

**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, April 24, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Nance Vidal - Brentwood Youth Development Corporation
Joel Block - Suffolk Y-JCC
Tom Williams - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Stephen Hamilton - Bay Street Theater
Miriam Garcia - Adelante of Suffolk County, Inc.
Ed Kaleta - St. James Fire Department
Cathy Mulnard - Second Chance Wildlife Rescue, Inc.
Tracey Lutz - The Retreat, Inc.
Steven Laskoe - Colonial Youth and Family Services

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:02 A.M.*)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning, everyone. We're going to get started at ten o'clock. If everybody could rise for this session of the Ad Hoc Committee for Contract Agencies. And we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Nowick.

SALUTATION

P.O. LINDSAY:

First is the Brentwood Youth Development, Corp. If you folks could come forward, I'd appreciate it. Maybe I could just start off with a brief explanation of what we're trying to accomplish with our Ad Hoc Committee for Contract Agencies.

This isn't a witch hunt or anything like that. There has been some criticism of the way the Legislature, you know, spends money in terms of contract agencies and not-for-profits. You know, we -- we think that we do a good a pretty job in the sense that if it wasn't for our not-for-profit network throughout Suffolk County, we don't believe that we could provide a lot of the services that we currently provide to our citizens.

And for the most part, we think our not-for-profit network does a very good job. But you, you know, we have a lot of agencies we deal with, and sometimes, because there are so many, we kind of get lost in the shuffle of who is doing what. We thought it would be a good idea -- actually Legislator Alden came up with this idea to bring people in and to just check to see what you are doing and how things are going and whether the services are being duplicated in their catchment areas or whatever. But that's the reason for the committee. With that, if you ladies would introduce yourself for the record.

MS. VIDAL:

I'm Nance Vidal, I'm the Director of the Brentwood Youth Development Corporation, Youth and Family Counseling Program. This is Linda Lushna. She's the Administrative Assistant. We've been working together there for 29 years.

We were the first of the youth development corporations to receive initial funding from the Town of Islip in 1975. At that time, there were eight different youth development corporations. Then in 1991, what they did is they consolidated the agencies into three areas; the East End, the West End, and then our agency, which services all of the Town of Islip for individual and family counseling. The other agencies don't do counseling, we just do the counseling. We do individual family counseling, group counseling, advocacy, information referrals on a town-wide basis.

And we also implement parenting groups both in Spanish and in English. We have self esteem groups for older youth, and we have anger management groups for younger children. The program is coordinated with working relationships with other local agencies. And we work very closely with Stony Brook University. We have five intern students each year that augment our services. The program defines its target population as youth under 21 years of age who reside within the boundaries of the Town of Islip.

The families that we service, they can be referred from school districts, from CPS, from courts, from Probation, or they can just be self referrals. They range from peer pressure problems to abuse problems. We work very closely with CPS. Currently we have four sites. We have one in Brentwood, which is the administrative office, we have one in Islip at 401 Main Street, one in East Islip, and one Bayport-Blue Point. We have a staff of one full time director and 14 part time workers. We have four Spanish speaking counselors. And right now, we have a waiting list that is closed, because the wait is probably about 12 weeks. The goal of the program is to empower clients to make decisions through self awareness and understandings of the systems that they interact with.

And basically that's what we do.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

How many full time?

MS. VIDAL:

Excuse me?

LEG. ALDEN:

Full time.

MS. VIDAL:

One full time, myself.

LEG. NOWICK:

Fourteen volunteers?

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, 14 part time.

MS. VIDAL:

Five students from Stony Brook.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The 14 part time, does that include the five interns? No?

MS. VIDAL:

No. They're not paid.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So is that the only volunteers, just those five?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes because of confidentiality issues.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good morning.

MS. VIDAL:

Good morning.

LEG. MONTANO:

Where are you located?

MS. VIDAL:

13 McWorther Street, just north of Suffolk Avenue. We have been in that building for 24 years. It's a CDA building.

LEG. MONTANO:

Off of Brentwood Road?

