

## **CONTRACT AGENCIES COMMITTEE**

**OF THE**

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Contract Agencies Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veteran Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay - Chairman  
Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice-Chairman  
Legislator Jon Cooper  
Legislator Lou D'Amaro  
Legislator Daniel Losquadro  
Legislator Ricardo Montano  
Legislator Lynne Nowick.

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Joseph Lecci - Lifeline Mediation Center  
Gaynell Stone - Suffolk County Archeological Association  
Nancy Mariano - Friends of Karen  
Nance Vidal - Brentwood Youth Development Corp  
Laura Cassell - Catholic Charities  
Anita Fleiscman - Pederson Krag  
Gini Booth - Literacy Suffolk, Inc.  
Joe Daly - Ryan House  
Neal Lewis - Long Island Neighborhood Network  
Eileen Kanuer - Huntington YMCA  
Louis Kothe - Long Island Senior Games

#### **MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:32 A.M.\*)

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Could everyone rise for the pledge led by Legislator Montano.

### **SALUTATION**

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Welcome, everybody to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Meeting. And I appreciate Rick Brand being here to cover it, it's important.

**MR. BRAND:**

I'm here for you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I'm glad you found a seat. First up today is Lifeline Mediation Center. Are you folks here? Would you please come forward.

**MR. LECCI:**

Joe Lecci, Executive Director.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Just have a seat and use the mike. Just to put you folks at ease, this isn't an inquisition or anything like this. We have a tremendous amount of contract agencies that provide all kinds of services for this County, and the idea behind the Ad Hoc Committee is to kind of do a reassessment of where we're spending our money and make sure we're going our dollar's worth. And it's been very informative for us, you know. Maybe you folks could just start out by giving us a brief description of your agency and the programs that you supply and what population you serve within our County.

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes. We are representing the Longwood School District. Firstly, I'm a retired assistant principal from the Longwood system at the High School, retired in '98. Lifeline was birthed in '97. And it's basically to burden that we have had in the community that I'm living in for 41. And we serve the community with a host of anti-violence prevention activities and mediation and mediators and mentors tutors that service the community overall.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

All for youth.

**MR. LECCI:**

Everything is for youth and adults, because we deal with domestic violence, gang intervention. We've worked with Police Athletic League for 12 years. There are many facets of our programs that we do have, but overall our target is that we're in a collaboration with the Longwood School District endorsed by the Superintendent, {Al Gerstinlauer} and the Board Of Education.

And we have expanded from '98 to now. We work with the Brookhaven Town in their Youth Bureau as well as Suffolk County's Youth Bureau. This past year with Lou {Madeena} becoming the director, I'm serving now with him on the anti-graffiti task force as well as the cyber bullying situation that occurred. We've been working behind the scenes on that with the director and County Exec Levy on the issues that are at hand with where that's growing, along with splashes of hope with that anti-graffiti movement that is going on. That's kind of cropped up. We are basically diffusing school issues, dealing with the community issues, like I said, the gang intervention.

We've been working with Stony Brook SUNY Liberty Partnership for ten years. We are in partnership with other programs that we coordinate with. And we extend ourselves with the Food Pantry, we have clothing situation that we work with at the holidays all the way through. The district works with us with the homeless population. And we assist through pupil personnel services as well as the social workers throughout the district.

It overlaps in a collaboration with the day care center that we are in our 19th year. And it's a lot of single parents. And what we do, if I sound a little fragmented, it's because there's a lot that we do. And I apologize for that, and I'll try to bring it and focus it together. But what we do is a summer cultural arts program that comes out of that with PAL. We do a midnight basketball program three on three that we've done for ten years. We have an outside court that we've use for 12 years with lighting, and it doesn't have any gates on it, not an ounce or graffiti in the Longwood District for 12 years. And that's used to have the children come and participate 24/7, and it's worked out fantastically.

We work with COPE. Like I said, the summer cultural program is for early childhood intervention. That we have a handle on because we have our day care, and the issues that occur there with the day care, Child Protective Service, Dana, we have, what, about 12 students right now?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

We have about 12 this past year that were referred through CPS, yeah.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

What is that about?

**MR. LECCI:**

The Child Protective Service issue?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. So there are children that are in harm's way, right?

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes. And we are an extension to the community of those issues that -- we have, like, a partnership where they know they can favorably send those children to us with foster care. We are able to occupy from 6:30 until 6:30 at night five days a week.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Six thirty in the morning to 6:30 at night.

**MR. LECCI:**

Correct. Yes. And what I feel good about with that whole program is that it allows us to intervene with the issues at hand, with -- you know, from sexual abuse to other issues. We are able to provide counseling because we're able to coordinate that with the school district that is very cooperative and lends us support in the Pupil-Personnel Services.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Let me just get this straight. So we have a child at risk in -- that's referred to you by Child Protective Services, and you guys a day program from 6:30 in the morning until 6:30 at night when the foster parents have to work or something like that.

**MR. LECCI:**

Correct. Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Yeah. Just a little bit more clarification. Is that through a court order, like a PINS?

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes, it could be through a PINS.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

For the most part, it would be for children who would need child care during the day. But we fall into, I guess a regular -- we are there all day. We're there from 6:30 to 6:30. So they use the facility to house the children sometimes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

The children have been removed from their houses.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Some, not all. Some children are still home with their parents.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So they go to your program and then they would actually go home?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

They would go back home.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I'm running out of paper, you do so many things. Just so I can understand. You have your own building or office that they come to locate where?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

In Middle Island.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

In Middle Island. And then also you go into the Longwood Schools and you have a room there -- you work with the Longwood Schools. Do you go into the schools?

**MR. LECCI:**

When we're needed. In the -- if I may. In the case at hand from the early intervention to high school intervention. We just completed a major issues of mediation involving seven families that occurred within the high school setting that drift out into the community in the Gordon Heights area. And what we were able to do -- it required about 16 hours of mediation. It involved weapons, machetes, knives and things of this nature. And honestly, because of the history of knowing all the grandparents and aunts and uncles living here so long, we were able into -- knowing most of the families. And we invite the parents in. And it worked hand-in-hand with the central office, the administration and the high school principal. And they let us handle the whole case.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So you knew about gang activity, you knew who the kids were, But their parents were -- they were all living with their parents and you got their parents involved and everybody together.

**MR. LECCI:**

Parents and guardians. Correct.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MR. LECCI:**

And, you know, we put that together at another one of our facilities.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MR. LECCI:**

And if I may just mention, you said building. We are very excited because three years ago we were given land in the area in Middle Island. If you're familiar with 25 by WalMart, right in that area. We have three and a half acres there, and we're presently -- we broke ground two weeks ago -- and that will be a new day care facility with a community center idea. And that's being supported.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I apologize. I missed the first couple of minutes of your presentation. But I'm familiar with the -- many of the programs that you put together. I heard you speaking a little bit about some of the different programs, some of the different things you undertake, but the last point you touched on I thought was important, and that is your ability to partner with the business community and how many individuals, businesses within the communities, philanthropic individuals, have been very willing to support your efforts. It's not just the money that you get from government, but money from the private sector has really helped you expand your programs. And I heard Legislator Nowick comment, she was sort of running out of ink over there with all the different things that you do. And I'm sure there's probably a ton of things you haven't even touched on to this group.

I was going to get to the first series of questions since we're still describing the programs, correct. How many employees does your agency, and include -- you can include volunteers in that? Break them up, but just include the total number of people that you have working for you.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

We have approximately 15 mentors, mediators and mentors that work in the program. We have -- of course, Joe is the Executive Director. We have -- I'm the Program Manager.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Could you just indicated which of those are paid positions, which of those are volunteer positions?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Okay. Those are -- Joe's position is a paid position, but really is a stipend. He makes \$12,000 a year. So we don't really consider that a paid position, but that's what he makes. My position is a paid position. We have a coordinator, bookkeeper, and the rest of it is mentors and mediators. We have --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Are they volunteers?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

They are paid positions. And then we have about --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So how many paid employees do you have?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Eighteen paid employees.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How many volunteers?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

And we have approximately I would say about 20 volunteers.

**MR. LECCI:**

If I may. On the volunteers, that deals with in-kind service; professional aspects from a psychiatrist to a psychologist to a doctor to a lawyer, whatever the needs are, because right now, in the past three months to use an example -- and we also work very closely with Probation over the years. And one of the particulars, in the past three months, we've had four cases of young people that were incarcerated that have come out and have to do community service. And the judge just approved another one for us to work 420 hours of community service on our properties. So we are able to do that, in working in a partnership when it's appropriate as long as they don't have C Felon and, you know, work along those lines also.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I know that your organization provides services across four or five Legislative Districts. Are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services in that area?

**MR. LECCI:**

We investigated that. We collaborate with Colonial Youth Services in the Shirley-Mastic-William Floyd School District. And we have found that what we do specifically, we're the only agency that does what do in our area.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**MR. LECCI:**

-- for the 53 square. Back to the Legislator's points on the philanthropy of concern individuals, that's how the property came about. The property was donated to us by the Barker Family and the Roanoke Sand and Gravel people as business people. And also John and Elaine Canis Foundation. They believe in what we do. And I've known John and Elaine for 22 years. Elaine used to be my babysitter. So anyway. In the aspect of where we're going, we're very excited about the growth and the things that have happened. And I have to tell you, we appreciate being able to come here and speak on behalf of what we are doing. We're growing. We have growing pains. And anything that we can help with in answering any questions is, you know, whatever.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Good morning.

**MR. LECCI:**

Good morning.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I wanted to follow up on Legislator's Losquadro's question about other agencies with similar services. You had mentioned Colonial Youth Services. In your opinion, I mean, you are out there on the front lines dealing with this, do you feel that between your organization and Colonial you are sufficiently meeting the need that is out there, or do you -- are these agencies the size that they are because there's a larger demand out? Is there room for growth due to that demand? You know, I want to get a sense of -- it's not so much do you have overlap, but in providing a service, because if there's a demand for that service, the overlap is, in my mind, okay. So I want to get a handle on if you have overlap. What we're trying to figure out from a budgetary standpoint, are we getting the best bang for our buck. And so that really depends on the demand for the type of service. Can you speak to that for me?

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes. First of all, the demand, we are way, I feel, at a point now where we're understaffed. And what's happened, especially in the last year and a half, the growth factors are tremendous, everything that you read between the predators in our area and all of the other issues that surround us and the low income housing of HUD and the things that are in our district along with William Floyd and Steve {Rasco} and Ray {Hoff} that work hand in hand, we

communicate constantly. And we're sharing ideas and sharing what our loads are.

Honestly, there's room for improvement. The school districts are large. The breakdown of Longwood itself has a Hispanic population of 13.8, we're behind the eight ball as far as providing ESL, you know, to the community in that area where we know there's a tremendous need. I have, for instance, the Spanish teachers certified, ready to come in and do it. A volunteer effort to some degree, but I have to provide something to bring them. You know, we're ready. We've tried a little bit. There are just tremendous areas. Your black population is 20% in our area. Everything is on the increase. We're a transient district, one of the largest districts in the State of New York geographically. And when you look at that and you measure it, between that and then the pockets of issues in the Mastic area that surround gang intervention, we have issues.

So the answer to it is, yeah, I could use a few more people. I have the horses -- because we have had that midnight program at the Longwood Gym that will kick off in two weeks, three on three, which has been very successful. We take on about 160 kids that could not play varsity. Now you have to ask the question. Why wouldn't they play varsity? They can play varsity, but don't have the grades or the, you know, endurance to come to school every day. So the tremendous factor there is that we've able to turn kids around. And even in the private sector of business people that have attended some of our sessions, they've actually supported some kids that they took a liking to and said, "You know what? I'll give you a scholarship to go to Suffolk Community College." So we've had this going on. We've turned four kids around that were homeless. We occupy their space. I hope I'm answering your question. You know, the two areas are huge.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Lecci, I'm sorry, if you would just suffer an interruption. I think you're going a little bit farther afield than Legislator D'Amaro wanted, in the interest of time.

**MR. LECCI:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But I will just say, for those who are unfamiliar with the area geographically, you're talking Colonial Youth and Lifeline Mediation serve two very different areas. You're talking about the Shirley-Mastic area versus the Longwood-Middle Island area. They do overlap a bit at the bottom, but you're talking about two distinct geographic areas and school districts.

**MR. LECCI:**

That's true. I'm sorry.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

If you have other questions, go ahead.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It doesn't surprise me that even with all the services you provide there's still a demand out there that's not being met. We hear that very often through these particular hearings. I wanted to ask you also, and I know my colleagues are going to get to some of these questions, but I just want to ask you now, what's the trend with your funding from the County, from Suffolk County? Has it remained constant? Has it increased? Is the increase sufficient or not sufficient to meet increasing cost, which I'm sure experiencing? You know, your overall financial picture when it comes -- with respect to County funding, which is what we're concerned about here today. What has been the trend in that funding?

**MR. LECCI:**

The last the couple of years we've been steady at -- what would be the numbers, the last two years?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

The last two years we received 145,000 from the County, and this year we're receiving 155 from the County. The year previous to that we received 95,000.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Just very quickly. Does that funding that you receive from the County, is that earmarked for a specific program that your agency is providing, or is it -- is that decided later on or? I know that they are usually earmarks. You know, it has to be specified when you apply for the funding. What programs specifically -- you have so many -- are we in the County of Suffolk funding?

**MR. LECCI:**

We drip-dry that as far as we can take it to everything I've expressed, because we move it as far as we can and exhaust it as fast as we can to what the needs are.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So it's fair to say that funding from the County of Suffolk is going to the programs themselves as well as your administrative costs or however you see fit or where the need is.

**MR. LECCI:**

Right. Administrative cost alone, and helps us. The biggest factor that helps us is that I have to say philanthropy again. We're occupying three locations -- three locations without rent.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

If I might jump in here. What's your total budget, Joe?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Two hundred and sixty thousand.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Two-sixty, okay. Do you any other government funding besides from the County?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

We receive funding from the State. We receive about \$30,000 from New York State. We also receive some money from the Town of Brookhaven Community Development, Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Approximately how much?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Twenty thousand dollars.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

And Community development was 51,000. And we also receive another 24,000 from another State grant -- small grant, that was 24,000.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So in total it's about 54,000 from the State.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And you do some private fund raising as well?

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes. The private fund raising is some of the people that I spoke to. We also --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Including in-kind services. You said that you get --

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes. The in-kind services that are always --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Can you quantify all of that?

**MR. LECCI:**

Yes, we can. I don't have that detailed list, but I have the names.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

If you could just take a guess, how much?

**MR. LECCI:**

That would come under and in-kind service umbrella?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Private fund raising including in-kind services.

**MR. LECCI:**

About 54,000.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Does that include the rent?

**MR. LECCI:**

That's not including -- the rental, we were astounded by that, what we save on rental, because we pay a dollar a year on these three properties. It was up past -- if we were paying rent on the three properties, it would cost us probably about \$75,000. And that's an endorsement and a seal of approval from the business people in the community, that, you know, come alongside of us.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You folks mentioned before about your administrative costs are low. Have you computed what your administrative cost is?

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Well, really Joe's salary would be really the only administrative cost about, which was about 4% of the entire -- of the Suffolk County budget.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So your salary goes towards the programming.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Yes, it does.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

And all of us are hands-on as well. You know, we all do counseling, we all see -- see people.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I apologize, I have Mr. Lecci's name down, but I didn't copy yours down.

**MS. WALCOTT:**

Walcott. Dana Walcott, W-a-l-c-o-t-t.

**MR. LECCI:**

Another program that came our way, Gentle Dental, Dr. Silver, he has -- he has a dental service on wheels that is, you know -- his is for profit, but he was looking to engage within the Suffolk County district, and he couldn't get it occupied for the last three years. We brought him on and said, "Yeah, try it out. We'll do it in our area." If there's anything that we need help with, it's dental hygiene. So we've been using them the past three times. We set it up as like a clinic. And they come on the property, and we've been able to, by appointments, set up some of the families that are on Social Service income or whatever and work that into affect. It's been moving slowly. You know, it's coming along though. But there's such a need for it, it's incredible.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And I just had one quick other question. If we cut the \$155,000 from Suffolk County to you, is there some other way that you make that money up?

**MR. LECCI:**

At this point in time, no.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Anybody have anything else? Thank you very much, both of you, for coming, and thank you for the services that you provide to our communities.

**MR. LECCI:**

Thank you so much.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You're welcome.

**MR. LECCI:**

Can we leave you some brochures?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Absolutely. Absolutely. We'd love to have it. And it sounds like your retirement years are full, Joe.

Suffolk County Archeological Association, are you folks here?

Dr. Stone, thank you for being with us.

**DR. STONE:**

Since we're a very invisible agency, I brought some proof of what we do.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Wonderful.

**DR. STONE:**

"Historical Archeology of Long Island", study pictures for elementary school students, a book with the only accurate information on Long Island Native Americans for school children.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Dr. Stone, why don't you have a seat and talk into the mike, because we're having a hard time, some of us are old and hard of hearing.

**DR. STONE:**

Okay. A booklet on Native and African American Women of Long Island and all the works that they have done for us, a booklet on the Montaukette -- it was part of an exhibit at Guild Hall, "Second Coastal Archeology Reader," on some of the more modern archeology on Long Island, our first volume, 1976, on the earliest papers on archeology on Long Island. The second one, which gives more modern stuff. "Language and Lore of the Long Island Indians." So if we hadn't done this since 1976, nobody on Long Island would have any idea that we had any archeology.

