

MS. DRESNER:

It's all money that we're raising from special events, corporate and foundation gifts, and from individuals and direct mail.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'm just going to say for the record I know the work that you do in my district, and I'm very grateful and I'm very glad to be able to do anything to assist you in this effort. And if that means, you know, recommending member items or support from the County, I think it's well worth it.

MS. DRESNER:

Thank you very much. I'm grateful for that support. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And Island Harvest was the charity that was started by Harry Chapin.

MS. DRESNER:

No, that's Long Island Cares.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's Long Island Cares. I always get that confused. And Long Island Cares really supplies food pantries, you guys supply more soup kitchens?

MS. DRESNER:

No, actually we supply -- we have nearly the same member agencies. Long Island Cares delivers a different type of food. They're a food bank and they get commodities from the government and from other sources. Our agencies tell us and it came out in our survey that we did that they need both of our agencies for the food, because at the end of the month, when they run out of food from Long Island Cares, they're calling Island Harvest.

LEG. NOWICK:

And your food also, as I understand it, a lot of it is already prepared food ready to go.

MS. DRESNER:

Perishable product, right. It's not quite 50% but a good majority of our food is perishable product, right. We deliver only frozen food, cold food. Let's say any of you had a function at the Crest Hollow or some other facility, we would rescue the food the next day once that food has been put chilled and put into the containers that we provide for food rescue. Then we immediately deliver it to agencies. That's what differentiates us from any other organizations.

We're an immediate delivery organization, so no matter what we get, whether it is perishable or nonperishable product, we have two warehouses which we call storehouses because we don't keep any food product for any long period of time. It's almost a pass through. What we do is we bring it to the warehouses and we stage it so that we can move it evenly and equally across Long Island so we're out at both ends of the forks of Long Island and we're as far west as Elmont.

LEG. MONTANO:

I just have one question. Randy, just one question. How long have you been receiving County funding? How far back -- when did you start, more or less.

MS. DRESNER:

This is the first year we're getting any funding from the Omnibus budget, and we only got member item money for the past two years.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I think that's all the questions. Thank you very much, ladies, for coming in, and thank you for the work that you do for our community.

MS. DRESNER:

Thank you. Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our work. I appreciate that. Thanks.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Friends of RSVP. Come on forward.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Peggy, right?

MS. ORSINO:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How are you, Peggy? Thank you for coming. Maybe you could introduce your associate and tell us a little bit about what your agency does and what population you serve and what's the geographical area that you provide those services.

MS. ORSINO:

Can you hear me? Is this better?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes.

MS. ORSINO:

I'm Peggy Orsino. I'm the Executive Director for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program here in Suffolk. This is Monica {Seidel} who's our bookkeeper for the agency. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has been serving Suffolk County for the past 35 years. Presently we have 992 volunteers that are over 55 that go to about 120 partnering stations that we have that are 501 3C's here. That's how we're able to offer a diverse volunteer opportunities to the seniors, because they're all different, from gardening to blood services to hospitals to mentoring. Whatever the senior's talents or skills are we try to place them where they would like to expend that community service.

We last year gave 151,000 hours of service which equates to \$3.5 million worth of manpower to those agencies that a lot of them wouldn't be sustainable without the volunteerism that we place over there. About 16% of our volunteers are in educational and mentoring settings, another 16% are in hospitals and hospices, another 18% are and libraries and act as {dosens} in the historical sites. And every day we get to partner with more and more of the organizations that could use the manpower.

We, as far as the population, we do serve those over 55. As a matter of fact, I had some interesting stats that 14% of our -- 18% of our volunteers are over 85, and another 6% are over 90, so volunteerism is good for your health. And we serve those and those seniors serve, because of the variety of volunteer stations, serve all of the population of Suffolk County.

We have three offices, one in Amagansett, one in Westhampton and one here in Smithtown, and from those, we manage the volunteers in those different catchment areas, but we do serve all of Suffolk.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And how many full-time employees do you have?

MS. ORSINO:

Me, one.

P.O. LINDSAY:

One, okay. Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Any part-time?

MS. ORSINO:

We have 11 part-timers all told.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody else? Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Could you tell us approximately what portion of your overall budget goes towards administrative costs?

MS. ORSINO:

About 68% goes to towards administrative cost and that's because the contributed services of managing 1,000 volunteers is the product.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't think that's right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's really not relevant.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No.

LEG. MONTANO:

Three point five million, if you had those employees --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right. If you took into account the \$3.5 million that number would drop so substantially.

MS. ORSINO:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Not only that, but the -- I think we're -- but what Peggy is counting as administrative costs is the actual -- the coordination of the program that you provide.

MS. ORSINO:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You know, what we're talking about is --

MS. {SEIDEL}:

That percentage runs off a \$300,000 budget.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'm sorry?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That was actually going to be my next question, is what is your total budget, 300,000?