MS. VIDAL:

Off of Washington Avenue, right by Collado and Collado, right next store. Actually, they were --

LEG. MONTANO:

Been there many, many years.

MS. VIDAL:

That was our building, Collado and Collado Building.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes. I know John and Bill very well.

MS. VIDAL:

Right. That was our building.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you said Brentwood, Bayport, what were the other two locations?

MS. VIDAL:

Islip, 401 Main Street.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. VIDAL:

East Islip at the Senior Citizen Center and the James Wilson Junior High School in Bayport.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. MONTANO:

These sites you service with the 13 volunteers -- 14 employees part time.

MS. VIDAL:

Yes. And the student interns also.

LEG. MONTANO:

And the part time employees, how do you define that? Is that 20 hours a week?

MS. VIDAL:

No. They're usually between eight and 12 hours a week. They're all full time workers. They're all MSW, CSW counselors, so they all have full time jobs other than this. So usually what happens is they come in at four o'clock.

LEG. MONTANO:

So they come in for the consultation to see the -- - okay.

MS. VIDAL:

Right. And we're open until ten o'clock, and we're open on Saturdays also.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Obviously, there's other groups that do the same thing as you. Could you enumerate those for us?

MS. VIDAL:

The groups that do the same thing? Not in the Town of Islip they don't do the same thing. We're strictly a youth agency. We work with Brentwood Mental Health Clinic, we work with Pederson Kraig, depending on what the child needs.

LEG. ALDEN:

So in the Town of Islip there's nobody else that does, like, peer pressure or anger management counseling?

MS. VIDAL:

Not funded through the Youth Bureau, no.

LEG. ALDEN:

No. I'm just saying either privately funded or, you know, they do their own fund raising.

MS. VIDAL:

Well, there's a list of referrals in the back of the book that I gave you. Those are the agencies that we work with primarily for --

LEG. ALDEN:

Because Catholic Charities does, you know, some of the same things that you do.

MS. VIDAL:

Yes, they do. And we refer to Catholic Charities, we also refer to Family Service League, but they also refer to us.

LEG. ALDEN:

No. What I'm what saying is your list is closed, right?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So there are other groups, you know, that kind of do the same thing.

MS. VIDAL:

Right. We will refer to Brentwood Mental Health, we will refer to Catholic Charities, we will refer to the YMCA in Bay Shore, we will refer to Family Service League, we'll refer to Pederson Kraig. There are a variety of different agencies that we refer to.

LEG. ALDEN:

And how much funding do you receive from the County. Some of that's pass-through, right, because you get your checks from Islip mainly?

MS. VIDAL:

We send a voucher to Islip, yes. So our budget is all -- it's \$248,000 that's the total budget.

LEG. ALDEN:

Two hundred-forty eight thousand.

MS. VIDAL:

Fifty six thousand-seven hundred and eighty is from the County.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much?

MS. VIDAL:

Fifty six thousand-seven hundred and eighty dollars.

LEG. NOWICK:

Total budget.

MS. VIDAL:

Two hundred and forty eight dollars -- thousand.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you do outside fund raising?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much would come in for that?

MS. VIDAL:

Now that we're strictly a counseling agency, we probably make about 1500 to 2000 a year.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, do you get grants directly from either the Federal Government, State?

MS. VIDAL:

We have a gang prevention violence grant now that we have, we got \$10,000 for one of our counselors.

LEG. ALDEN:

And where does that come from, State?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

The rest of that money actually comes from the Town of Islip?

MS. VIDAL:

It's town, but then the State matches their part of the -- their portion of the funds.

LEG. ALDEN:

but everything flows actually to the town, right, because you get a direct --

MS. VIDAL:

No, we don't reimburse -- no.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

MS. VIDAL:

We have a grant from Caeser Trunzo that we sent through the Youth Bureau here.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Sure. Thank you. Good morning.

MS. VIDAL:
Good morning.

LEG. D'AMARO:
One of the things the Commission is looking at is ensuring that we get enough of the funding that's coming out of the County actually reaches the people its intended to reach. So the question that we like to ask is can you tell us a little bit about how your budget is broken down through administrative expenses and how much actually goes to programming?