Our group was started back in the 1970s by a few faculty at Stony Brook and some of us mature women who went back to graduate school. And we were horrified to realize that all the archeologically resources on Long Island were being destroyed, and nobody even realized that we had them. And the head of the Parks Department, Suffolk County Parks Department, at that point was a man named "Bulldozer" {Domini}. So you get an idea of what was happening in Suffolk County. So we realized we had to form a group and become a squeaky wheel. And at least you write letters to government to tell them we had all these resources and if we don't protect them, we've lost a big chunk of our history. Before --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Would it be fair to say, Dr. Stone, the you folks preserve archeology artifacts in our County?

**MS. STONE:**

We try to, but right now Foley, who is the Parks Commissioner, has so far not agreed to let us set up a repository. I have a whole collection in my garage waiting for the County to give us space in an empty building, and you have lots of empty buildings. He's very slow to do that, I don't know why. And we have been working with other Legislators about trying to get protective laws for our archeology. The Chandler Estate is being pot-hunted, and there's no real law to protect that, the County doesn't have one. Indian Island County Park was pot-hunted for years by a Park Policeman who then sold things on E-Bay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

What was the term you used?

**DR. STONE:**

This was in the past like 80s and 90's.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

No, I know. What's it called? You said a park --

**DR. STONE:**

Pot-hunting. That's people who dig up stuff. It's illegal to do, but they do it. And they -- just because they're collectors, because they want to do it, it's fun for them. And, of course, on Federal property, there's a law to go after them. In the County, we don't really have a law. On State property they do have laws. So we try to help -- that's our preservation mission. We actually have several missions, preservation is one of them. So then our mission became education. If we don't educate people about the fact that we have these things, nobody is ever going to want to do anything about it.

We also helped to save, Fort Corchaug, which is on the National Register and the National Landmarks. But see, archeology is invisible. So because it's invisible, it's not very sexy. You know things -- if have a building, people rally around the building. So we're very small, we have a hard time making money. The only reason why we're getting more money lately is because -- besides providing nine volumes, there's two volumes I don't have here. I don't have the Shinnecock Volume, which has been out of print since 1987, we're putting it back in print. And our new book is coming out shortly. It's called, "Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area." Nobody knows that we had more native forts in Suffolk County than any other spot in the whole new world.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Native forts.

**DR. STONE:**

Yes. Built by Native Americans as a function of the contact of the first Europeans who came here, were Dutch traders, and they started doing trade. And the wampum had to be made, had to be saved, had to be kept for trade. So we had this unique fact in American history that nobody knows.

So we have spent six years pulling together. And by the way, all this work on these volumes is voluntary. Everybody who contributes to it, including me, endless hours we do not get paid to do that. All the County has done over the years is give us like \$2000 at a time. This year we got 4000 to finish doing --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Last year you mean. You mean '06.

**DR. STONE:**

What?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

2006.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

In 2006 you got \$4000.

**DR. STONE:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Because what I was going to ask you is according to our notes in the 2007 Budget you weren't funded at all.

**DR. STONE:**

Say that again.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

In 2007 I'm showing a zero, that you didn't get any funding at all.

**DR. STONE:**

Not that I know so far.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Because that was my next --

**DR. STONE:**

Not from SCOCA. See, we get money from two different sources. We get member items, people who are contributing to our film --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If I may. I was asking the Budget Review Office, and he doesn't have access to that file right now, but I believe these were all community-supported initiative grants, formally known as member items.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Because my question was if you are not getting money, what are you doing here. You know what I mean?

**DR. STONE:**

Because I was summoned.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I know. It's very nice of you to come, but --

**DR. STONE:**

I think the reason why is if you have a screen that says any director makes more than 20%, and we have such a small amount of money even though --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yeah. My record shows that you got \$5000 last year, and that this year so far there is nothing in the budget for you. But like Legislator Losquadro pointed out, it's probably through the community-support initiative.

**DR. STONE:**

SCOCA. We get money from SCOCA, like to publish the book.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

What is SCOCA?

**DR. STONE:**

Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I see. Okay.

**DR. STONE:**

So that's been major funding.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**DR. STONE:**

Only lately are we getting member items from the various members of the Legislature who have manors in their thinking. We're making a film calling "The Sugar Connection, Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island." Because we also had the largest number of manors of any place in the new world in one spot.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes. Dr. Stone, just quickly. You said that in reference to the pot-hunting that the State and Federal Government have laws --

**DR. STONE:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

But doesn't that carry out to Suffolk County?

**DR. STONE:**

Well, everybody has their own turf. So if you are County property, you are not State or you are not Federal.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So they don't have follow --

**DR. STONE:**

Right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So you're just talking about on County property?

**DR. STONE:**

Right. So if we don't have a law, then people just do it and get away with it, which they have been doing for years.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Pot-hunting.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I just know who can do it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Johnny.

**DR. STONE:**

So I'd like to raise another issue -- I call it throwing the baby out with the bath water -- and that is I have a letter that, I guess, came from Steve Levy in which he said that, "No, we cannot allow any group to make money off of the County." Well, this book costs \$50 a copy to produce because it's got several hundred historic photographs in it, it's very big. We sell it for 75. We will never make the money back that this costs to produce it. So it's really a misapprehension to think that these small non profits are making money off of the County. They're really doing something that nobody else would do.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Through the Chair.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Go ahead, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'd just like to pursue that a little bit more. You go out and do the research, you publish a book, you sell it, what do you do with the \$75 that you sell it for?

**DR. STONE:**

It goes back into this publication's fund to be used for the next volume. So basically, it isn't like we're racking up -- you know, if --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now, a publication fund, do you pay for research, or if you have to go to a site?

**DR. STONE:**

The research is usually for free. It's usually given by scholars. I have to, you know, round them up and get them together to do a book. There must have been 20 people who worked on this volume, all for free. So there's hundreds of thousands --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now, that gets to a couple of questions that we -- actually are standard questions. How many people do you have working for you?

**DR. STONE:**

Okay. I'm the only full-time person.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

One full time.

**DR. STONE:**

And then everybody else -- we have 20 staff members, which provide wonderful part-time jobs, because we run a Museum Education Program which services about 10,000 children a year. It's over in Blydenburgh County Park and Hoytt Farm Park, and it's unique in the whole United States.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Dr. Stone, you are paid. And the other 20 part time, are they paid?

**DR. STONE:**

Yeah. I'm paid under \$40,000 a year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

How much do you get?

**DR. STONE:**

Thirty-nine thousand-six, six, six or whatever.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And the other 20 part timers, they get paid?

**DR. STONE:**

They get paid 11, 12, 13, 14, \$15 an hour for the -- see, our Museum Program is largely outdoors, so you can't very well be out in this kind of weather, although, we are starting next week. So we actually go from mid March to mid December.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So 20 part-time per diems at between 11 and \$15 per hour?

**DR. STONE:**

Yeah. That's the bulk of our income is from the education program.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That leads to the question. What's your total budget?

**DR. STONE:**

This year it's 178,000 because we have \$28,000 worth of grants from State Legislators, County Legislators and foundations to finish the book -- film.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How much in grants?

**DR. STONE:**

From the State and the County, it's 28,000; that's SCOCA for the book, NYSCA for the film, State Legislators and County Legislators for the film. This is all for the film.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Can you separate State and Federal?

**DR. STONE:**

Well, no. We just have -- we have a category called "Film." All that stuff goes under film or book. It will all be gone.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I think we're just asking you to repeat what you said with respect to your overall funding. Was it 178?

**DR. STONE:**

178,000. It's the most money we have ever made in one year, and that's because of the 28,000 to finish the film and to finish the book.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. Out that 178, how much come from the State? You said from different Legislators.

**DR. STONE:**

About 9000 from the State. This is just for the film. And then NYSCA, which is a State agency. We got 4000 from them -- 4000 from NYSCA, New York State, but it will all be gone on the next three months, because we're editing the film now, and that's like \$50 an hour to do that.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now your job is only administrative, or do you do research and publish and things like that?

**DR. STONE:**

I do everything.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So your salary basically could be classified as program -- a program cost?

**DR. STONE:**

Oh, yeah. I supervise the museum, I get the books out, I have to keep -- get all the books balanced, I have to do everything. I think if I ever leave this job they won't get anybody else to do it for that amount of money.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is there anybody else that does this, the same thing that you're doing?

**DR. STONE:**

No. We're totally unique. We're the only agency on all of Long Island that does anything like this.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Doctor, I'm just a little confused. Your total budget is 178,000, the State gives you 13,000.

**DR. STONE:**

What was said is 5000, 2500, 1500. That's more like nine, isn't it?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

State gives you nine plus four.

**DR. STONE:**

NYSCA, yeah.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Then how do you -- how do you operate?

**DR. STONE:**

With great difficulty.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Is it fund raising that you do?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

They sell the books. They make some money off of fund raising by selling books.

**DR. STONE:**

We don't have much fund raising because we don't have many members. Archeology is sort of a dying thing. People aren't paying attention to it anymore. So we do have foundation grants once in a while. But, no, some years we have a minus -- we have a minus balance. Other years we've had \$536, that was our positive balance. This year I believe it's 11,000, which, of course, will soon be gone, because when you make a film, I'm telling you, the money just goes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How much money do you -- does your agency raise through outside fund raising efforts?

**DR. STONE:**

Repeat that, please.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How much money does your agency raise through outside fund raising efforts?

**DR. STONE:**

We haven't had any because we don't have any person -- I don't have the time to do it, because --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

But Dr. Grey (sic), when you, you know, run tours of facilities or sell books, I mean, that's really all fund raising, no?

**DR. STONE:**

Well, I guess, if you put it that way. Like, this manors film is so interesting. Michele Isabelle Stark suggested we work with the Long Island Convention Bureau to have tours of these manors with which our films, you know, would be part of it.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**DR. STONE:**

Well, it turns out they charge you. There's no point in trying to do fund raising with them, because they charge the agencies the places they go. I was kind of astounded at about that. It was a good idea, but it didn't go anywhere.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Good morning. You stated to Legislator Nowick \$178,000 budget. That means in 2007, you plan to spend 178,000 or you plan to raise 178,000?

**DR. STONE:**

It probably -- I don't know about planning, but it will end up that it will almost all get spent, because this film will cost a lot more than this \$28,000.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. So if in 2007, let's say, you're going to spend 178,000 --

**DR. STONE:**

It will go.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. And you've already told us about maybe 11,000 from some State sources, okay, where does the remaining \$167,000 come from?

**DR. STONE:**

It's mostly -- most of our income comes from the Museum Education Program.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. So when people visit that program they're charged a fee?

**DR. STONE:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. And that's where you raise revenue to fund the balance of your budget?

**DR. STONE:**

That's part of the. But to do a project like the film, you have to have other sources of income, because you don't make enough off of the --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So the balance of your budget is funded through other sources of revenue, whether it's selling a book or running a program for which you charge a fee?

**DR. STONE:**

Right.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That could be called fund raising, I would assume.

**DR. STONE:**

I thought fund raising meant cocktail parties.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, it means that too. I'd rather get the book to tell you the truth.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Maybe we can move this along. Do you have any idea, Dr. Grey (sic), what your administrative costs are? I know with a one-person agency you do a little bit of everything, but a percentage of your total budget.

**DR. STONE:**

Well, mainly it's me, which is about 39,000, then there's about 10,500 for telephone, copying, you know, all the things that go along with it. And everything else is spent on programs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

But even your full salary, I mean, you are doing program besides doing the administration of the agency, am I correct?

**DR. STONE:**

Probably.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. So I guess it would be fair to say that -- I don't know. Somebody help me.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It looks like about 15% of the total.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Fifteen, if that. And as the only paid employee really don't make more than 20% of your budget.

**DR. STONE:**

I think I make like 22%. Does that mean we will never get another grant from the County?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

No. But again, we've run into this problem before. When we talk about administrative expense, in a one-person agency, you're doing tours, you're editing books, you're editing films, you're doing program work besides just administration costs. You know, so your salary has to be broken out into different segments, which I'm not asking you to do.

**DR. STONE:**

I never thought of that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Does anybody else have anything of Dr. Grey (sic)? Thank you very much for coming in today.

**DR. STONE:**

You all have our newsletter, this is Volume 33 Number 1. It means for 33 years we've been mailing it to all the Legislators, town historians, County historians, historical societies, museums. So education.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Dr. Grey (sic). Nancy Mariano. Come on forward, Nancy. Nancy is with Friends of Karen. We're starting to run a little late. I apologize.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nancy, maybe you could introduce yourself for the record and the name of your organization.

**MS. MARIANO:**

My name is Nancy Mariano, and I'm the Regional Director of Friends of Karen.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Maybe you could describe the work your agency does and what population you serve and what geographical area you serve in Suffolk County.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Okay. We serve all of Suffolk County. And I'm going to apologize, because I know many of you have met with me and probably heard this many times before. For the record, I want to let you know all of the services we do, because they're so important. First of all, thank you for your past support, thank you for meeting with me so many times, thank you for getting Friends of Karen out in your newsletters and sharing the work we do.

We provide financial and emotional and advocacy support to families that have children from birth to 21 years of age with any life threatening illness in the Tri-State area. I am responsible for Long Island and Queens from my office. We've been doing this for over 29 years. And Friends of Karen's Family Support Program, which is the essence of the work we do, provides a comprehensive family case management to children with catastrophic and life threatening illnesses and their families.

We have our own staff of social workers who access and coordinate all available public and private resources, and then when need remains, we provide the financial support that's necessary. Our financial support goes to only qualified families after medical records and the family's financial situation are reviewed. And many of your families are single moms and dads and low income. And this is what we pay for; household bills, rent, mortgage, utilities, all medical related bills, insurance, copayments, doctor visits, child care for the brother and sisters of sick children,

transportation for hospital treatments, including out-of-state.

Bereavement. Bereavement is a very large part of our program. It's the part nobody wants to hear about, but it's so much a part of what we do. And one of our main concerns is helping these families through the healing process. What a lot of people don't realize when we're dealing with families with catastrophic illness, it's not just about the sick child, it's about the sisters and brothers and the moms and dads, the sisters and brothers who might try to kill themselves, that they just can't go on, because they think they're not loved, that they're guilty, and the moms and dads that over 94% of them get divorced.

We help with all funeral arrangements and expenses. We offer bereavement support to the parents who lost the child and the brothers and sisters who lost a sibling, financial assistance for counseling, appropriate books on bereavement, a candle-lighting ceremony once a year for families in the whole Tri-State area. And again, they don't have to be Friends of Karen families. It's anyone that has a bereaved child who's child had died too soon.

We have monthly group sessions for bereaved families, we have an annual retreat for bereaved families. And then we have back to school programs, where when a family is so engrossed in their sick child, they may forget it's September. And we make sure that every child in the family has that new outfit, books. And we do the same thing for Holiday Adopt. And if I can just share this quick story from a mom. A mom who's daughter is battling leukemia called with gratitude after receiving her gifts, her Holiday Adopt gifts. And this is what she said.

"When my children look at me they don't know I have these burdens. Even though I am sad and afraid, they think I can do it. I can get through this, and that makes them feel safe. But the only reason I can do this is because you are there behind me," meaning Friends of Karen. Both the Holiday Adopt and back to school programs are supported from corporate and individual contributions. We have a program, Children Helping Children. We are in so many school districts now teaching young children to be philanthropic from preschools doing lollipop runs to graduate students helping in the office, because we have very, very, very little staff, to doing variety shows. So many things.

The one person that works in the office with me called when I was on my way here that one of the schools just came over getting stuff ready for Mother's Day doing little stuff. It's just amazing how the school programs have developed. And this is who we collaborate with. Part of I know one of the questions you want to know, and very important to us. Make-A-Wish, Ronald McDonald House -- if a child is in Ronald McDonald House, more than likely Friends of Karen is paying for it -- the Brain Tumor Foundation, the National Brain Tumor Foundation. Friends of Karen does not cure disease, we just make sure the family can get to where ever they need for the medical treatment, even that means going to Texas because that's where the brain cancer guru is. They still leave behind all their financial responsibilities. We make sure that they can get their medical treatment, that the sisters and brothers are taken care of while they're doing this. The Brain Tumor Foundation gives us a large sum of money to take care of all this stuff so they can cure the disease. We do the same thing --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nancy, it would be fair to say that you really don't compete against any other not-for-profits in this area, but you do collaborate with a lot of them.

**MS. MARIANO:**

We depend on each other.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Coach Tom Coughlin, the New York Giant Coach, he lost a player named Jay when he was a coach in Boston to leukemia. And he took this -- he's an amazing man. And he took this so to heart that he started the Jay fund. And when he came to New York as a New York Giant coach and he went to Sloan-Kettering, he spoke to the Social Work Department thinking that he could take some of the money from the Jay Fund and help people in the areas that have young people that have cancers like Jay did. And when he went to Sloan-Kettering they looked at him that like he had ten heads. He says, "We could hardly take care of what we have to. We can't administrate funding

for children that are sick." He ended up at the Brain Tumor Foundation and then end up with us. So Coach Coughlin who is an amazing partner with us gives us a large sum of money to take of -- his money is restricted. It's only for children with leukemia, but we eat up that money in three months to take care of children with leukemia.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nancy, how many employees does Friends of Karen have?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Okay. Totally, for the whole organization -- that's the only difficulty I'm going to have a little bit with numbers, because --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Close. You know, give us --

**MS. MARIANO:**

We have nine -- this is for the organization.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Which is the whole Tri-State area.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right. We have nine full-time and eight part-time. In the Long Island Office, there's me and one other person. And we have one and a half social workers. One of our -- the first social worker we ever got was from a Challenge Grant from a wonderful man in Massachusetts. That's the only staff we have on Long Island. The rest of the staff is in Westchester, and we just opened up a New York --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So you have two full-time on Long Island and one part-time?