MS. {SEIDEL}:

Right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

And you're saying that 68% of that is your administrative costs, but I think most of us would say you could really say your overall budget is 3.8 million if you factor in the \$3.5 million worth of services that you're helping to coordinate to various agencies. And if you take that 68% of 300,000 and make that part of three 3.7 million, it's a pretty small number.

MS. {SEIDEL}:

Thank God they don't use that on taxes for housewives.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

True.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. Thanks for coming down. The effect on your operations if the County were to take away that funding?

MS. ORSINO:

Well, we have three County contracts. One of them supports a telephone reassurance program where 400 frail, elderly are called every day as a means of socialization as well as monitoring their well-being. These are people that are isolated in the community. And last year that program alone saved 16 lives in the emergency backup plan that we have. So that program, if that funding went away, would be stopped totally.

LEG. ALDEN:

So probably you could say that from past experience it would actually cost how many lives?

MS. ORSINO:

Well, 16 in 2006 were saved and taken to the hospital because --

LEG. ALDEN:

So there's a possibility of 16 Suffolk County residents would die if we took away that -- based on past performance. Okay.

MS. ORSINO:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm sorry I interrupted you.

MS. ORSINO:

Okay. The other County contract we have is the Feeling Good Program and that's a health and wellness program that's run at 23 of the Suffolk County Senior Nutrition Centers. That's light exercise and wellness discussions and serves about 900 seniors monthly, twice a week.

Now, if the administrative grant was to be taken away, then most of the personnel, quite a bit of it would be slashed. Our part-timers would be losing -- one position would be totally taken away, and then other part-time positions would be very much cut.

MS. {SEIDEL}:

Yeah, we'd lose our Executive Administrator --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Could you speak closer to the microphone, please?

MS. {SEIDEL}:

Sorry. We'd lose our Executive Administer and two of our coordinators would have to be eliminated because their budgets are taken out -- their salaries are paid out of the County funding.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm sorry, but I don't think I heard you tell us how much funding have you received from the County in the past few years.

MS. ORSINO:

That's a total of \$118,000.

LEG. NOWICK:

For which year?

LEG. ALDEN:

No, that's for three years, right?

LEG. NOWICK:

For three years?

MS. ORSINO:

In 2006 for all three grants.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

All three grants.

MS. ORSINO:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

Did you receive them in 2004, five and six or --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No. I'm sorry. Am I understanding correctly, you have three separate grants that you received in 2006?

MS. ORSINO:

Correct.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Total \$118,000.

MS. ORSINO:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. That was 2006. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah. More to be BRO, this, the 118,000, was this in the recommended in the put back as the Omnibus or a combination of both? That's more for us internally.

MR. ORTIZ:

I don't think it was part of the Omnibus, but I'll look that up.

LEG. MONTANO:

So it was actually -- it should have been in the recommended.

MR. ORTIZ:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mr. Chairman.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Just so you know, I just did the math. Thank God for palm pilots. If you factored in the value of the volunteer hours that you provide, or help coordinate to provide, those administrative expenses would be 5.3%.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody else? No? Are there any other agencies that provide the same services that RSVP does?

MS. ORSINO:

No, none in Suffolk. We have a sister program RSVP in Nassau.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And if you didn't receive the \$118,000, what would it do to your programs?

MS. ORSINO:

The Telephone Reassurance Program would have to be closed. As we spoke about, there's over 400 frail, elderly that are called every day by three phone banks that exist here in Westhampton, Amagansett and Smithtown. And that's about 106,000 phone calls annually that we make to these people and it saved last year 16 lives. I believe the year before that there was 12 lives saved and that's because there's an emergency backup procedure to calling these people. It really works very nicely for the frail elderly, because it might be the only phone call they get in a day and it works well for our seniors, those that volunteer love to chat, so it's good, good place.

And so that would be closed down entirely, and the Feeling Good Program that serves over 900 seniors monthly at a Health and Wellness Program that happens at 23 of the Senior Nutrition Centers, that would also have to be closed.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just -- it kind of reminds me of just a quick story. A couple of years ago I was walking, campaigning, and I knocked on a seniors door. He didn't know me from Adam. "Come on in, sit down. It's so good to have somebody to talk to", you know?

MS. ORSINO:

That's true.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You don't receive any Federal, State money?

MS. ORSINO:

We do receive Federal funding under the Corporation for National and Community Service. That funding is 128,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you have any outside fundraising, private fundraising?

MS. ORSINO:

We do. Last year we raised \$26,000 in different efforts.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And as the CEO you don't make more than 20% of your budget, right?

MS. ORSINO:

No, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't have anything else. I thank you ladies for coming in and talking to us, and I thank you for the work that you do for our community.

MS. ORSINO:

Thank you so much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't -- I think that concludes our agenda for the day. I thank the committee for their studious work today, we got a lot accomplished. I thought it was productive. I learned a lot about some of the agencies we fund, and it was very enlightening. And we'll see you next month. We stand adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 PM)

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