MS. VIDAL:
Twenty percent of the budget is administrative. The rest of it is programming.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Twenty percent was for administrative expenses?

LEG. ALDEN:
Just as a caveat.

MS. VIDAL:
That's the total budget, not the County portion.

LEG. ALDEN:
Legislator D'Amaro, probably you are including the pay for the 14 part time people.

MS. VIDAL:
That's all programming.

LEG. ALDEN:
What would you consider your -- what would you consider your administrative expenses to consist of?

MS. VIDAL:
My salary and Linda's salary.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So you don't do any programming at all?

MS. VIDAL:
I don't do any counseling, no.

LEG. D'AMARO:
So then is the majority of what you do if -- I was listening to you speak with Legislator Alden -- is it more of a referral out to other agencies, or do you concentrate more on your in-house programs?

MS. VIDAL:
We concentrate more on the in-house.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay. So you would refer out only if it's something -- there's a need that you feel that your agency

is not going to meet for someone who needs some kind of counseling.

MS. VIDAL:

Yes. A psychological evaluation. We are not psychiatrists. We refer to Stony Brook or to Southside.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just one more question. And with this total budget that you have, are you meeting the demand that's out in the community? Do you feel that there's more of a demand -- you mentioned a waiting list before. Why is there a waiting list? You wouldn't take folks who are on a waiting list and refer them to other agencies, or is it something unique that you provide?

MS. VIDAL:

We give them the choice. We give them the choice to be referred out. We always give them at least five referrals, but we also do an intake, which is in that package, this way if they don't follow up on the referrals, they have the intake done, and then when we get to their name, we will call them. I mean, most of the times they don't want to be referred out because they can't pay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see. All right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So when you refer someone out, it's a fee for service?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes, it is. It's usually on a sliding scale. We don't charge for our services.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. So you don't charge anything?

MS. VIDAL:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm just not sure who comes to your agency. Is it someone that is having problems in school and then the school refers it? Is it someone the school considers has mental problems or drinking problems or addiction problems? I'm not sure exactly --

MS. VIDAL:

Anything that's substance abuse, we refer to the Town of Islip's Access Program. The youth that we have referred from us come from school districts, from social workers at the school.

LEG. NOWICK:

And the school district finds that the student has what kind of a problem before they send them?

MS. VIDAL:

They could have a problem in the classroom, they could go have -- it could be an abuse problem and then CPS gets involved, they could be having a problem with peer pressure, they could be late to school all the time, so there's some -- something is impacting the family, why are these children late to school all the time. So it can be a variety of different reasons.

LEG. NOWICK:

So then your job would be to find out if there is a problem, if their actions are caused by some type of a problem at home, is that what --

MS. VIDAL:

Right. When we do the initial intake, there's a portion on the intake that asks what is the presenting problem. The person who has to call to give the information has to be a parent or a guardian, not the school district. The school district can make the referral to the parent, and the parent has to call us directly so that we can get the information from them directly.

Usually what happens is -- there's a whole form that's in that package -- they fill out the intake -- we fill out the intake form, and then that's the presenting problem. What I've done there is I've given you some cases that we have had that's attached to those forms, and you can see some of the problems that arise in the communities that we're servicing. When they're referred to the agency, it could be somebody's referring them because the child is acting out in school, and, you know, disrupting the classroom. The teacher refers it -- the social worker refers it to us. What happens is after you do the in-person intake with the family, you usually find out that that child is acting out because there's other things that are impacting on the families; perhaps they're going through a divorce, perhaps one of the parents have been incarcerated, perhaps they've been taken and have been living with the grandparents. So there's a lot of other things that are impacting on that child. And that's -- when you do the in-person intake, that's when you find all of that out.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is that a mandatory thing once the school comes and says -- do the parents have to submit all this information, or does this become voluntary with the parents; the school makes them aware that there's a problem with their child and they voluntarily say they will work with you, the family, is that how it works?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes. They have to sign a release in order for us to speak to the school district or to anybody.