**MS. MARIANO:**

We have myself and my communities awareness person, education person.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Two.

**MS. MARIANO:**

And then we have one and a half social workers, which are total program people.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

They're full-time.

**MS. MARIANO:**

One and a half, one full and --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. It's three full-time, one part-time. Okay.

**MS. MARIANO:**

We also collaborate with Leukemia Foundation. New York Medical Society has never ever endorsed a non-for-profit, because they can't. If they let one in, Leukemia or whatever, they have to let everyone in. Long story short, they now endorse us, which means when I write grants for corporate money or looking for corporate support, I can bring all these endorsements that are in your packages, whether it's from Sloan-Kettering or Stony Brook, to help us. So New York Medical Society takes us and endorses us, because we're about all disease.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Can I just go into a couple of things that you just said? As far as -- could you break out the amount of money that you might be spending in Suffolk County?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And then what -- there's a series of questions. What's your total budget, if you know that?

**MS. MARIANO:**

I know.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

The total budget.

**MS. MARIANO:**

The total budget for Friends of Karen is \$1,727,000, almost \$2 million.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

\$1.7 million?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yep.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So 1,700,000.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. MARIANO:**

And our Family Support Program, the essence of what we do is one million-three hundred and sixty six.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's a different budget. Go ahead.

**MS. MARIANO:**

And Long Island's budget is, for year ending 2006 -- we're on a different fiscal year, so these numbers -- it's just a little bit under -- I'm sorry -- I have the exact number with me. It's 655,000 I want to say.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That's close enough.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's good. And that's for all of Long Island. And idea of just Suffolk County or is it half and half?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Suffolk county, the reason we opened the office, the numbers were astounding. We're just opened only five years. Most of the families -- one-third of the families that we help, and last year we helped 577 families, come from Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk. So last year in Suffolk County, we had 89 families.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is that about half of your Long Island budget then or a little more?

**MS. MARIANO:**

That was for the whole budget -- that was for the whole year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Right. But Long Island includes Nassau and Suffolk.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right. That 89 is just Suffolk.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Is that about half of what you have done for all of Long Island? How many families did you service in all of Long Island?

**MS. MARIANO:**

I have those numbers. Including Queens? Because that's my area of Long Island, Nassau, Suffolk, Queens. It's still considering Queens part of Long Island. Suffolk was 89, Nassau was 46 and Queens was 93. These are families, the entire family.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So you're almost -- almost about half of what you are doing is in Suffolk County.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right. And that's a good question, because I'm in the process of having to do a three year business plan. And one of those business plans is trying to see the growth. We're not a cancer organization, but please understand, 90% of our children have cancer. And part of my business plan is to find out where we are with cancer.

And at my last board meeting -- I have 48 people on my board, all volunteers, including the four top doctors of Sloan-Kettering, Winthrop, Schneider's, and Sloan-Kettering. The man from Schneider's who comes from Columbia and Boston who is going to be 60 years old, he gave a very interesting thing, I just want to pass this on, because we do some much work with cancer, that the year he was born, if a child was diagnosed with cancer, they would be dead, there was no treatment. And now 90% percent of children that have leukemias especially, just talking about leukemias, will be cured. But with that number, and they don't know why, they don't -- they can't say it's environmental, they don't know why, the cases of cancer in Long Island and especially in Suffolk County are rising. And I have -- all these doctors are now trying to do a research and giving me a tracking for the last five years including the cancer -- National Cancer Society. I should have them by the end of next week.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That I'd like to go back to in just a minute. But first, your funding from Suffolk County, how much do you get?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Last year was 111. This year, 2006, it's a hundred-seven fifty, 100,750. Last year it was 111,000.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So you got cut a little bit?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's for '07. And the rest the money comes from where?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Major, major, major fund raising. Special events, we bring in close to 300, and then the rest are other grants,

foundations, individual donors, direct mail.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So your outside fund raising brings in about \$300,000.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

More than that.

**MS. MARIANO:**

More than that. I have that number for you. On the whole organization, we bring in \$2 million -- over \$2 million outside funding -- actually, it's two million-seventy and then take off the 111,000 from the County. That gives you the exact number. And fund raising, we brought in 815,000.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

eight hundred-fifteen thousand?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right. And then individual contributions, we brought in another \$1242 -- I mean, one million-one hundred and forty two dollars.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

One point one million?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

One point one million, and then 815 from fund raising. So that's up to almost \$2 million.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right. The total public support is two million. I don't have it broken down into grants and foundations, but I can also tell you that for --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Your total budget is almost \$3 million. Okay. So about two million of it is through fund raising and contributions -- oh, grants also.

**MS. MARIANO:**

And grants, yeah. Those kind of grants could be from Western Union, First Aid, UPS.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's fund raising.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yeah. Those are grants, actual grants that I write.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Have you broken out how much you get from New York State or the Federal Government?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yeah. Right. So far for 2000 -- I don't know how to break it out, because the year -- I may be promised the money, but I haven't received it. So from the State it was 41 --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

The money you got -- you know, the money in '07 from Suffolk County has been promised, you haven't got that yet either. So, I mean --

**MS. MARIANO:**

No. From 2006, we're all done. But for 2006, from State Assemblymen and Congressmen, money has been

promised, but it's -- they have all new regulations now, new forms that keep coming back and forth.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

How much?

**MS. MARIANO:**

So out of all the Flanagan-Trunzo-LaValle-Englebright-Raia-McKevitt and Theile, it was ten, twenty, thirty, forty -- 51. I've only received ten.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So 51,000 --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

From the State.

**MS. MARIANO:**

From the State.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

From the State was promised to you. Do you get any Federal grants.

**MS. MARIANO:**

No. No.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So the rest of that \$3 million budget other than 51,000 and the 100 and something that we give you --

**MS. MARIANO:**

Is fund raised.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is all fund raising. Good. Does your CEO make more than 20% of the total budget?

**MS. MARIANO:**

(Shook head no).

**LEG. ALDEN:**

and what percentage would you consider like --

**MS. MARIANO:**

It's about 17 -- 18%. I actually have the breakdown if you want it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's admin, right?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Excuse me?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's your admin -- - administration costs.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And if we cut \$100,000 from the County, would you have to cut programs, would you -- you wouldn't go out of business obviously, because you're getting a lot of money elsewhere, but would there be an impact on programs?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Speak closer to the mike, Nancy.

**MS. MARIANO:**

I have to say that there isn't a day that goes by that I don't get a call. Monday morning started with somebody dying, and then a call from a woman who lives Huntington whose child has inoperable brain cancer, only child, husband makes a wonderful salary, the child is in Columbia Presbyterian, but because of transportation, parking, all the other costs associated when you have such a sick child, they're hurting. And the only answers they're getting from all different agencies that they go to is that, "Sell your house, change the way you live."

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's kind of heartless. Just one question, though. As far as your structure, Friends of Karen is in existence in more states than one, right, so it's New Jersey, New York, Connecticut?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Well, our central office is in Westchester, we have a house that is paid for. We have an office in Manhattan that is compliments of {Hogan and Hartson} Law Firm, they pay for everything, phone and everything. And them -- I'm the only one that's paying. We're renting an office in Port Jeff, and I'd like to put the word out that I really would like to be able to find an office on the 110 Corridor. If anybody knows anybody that has free office space, we definitely could use it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So when you say the Tri-State area, you're really just Manhattan and Long Island.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Well, we have Fairfield, Connecticut, and a couple of towns in Northern New Jersey.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Oh, okay. So you do go into those areas?

**MS. MARIANO:**

Yeah. There's just that area in Connecticut. We have been asked -- if possible, can I finish with the organizations we collaborate with?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I just need to clarify one other thing too. There isn't a separate budget or structure for Long Island. You're part of --

**MS. MARIANO:**

We're one organization.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. MARIANO:**

And I want to say something else, because this is important to us. You will have this brochure in your green folder I gave you. Three years ago, Better Business Bureau gave a stamp of approval if you met all of their criteria. On Long Island, there's 7500 non-for-profits -- I don't know what the number is in the metropolitan area, it's got to be

75,000 if not more -- only 14 agencies have this stamp of approval. So we're very proud of that. That means every percentage of every way we do from program and falling in the correct lines, we're doing that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick has a question.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

The expression goes, "You had us at hello." I just want to you thank you and your organization for what you are doing. I know that you have had a personal loss, and I know that you know about what the families are going through, and I am sure that when your organization comes to them that you lift a burden that is incredible. And I just want to say thank you.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Thank you. I want to share something personally. Also, if you look, you'll see a golf brochure for our golf outing that's coming up. You'll see a little picture of Bruno on the back. I visited Bruno's family, because I adopted a family myself -- I'll never ask anyone to do anything that I don't do myself -- so for the Holiday Adopt I adopted -- I hope I don't lose it. The gift that this family wanted, every family asks for a specific gift. So this one gift that this family wanted for the sister that's not sick was this big kitchen that we couldn't UPS to the family. So I said, "No problem, I'll deliver it." So I deliver it to the family and meet this family that lives in the smallest, smallest room that you can imagine in a basement apartment in Central Islip.

Mom doesn't speak English, Bruno is four, was just diagnosed with leukemia, and has a two year old sister. Dad comes home, and the room is tiny, spotless, clothes hung on wires. I wanted to take them home with me. My children are all grown, I could have put them in my house. I go out to the car to transfer the present, and dad looks up and looks around and is telling me, "Isn't life beautiful?" This man works so hard, always worried about his family at home, because mom doesn't speak English, she's just learning and has a child that has cancer. Well, he calls me the other day, we're helping, we pay his rent, and he was just able to move into another apartment. It's not any bigger, but for the first time since his children are alive, and they're four and two, they could look out a window and see him come home from work. So that was pretty cool.

Can I take the liberty -- this is from -- this tells our story better than I can. This story is from Rhonda Ryan, who's been the head social worker for 18 years. It's worth listening to. I'll read it quick. She said these words in front of a group at our gala. And I think it's really important.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nancy, read it quick, but please don't make Legislator Alden cry, because he's very emotional.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Let me just read this, because I think the social workers are our front line, so there are her words.

"Because of clinical trials, research, bone marrow transplants, etcetera, there is a 77% survival rate. Okay. So kids are surviving. Isn't that good? Yes, but survival means lengthy and difficult treatments. Kids who may have died after two years of treatment ten years ago are now surviving and completing treatment, which can last for three to five years. Now, more than ever, Friends of Karen is an absolute necessity in the lives of families with children with cancer."

"A family cannot withstand this kind of trauma for this amount of time without the emotional and financial assistance provided by Friends of Karen. Imagine three to five years of your life being consumed with daily, weekly and hourly cancer treatments. You are no longer in control of your life, you are controlled by a treatment plan, a cancer. You go nowhere, you plan nothing, you are no longer walking on solid ground. This means parents are not able to work for a longer period of time. Household bills cannot be paid, illness related expenses mount, marriages suffer, siblings are overlooked, all while the focus is on your ill child. But not if you have Friends of Karen in your life."

"I challenge you to find another organization that does all that we do anywhere in the United States. We receive calls constantly from all over the US asking us if there is anything like this in this area. We are like the keystone in an arch bridge, the one stone in the middle of the arch that supports the entire bridge, and without the stone, the

bridge would collapse. How can I say this so confidently? Well, first of all, we've been working with families of children with life threatening illnesses since 1978, before there was a hospice, before there was a Make-A-Wish."

Unlike any other agency, Friends of Karen comes into the families lives at the beginning of diagnosis and stays there through the cure and/or after the death. We go to them. We visit them in their homes and in the hospital. There's no limitation to how much time we spend with a family or how much we can do. It is whatever the family -- if it whatever they need that is related to the illness of the child. We get to know the siblings in the family and help the parents address their needs. We meet with the doctors, we help plan funerals, we help children die, and we help families through the process of dying. We pay bills, and because it cannot help a family just by paying bills, we help them create a financial plan to get through the next year."

"We apply for other assistance, and if they are denied, we get in our car and drive the family to SSI or Medicare Office or any other agency to find out why. We provide bereavement support to families after a child has died, and we visit the family for years after. We pay for transportation to treatment, for travel to treatment in other cities, and we pay for the Ronald McDonald House where parents stay if they're in a hospital far from their home. We fight with landlords to make sure children are coming home to a clean environment. We talk to mortgage companies to see if we could defer payments. We talk to educators about the needs of the ill children and sometimes the siblings. And when we cannot resolve a problem, we call the attorneys. Imagine this kind of long term consistent support and what kind of trust is built between Friend of Karen and a family. Does this sound like a keystone."

And I have to say that we do this -- I always feel that Friends of Karen is a family and we try to work with everyone, and we couldn't do the work we do without all you good people. I mean, I know most of you, and you have come to bat, you have written letters in your newsletter. And as far as the fund raising, we're really excited. I passed it around. I met with the Commissioner in Nassau County, and we are part of the Long Island Marathon where we're actually having people run for Friends of Karen. And this all became possible by a woman -- a family that we helped last year who's child beat leukemia, and she decided that people should go out and help other people. And, Lynne -- I know Lynne Nowick is going to be part of our press conference tonight. I'm really excited about the kickoff of the marathon. So if you know anyone that runs. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nancy, the only thing is that the letter, the description of what you do says, it really says it all. And I appreciate your remarks, but, you know, it could be reversed. The services that you provide, government just couldn't provide. I mean, we can assist you, but we couldn't provide those services. So thank you.

**MS. MARIANO:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thanks, Nancy.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Victims Information Bureau, VIBS. Just make yourself at home. Pamela, you want to introduce everybody for us?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Yes. Good morning. Thank you for having us here. It's interesting to sit back and hear about other organizations. I didn't know that much about Friends of Karen, it was very enlightening. I'm Pamela Johnston. I've met with all of you many times, and I thank you for your support. I'd like to introduce members of my staff. This is Arthur {Zamanski}, our Director of Finance, and Clarice Murphy, Associate Director.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you very much for coming this morning. And I apologize, we're running a little late, not a whole lot. But maybe you could, for the record, give us a brief description of your agency and the programs that you provide for Suffolk County citizens and what population you serve and the geographical area of Suffolk County.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Sure. VIBS is a County-wide domestic violence and rape crisis center, although most of our clients come from west

of Riverhead. Most of the programs are provided in our office in Holbrook, but we see clients in satellite locations in Hauppauge, Huntington, Smithtown, Central Islip, Yaphank, Bellport and Patchogue. We coordinate the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program for the County, which is a collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and the Suffolk County Police Department at three locations; Good Samaritan in Islip, Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson and Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead.

Our core services include individual and group counseling. I have the statistics in the information that I handed out. To save time, I won't repeat all of that. We also provide legal advocacy, Social Services advocacy, and court accompaniment. We have a Children's Program where we provide counseling, art therapy and drama therapy for children who have witnessed domestic violence or were sexually assaulted either within the family or outside of the family. And we supervise children. We do some play therapy, play -- supervised play for kids while their parents are receiving services at the agency.

We have an Elder Abuse Program. We do home visits to elderly to intervene. I mentioned the SANE Program. We have an emergency room companion, which is a totally volunteer program. We have about 75 volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day to go to a hospital emergency room to accompany a rape victim or a victim of domestic violence. We provide extensive preventive education for community organizations in schools, professional training to health workers or mental health or law enforcement professionals. Most of our work is preventive education with teens emphasizing sexual assault prevention, talking to them about healthy relationships and how the use of drugs and alcohol can compromise their safety.

Our HALT Program is a program for offenders. It's an accountability program, educational, where we engage them to change their behavior to stop abusive behavior. Most of them are mandated by the courts, but we also have volunteers in the program. We partner with the Probation Department with some of those groups where a probation officer and a facilitator from VIBS co-lead the group. We have specialized groups for abusers who are involved with substance abuse treatment. We see adolescent offenders as well as some female offenders. We provide a parenting group for offenders who are involved with Child Protective Services, and we are launching a program in the Suffolk County Jail in Riverhead and the DWI Facility in Yaphank.

Many have collaborations with private agencies, but also with County agencies; Suffolk County Probation, Police Department, District Attorney's Office, the hospitals. And we have services in both English and Spanish and American Sign Language. If we have somebody who is deaf, we have consultants that we can bring in to do Sign Language interpretation. That's just a thumbnail sketch.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I appreciate the fact sheet, because that does help us. It says you have 52 employees, 39.9 equivalency of full-time employees.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Correct.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

We have a fair number of part time employees, particularly in the counseling department, because we have evening hours, and so we have a lot of people who like to work at VIBS. Maybe they have another full-time job and they come to VIBS to work part time. They like the work and supervision they get.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And from the County -- I should have that number here -- how much?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

875,916 in 2006. And the 2007 has \$896,685.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And your total budget?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

About two million.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Two million?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Uh-uh.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Do you get any State or Federal money?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Yes, we do. We get -- in our 2007 budget, we're expecting \$627,429 from the State budget. Last year it was 500 -- about 515,000. We get \$35,000 from the Town of Huntington.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nothing from the Feds? Nothing from the Federal Government?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Well, about probably 40% of our County funds are Federal --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Federal pass-through money.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Yeah. But no direct Federal funding at this time.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Do you do any outside fund raising?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Yes. Again, last year it was about \$390,000 that we raised.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What percentage of your overall budget is administrative costs?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

15.7% in 2005.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very specific.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

In our 2005 audit, yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Based on that number, I think that the next answer pretty apparent. Your CEO doesn't make more than 20% of your overall budget then. I apologize if you said it already, but what was your overall budget?

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

About \$2 million.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Right.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Would you like me to talk about the other agencies in the County?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Well, just an observation, by all means I would like -- are you done, Legislator Losquadro?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'll defer.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

No. Go ahead. Go ahead.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

You were saying about other agencies in the County. I guess you're going to talk about overlap or similar service.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Please continue. I was going to ask that question, but you preempted me.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

There are four domestic violence programs in Suffolk County, as I'm sure you are aware of; Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Brighter Tomorrows, the Retreat, and, of course, VIBS. VIBS is the only rape crisis center. But VIBS is unique in that our Domestic Violence Program, we are a non residential program. We don't operate a shelter. So all of our resources go to those kinds of services rather than housing.

We find that the vast majority of victims of domestic violence don't want or don't need emergency shelter. So we think that providing the non residential services certainly helps prevent their having to go into shelter. We focus on counseling, advocacy and a wide range of specialized services, which I think I touched on a little bit in my other summary. We have been -- VIBS has been one of small group of domestic violence programs State-wide to create a model child abuse and domestic violence intervention model, which is a partnership with Child Protective Services. We have somebody that goes a couple times a week and actually has a desk over at CPS and does some joint case management with CPS in providing service. We've replicated that model. Recently, last year, we got a grant from United Way to replicate that model with the elder abuse population. So we're working with Adult Protective Services and the Suffolk County Police Department to reach out to elderly victims of domestic violence.

I think that one of the -- one of the ways that VIBS is really different from a lot of agencies in the County is that we have a very specialized children's program where we provide really substantial intervention with traumatized children using counseling, using art therapy and drama therapy, and most recently using pet therapy with children who have been experience had or have been exposed to direct violence or who have witnessed such horrors, such as murder or suicide of a parent.

Our Director of Children's Services, {Anna Marie Weber} has authored a book on working with severely traumatized children, and she was developed a really impressive model for working with kids that are really -- really severely abused or have witnessed abuse. We say sometimes if you read about a particularly horrific story in the newspaper, very often those children will be referred to VIBS for services.

We do work very collaboratively with the other three domestic violence agencies. For example, Joanne Sanders and I started this as Executive Directors of our agencies at about the same time. I have been at VIBS for a little more than 19 years. You know, good friends work collaboratively. And, you know, I think within the non-profit

community as a whole and certainly in our area, there's a lot of collaboration and competition, and I think just for profit business, a little bit of that's a good thing, because it keeps us on our toes. And, you know, it's one of the motivations for continuing to improve our services and do the best job that we can.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Are you done, Legislator Losquadro?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Anyone else have anything? I don't think there's anything else.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very concise presentation.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yes. And the sheet, the fact sheet, really helps tremendously too with a lot of our questions. Forgive us if -- you know, we deal with so many not-for-profits. We use the not-for-profit community extensively in Suffolk County to provide vital services for our residents that in other jurisdictions many times those services -- there's an attempt to provide them by government. And truthfully, many, many times the not-for-profit community does a much better job than government can do in some of these really -- areas, like the area that you guys addressed that are very, very difficult areas to address.

You really do a great job. And I know you collaborate with many of our departments. But I don't think we could replicate the services with you guys.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

Well, thank you. We really look at it as a partnership with the County. And it seems to work very well.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you very much for coming.

**MS. JOHNSTON:**

We thank you very much for your support.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

We have Catholic Charities here. Laura, come on forward. Welcome, Laura. Nice to see you again.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Thank you. It's good to be here.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Maybe you could introduce your team that is with you.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Certainly. My name is Laura Cassell, I'm chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities. And joining me today we have Ed Kennedy, he is our Chief Financial Officer. Paul Engelhart, who is actually handing out materials we have for all of you. He is our Chief Program Officer. Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta, Program Administrator for Chemical Dependence Services. And Denis Demers, Program Administrator for Outpatient Mental Health Services.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Now, the next question is maybe you could describe all the programs that your agency provides to Suffolk County,

what population you serve in what geographical area of Suffolk County that you serve.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Sure. Actually, Presiding Officer, we have prepared a presentation, which has narrative and also has a summary of some of the questions that you had possessed.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That would be wonderful.

**MS. CASSELL:**

So we'll go through that if that would be okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That would be fine.

**MS. CASSELL:**

This year Catholic Charities is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. During this time, our agency has had a great partnership with Suffolk County in meeting the needs of our poor, isolated, disadvantaged and vulnerable residents. As requested, I would like to begin my presentation with a general brief description of our agency. Catholic Charities provides a full range of services operating out of more than 60 sites with an operating budget of 32.9 million and more than 600 staff members.

Each year, Catholic Charities cares for an average of 60,000 Long Islanders at all stages of life from expectant young mothers to frail seniors. The agency also provides ongoing networking, training and coordination of services to local parish outreach programs, which serve conservatively an additional 75,000 people each year in Suffolk County. Many of those people served by the parishes are referred by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

All of our services are open to people of all faiths. Ninety cents of every dollar the agency receives goes directly to program services. The agency meets all rigorous 20 Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability, a certification achieved by only 35 of 91 agencies on Long Island. I know that's a statistic that differs from someone who was here just earlier, but that's the latest statistics we have from the Better Business Bureau.

The agency has been compliant in completing the Contract Agency Disclosure Form on annual basis as required by the County. Much of the information I'm sharing with you today has been included in these annual disclosures. It's important to note that while Catholic Charities has six contracts with the County totaling \$3,666,247, the agency secures millions of dollars in funding from local towns, New York State and the Federal Government, the Annual Catholic Ministries Appeal, foundations grants and private donors to subsidize these contracts.

Our agency also provides the additional services listed on Exhibit 1 such as more than 1400 housing units for low-income seniors and adults and children with disabilities, 900 of which are located in Suffolk County, and our Food and Nutrition Program that serves 5400 Suffolk residents each month. Other six contracts are outlined in Exhibit 2. The two mental health clinics in Medford and Bay Shore provide psychiatric assessment, individual and group therapy to individuals and families, medication monitoring and management as well as case management and referral for seriously and persistently mentally ill adults and children.

The Assertive Community Treatment Act Team in Bay Shore provides mobile intensive community-based treatment and support to adults with psychiatric disabilities who have been unsuccessful in traditional forms of treatment. The two chemical dependence clinics in Commack and Hampton Bays and one satellite office in East Hampton provide group and individual counseling, sobriety support and educational programs to chemically dependent adults and adolescents as well as their family members and significant others. Talbot House is the only chemical dependence crisis center in Suffolk County. This facility provides a 35 bed-24/7 voluntary inpatient medically monitored detoxification program. Included in its services are shelter, meals, medical evaluation, counseling, education and referral to next level of care for alcohol and substance abusing adults.

Our Meals on Wheels Program not only delivers hot, nutritious meals to homebound frail seniors, but also monitors the seniors well-being and assists them in accessing other services they may need. Our Congregate Senior Center in Brentwood provides a nutritious hot meal, socialization and recreational activities two days per week. Regina Residence, though located in Merrick, provides a 24 hour home like setting for pregnant and parenting young women and their children referred from the Suffolk County Department of Social Services as well as self-referred Suffolk County residents. The services provided include housing, parenting and independent living skills training, education, recreational and counseling support. A mentoring program links the young women with positive role models in the community. On-site day care and transportation to medical exams and follow-ups are also provided.

The location of our service sites and geographic boundaries are determined in conjunction with both the County and the New York State Departments. With the exception of Talbot House, we are aware of other agencies that provide similar services, though not necessarily in the same catchment areas. It should be noted that there are waiting lists for all of our Suffolk programs, indicating that there are still inadequate service slots for all those in need in Suffolk County.

Should there be a reduction or elimination of County funding, Catholic Charities would be forced to close the affected programs. The unserved caseload is likely to end up in the criminal justice system, hospital emergency rooms, home shelters or nursing homes whose operating costs far exceed those of our existing programs. In addition to the impact on the individuals themselves and their families, public safety and general quality of life in the County would be affected as well. And finally, I'll just add, and that is on the summary sheet, that as CEO of Charities, my salary is less than 1% of the agency's budget. And if you're recommending 20%, I'll be happy to take that back to my board.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Just a comment, some of the other committee members aren't aware of this. But you eluded to Talbot House, which is in my district, that I've had the opportunity to tour. There is no doubt about it that you provide a very vital service with that facility. But the interesting thing about the facility is I had -- in six years in office, I've never gotten one call about Talbot House. It's like totally off the radar as -- you know, with community groups. And that's a credit to you guys, that you provide this type of service without any fanfare and without even community groups aware that you are there. And that might sound a little self-serving, but I think that's really important. And I think it's indicative active of the job that you do there. It's meant as a compliment.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Thank you. I take it as a compliment. And actually, even when the facility went from its original 20 beds to 35 beds in the late '80s, there really was not a lot of conflict in the community about it. So we are really very proud of the work we do there. Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Bill.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I want to thank you for the presentation. It was very well done. And I think your summation, if you will, or your conclusion really brings home to this committee the effectiveness of not-for-profit agencies and how far we stretch our dollars when dealing with an organization like yours. We've said it many times, and I'm sure you'll hear it many times again from us, these services would not go away if not served by agencies like yourself, and the only recourse for those individuals would be to come back to government. And if we could provide those services at all, which in many cases, we simply cannot, it would be at a far great cost. And I really think that your final paragraph of your presentation described that in one of the best ways that I have seen. So I just want to thank you for that presentation.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Thank you. If I could, I would just add that our board really takes very seriously its stewardship role of the resources with which they're entrusted. And I think you can see on one of the exhibits that we have considerable

investment income that is part of our Operating Budget that helps to pick up our share of the many programs that we operate. And that's really largely attributable to the fact that they really scrutinize the finances, the resources that come in, whether it's from donors, from grants, foundations, contracts and make sure that we're very accountable and that we're using those dollars wisely.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro, you have another question?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes. I was just looking at our contract report from our Budget Review Office, and in the net cost to the County, it's obviously -- looks like it's only about 10% of the money we're putting in. So I'm assuming that's all pass-through grants.

**MS. CASSELL:**

I'm not sure what you're looking at. Do you know exactly which contract?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I could maybe direct that to Budget Review.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yes. Talbot House is highly reimbursed by the State.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you. To the tune of about 90%.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Exactly, yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Hi. Thanks for coming down. Do you do program evaluations program by program? And what I'm getting at is, you know, we always try to do -- well, not always, but I think one goal should be to try to do things better and to make sure that we monitor ourselves as we're going along that is a program working and could it be done better or done a little bit differently to be more effective. Do you do that on a program-by-program basis.

**MS. CASSELL:**

We do. And actually the contracts require us to deliver certain kinds of services and a certain levels of service, which we are very vigilant about tracking. But there is regular review of our programs by teams from both the County and from New York State who come in to do not only fiscal audits but operational audits that look at the quality of our services.

In some of our programs, we've instituted surveys to get feedback from the clients, the people we're serving, to get their perspective. And we are always trying to look at, you know, the balance between pushing direct service workers for increased productivity so that you can make the most of the dollars that you're getting, but then also making sure that that's not coming at a cost of not giving each individual who's turn to you in their crisis the real attention that they need and deserve.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It's hard to quantify human behavior, because that's really what you're trying to affect. I mean, units served, that's easy. You know, we served 20,000 people. That's real easy. But to look at that end result of, you know, what actually happened; did you make their life better, did you make the world better, you know, that's a pretty tough

thing to quantify.

**MS. CASSELL:**

I know many of you know both Denis and Kathy, and they are most directly involved with these contracts.

**MS. AYERS-LANZILLOTTA:**

I'm Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta, and I run the Chemical Dependence Services. And I think in answer to your question with more specificity, The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has standards of performance measures that they hold us accountable to. Some of them might include the number of people that are remaining clean and sober, sobriety, employment status. There are many measures, behavioral measures that we're held accountable to.

And I'm proud to say that our agency, Catholic Charities, is among one of the highest percentages on most of the performance outcomes that we're measured against. For example, our outpatient clinics, I have two; one in Hampton Bays and one in Commack, the comparison group that the state puts us into has 35 such licensed programs in the whole Downstate Region, you know, New York City, suburban region. So they match us up against other providers with similar licenses to see how we are measuring on the various performance measures.

Productivity, units of service per worker, those are other kinds of things that are measured, but also outcomes in terms of quality of care. For example, at Talbot House, we're measured on the percentage of people that successfully complete the program and then are moved into ongoing care. It's sad to say that the State median on that for crisis center services is only 35%. We're hitting 60%. That means 60% of the people that go through Talbot successfully go on and stay in treatment. That helps save us a lot more, because those people don't go back through the system. So that's just examples of the kind of measures.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So those results would be passed on to Suffolk County?

**MS. AYERS-LANZILLOTTA:**

Sure. We submit those in program reports regularly to the County Department of Mental Hygiene and to the State also. It's on the website of the State, so those could be looked up.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And just a quick comment, and again, thank you, Catholic Charities, for all you do, because a lot of what you do a lot of people don't really know about, don't really acknowledge. A lot of what you do is kind of a quiet epidemic, am I right? And you really can save a life, more than just save a life, you can save the life of a whole family. And just as a quick story, I speak about Catholic Charities in my household many times, because I know of what you do and I'm always with a lot of young people. But I heard one of my daughters who lives in the City telling a friend of hers, "I found a Catholic Charities for you in Manhattan." She said, "We're going to take care of you." So thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Good morning -- good afternoon. A couple of questions. I assume that approximately 50% of your programs and your clients are in Suffolk County versus Nassau, or is it more or less evenly split?

**MS. CASSELL:**

I don't think we split if out entirely, but it would be safe to say about 50 would be a good estimate.

**LEG. COOPER:**

And the funding that you get from Nassau County, contract funding, is it more or less equivalent to Suffolk? How does it compare to Suffolk funding.

**MS. CASSELL:**

I think it's actually the amount of County funding -- is it lumped together on the handout?

**LEG. COOPER:**

It seems to be lumped together with State and Nassau County. I wasn't able to break it out.

**MS. CASSELL:**

We have a different range of services in Nassau County. We have a lot more senior services in the County, and a little bit scaled-down mental health services, and no chemical dependence services. So it's a completely different menu so to speak that's being funded in Nassau County.

**MR. KENNEDY:**

It's pretty close to the 3.6 million from Suffolk. Most of it, as Laura said, is in the senior programs. The County contracts with Nassau are about 3.2 million, it's primarily senior services, case management, Meals on Wheels, congregate centers for 500 seniors that come into our congregate centers for lunch every day and other services. But it's close to what Suffolk is.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Also, tracking back a few years State funding, has that leveled off, has it increased each year, is it keeping up with what the needs are?

**MS. CASSELL:**

Are you asking about State funding as flow-through funding in these contracts or just generally?

**LEG. COOPER:**

Both actually.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Well, State funding, it's been like every other source of funding, most years if it stays level, that's a good thing and something to celebrate, unfortunately even though our costs are going up. I don't think we've seen any significant cut in State.

**MR. ENGELHART:**

No. But we have in the last two years now been getting COLAs, which is a great help. For many years, there were no COLAs. And where we used to only get those for our services with people with developmental disabilities, we've now been fortunate to get them both on the chemical dependency side as well on the mental health side. As Kathy is quick to point out, but only on the State share of the funding.

**LEG. COOPER:**

And I guess my final question is whether your various programs, at least in Suffolk County, are they more or less at capacity, or is there still a large underserved population out there, and if you had gotten more funding, you'd be able to serve a great need?

**MR. DEMERS:**

My name is Denis Demers, again. Just on the mental health side, the average waiting list of outpatient programs like ours is three to six months. In our case, it's three months at this point. So that leaves a number of people who are not being served or can't be served by the system because it is so severely underfunded overall. I'm sure you hear that from sister agencies doing the same similar kind of work.

**LEG. COOPER:**

So you can always use more money you're saying.

**MS. AYERS-LANZILLOTTA:**

Always use more money, definitely. A harrowing statistic that really drives at my heart every time I hear it, the State's need methodology for crisis center services says we need about another 77 beds for Talbot House, crisis center beds. We only have 35 in our County. I serve about a thousand people a year, I turn away about a thousand people a year that I have to say, "There are no beds available."

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I just wanted to follow up on one quick point, especially with the mental health. When New York State decided to decommission Kings Park, CI and Pilgrim, you were in existence at that point, right?

**MS. CASSELL:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Did they coordinate with you. I know the answer, but.

**MR. DEMERS:**

I was not in the County at the time. And I think Laura and I probably have the longest service in the agency at this point of almost 19 years. There is an ongoing issue that I know that the Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services has been -- and sister agencies -- my sister agencies and ours have been advocating for some changes in terms of the funding formulas that come out of Albany. All of those years -- and there have been some changes that occurred, but certainly not adequate to meeting the need. There are still a number of people in the system -- coming into the system that weren't there back then. Most the people who were deinstitutionalized back in the '80s and the '90s are quite elderly at this point and haven't been institutionalized for some time. So most of the people we're seeing coming into the system now, we're not part of those -- we're not resident in those institutions at that point.

**MR. ENGELHART:**

And I think -- and you can correct me on this, Denis, but I believe that the understanding was that there would be coordination and that much of the resources that we being used to fund the institutions would be made available to the community based support, but that has not been the case.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What it did was it devastated places like Bay Shore, Port Jefferson, Sayville and continues to this day to have a devastating affect and a little bit of a suppression on a rebound. Thanks.

**MS. CASSELL:**

If I could just add there, I also think at the time when those institutions were closed, the State in their formula for reallocating funds, I think they factored in that a lot of folks who were institutionalized here who came from elsewhere in the State would go back to their home locations. The reality was many of them stayed here. So I don't think our region ever really got its fair share of those funds.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Well, I don't have any other questions. But it's kind of like the time to put in a disclaimer, you know? I know when you got the letter you probably said to yourself, "Why? You know, why do we have to go through this again?" But it's important to us. I'm really sorry that this auditorium isn't full and that the news media isn't here. I mean, we had a Newsday reporter here this morning, I don't know where -- I guess he left. That's the first coverage we've gotten at all.