LEG. NOWICK:

So everybody kind of works together; the family --

MS. VIDAL:

Right. And when they're in for the in-person intake, when they do the intake, the package includes a release, which is also in there, and they fill out that release for any agency that we have to speak to, we have to have a release to speak to them. We just can't call somebody and say, you know, give us this information on this family. If somebody gives us that information, they're really breaking confidentiality without that release. We have to send them that release. They also have to have a release signed -- they have to sign a release with that -- that other agency for us to speak to also.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. And obviously CEO does not make more than 20% of the agency's budget.

MS. VIDAL:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

I think that's all.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

How many clients do you see in a given year, whether it's a fiscal year, your funding year, whatever?

MS. VIDAL:

Three hundred and fifty we're servicing.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'm sorry?

MS. VIDAL:

Three hundred and fifty.

LEG. MONTANO:

What is the average time that you -- that a client is in service?

MS. VIDAL:

Nine to 12 months. And then there's a whole treatment package that's also included in there that will tell you -- explain to that how that -- we come up with the nine to 12 months, because it's short term counseling actually. And the reason why we did that was because --

LEG. MONTANO:

It's short term in the sense that nine months is considered short term.

MS. VIDAL:

Yes, definitely.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So go ahead. I didn't mean to interrupt you, I just wanted to get that.

MS. VIDAL:

We used to provide counseling, you know, could be two years that a client would be in the agency, but then, you know, the waiting list would be unbelievable. And we were constantly closing the waiting list because of, you know, the parents were or the children were in the agency for two years-three years. So what we've done is we've come up with a contract and there are goals that they have to meet, and it's usually nine to 12 months. And then there's, of course, also the follow up after we -- the client is terminated.

LEG. MONTANO:

What happens at the end of 12 months in terms of the client? I understand that you need to terminate your involvement, but there are probably many situations where the clients needs further service. How do you resolve that, and where do you send them to?

MS. VIDAL:

Right. They can come back to the agency. What we do is we have a referral to a group that's in the agency. So once they are done with their individual or family counseling, they can get involved in some of the groups that we have in the agency. And that's kind of like getting them, you know, ready for the -- for leaving the agency all together. And they can come back. If in six months, in fact, the problem has escalated or there's a different problem, they have to come back, but they have to come back and be put on that waiting list just like everybody else.

LEG. MONTANO:

What are you seeing in terms of the population that you serve in terms of who's coming in from what communities, has that changed over the years? You know, sort of demographics.

MS. VIDAL:

I would say Brentwood, CI and Bay Shore, we have the bulk of our clients from.

LEG. MONTANO:

When you say bulk, 40%, 50%, 20%?

MS. VIDAL:

Probably about more than half, more than half from those three hamlets.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that population is what today? What's the mix ethnically and racially in terms of the population that you're servicing?

MS. VIDAL:

There is probably I would say about 70% Hispanic. We have four Hispanic counselors. Usually the child is --

LEG. MONTANO:

So it's 70% of the 50, or 70% of the 350 that you service?

MS. VIDAL:

Oh, 70% of the 50.

LEG. MONTANO:

Gotcha. Okay.

MS. VIDAL:

And we have four Spanish-speaking counselors. The child usually is very proficient in English, but the parents are not. So we provide the counseling in Spanish for them.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just the 70% -- the other 30% is broken up how, you know, just generally?

MS. VIDAL:

African American, White, about 50/50.

LEG. MONTANO:

50/50.

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I just have one other question and then I think, you know, we should be okay. I just want to go through the sequence of events. You would get notified maybe by the school district that a child is having a problem, then you have to get permission from the parents to talk to the child?

MS. VIDAL:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No?

MS. VIDAL:

No. The school district will call us with a referral. We have a referral form -- we have a referral form which is filled out immediately. Then we have an intake form that goes along with the referral form.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you go and talk to the child after school?

MS. VIDAL:

No. The parents call the agency.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. But what if the parents don't want -- I mean, what happens if we have a situation where a child is being abused at home?

MS. VIDAL:

Well, then the school district is responsible for calling CPS.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. VIDAL:

They're mandated.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. But you can't get involved unless you have the parents referral permission?

MS. VIDAL:

Well, if the school district is calling us and the child is being -- if they suspect some kind of abuse, they're mandated to call CPS.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I realize that. So you can't get involved in those types of cases then unless you have parental permission?

MS. VIDAL:

Right. Exactly.

LEG. NOWICK:

I think what the Presiding Officer was trying to determine was that the child is acting out, nobody knows, nobody suspects abuse, nobody knows what it is, unless the parents give permission -- but there is an abuse, but nobody knows, the school district doesn't call CPS, can you go ahead and speak to the child unless the parents say to you, go ahead. And if there is abuse, the parents are not going to say go ahead.

MS. VIDAL:

Do you mean do the school districts call us into the school to speak to the child?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

MS. VIDAL:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. So you have to go through the parents, and there is always the case where the parents will say, "I'm abusing this kid, that's why he's acting out, I'm not going to them." And then in that case you can't get involved.

MS. VIDAL:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. VIDAL:

The school should be involved. They should be seeing this. They probably will not even call us at that point.

P.O. LINDSAY:

About 20% of your funding comes from the County. What would be the affect of not receiving and County funding?

MS. VIDAL:

We probably would lose five to six counselors, part time counselors and probably 12 hours of our clinical supervisor.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. The funding that you received from the County, has it been consistent over the last few years, and has it increased, decreased?

MS. VIDAL:

I would say it's been consistent. What happens is that the funding right goes right to the Youth Bureau, to the Town of Islip Youth Bureau, and they divvy up the funds. So they could do it in such a way that -- they are going to say to us, "Well, we're giving you \$56,000 this year." You know, you can give them \$120,000 to the Town of Islip Youth Bureau. They can say, "Okay, we're going to give West Islip 40,000, we're going to give Brentwood this year 60,000, we're going to give somebody else --

LEG. D'AMARO:

I don't think that's the case. I think in the -- just correct me if I'm wrong or your knowledge of the process and my colleagues who have more experience than I do here can also correct me -- but I think, even though you're funded through the Youth Bureau, a town Youth Bureau, you have a specific line item in the County budget, so whatever funds are put into that line item, you should be receiving.

MS. VIDAL:

Well, that wasn't my understanding. But it's been consistent.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So has your funding varied over the years from the County?

MS. VIDAL:

No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, let me ask the question another way. If you know, have you not received the funding from the Town Youth Bureau that was put into the County budget? Are you aware of what your County budget line item amount is?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And are you receiving the amount on that line?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Each year?

MS. VIDAL:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

I can clear this up a little bit. The town mingles the New York State money. And basically, if it earmarked from New York State to a certain agency, they have to do -- you know, make that transfer. If the County money is earmarked for a certain agency, they have to make that transfer. There is some discretion on some programs where it doesn't actually come down and say, it has to go to Brentwood or yes, or whatever other one. And that's where the town can actually allocate those funds. But not if it's -- if it's in our budget in a line item, they have to get those monies.

MS. VIDAL:

They give us a total budget. And from that total budget, we write up our -- our proposal to them. They don't say to us, "Okay, you have \$56,000, what are you going to do with that money? You have \$188,000 from the town and the State, what are you going to do with that money?" It's all lumped together, and it's all in one budget. So they take it where they -- you know -- you know, they take five counselors and maybe put it on the County budget.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Has your budget been increasing or decreasing over the last five years?

MS. VIDAL:

It's been pretty steady. It decreased greatly in 1991.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. But in the last five years it's pretty constant on what you're receiving and what your total budget is?

MS. VIDAL:

Yeah, 2%, 3%, sometimes up one and then down maybe the next year, then up the next year, but about two to 3%.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Are you finding that while your budget is remaining constant that your costs are increasing?

MS. VIDAL:

Definitely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah.

MS. VIDAL:

My counselors are getting paid \$15 and 25 cents an hour for -- they're CSWs. Elsewhere they're getting paid \$25 an hour. So it's -- you know, it's difficult keeping staff. I mean, they like what they're doing, so they stay, but they do not -- they are not comparable to what other counselors are being paid. And there are no fringe benefits paid to anybody, myself included.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:

One final question. The board members on your board -- you're a 501(c)(3) -- did you include a

listing of those board members, and how many board members do you have?