Why it's important to us that you guys come in and tell your story is because we've been attacked pretty seriously in

the media about the funding that we give to not-for-profits. And I don't think the story has gotten out. We're trying to do our due diligence as far as the money, taxpayer money, we spend, but we're also trying to get out the story of -- don't get me wrong. We fund a lot of not-for-profits, and I'm sure that there are some squeakers in there that maybe don't deserve the funding. But just speaking on behalf of this committee, after today, we probably will have interviewed maybe 30 not-for-profits that we fund, and I don't think we've found one so far, big or small, that, you know, we don't get our dollars worth out of.

We're still looking for the prom dress. We're trying to track that down where that came from, we'll eventually get to it. But I know, you know, that this Legislature has worked with you guys in the past. I know I've worked with you guys in budget crunches where suddenly you open up next year's proposed budget and you say, "Oh, my God, how am I going to fill that gap?" And you've been able to restore, you know, some of your needs. We haven't been able to do, you know, probably what we should do, but we have tried. And we have -- we have helped. So it's important -- it's important for us even if there's nobody else in the room that we take the time to listen to the story about the services you supply to our citizens.

And I think the most important thing that I've gotten from your presentation and we all should get is we just couldn't do it without you. We couldn't provide the services that we desperately need that you guys provide and a lot of other not-for-profits provide, you know? So I thank you for coming, and I thank you for the work that you do.

**MS. CASSELL:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

All right. Lunch break.

**MS. CASSELL:**

We're all agreeing we couldn't do any of this without you. We referred in our testimony to the partnership, and that's what we really consider, that we are partners with you in making Suffolk a better community. Thanks.

(\*A RECESS WAS TAKEN AT 12:26 P.M.)

(THE CONTRACT AGENCIES COMMITTEE MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:00 PM)

(THE FOLLOWING WAS TAKEN BY COURT STENOGRAPHER DIANA KRAUS AND TRANSCRIBED BY  
LEGISLATIVE AIDE DENISE WEAVER)

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Stenographer ready? Okay, okay. Thank you for coming, Anita. Maybe you could introduce your team with you.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Absolutely. To my left -- thank you. To my left is Andrew Breslow. He is our Chief Financial Officer. And to his left is Kyla Blattberg, Dr. Kyla Blattberg. She's our Chief Operating Officer.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And of course, these are the folks from Pederson Krag. Maybe, Anita, you could start out by giving a brief description of the agency and the programs that you do and what population you serve and what geographical areas you serve them in.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Certainly. We prepared little folders for you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Wonderful.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We're a very large agency and we have many, many programs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

So I'll go through them quickly.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That's fine.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

And then you could look at what we're giving you at your leisure.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That's fine.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Our agency serves primarily Suffolk County. We did have one program, a Compulsive Gambling Program, that was situated in Nassau County briefly. We are a comprehensive outpatient, behavioral, mental health and substance abuse agency. We have about 24 separate programs. Our agency serves approximately -- well, it served in 2006, 7,148 unique individuals. Our clinics, of which there are three, one in Huntington, one in Wyandanch, one in Smithtown served, again in 2006 approximately 4,400 unique individuals. We provided over 80,000 units of service to these individuals.

Our Chemical Dependency Programs, which are located at four sites, Huntington, Smithtown, Wyandanch and we do have a satellite at Madonna Heights, served approximately 1300 unique individuals, for a total of 30,800 units in 2006.

Some of our other programs are the Home and Community Based Waiver Program, which is unique to Pederson Krag Center. This is a program offering services to families who are at risk of their children going into either long-term hospitalization or residential program. We have the only program operating in Suffolk County. It is funded by the Office of Children and Family Services and also by the Department of Social Services. We currently -- we started with I think --

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Eight.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Eight slots a few years ago and we're up to 78 slots now, meaning we have room for 78 families that require intensive work. We have two ACT Teams, one in Huntington, one in Smithtown, serving 136 individuals. These ACT Teams -- ACT stands for Assertive Community Treatment. These are community based programs. We have teams of social workers, chemical dependency workers, psychiatrist, nurse that actually go out into the community to provide services for individuals who have been unable to access the community programs for a variety of reasons.

We have blended case management serving 288 individuals. We have two types of school programs. We have a School Support Two Program in which we have workers in two schools in Huntington middle schools -- I believe it's middle schools. And we have a school based initiative, which we are currently looking for another district. And I think we have found one in Riverhead. So we met with the supervisor there and they are anxious to start, which we would do in September.

We have several programs that support children in foster care, Post Adoption Program. We have a Partial Hospitalization Program, which is one of the, I think two remaining programs in Suffolk County. That's in our Huntington site. And we have space for about 25 individuals at any one time. That's probably our most intensive program, is the Partial Hospitalization Program.

We have an IPRT, which is an Intensive Psych Rehab Program. That's currently located in two sites, Huntington and Smithtown. Hopefully soon to be located in Coram. As I said before we have a Compulsive Gambling Program.

We have several programs that are intensive in nature. One of them being the Waiver Program, one of them being -- another being the Partial Hospitalization and the third one being the Home Based Crisis Intervention Program called Link, which actually takes an individual primarily from a hospital and makes sure that they're situated in -- that they're receiving the services they need -- that you need outpatient. And it's very, very intensive. These programs can involve daily contact with families with individual.

We have supported housing beds throughout Suffolk County. He have 27 supported housing beds right now. We have one community residence for eight adolescent males and we are attempting to put up a second one in Huntington. We're actually getting some opposition but we're obviously going to fight that and try to get that house -- the new house up. There's long a long waiting list for people waiting for our community residences.

We have a Forensic Unit, basically just operating out of the Smithtown site. We have a PINS Diversion Program within clinic services, post adoption services. And of course, our clinics and our continuing Day Treatment Program, which is in St. James, and provide services for well over a 100 people daily. Sums it basically up what we do.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We're busy.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I can see that.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

How many employees do you have?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Close to --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Full-time, part-time and volunteers?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Let's see, we have about 390 employees all together. That will include full-time and part-time.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

You have it broken down?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

I don't have it broken down. I'm sorry.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That's all right.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We can get that to you. Volunteers, basically we have very few if any. From time to time we do have some volunteers. We take some volunteers from DSS at times. We're also -- primarily because of our concern with confidentiality.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Can I ask question?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Sure. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Hi.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Hi.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Nice to see you again.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I was just curious, where is your -- you said an outpatient in St. James?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Where is that?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

{Geradyne}.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Now well, it's Stony Brook.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, well.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah. Stony Brook owns it.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

What is it?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We're being evicted. I just thought I'd throw that in.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No, no. I think I -- well, I know where you're talking about.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How much funding did you receive from the County this year and last year, if you recall?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yep. We have that. And again, what we're going to let you have if you want it is really a --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I think it's in here, right?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Right.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah. Andy, go ahead.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

Well, on the second sheet, it shows a breakdown of the funding sources. The County funding for 2007 is a 1,762,747.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is that all the programs?

**MR. BRESLOW:**

That's the -- all the programs that are County funding. Yeah.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

For County funding. We have it broken down. The Clinic Program, which includes the Day Treatment Program and the three clinics. That's the 1,108,000. That's been the same for the last few years.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

1,108,000 from the County?

**MR. BRESLOW:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Or total --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

One million seven from the County. One million eight from the state.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second page.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

And then the Chemical Dependency Program, the County funding is 516,000. And we have a small amount for the Compulsive Gambling 4,760 and Post Adoption Services this year is 133,000. It was approximately that as well last year.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Oh, this is good. Thank you.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

You're welcome.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro, you had question and then Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just very quickly I heard you mention the sort of a coming soon to the Coram community hopefully.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What was that? If you could elaborate on that?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Kyla? Do you want to take Coram? Go ahead.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Sure. I'll take Coram as soon as we can --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Get it.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

-- get into Coram. We will be moving our -- the program that is currently in St. James; the Continuing Day Treatment Program into the Coram building. And then into that same building we will incorporate what is currently IPRT because both of those programs, Continuing Day Treatment Program and Intensive Rehab will be rolled into what will be the PROS Program.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Which is?

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Which is Personalized Recovery Oriented Services.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Sorry, too many acronyms for me.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Which is -- right, right. I'm sorry about that too. It's supposedly a one-stop shopping comprehensive treatment opportunity for --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Now, when you say the Coram facility, you mean the Coram Health Center?

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Well, that's where --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

-- where we've been waiting for --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Right.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

-- well over a year to move into.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Thank you. I see that you get state funding on varying amounts for about 18 different programs. But the single program that gets the largest amount of total funding is the clinic treatment, Continuing Day Treatment Program. And that's the one that gets zero state funding. Why is that?

**MR. BRESLOW:**

Well, most of the program revenues come from Medicaid at this point. So --

**LEG. COOPER:**

Oh, so those are all pass-thru dollars; basically?

**MR. BRESLOW:**

It's fee service dollars that support most of the program.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And the total budget is 22 million? Is that -- am I reading this right?

**MR. BRESLOW:**

That's correct.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yes. And I can say right off the top I do not make 20% of that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. 22 million, and we have the County. Do you have a total state break out?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Page two.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Page two. Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

1.862.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

1.86 -- Oh, very good, very good. Do you do any outside fundraising?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We do try. We have a lay board, of course, who's -- one of the their primary responsibilities is fundraising. We run basically three events during the year of -- well, two basic, a golf outing and a black tie kind of reception. This year you are all very cordially invited to ours in November. It will be Pederson Krag's 50th anniversary in November. It's going to be at the Woodland's Country Club right off of Jericho Turnpike in Woodbury. It's a golf club and they have one of the these old mansions, and we're going to be having it there.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is that the old Oyster Bay course?

**LEG. COOPER:**

No. Where is Woodland's? It's on Jericho and Woodbury.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah. It's the Oyster Bay golf.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

They're talking about golf.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Oh, okay. Okay, yeah.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah, it's a golf course.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Oh, sure. Okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

It's the Oyster -- Town of Oyster Bay. Yeah. How much do you raise privately?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

I would say --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Roughly.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

-- between 30 and \$80,000 a year. And that includes very generous grants that we get also.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Do you know what your expenses are for your administrative expenses?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Percentage.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Between eight and nine percent.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

And my salary is point 0068.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Wow.

**LEG. COOPER:**

How many zeros?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Two.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is there any other agencies in the mental health and chemical dependency that do the same thing that you guys do?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Well, certainly in chemical dependency there are other agencies that provide outpatient services, including intensive outpatient services, that we also do. We also uniquely have an operating certificate for outpatient detox but we've been unable to get that started. That would be very critical to Suffolk County to have that considering all of the inpatient units have closed. But certainly in mental health I think that we are quite unique. I think we're the only agency that offers the intensity of services, the wrap around services and the continuity of care that other agencies for a variety of reasons, none of which might be their own fault, are unable to provide.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And you guys are, I know you are part of the -- you have a network of --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

A coalition. Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

-- yeah, of mental health providers.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Even though there's a number of other not-for-profits providing similar services, is there still a need out there for --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

There's a tremendous need.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Good.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

And I've come before this body as well many others to whine about it quite often. We have waiting lists that are approximately three to six months. We have for the first time in our history have had to close taking applications at one of our sites totally, which is Wyandanch. We are desperately underfunded at that site. And we kind of use our Smithtown site like an accordion, opening it and closing it. We are mandated to take hospital discharges within five days, emergency room visits within five days and some of the other CPS cases within five days.

Our Smithtown site, Kyla can speak to that, gets approximately 45 hospital discharges a month. And that is -- that is incredible. But it displaces people who we could catch before they go into the hospital and possibly provide services. That's the population that we are not reaching anymore. What's coming out and what's getting in are the very, very serious ones. And they're either coming to us, they're going to jail. We all know the jails are being filled up with these people. So --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I was just going to comment about the group that was here before you said that they get like a 1000 people coming in but then they have a 1000 on their waiting list for detox and for substance abuse.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Right, right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So then we know that there is a need.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We know that about that 60% of those people needing services out there in substance are not getting served.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, I understand that.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Are not getting services.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Hi.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Hi.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks for coming down. Coordination of the provision of services, I know you have a coalition. Now part of that coalition is coordinating with New York State Department of Mental Health and/or Suffolk County Department of Health?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Well, it certainly -- the basic -- one of the basic missions of the coalition is to advocate on both the County and state level for funding.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So you -- right. So your coalition, though, goes to the County and asks for funding and goes to New York State and asks for funding. What I'm getting at is I'm noticing that most of your, you know, your facilities right now are in

western Suffolk County; and that you might be moving out to the Coram area. As far as looking at it on a Countywide basis, does anybody look at it on a Countywide basis?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yes. And --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Our Department of Health?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

-- basically the coalition does not -- the coalition works as a group, as a unit, saying -- identifying areas that are gaps in the provision of services in Suffolk County. We do not advocate for individual agencies through the coalition.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We would go individually. But we have sites in Setauket. We have sites in St. James. And also, Kyla, you speak very briefly if you will on we have been monitoring zip codes of people that are coming to us from all over Long Island. It used to be we would just stick to our general area.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Well, there are -- over the years several other clinics have closed. And certainly all clinics have reputations whether deserved or not. Pederson Krag is known to treat intensely acutely ill people. We have probably the largest contingent of psychiatry, which is one of the reasons our expenses are very high. And that's why we end up with those kind of clients continuously.

So what happens is we end up with patients from all over the County because there is no such thing as a catchment area. And we will encourage patients who are calling from very far out east not to become engaged with us because it will be much more difficult for them to be consistent with their treatment. But they tell us that either they are absolutely unable to get into any place closer to them or they really want to come to Pederson Krag.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And don't take this as a criticism but that's sort of a chaotic way to run a health system. And if we're going to be part of that, and we are, I guess, that's an apparent thing, New York State and Suffolk County should maybe be doing a little bit more as far as planning and a little bit more of an overall criteria for where, you know, identifying where the needs are, where the clinics should be and then coordinating with the not-for-profits to get those areas met. Because it sounds like you're in St. James and you're going to move to Coram because there's more of a need in Coram or you have a better facility?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Our lease was up and Stony Brook bought that property and wants us out. That's why we're moving to Coram.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

So we're moving --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So what happens to the people that you were servicing in St. James?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We are going to -- we had to select a site that was going to be able to continue providing services to that population. So we're not concerned about the people that were in St. James. We're assuming that --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So you'll still have a physical presence --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- in St. James.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

This is just an additional presence out in Coram.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

No. We're not going to have anything in St. James. But we are -- you can.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

What we did is when we looked at a new site. We looked at all of where -- all the clients were coming from to the St. James site.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

We did a study. And we tried to pick something that was centrally located to the whole area so the -- most of those clients would still be coming but they would be going to the Coram site.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now does your coalition of not-for-profits do the same thing? Almost like take a map, put little pins in it and see where you've got your population that --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

We do not. And it's not our responsibility to do that. Once upon a time -- once upon a time that's exactly how planning was. They took a map and they said we need a mental health clinic here. We need a hospital here. We need this program there and there and there. And it was done that way and there was planning. There hasn't been adequate planning done in years.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

And then you compound by agencies have been shut down by the state and by the County. So now you have gaps in those areas. And those people -- you're absolutely right it is chaotic. And it's not helpful to individuals who come that are in crisis. And as soon as the crises is over, they're not going to travel 25, 30 minutes --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

-- to get to us.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Would you know who conducted that type of an assessment in the past? Was that the Suffolk County Health

Department, New York State Health Department?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

New York State, primarily. Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Primarily.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I was just curious as to what impact on your programming, your services was felt by the enactment. I think it was last year by New York State of -- what was it, Timothy's Law, the Mental Health Parity Law. Has that had an impact on programming that you offer and the funding that you receive?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

I have to say that it has not. And I also have to say with all humility that Pederson Krag is one of the few if not the only agency that continues to accept patients in our variety of programs regardless of their insurance or ability to pay, which is probably why we have the deficit that we do. It's just that we have to monitor it. There are very few places particularly in this environment in the last year or two that don't ask what's your insurance first. Or when the insurance runs out, they're discharged. We get a very fair percentage of people who call us to say I need treatment and I'm being discharged from so and so because I don't have insurance anymore, which means when they come us they have no insurance. And it's a self pay person. So -- so it hasn't impacted us, because we're doing it anyway.

**LEG. COOPER:**

But wouldn't it ultimately ameliorate the problem that you're faced with, the uninsured, Because I thought the goal was that if someone has insurance for physical ailments, now they have to get --

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

They have to get equal coverage.

**LEG. COOPER:**

-- equal coverage.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Right, right. So we haven't --

**LEG. COOPER:**

So you ultimately should be having less people come to you that are uninsured. Right?

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Well, I don't think that that's really been actualized to a degree or extent at this point.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

No. I can only tell that when -- what we run on a monthly basis is the payer source of the clients that are entering treatment and are in treatment. And the percentages that are Medicaid, no insurance at all and the self pays and insurance in some way have not altered at this time.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

And again, it's very soon, you know, we might not see it for a little while.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I see, okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Anybody else? Well, thank you very much for coming.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Thank you very much.

**MS. BLATTBERG:**

Thank you.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Again, thank you. Do we have Literacy of Suffolk? Thanks again.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Thank you.

**MR. BRESLOW:**

Thank you.

**MS. FLEISHMAN:**

Bye, bye.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good afternoon. And then if you could just introduce yourself for the record and who's with you.