MS. VIDAL:

No, I didn't.

LEG. MONTANO:

How many board members are on the board?

MS. VIDAL:

We have 12 board members.

LEG. MONTANO:

And have they been consistently the same over the years or have you had a --

MS. VIDAL:

It depends. The youth come and go because they age out and they go to college. Some of the board members have been consistent, some of them -- you know, maybe two or three years and then we have new board members. But the whole board changed when we changed the whole funding ten years ago. So we used to have just board members from Brentwood, because that's the catchment area that we serviced. Now we're servicing the whole Town of Islip, so we have to have board members that are representative from each hamlet in the Town of Islip.

LEG. MONTANO:

Could you send me a listing separate of who your board members are?

MS. VIDAL:

Sure.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thanks.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much, ladies for coming down --

MS. VIDAL:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

--and having this discussion with us. We appreciate it.

MS. VIDAL:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Joel, Suffolk Y-JC. You came in the room after we started the interview with the Brentwood Youth Group, so you kind of missed the introduction. What this group is all about, the Ad Hoc Committee for Contract Agencies, over the last, you know, few months we've been kind of criticized for some of the money we spend with not-for-profits. And, you know, for the most part we think our non-for-profit network throughout the County provides very vital services to our County and to our citizens. But we do have a tremendous amount of not-for-profits that contract with, and we thought it would be a good idea to convene this group that has been meeting all year long and will meet the rest of the year to invite different not-for-profits in to have a discussion on what you do and how the County money is being spent and whatever. So that's what we're all about. With that, if you could introduce yourself and your position, Joel, and introduce the lady that's with you, that would be great.

MR. BLOCK:

Sure. My name is Joel Block, and I'm the Executive Director of the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center. This is Kelly Vest, and she's our Director of Community Relations. And actually, I want to thank you for inviting us in to talk about our programs today, because quite frankly, any opportunity we have to do that, we always appreciate. And if you'd like, I'll give you a couple minutes just of an overview of the agency.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's my first question.

MR. BLOCK:

Sure. So Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center is the only Jewish Community Center in the County. Our services area goes from Nassau-Suffolk border out to Montauk. We serve approximately 25,000 people annually. And if you're looking for what we do in a snapshot, we're a community social service organization that meets the health, educational, recreational needs of the residents of Suffolk County.

In practice, what that means is that we provide necessary often critical programs for the most needy of our community. Now, I'm sure there are people who don't know what a Jewish Community Center is. And I guess the easiest way to explain it is this: We are really the mirror of the YMCA movement, with two differences; one, our focus is on Jewish culture and identity; the YMCA movement's focus is on Christian principles. The second is that our host profession is social work.

I think the one thing that we probably both suffer from is an identity crisis, because Jewish Community Center really doesn't explain us any better than Young Men's Christian Association explains what the YMCA does. I think these are really vestiges of names that we've kind of inherited over the years. In truth, both our agencies serve the entire community with programs that focus on those in need.

And just to kind of give you a snapshot of what kind of programs we're talking about. It starts with prenatal and infant care programs, those we provide free to the community. The programs that we provide in that are have one very specific goal. We don't think anybody regardless of income level should not be able to access basic information they need to raise their children. We find that by providing infant care, tot-saver programs, all of those for free, it relieves the burden on hospitals, because when parents show up at hospitals and they have a child who is in need, it's really a critical need. So in that way, we've kind of become partners with the health organizations in the area.

We provide infant care, child care. Most of our parents are either single parents or dual working parents. And I'm sure nobody in this group needs to know that trying to make it in Suffolk County, trying to make it on Long Island is becoming more and more challenging because very often you find that parents are simply working for the privilege of paying for the child care that let them work in the first place.

Teen volunteer programs, which our focus is really to provide teens a safe place to be. Special needs programs, which this year were presented with a special award that Steve Levy was there to present. We have bereavement groups, support groups. We do programs for seniors, approximately 1200 a year, frail seniors, approximately 300 a year. We are the County's only Kosher Nutrition Program, and we have both a Meals-on-Wheels Program and Congregate Meals Program. Cancer support groups, step-family groups, drug and alcohol education.

We are now a partner in the New NORC Program, and for those people that don't know NORC, NORC is a new initiative coming from New York State. It's called Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. The goal is that as people age, they shouldn't have to leave their communities in order to be able to get basic services. Somebody has lived in a house for 30 or 40 years, shouldn't have to, in order to be able to be cared for, transition to an assisted living. You should be able to

stay where you live.

Poverty initiatives that we do jointly with FECS, including job retraining and counseling. One of the areas that we've gone into most in the last couple of years has been the multi-cultural programs and diversity programs. And I'm very proud that this year, the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, next month, will be presenting us an award for excellence. I'm also proud to say that those programs were first identified by Legislator Montano, who recognized the work that our Jewish and Latinos teens were doing and encouraged it. And not only that program, but our agency has always taken that position. Right after 9/11, we were the first agency that reached out to the Islamic community to say, "Hey, if we're not talking, then there's a whole gap here that we're just not covering."

The last thing I'd like to do is just tell you a quick story that kind of gives you a synopsis of what it is that we do. About two years ago, we had a woman who came in for child care services. And she walked in with a friend of hers, and you could tell just from the conversation that something wasn't quite right. She was 38 years old, she was moving slowly, frail. And we were in the middle of conversations with her, and she said, "Look, I'm going to be honest with you. I'm at the end stages of cancer right now. I'm not going to be here three months from now, but I need to know one thing. I need to know that my children are going to be taken care of, and I need to know that when I'm not here, that trauma is going to be handled right."

There was no money for her to pay, because quite frankly, every dime that she had, she had exhausted. She couldn't transport them there, because she couldn't drive them there. Before she left that day, she had both things; she had a free place to put her children, she had transportation that we provided for her. Three months later, I got a thank you card in the mail from her. And the thank you card said two things: "Thank you not just for the funding, but for the speed and the compassion in which you did it." There was one sad part to the story. The card came two days after she died.

Now, I know what that child was going through, and I know what we provided for that child. And the way I know it is this: I'm sitting here today, but 42 years ago, my father, my grandfather were both killed in a plane crash off Jones Beach, a commercial airline crashed. I was in a Jewish Community Center daycare in Brooklyn. And the daycare director and the staff came in and they said to my mother, "Look, we can't undo the events of today, nothing is going to do that, but we can certainly make today better." And that's what they did.

And if you're asking me in a nutshell what we try and do on our center, that's what we try and do. Presiding Officer Lindsay was with us on a tour once when we had run into a young woman who was 23 years old, who had just come back from battling cancer. We were the first place she came into. This is who we are, and these are the services that we try to provide.

We serve through your grant, which is a half a million dollar grant, 2300 children a year. If those children were not served, quite frankly, you would have 2300 people that would descend on the social service network of Suffolk County, and that would most certainly be a crisis. I know you probably have other questions, so I don't want to take away. So I'm going to hold, and anything I can answer for you, I'm happy to do.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Joel, the 2300 that you mentioned, are they 2300 that are involved in the whole potpourri of programs from child to care --

MR. BLOCK:

Everything from birth to let's call it call it 15, 16 years old.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And those services are provided free of charge on income levels or something like that?

MR. BLOCK:

What happens is they're provided at different levels. Some are provided at fee, nobody in any of our agencies, the same as with the YMCA, is ever turned away for inability to pay. Those people who are having financial difficulties, there is an adjusted fee process that they go through. There are some people that are paying full fee, there are some people that are paying no fee. It really all depends.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good morning, Joel. How are you? And I also took a tour of the beautiful facility. It's two different facilities, right? It's the school on one side and the Y on the other, is that how the -- I'm trying to figure out which part of that was the Y.

MR. BLOCK:

That whole building that you were in that day is all us.

LEG. NOWICK:

All Y?

MR. BLOCK:

Everything there is all us. The only thing that's not us is on the second floor of our building there is a Jewish school that rents space, and they have approximately 60 children.