**MS. BOOTH:**

I'm Gini Booth. I'm the Executive Director of Literacy Suffolk. Christine Moriarity, who is our Finance Manager; and Steve Moll, who is our Board Treasurer. I bought the top with me.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I can see that.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Basically what we've been doing is asking the different not-for-profits to just give us a description of your agency, what programs, and as far what population you serve and what geographic area.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Okay. We provide services, literacy services to adults in Suffolk County. We've been around for 29 years. Formally we were known as Literacy Volunteers of America Suffolk County. We are a pro literacy affiliate on the national level. We provide free one to one small group literacy tutoring. We recruit and refer adult learners and volunteers. We train volunteer tutors to work with the students. We offer confidential student centered instruction. We provide ongoing support to tutors and students, support groups, periodicals, newsletter, *Reading for Life*, which is a wonderful magazine of adult writing. And we spend time trying to impress the importance of literacy in Suffolk County through presentations across the County. One presentation some of you might have seen is the Presumption of Literacy.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Could I just stop you one -- real quick.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Surely.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Does Literacy Program include ESL?

**MS. BOOTH:**

ESOL and Basic Literacy, yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good.

**MS. BOOTH:**

We have offices -- our administrative office is in Bellport. We have a office at the Huntington Public Library. We have a satellite in that area in Amityville Public Library, Middle Country, Mastic, Moriches, Shirley, Riverhead with a satellite in the Southampton Library. We are at the Stony Brook University Adult Learning Center. And we work in cooperation with the Brookhaven National Lab through their literacy program.

Last year, the program year, we served 1,310 active students with 600 active volunteer tutors. Here's the problem/, we have over 600 people across the County on our wait lists, students waiting to be matched.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

600?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Over 600, yes. That number changes as we have workshops and graduate more tutors. And in terms of who these people are, they're men, they're women, they're all ages over the age of 18. They are of all ethnic groups. We like to say that we are an equal opportunity educator. We have seven full-time staff, six part-time. And that is across -- in different, you know, throughout the County. Should I go on?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Actually --

**MS. BOOTH:**

Probably said too much.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, no, no. That's good because you're hitting on some of our standard questions too. And I'll just keep going and get some of these questions answered too and out of the way. What's your total budget?

**MS. BOOTH:**

It is approximately about 595. 5,900 --

**MR. MOLL:**

595,000.

**MS. BOOTH:**

595,000. I need a tutor.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And approximately what percent of your budget could be -- would go towards admin -- administrative expenses?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Pretty much everything. We do not pay rent. We are in the Suffolk Cooperative Library System so we don't pay rent. It is for our program and for administrative issues.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. You might have to elaborate a little bit on that. So the total --

**MR. MOLL:**

If I may?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- yeah, Steve.

**MR. MOLL:**

All of our tutors are volunteers.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Right. I saw that.

**MR. MOLL:**

So what we -- we coordinate the tutors, the students to the libraries they work in. So Ms. Booth is referring to, you know, our central office payroll is our biggest expense. So --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And that's the --

**MR. MOLL:**

That's --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- almost the whole 595?

**MR. MOLL:**

Almost with payroll, materials, and transportation. Transportation is a big issue for us.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right. Are you the financial guy on this panel?

**MR. MOLL:**

I'm the treasurer of the board.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. MOLL:**

So I sign the checks.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So give me estimate, if you had to add in an amount for rent that you're being donated, the amount that the volunteers would actually cost if you had to pay them.

**MR. MOLL:**

All right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You know what I mean? Because otherwise it looks bad.

**MR. MOLL:**

The -- I understand what you're saying. If you look at it, you know, using the donor hours putting, I believe there's a standard amount put on that, and I forget, it escapes me at the moment.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Across the nation it's \$18.40 for the value of volunteer hours. In New York it's \$22.77.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. MOLL:**

If you put -- if you use those figures then our AOH is well under 10%.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good.

**MR. MOLL:**

Our cost is \$600 for each student-tutor pairing for a year. So for somebody to learn -- to learn how to read English with us over the course of a year costs 600 bucks.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now, does the CEO make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

**MR. MOLL:**

No.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And that's taking into effect all the volunteer hours and the --

**MR. MOLL:**

That's taking into effect just our dollars.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Good. What other -- and I guess there'd be probably a long list of -- any other agencies that do something similar to what you do or --

**MS. BOOTH:**

Similar, yes. There are literacy -- literacy is being provided across the County. Sometimes in churches, sometimes through BOCES, sometimes in high schools, you know, adult education. But what we do is unique. It's one on one tutoring.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So to your knowledge there's not a lot of other organizations or --

**MS. BOOTH:**

Not in Suffolk County.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- anyplace else where somebody could go for one on one?

**MS. BOOTH:**

There -- not one on one, no.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Mr. Losquadro? Legislator Losquadro. Danny.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, no. I was just going to elaborate on that point. You mentioned earlier that you have over 600 individuals on waiting lists?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

For the one on one service?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Looking at our financial report sheet, you received approximately \$50,000 in County funding. Is that correct?

**MS. BOOTH:**

For approval for this year?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm looking at a 2006.

**MS. BOOTH:**

The total from Suffolk County was 115.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

For '06?

**MR. MOLL:**

Yes. The County Executive's budget has in it for 15 and the Legislature came up with 65. 50 and 65.

**MS. BOOTH:**

That's this year. But last year I think it was 60 and 55 something.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Last year it was?

**MS. BOOTH:**

I believe so.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

A total of 115.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Yeah. But this year we were told that it's 60 and 15,000 from -- I think it was Vivian Vilorio-Fisher put it in.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's a substantial cut. So I'm just going to turn to Budget Review. So for '07?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

I have the '06 adopted amount at 95,000 -- no, wrong. 65,000. And this year 75,000. I don't know where the 115 is coming from.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. I'm going to put it down as a question mark. We just have to, you know, fill that in. John, would that include Legislative grants or anything else?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yeah, I think it was the --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Omnibus.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

-- 60,000 was recommended and the omnibus added another 15 to bring it up to 75,000 for this year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Then there might be, as was referenced, maybe individual Legislators giving grants too as the year unfolds. But --

**MS. BOOTH:**

We're talking about last year. And I must be very honest with you. I have been the Executive Director since February. I was appointed interim in July so there are things that were out of my purview before.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. BOOTH:**

I can speak what I know now. But in going over previous budgets, that's how I know that it was 115.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. We'll reconcile it.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

I'll look into it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Actually it's nowhere's near it. So John's going to have to look to reconcile that. Danny, you done?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I was done, yes.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Jon, anything?

**LEG. COOPER:**

No, thanks.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Bill? Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Do you -- and I might have missed this. But do you get any grants from the federal or state?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Yes. We get ALE grant, which is Adult Learning -- Adult Literacy Education from the Department of Education. That was three -- I think the figure is for this -- for last year it was 346,320. From the towns we get total last year 131,300. And that's from the Town of Brookhaven, Babylon, Islip, Riverhead, Southampton and Huntington.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

How much was the towns again?

**MS. BOOTH:**

The town's total 131,300.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And what about the federal?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Nothing. Of course, some of the grants from the towns are community developments so it's coming by way of the federal government.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And --

**MS. BOOTH:**

And Legislative, senate and assembly 51,500.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Oh, plus the 346 for the state.

**MS. BOOTH:**

346 is Literacy New York, which is our official literacy organization in New York applies for a grant; the ALE grant from the Department of Education. And then they pay the affiliates. They perform this as --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. So the 346 plus -- how much were the Legislative?

**MS. BOOTH:**

51,500.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Plus 51,500. Okay. And do you do fundraising?

**MS. BOOTH:**

Yes. Last year we raised 65,907.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

65,907.

**MS. BOOTH:**

That's appeals, individual donations, fundraising events. Now what is missing from this, and it's my mistake, I did not have -- include some of the sponsorships that we've had from different corporations for some of our events. And I can provide that for you if would you like. I can send it to you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That would be fine.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Sure.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And we could just put it in with our file and this way we have it. And did we talk about the administrative expenses yet?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Approximately 10% goes towards admin.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Did we answer everything?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I think we did.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. I thank you very much for coming in. And I apologize, I was out of the room taking a phone call. But thank you very much for coming in.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

The information is very, very helpful to us.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Well, I hope if there's anything else, you'll call us. This is my first time doing this so I hope that I passed the bar. I have to tell you, I was very anxious about this.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm not sure about that Steve guy though.

**MS. BOOTH:**

We call him the intimidator, he helps. Bye, bye and thank you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Bye, bye.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Presiding Officer Lindsay, I just want to correct something I said. The entire \$75,000 was put in by the Omnibus. There was nothing recommended by the Executive.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thank you.

**MS. BOOTH:**

Bye.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay, St. Vincent DePaul. Joe Daly, right? Joe. Thank you gentlemen for coming. Joe, if you could introduce your team to us we'd appreciate it.

**MR. DILTS:**

Good afternoon. My name is Jim Dilts. I'm the Executive Director for the Society of St. Vincent DePaul. Next to me is Doug Lalone, who's Director of Programs. And next to him is Charles Sabella who's the Comptroller.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Who's Joe Daly? You didn't bring him?

**MR. DILTS:**

We didn't bring Joe.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. That's the contact name I have.

**MR. DILTS:**

Joe is the house manager --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. DILTS:**

-- of the house.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Okay. Jim, right?

**MR. DILTS:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Would you start off by describing your agency? I know it's a very old agency. The programs that you provide to the citizens of Suffolk County, the -- you know, the population you serve and the geographical area within Suffolk County that you serve.

**MR. DILTS:**

Okay. The central council of the Society in the Diocese of Rockville Center was incorporated in New York State in 1948. From its first days the home visit of the poor, sick and needy by a team of member volunteers has been a core activity of the organization. The team reviews the needs with the local member group called conferences, and determine what the individual or family needs. Based on this assessment food, clothing, furniture or financial assistance is provided. Often the need is a combination of all the categories.

The Central Council currently has 61 conferences located throughout Nassau and Suffolk County. In numbers they're about equally divided in both counties. Those conferences have over 1200 volunteer members that are active in the work. The people we serve are referenced and referred to us by word of mouth, walk-ins, other organizations, catholic parishes, as well as other religious affiliated groups. We serve all who are in need up to the

level of the resources we have available. There are no qualifiers for those served other than that they have a need. There's never a fee for our services.

To support the work we've developed the thrift store operation that collects, sorts and merchandises clothing and furniture. The prices are purposely set low to provide gently used affordable items for low and middle income families.

Additionally, families and individuals who've been visited at home and who have need of clothing and furniture are given what they need at no cost to them. All store receipts above operating costs are utilized to support our administrative and other program expenses.

The transitional housing program involves three separate programs serving three distinct underserved groups in our area. Bishop Ryan House serves at risk 16 to 20-year-old men. Anthony House and Dismis House are located in Nassau County. I'd be glad to tell you about them if you'd like. Anthony House serves homeless men. Dismis House serves men involved in the criminal justice system.

Each program while distinct has common denominators. They're all tightly structured. They require the active participation of those in the program, have goals tailored to each individual and are centered around education, work, financial discipline and eventual return as productive members of the community.

The individuals are most often referred by a variety of government and private agencies. There are no charges or fees to the individuals participating in these programs. Two of the programs receive partial contract support. Ryan House with the Suffolk County Youth Bureau and Dismis House has a contract with the New York State Department of Parole.

Additionally the Council administers for HUD contracts targeted to assist individuals and families who are being moved from homelessness into permanent residences and also provides the same assistance for disabled. The program provides housing, financial assistance and case management. Other programs operated by the Council include a financial management services unit that serves individuals who have suffered financial abuse or would have been deemed incapable of handling their own finances primarily funded by contract with Nassau County Social Services. The unit operates out of the Department of Social Service Center in Nassau and receives additional client's support from the thrift stores in the Central Council.

The Family Assistance Program provides emergency and short-term financial assistance for a wide range of problems. Most of the funding for this program is provided by donation. We also provide funds for rent arrears under the EFSP Program.

The Uplift Program provides long-term funding to individuals and families that -- who were self-sufficient but who were put in financial jeopardy by conditions such as job loss, medical condition, loss of spouse, etcetera. This program requires the predictability of a return to self-sufficiency. All of the funds for this program are from donations.

Since its inception in 1990 over 97% of those individuals and families who started the program have stuck with it and completed it. We have provided over one million dollars to date for this program.

The Swap Program brings together our volunteers, local business volunteers and local college students who join in to repair and/or cleanup residences of the poor, aged and disabled. Costs for this program are offset by some individual donations and from local business foundations. There are no costs to any of the participants for the above programs.

The Council also assists in disaster relief by contributing to a common fund maintained by our national council. The maintenance of this fund enables immediate drawdowns for areas impacted by disaster. All contributions received by this Council that are designated for disaster are forwarded to our national office.

Lastly, we're evolved in a Twinning Program that provides for the domestic and international assistance. Domestically we match conferences that have resources with other conferences who lack the resources.

Internationally we contribute to an Infant Nutrition Program and a Pure Water Program run by Vincentian volunteers in the Dominican Republic. All of our programs are without any charge to the individuals and families we assist. Assistance is given on a basis of need not creed.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you Jim. How many employees do you have full-time, part-time volunteers?

**MR. DILTS:**

We have 109 full-time employees and eight part-time employees. And slightly over 1200 volunteers.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just to clarify.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's in the metropolitan area or just in Suffolk County?

**MR. DILTS:**

That's Nassau and Suffolk County.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Nassau and Suffolk. Approximate breakdown between Nassau and Suffolk, is it like 50/50?

**MR. DILTS:**

It's close.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Are there any other agencies that provide similar service in the geographic area?

**MR. DILTS:**

We like to think we're unique. But certainly F.E.G.S is providing similar services. I think Salvation Army, Catholic Charities; off the top of my head.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Sir, is there still a need?

**MR. DILTS:**

We've been around as an organization since 1847. We keep trying to put ourselves out of business and it hasn't happened yet. We expect -- unfortunately we're going to be around a lot longer too.

**MR. LALONE:**

If I could just add a point about Bishop --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Go right ahead.

**MR. LALONE:**

-- about Bishop Ryan House, which is the program that the County partially funds. It is the only licensed homeless and runaway youth shelter in Suffolk County. There are two female shelters and, of course, Seabury Barn, which is the crises shelter for ages 12 to 18. So the program -- the program itself is unique and only one existing in Suffolk County.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I know I have the numbers here but maybe you could just -- it looks like you get about 190,000 from the County?

**MR. LALONE:**

Yes, a little -- 186,000.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And what is your overall budget?

**MR. LALONE:**

Well, for Bishop Ryan House the past year the budget -- our actual operating costs were \$250,000 to run the program.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Just for that one program?

**MR. LALONE:**

For that one program.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Do you have total operating expenses?

**MR. SABELLA:**

For the agency budget?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yeah.

**MR. SABELLA:**

A little over eight million.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Eight million. That's for Long Island not just for Suffolk.

**MR. SABELLA:**

That's for all of Long Island, Suffolk and Nassau.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And besides the 186,000 you get from Suffolk County, do you get anything from Nassau?

**MR. LALONE:**

We get approximately \$400,000 in total contract money from Nassau County, emergency shelter grant and also the financial management contract.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

How about the state and feds?

**MR. LALONE:**

We received \$113,000 for the Dismis House Program located in Nassau County from the Division of Parole and --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Does that service Suffolk County residents as well?

**MR. LALONE:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LALONE:**

Yes. All our programs -- the transitional housing programs are open to the residents of both counties.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LALONE:**

If I could just add what's really unique about our programs, a disqualifier for getting into one of our transitional housing programs is applying for Social Services. We provide up front the food, the clothing, the bus tokens, the maps to the industrial parks so there's no costs to the County taxpayer to that -- additional costs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LALONE:**

We also receive about \$800,000 a year in HUD rent subsidy money. About one 160,000 of that is dedicated to Suffolk County only.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Go ahead, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Percentage of your overall budget that goes towards administrative expenses would be approximately?

**MR. LALONE:**

It's about twelve-and-a-half percent.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And I take it from that number that your CEO doesn't make more than 20% of your budget?

**MR. DILTS:**

No. If I did, I'd probably be playing golf someplace.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good man.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And I guess the difference between the government subsidies and your overall budget's huge. So you must raise that privately through the thrift stores.

**MR. DILTS:**

Thrift stores are the main provider of funds for us.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. DILTS:**

And as well as the actual goods, you know, the goods and kind. So, yes, thank God we have them.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. So I mean, just roughly the difference is like \$6 million.

**MR. DILTS:**

Right. And about 5.4 million of it is from the Thrift stores.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. DILTS:**

The rest is donation.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And the County -- Suffolk County's \$186,000 is -- really pales by your overall budget. But what would be the effect if you didn't have that money?

**MR. DILTS:**

Do you want to answer.

**MR. LALONE:**

Well, you know, quite frankly, you know, we operate I guess like a business also. And we've been for many, many years subsidizing this program. The average subsidy is about 77,000 cash plus there is no cost to county in terms of the house, the maintenance. We don't -- we don't claim administrative costs for this program, depreciation costs for this type of program. So, you know, we're constantly looking at can we utilize these funds better. And I think, you know, we're kind of reaching that point with the program. We at one point had seven residential houses. We're down to three. And we've taken those monies and used them towards other programs, you know, that we could self fund rather spending huge deficit spending so to speak.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So the Housing Program would probably close down?

**MR. DILTS:**

The short answer is it would close.

**MR. LALONE:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Which would -- and how many people do you accommodate in that?

**MR. LALONE:**

Well, we're licensed for six individuals at one time. It turns over --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LALONE:**

-- about twice but we also service probably another additional 60 youth through counseling, referral, and referrals of our agencies where possible.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And it's transitional so it moves, you know, it's constantly --

**MR. LALONE:**

Right. The aim is to get them to function, you know, independently --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LALONE:**

-- if we can't return them to their parents.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Does anybody else have anything else? The only thing that -- that I wanted to say and I've been repeating this to some of the people that were here earlier. I know probably when you got the letter from us that we wanted you to come out and chat with us, you probably said I've got better things to do and what the hell are they doing now? And I can imagine. But we really appreciate you coming. We appreciate you coming as well prepared as you did.

We are very sorry that there isn't more people in the audience, especially the media because the Legislature's been taking some hits in the paper lately about the money that we contribute to our not-for-profit communities throughout the County. And at the end of today we'll probably have had 30 different agencies in so far this year, since we've established this Ad Hoc Committee. And hopefully our goal is at the end of the year that we'll have interviewed a 150 contract agencies. And I think I can say unequivocally that of the 30 we've seen so far the services that the not-for-profit agencies are supplying our County couldn't be replicated by County employees. We just couldn't do it.

You fill a hugely valuable need within our communities. And for the most part the dollars that we supply is really seed money. You guys, all of you, take -- that we've seen so far, take a couple of bucks from the County and parlay it into other grants and private fundraising and we really get a tremendous value for the dollars that we spend. And I thank you for that. I thank you for what you do for the residents of our County.

And it was very important that you did come here today and explain the services that you provide for us, because unfortunately like everything else in the paper, we keep being accused of some abuses by some not-for-profits that we're still trying to track down who they are they are and where they are. We haven't found them yet but we're going to keep digging. And the story that we're hearing is a story of nothing but good deeds. And again I thank you.

**MR. DILTS:**

We thank you for the kind words. It is, in fact, our privilege to be here. I for one am very happy. I don't get asked to go to many places and it's always nice to get out of the office. We're also County residents, two of us. And I was in business for 25 years before I got involved with the Society St. Vincent DePaul. And can tell you that from an ex-hardline business guy, the problems that are out there, the people that are out there that we need to try to get on our footing where they can take care of themselves -- and that's always been our goal as an organization, to return people to the community as people who are capable of standing on their own two feet.

There's still a lot of work to be done. We would encourage you to encourage the -- your local town Legislators to give greater consideration to workforce housing, affordable housing, whatever you want to call it. It is the single most severe problem that we face and have been facing for at least ten years. And again we thank you. We thank you for every bit of help you can give us.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you much gentlemen. Thanks for coming.

**MR. DILTS:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Long Island Neighborhood Network. Thank you for coming Neal.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Oh, absolutely. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I apologize that we're running about 15 minutes behind schedule, which is not too bad at all.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Not at all, not at all.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Maybe you could officially introduce yourselves for the record.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Sure. Absolutely. My name is Neal Lewis. I'm the Executive Director of Neighborhood Network. And with me is -- go ahead.

**MR. MANITT:**

Andrew Manitt, Vice-President for Operations, Neighborhood Network.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Very good.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Who's the guy next to you in this picture?

**MR. LEWIS:**

No, never mind. Don't even ask that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Neal, maybe you could start off maybe you can start off by giving us a brief explanation or description of your agency.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Sure.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And the programs that you provide to the residents of Suffolk County. And what specific populations you serve and what geographical areas of Suffolk County.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. And I did hear some of the comments from the last -- the agency that came before us. And we're certainly more than happy to come and speak. I think this is an appropriate thing that you're engaging in here. And we believe if you're in the not-for-profit sector you have to be prepared to answer any questions about what you do. You do have a special tax status. And even if we weren't getting money from you, we'd be happy to have these kinds of discussions.

The Neighborhood Network has been around since 1984. We feel that we fit a particular niche as an Island wide environmental protection group. We are staff driven as opposed to organizations that have -- that are centrally relying upon volunteers. The staff is relatively small. You've met my Vice President of Operations. In addition to Andrew, I have another person that's purely program, which is Beth Fiteni who's spoken before the Legislature on a few cases. She works primarily on our energy issues and our pesticide issues.

We also have Demo Maratos, who is our -- oversees all our membership stuff. He does deal with some of our

fundraising. And he also puts a certain amount of his time into program work. And then I have one other person that's full-time on program that's relatively new. And she's been working on the pesticide issue most recently, Leigh Musara, I believe is how she says her last name.

And then we have people that are either part-timers that come in in the evening and work for us on the telephones, updating our members and keeping them in touch with the issues and renewing memberships. And we have about -- I was going to say a half dozen, I think it's actually eight people that do that. And then I have --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So in total it sounds like what, six full-time?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right. Let's see. One, two, three, four, five. Am I missing someone? Or is it five? I think it's -- yeah, there's a woman than that replaced Keith, I guess, is the easiest way -- and Chris is gone. So one, two, three, four, five. So it is five full-timers.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Five full-time and six part-time?

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's right. And then we have one person that's sort of seasonal. And in the summer we have college students that work with us doing membership work and that can vary from anywhere from about a dozen to about twice that number, in the mid twenties.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

They're interns?

**MR. LEWIS:**

They're college students. They are paid.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LEWIS:**

They do do fundraising and they do also generate letters on issues and things of that nature. They are part of a door to door outreach program that we've been running since our inception.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LEWIS:**

So that gives you an overview of some of our staff resources. The -- did I hand this out also?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yes.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Okay. This one has our issues in it. So if you want to look at that but just in general I've organized our issues into energy area, which has several subcategories, which is what we're dealing with today. Then the pesticide area, which has some subcategories also. And then after that we come to the issues of smart growth, which we all are very much engaged in in terms of trying to ways to support affordable housing efforts that don't conflict with environmental principals.

And then good government is probably less active in comparison to everything else, but we were involved in a petition drive and -- in Islip that wasn't successful most recently, but previously had been successful in the Town of Brookhaven. And I was on the Charter Revision Commission in Nassau County. So we've done a number of

things on the good government side. But clearly that's much less so than the other things. In terms of -- go ahead.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Well, the only thing that I was going to say, I mean, describing what you people are all about, there are other agencies that do similar work not exactly mirrored.

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's right.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Or is there --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Usually there are some distinctions --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LEWIS:**

-- in how we all fit together. So there's a number of groups that are statewide like NYPIRG, Citizens Campaign for the Environment. We work closely with them but we feel we're unique because we have a Long Island regional focus, whereas they have responsibilities that extend throughout the state.

There's many local civic groups that are essentially volunteer based. And so we're clearly different than them. And then there's groups like Group for the South Fork, which has staff and they may even have more staff than we do. They have a very substantial staff. But they're limited to the South Fork.

So we do kind of fit into a niche that's a little bit different than everybody else. We do interact with the two County governments and the town governments quite a bit.

The project that we received some funding for, we're not receiving funding in the '07 year. But in the '06 year, I think it was the third year that we had received a grant from Suffolk County. And that was specifically for our Clean Energy Leadership Task Force Project, which is the one I gave you the '05 report -- '06 report on, excuse me.

And that project was basically an idea we had after going to many different meetings. We realized that there's a lot of great ideas out there on the energy field, but a lot of it wasn't moving forward. We felt it was bottlenecks. So we came up with this idea that government could lead by example. Government does own many buildings and vehicle fleets. And if we can demonstrate to the public that these vehicles can be converted to clean fuel vehicles and that these buildings could be renovated to reduce their carbon footprint, the amount of energy that they use and such, that generally when politicians do good things, when public officials do good things, if politicians is seen as a negative word, you know, that they tell people about it.

And so we felt that government could lead by example and it's perhaps an inexpensive way to get the word out. And that has -- it took a couple of years to really build up a head of steam on this. But it is now really taken hold. And Suffolk County frankly is probably -- is by far the best. And we do like to play one off the other at our meetings.

So what we've been doing is we hold about three or four large group meetings each year where we invite all the towns on Long Island, all 13 towns and the two Counties and a few of the large villages. We're increasingly beginning to reach out to the villages also. But primarily our focus is the two Counties and the 13 towns. We had a couple of east end towns. We haven't been able to get the real small ones. Shelter Island. But for the most part we've gotten very good participation. There's an arrange of 60 people that participated in each of the last couple of meetings. The next meeting, for example, is going to be on April 13th at our office in Babylon. We share space at Molloy's Suffolk campus there at Republic Airport.

At these meetings what we do is we bring in the government officials that are involved in giving out money for incentives in energy programs. So we have LIPA, which is key. But we also have NYPA. To a lesser extent

KeySpan is definitely represented. And what we've learned is that one of the problems is if you're a government official and you want to look at renovating the lighting in your building, you hesitate to do it until you're sure you're getting the best deal. Because you don't want to invest other people's money and then find out you could have gotten something done differently and saved a lot of money. And then many times when a town official looks into this, they find it confusing because there's conflicting programs and they need to get clear answers on what's the best programs available.

So we felt the idea was to bring everybody in the room at the same time and to create a dynamic where we can ask questions. And, for example, NYPA has a program where if you use their people, they provide funding. They provide financing at one-and-a-half approximately percent in terms the interest rate. Whereas LIPA doesn't have financing. But LIPA may have some incentives that NYPA doesn't have. So we can compare the different programs right in front of one another and with all the different municipalities in the room and get some clarity on what's the best things available to the various municipalities and then let's get the work going.

There's a big question of why aren't we doing more of this? What we've been able to show is you can save a lot of money. So, Steve Levy we've often joked about. He's known for having his focus on budgetary manners and we felt -- we met with him very early on after he first got elected. And we said, you know, you have at the time Mike Deering working on the environment and here you want to be seen as someone that's cutting the budget. Let's put those two issues together. Let's have some long term strategies to renovate County facilities and then show the public that we're saving money on it as we go.

There are upfront costs. But what we're able to show and that's what's on the chart on the back here, this chart happens to be based on an actual county building; happens to be a Nassau County building in Mineola but it really I think is applicable to many of the projects that have been done in Suffolk County.

It shows that, yes, there's an upfront cost. In the case of that one, it's there, it's a \$350,000 approximately. And it takes a couple of years to pay off that investment in lighting. But you immediately start saving money. And you need people to take that longer view. Many times people they say to me, if it's more than three years, let's not even talk about it. Because frankly I don't know that I'll be in office three years from now but I do know I have to go to the voters with next year's budget. And frankly what's surprising is it's the same attitude in business. You would think maybe business takes a longer view. Not really. They are also looking at the next quarter returns and such.

So what we've learned is that we need to do things like this chart on the back here. Because the first year or so of our program we really felt we were banging our head against the wall and couldn't believe that there's these great programs out there but most of the municipalities just weren't doing it. And we're able to show with this that in fact -- what this red one shows, that's the savings. And what -- the yellow is the cost of the investment in lighting. And the red is bigger than the yellow from the first year. So that means you can save money right away.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I just want to make one comment.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Sure.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And then Legislator Alden has a question. It's surprising the poor decisions that both in government and the private sector make because of the short term focus.

**MR. LEWIS:**

It's so true, that's so true.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And I'll give you an example that we're going to be struggling with very shortly is we're renovating one of our major centers in the County. And we're replacing the heating and air conditioning system and putting all efficient -- energy efficient lighting. And we're not replacing all the windows.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yeah.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And in my way of thinking that's just like throwing money out the door.

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's a good example.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

If you could -- I'd just go back and ask you on the '06 budget. I know, '07 you're getting nothing, right?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Correct.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

'06 you got how much?

**MR. LEWIS:**

I believe it was 15,000.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

15,000? And just a couple of other fill in the blank type questions, other like federal, state or town?

**MR. MANITT:**

We get \$40,000 a year from LIPA for this project.

**LEG. ALDEN,**

40,000 from LIPA. And I'm sorry, I should have asked the first one. What's your total budget for your organization?

**MR. MANITT:**

For 2006 it was approximately 600,000.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And I'm sorry. Then it went 40,000 from LIPA and what else?

**MR. MANNIT:**

That's it for --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Long Island Community Foundation.

**MR. MANITT:**

Well.

**MR. LEWIS:**

U.S. government at first.

**MR. MANITT:**

Government, yeah.

**MR. LEWIS:**

But we do get a foundation grant.

**MR. MANITT:**

We get foundation grants. We get -- now are we discussing the budget for the --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It actually --

**MR. MANITT:**

Or just our total budget?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- that probably answers that question.

**MR. MANITT:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Because federal, state and town, 40,000 --

**MR. MANITT:**

Right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- from LIPA because they're a quasi government.

**MR. MANITT:**

That's it.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yeah, they're a state agency so we see them in here.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now the rest of it annually how much does your agency raise through outside fundraising. So those -- the other types of grants and foundations would be outside fundraising?

**MR. MANITT:**

Outside fundraising, yes. We get -- last year 2006, we got about 127,000 from foundation grants. And we got 368 -- almost 369,000 from individual contributions. About 50,000 from special events. And another thousand or so from program fees.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And then what percentage of your overall budget would you say is admin?

**MR. MANITT:**

This is going back to the 2005 numbers because our 2006 numbers aren't quite collated yet.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's okay.

**MR. MANITT:**

Admin is about 7.45%. Fundraising is about 31.31%. So the two combined would be 38.76.

**MR. LEWIS:**

And we do want -- we're offering the fundraising number because your question only asked admin --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Right.

**MR. LEWIS:**

But we want to be as up front as possible. Our admin number is low.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Right.

**MR. LEWIS:**

But admittedly when you hire college students and you hire fundraisers --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, but you guys are doing something backyards here. Because if you're spending dollars to -- like you have an event and you have to pay for the food or whatever it is --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

-- that should be a net, you know, it shouldn't go towards your overall administration costs, you know.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right.

**MR. MANITT:**

The gap standards though make us account for our fundraising.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right. Yeah, we brought the '05 audit and they do distinguish between admin and fundraising.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. LEWIS:**

And your question was specific to admin, but frankly --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So admin is 7 and 8%?

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now --

**MR. LEWIS:**

And, of course, we made some changes from that year to '06. We don't have '06 yet because we're just about to start out.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

But it's going to be in the same ballpark, right?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yeah. It might be even better, but yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Now does your CEO make more than 20% of the agencies?

**MR. LEWIS:**

No, no.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, that's good. 2006 funding from the County was?

**MR. LEWIS:**

It was 15.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

About \$15,000.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I think it was like 12 or 13 the previous year. So it had inched up a couple of years in a row. It went from like ten to 12 to 15; I think over the three years.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And '07 is zero?

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's correct.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I think that was -- that was about --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And of course the consequences of not receiving County funding is still existing.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right. We're still sort of shuffling to figure out exactly where the project stands in terms of the amount of staff I can commit to it. It doesn't look like the foundation money is going to increase and the LIPA money is what it is. So, you know, at some point I'm going to reduce the staff --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yeah.

**MR. LEWIS:**

-- commitment to make up for that loss. But frankly as the year is still underway I'm still shuffling. But, you know, it's an impact. We do have unrestricted funds in the form of our individual contributions and this is our project priority; the energy area. So I'm trying to keep the program so I can't, and I don't want to say that we've cut the program, we're trying to keep the program but we'll probably have to cut somewhere else basically.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I apologize I just had to step out of the room to take a phone call for a minute there. So I missed the part -- the beginning of the part where you're talking about fundraising. And I know you had spoken about hiring college students --

**MR. LEWIS:**

That's right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- and doing some of the fundraising. I know we had gotten some questions in the past organization for some of the organizations that used students to go and do soliciting type fundraising, and the percentage of money --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- that they keep, based on what they raise, sort of incentive based.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Do you engage in that type of activity and if so, what type of percentage do those fundraisers keep from the money they raise?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Well the short answer is yes, we do engage in that. The Neighborhood Network was -- some of the staff that formed the group were very much associated with people active with NYPIRG and also Citizens Campaign for the Environment. So the three of us follow a fairly similar formula. Going door-to-door where you get maybe a third of the people to contribute can be tough work. Those of you that are elected officials that do that in your campaign mode know that. Steve Bellone who was a college student canvasser with us a few years back often jokes that our job was the hardest job he ever had and, you know, but it prepared him for being better at what he does now as the town supervisor and going door-to-door. He's not the only elected official that was a previous canvasser of ours by the way.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Was Steve?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Steve Bellone.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, no, no. The other Steve.

**MR. LEWIS:**

No. I'm thinking of Jay Schneiderman.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Wow.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yeah, there's a couple of names out there. I can't remember them all actually, but it is -- it's unavoidably somewhat expensive to pay people to go door-to-door. We do see it as something of a lost leader in a sense that once they become a member they get mailings from us and they renew their memberships.

And so, you know, the way we give the fundraising number is what the auditors come up with. And they as a result of some changes in the rules several years ago, are very strict now that anything that goes to a fundraiser, a hundred percent of it has to be counted as a fundraising expense. So even if some of their time is spent educating on an issue and materials they're carrying I could argue are maybe 50% educational or more than that, we have to

count all of that as -- well actually not so much the materials but the staff time, their salaries has to be counted as a hundred percent fundraising.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So they get --

**MR. LEWIS:**

So that's where we get the number that Andrew gave you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Do they get paid a salary not a percentage of what they raise?

**MR. LEWIS:**

No, they do get paid.

**MR. MANITT:**

The salary is based on what they raise, yes.

**MR. LEWIS:**

It's a commission based salary.

**MR. MANITT:**

It's a commission based salary.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So it is commission based salary.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Absolutely, yeah.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What is that percentage?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Well, there's a whole -- there's a sliding scale.

**MR. MANITT:**

It kind of depends on how much they raise. If they raise more the percentage goes up a little bit as a reward for being -- it's in the range of 50% on average.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Just I think one question that wasn't answered. Your the CEO, Neal? Do you make more than 20% of your budget?

**MR. LEWIS:**

No, I do not.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Much less.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I don't have anything else but, and you heard --

**MR. LEWIS:**

Just one other thing I'd like to offer if I could? In the cover page of our report here, we pulled out a quote from the County Executive. And it's something that's he's actually expanded upon recently. And that is that we had brought to him the idea of adopting a Clean Energy Action Plan and then initiating a bunch of energy efficiency improvements. And he often does mention us in the context of what they've done in this area. And he points out that they're saving over a million dollars in the current budget as a result of many of these improvements.

So I'm not giving you that number I'm just giving you -- I'm taking it from what he has said more than once publicly. So we do feel that the time and effort that we've devoted to working with the County as a result of this contract has incurred a very substantial benefit to the County. I think eventually you would have got there, but you got there several years sooner because of the close relationship we have with the County and pushing and nudging, then you might have got there if we didn't have that contract.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And you did such a good job that he defunded you.

**MR. LEWIS:**

That was the thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Another point information I just wanted to point out that my Biodiesel Program is listed in here and the County Executive's Energy Initiative. So I was very happy to see that.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yeah, I will not get involved in questions over, you know, credit and stuff.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you very much for coming fellas. I appreciate it.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I appreciate it. Thank you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Huntington YMCA. Eileen?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Eileen.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you for coming in Eileen.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Thank you for having us.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Would you formally introduce yourself for the record and your associate?

**MS. KNAUER:**

My name is Eileen Knauer and I'm the Executive Director of the Huntington YMCA.

**MS. COWITT:**

And I'm Diane Cowitt. I'm the Executive Assistant at the Huntington YMCA.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Eileen, could you start off by describing a little bit about your agency, the programs that you run for the citizens of Suffolk County? The catchment area that you serve within our county?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Sure. The Huntington Y is one branch of five that belong to the YMCA of Long Island Association. There's a branch in Glen Cove, which is our only Nassau County branch, there's Huntington, Brookhaven, Bay Shore and East Hampton. We also run a Family Services Division in Centereach that's more of a counseling center. So I can speak about Huntington. Many of the branches operate similarly but we're not carbon copies but we do our work collectively together.

The Huntington Y has been in existence probably since the early 1940's. Our facility was built in 1953. We currently serve over 13,000 members and probably over 25,000 people walk through our doors throughout the year. We have programs that range from not just aquatics and fitness like most people associate. We also have programs in cultural arts, dance, theater. We have Youth Programs, Teen Leadership Programs and our biggest program to date that just is growing wildly is our child care. We run a preschool program for full day, half day, extended day and our before and after school Child Care Program. We serve currently the Huntington School District number three onsite at the Y. And we just contracted last September with the South Huntington School District. We're running their child care in the schools on-site and that programs got about 350 children in it to date.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And that's child care for the teachers?

**MS. KNAUER:**

That's before and after school child care for anyone in the district that needs services for their children before school and after.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAUER:**

And we're finding with more and more working parents on Long Island that program is just in such demand. So --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is it income based?

**MS. KNAUER:**

It is income based.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Well, what do you mean when you say --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

It someone makes a very meager amount of money, is that provided free of charge? If someone makes a decent salary is it a sliding scale; the fees?

**MS. KNAUER:**

There's a fee for service. The Y has a scholarship program that we facilitate and we raise money to offset those costs. So anyone who needs any programs at the Y who can't afford them, can apply for scholarship services. Last year our branch alone distributed \$257,000 in scholarship assistance to people who needed programs and

services.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay, so it is an income base, but there is scholarships for people that have economic troubles.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Right.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAUER:**

And that's for any of our programs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And the costs for any of your programs, I mean like the Child Care Program?

**MS. KNAUER:**

The child care --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Would your program be much cheaper than a private for-profit child care facility?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Yes. We try to make all of the programming at the YMCA affordable, safe and we're very aware of what goes in the market. Our program is significantly less than most of the private day-care centers would charge.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. How many employees does the Huntington Y have?

**MS. KNAUER:**

We employ 250 part-time employees. We add another 120 during the summer for our Summer Camp Program; our counselors. And we have 24 full-time employees currently to date.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And the grant that you got either '06 or '07, whichever you're aware of from the County is how much?

**MS. KNAUER:**

We received a grant from the County in '06 for \$5,306 and in '07 for 5,412.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's it on the County funding? So 5,306 and 5,312?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

How come you got so much more in '07? Okay --

**MS. KNAUER:**

We did receive a grant in '06 also through Senator Marcellino's Office and the Office of Children and Family Services for \$20,000. And that money was dedicated to the teen centers. On Saturday night we close the Y to the general population and open it up to any teens in the community that would like to use it free of charge. That

program runs from September to June. So they can come in and swim, use the gym, the basketball courts. We set up a game room, we have entertainment, we bring in food. And that's every Saturday from 8:00 to 10:30.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Now, any other federal or local grants that you get?

**MS. KNAUER:**

The only other grant that we did receive was from the townwide funds for \$2,000. In '06 we did receive a \$10,000 dollar grant through Newsday.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

10,000. Okay.

**MS. KNAUER:**

And in '06 we also received a grant also through Senator Marcellino's Office. We are in the process of a capital campaign for building expansion. And that was a \$250,000 grant towards our building project. We're actually trying to expand our child care center and our fitness center.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What's your total budget?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Our total budget for expense is 4.9 million.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And the rest of it is -- well some of it's going to be fee based and some of it's going to be outside fundraising, do you have a breakdown between that? Outside fundraising would be the key number if you have it.

**MS. KNAUER:**

We don't -- we do all our own fundraising at the Y. We run our own events. We run a carnival, we run a golf outing. We do an annual support campaign. But our contributions in special events total about \$150,000. Nope, 250.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So the rest of the -- 4.9 million comes from fees?

**MS. KNAUER:**

And then there's a 120,000 that came from corporate support. The Long Island Y also fundraises and disburses money to us. The rest of them came from your membership and our program fees.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So a total of about 270 comes through what we might call outside fundraising and then the rest of it is -- now each individual Y has its own budget? And do you get grants or subsidies from like the whatever you want to call it, the parent corporation?

**MS. KNAUER:**

They give us program support. That's the last number that I had given you. The \$120,000 was what we received in our branch from corporate program support this year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAUER:**

I don't know offhand what other monies they raise at the Long Island level as far as grants go.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, no, no. And that's okay. Just, you know, from the parent corporation, they don't give you an extra million

dollars each year or anything like that. You're pretty much --

**MS. KNAUER:**

I ask -- yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- not that you're self sufficient but you're on your own a little bit.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Right, right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And percentage of your overall budget that goes towards admin?

**MS. KNAUER:**

About 11%.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Now, you're their director, executive director?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Ah ha.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Do you make more than 20% of the agencies overall budget?

**MS. KNAUER:**

No, I don't. And the CEO of the corporation I did ask that question, does not make more than 20% either, for the Long Island YMCA.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And now the effect upon you if you lost that huge grant of \$5,312?

**MS. KNAUER:**

We dedicated that money last year and this year for our Camp Program. Last year the money went towards transportation because we do try to get our teens and our counselors in training off to -- offsite to trips and to different events. And this year the money is dedicated towards equipment for camp so we would have to make that up through our operations, you know, we try to keep our camp prices affordable. We do try to maintain our Scholarship Program so we would have to just take it out of operating some other way. It would probably require a little bit of restructuring the way we spend money for camp.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Who else provides the same type of services as you?

**MS. KNAUER:**

The Y is very unique in the services that it provides because we are really a community service based organization and the programs that we offer really evolve from what the community tells us they need. The closest organization would be the Suffolk JCC in Commack, which is a very similar organization in the way that they -- in what programs they offer. They have camp, they have child care, they have a pool, they have a fitness center. But as far as any other organization who has all the services that we have, there really isn't anything else.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And I'm not familiar with yours, but I'm familiar with the Bay Shore --

**MS. KNAUER:**

Okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- Y so I would imagine you do pretty much the same thing that they do down in Bay Shore?

**MS. KNAUER:**

Yeah. The Y's programs are pretty much comparable. But, you know, we're not carbon copies and we offer a lot of the programs, we actually partner a lot with the Bay Shore Y in the different programs that we run and the different policies that we set. We're probably the most alike out of all the branches, is Bay Shore and Huntington.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Nobody has anything else? I don't know whether you were here when you heard my standard speech.

**MS. KNAUER:**

We were. Yes, we were.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You were.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Thank you very much.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So I'm not going to repeat it. Thank you very much for coming in and thank you for the work that the Y does with our communities, especially our youth.

**MS. KNAUER:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You're welcome.

**MS. COWITT:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Long Island Senior Games, come on forward guys. Lou --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you for coming. Maybe you can identify yourself for the record.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Sure.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

The name of the agency and the gentlemen that are with you.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Sure. My name's Lou or Louis Kothe, currently the President of Long Island Senior Games. This is Bob Kenney, our Treasurer. And Gerry, I believe, Manganelli. What was the other question Mr. Lindsay?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

No.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Oh, okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

That really was the only question. Maybe again for the record if you could give us a brief description of your agency and the programs that you run and what population you serve and the geographical area that you serve.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Okay. Long Island Senior Games is essentially what it says. It serves people 50 and over up to whatever age they become. It's athletic competition held at an olympic style roughly -- not roughly exactly once a year, we run various athletic competitions from swimming and track and field, and basketball and tennis and so on. Usually the end of May the beginning of June. We have extended the time period over which this is happened as we have added additional events. People compete by gender and also according to their age level. We run five year age increments as far as competition so people 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, and so on up the ladder are the people they would compete against in various athletic endeavors.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

It's only a once a year event, I mean, it runs for two weeks. But I'm sure the planning for it must go on --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

-- for months beforehand, right?

**MR. KOTHE:**

We work all year long.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Right.

**MR. KOTHE:**

As far as the planning, that involves not only our board meetings but in securing venues for the events, securing the necessary equipment, the planning stages as far as getting various materials put together and printed, etcetera.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Do you have any full-time employees, Lou?

**MR. KOTHE:**

No. None whatsoever. Everybody with the organization is totally voluntary.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

How many is that?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Well, there are 19 board members. When the events take place we probably have a hundred plus volunteers that actually help out actually at the games.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. The program that you provide, I guess is very unique. There's no other group that does this, right?

**MR. KOTHE:**

The only other place that this happens is on a national basis and only on a state basis. Upstate New York there is

Empire Senior Games and there are National Senior Games as well. But there was nothing like this on Long Island when it was first formulated.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And how much funding do you receive from the County?

**MR. KOTHE:**

26,000 from the Legislative grant.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is that '06 or '07?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Well, actually we've been approved for next year again. So and we did get it last year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It was actually 25 because 1,000 got chopped.

**MR. KOTHE:**

I'm sorry, that's correct.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And might get restored, I think.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yes. That is correct it's 25,000 for '06 because 1,000 was vetoed.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

But I understand that. Was that included in that --

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yes it was.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- restoration? So that might get put back in.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Hopefully.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And what would be the consequences Lou to the games if you didn't get the 26,000 from the County?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Well, we would be very hard strapped as far as the games would be concerned. The funding you provide -- as the games have progressed expenses have gotten greater and greater also from the college and where most of our venues are right on up the ladder. So we have been in the past relied heavily on the contributions you folks have made.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Do you receive any other government funding from anybody but the County?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Okay, we yes do. A couple of senators in New York State also give us grants. The specifics on them Bob can, you

know, pitch them to you.

**MR. KENNEY:**

Well, we a -- Senator Kemp Hannon, I'm sorry, Senator Kemp Hannon annually tries to give us \$5,000.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Actually, I can interrupt you, but -- if you just take an overall and then just add it up.

**MR. KENNEY:**

Add it all up?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Yeah, you don't have to --

**MR. KOTHE:**

About eight.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

From the state?

**MR. KENNEY:**

I would say maybe in the ballpark of 12,000.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And what's your overall budget? Yeah, either one of you.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Approximately 55,000.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Huh? Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I figure you were being a bit modest before when you said you'd be a little strapped, seems like our funding is almost half of the overall budget.

**MR. KOTHE:**

That is correct, yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So yeah, you'd be more than a bit strapped --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yes, we would.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- if that money was not available.

**MR. KOTHE:**

No question at all.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MR. KENNEY:**

I think Cameron Alden is aware of that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**  
Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Well, also the Presiding Officer is fully aware of it because the two of us are in the past have really fought to put -- among other Legislators too with a lot of help. A specific question, how much do you actually have to pay back to the Suffolk Community College in fees?

**MR. KENNEY:**

Well, that varies from year to year depending on the amount of security that they hire --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. KENNEY:**

-- and/or the amount of cleanup they need. So -- but we can say safely 13,000 to \$14,000; safely. Which was originally by the way, \$3,000 when we first went there. So you get some concept of where this is moving.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Outside fundraising, do you hold any other fundraisers?

**MR. KOTHE:**

We intend to. We have intended to get corporate -- corporations involved, we have not been real successful. We do hold raffles during the games. We try to encourage vendors to come to the games, try to raise some money.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I think you had Outback too, right? Did they --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Well, what they --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- donated at one time and then --

**MR. KOTHE:**

What they did is donated the luncheon we have on the Saturday of the games. Now we can no longer do that because apparently the contract with the college only allows Dover Catering to supply any food on the campus.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

For a fee.

**MR. KOTHE:**

So now we have to purchase the food for the luncheon on Saturday from Dover --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Good deeds go --

**MR. KOTHE:**

-- where we had it donated previously.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is that included in the 13 to 14,000?

**MR. KENNEY:**

No. It is not.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No. So how much more would the food --

**MR. KENNEY:**

Another 5,000.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Five?

**MR. KENNEY:**

Five, yeah. About seven dollars a package and then the number of people that, you know, it may be anywhere from 750 to a 1000 people. So we have to guesstimate.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

How much -- approximately how much do you raise through outside fundraising and --

**MR. KENNEY:**

Six, is it Lou?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yeah, something like that.

**MR. KENNEY:**

Lerner Associates gave us three and it was --

**MR. KOTHE:**

The Credit Union.

**MR. KENNEY:**

The Credit Union.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

But guys, I mean you -- we give you --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We gave you 25.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And then they get 12 from the state. And their total budget's 55 so you must raise the rest all privately whether it's raffles or corporate --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

-- donors or whatever.

**MR. KOTHE:**

There are registration fees for the athletes --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. KOTHE:**

-- which are \$35 --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MR. KOTHE:**

-- up to age 80. At age 80 you're free.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You give them a break. Yeah, okay. Yeah, that's good.

**MR. KENNEY:**

So that number vacillates as a result if we get more 80-year-olds we get less income. But that's fine with us too.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So the overall percentage of your budget that goes to admin is zero? Right?

**MR. KOTHE:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

The overall percentage of your budget that goes to administrative costs is zero?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Is zero, yes absolutely.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And your CEO makes nothing.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Nothing at all, yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So that's less than 20%. And this is an interesting number though, that we have right here, 18,000 so that's a little -- that's about 40% of the overall budget goes right back to Suffolk County Community College. So that's --

**MR. KOTHE:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- you know, a little bit interesting.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

In essence, we only give eight.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Well, no, no. Because it's just taken out of one pocket and putting it in a different pocket.

**MR. KENNEY:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

But --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks.

**MR. KENNEY:**

Yeah, it was -- it originally was not that way by the way. We were at Nassau Community College one year and that was where we got that original number from, it was \$3,000. And when we first came to Suffolk we used that as kind of a buffer and we won the battle for one year. And then it went from --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

How many seniors participate in the program?

**MR. KOTHE:**

Okay. We're currently roughly approaching a 1000 and this year we're hopeful of being well over that.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. I don't have any other questions. I don't think you guys came in so I'll give you the standard closing. I know when you got this letter you probably said, you know, what do we have to do and justify what we do and whatever. I just want to reiterate that it's important to us. I wish more people were in the audience. This is a public meeting that anybody can attend. I wish more media was here because of late, we at the Legislature have been kind of attacked for our spending methods, particularly we're in connection with not-for-profit agencies.

And you guys probably at the end are the last ones today. We probably have seen 30 not-for-profit agencies, big ones and small ones. I mean from, I think the smallest one we had was a VFW that we gave \$7,000 to over the last three years to a --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We add a couple of zero's.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Well, yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That would be the smallest.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Catholic Charities or some of the bigger ones might be a multi-million dollar agency that provide vital services. But the one thing that is very apparent throughout our research so far is that the services that our not-for-profit networks provide to our citizens is extremely important to the citizens of this County. We just could not provide the services to our citizens with County employees. And that for the most part the little bit of money that we give to not-for-profits is used as seed money that expands exponentially as far as the services that we provide. And we are still looking for fraud and abuse in the system. We haven't found it yet, but we'll keep digging.

And I just thank you for what you do and in my own opinion I think folks like yourself and the folks that we've seen from a whole host and variety of different not-for-profits is what makes our County great. Because it encourages volunteerism and it encourages participation and is really a good thing. So thank you very much for coming in gentlemen. I appreciate it.

**MR. KOTHE:**

And I would certainly like to thank you folks for your support over the years too because as the gentlemen said, probably without it we would not exist. Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I though you were going to make a pitch to get Bill down there to participate?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Don't get --

**MR. KENNEY:**

We'll leave some applications.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

When are you having the event this year?

**MR. KOTHE:**

It's starts off May 16th but that's only a one day thing. Most of the events are May 29th to June 3rd.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I think it's great. Good for you.

**MR. KENNEY:**

At Suffolk Community College.

**MR. KOTHE:**

At Suffolk Community College, yes. On the weekend it's at the college, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MR. KOTHE:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Before you guys go --

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks a lot.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:50 PM)**

**{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**