LEG. NOWICK:

And just to remind me again, the classrooms went -- what were the ages in the classrooms.

MR. BLOCK:

We start at three months old, and we finish on the preschool daycare side at about five years old. The after school programs kick in at kindergarten, they go through 6th Grade. The teen programs start at 7th Grade and they go to 15, 16 years old.

LEG. NOWICK:

And do you have a set fee or is it a sliding scale or is it --

MR. BLOCK:

There's a set fee, but I would tell you, certainly in the daycare side, the past year we gave out just a bit above \$200,000 in scholarship funding. So a set fee -- it's kind of the beginning point that we start the discussion, but I would tell you a significant number of the families obviously are reflecting the \$200,000 on scholarships with us.

LEG. NOWICK:

Also, I'm trying to figure, if you have two -- a mother and dad working and they are a middle income family and they come to you so your -- their children can be placed in the Y, is there a set fee for that? What is the fee for that?

MR. BLOCK:

There's usually -- it would really depend on the program, it depends on the number of days, it depends on hours. So just to kind of --

LEG. NOWICK:

So if they go to work every day and they need the child to be there every day nine to five, there's a set fee for that?

MR. BLOCK:

If you are paying a set fee for that in our agency, you could be paying \$10,000 a year. I would tell you that that is not even close to what most of the people pay, because obviously if -- and just in the most recent example we had yesterday, and even with middle income, if you are -- and I'm not sure what to define as middle income anymore -- but if somebody was making 50, \$60,000 a year and they have two children in daycare, they're not paying \$20,000, nor could we charge them that, because there would be no point in them putting the children there.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, okay. I'm glad I asked the question. Thank you.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. Thanks for coming down. How many employees do you have?

MR. BLOCK:

Three hundred and fifty six total, of which, let's say, 70 to 80 are full time. During the summer -- and it's similar I know -- you're aware of the YMCA -- it's similar during the summer, because the camp programs, we probably swell to about 550. And by the way, just as a side note, because we are a recipient of a County grant, we give living wage increases to just about 70 employees, which represents about \$130,000 to us.

LEG. ALDEN:

Administration?

MR. BLOCK:

Administration is about 17 to 18%. And I want to say one or two other things interesting about administration, and I'm not sure if you know this -- the Better Business Bureau on Long Island reviews 201 not-for-profits on Long Island. Of that, only 59, a quarter, are actually approved by the Better Business Bureau. We are one of those. The other thing I would tell you about administration is according to the Suffolk County Youth Bureau, we are the only agency in Suffolk County that does a separate independent audit just on the County grant. I'm not talking about the independent audit that every agency has to do for their operation, we do one just on this grant.

LEG. ALDEN:

And what's your total budget?

MR. BLOCK:

Just shy of \$10 million.

LEG. ALDEN:

And how much do you raise through outside fundraising?

MR. BLOCK:

Usually it's about \$200,000 a year. Right now -- and since I know -- I guess most of you have been down to our agency, I'm not sure if you have, we --

LEG. ALDEN:

I haven't.

MR. BLOCK:

-- inherited and old Commack School District building. So right now we're probably about 40 years into it's age. So there is constantly renovation and improvement that has to happen just to keep it up to code. A lot of those fundraising dollars go for that so that none of those costs impact the

people who use the facility.

LEG. ALDEN:

You get any other funding from Federal or State or the town?

MR. BLOCK:

The only other monies that we've gotten, there's, I will say, a pretty consistent member item grant that we get from New York State -- actually two; one from state Senator John Flanagan, one from State Senator Carl Marcellino. I would say ballpark, 75 to \$100,000. The only Federal grant that we've ever gotten in our history, we got one to work with baby boomers, and I wish I didn't have to take claim for the other, we also got one for homeland security, because of the all of the issues facing the Jewish community centers throughout the country. We've gotten one or two Legislative member item grants from this body over the years. That really represents it all.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, do you have a requirement that you have to be a certain religion to --

MR. BLOCK:

Absolutely not.

LEG. ALDEN:

So anybody?

MR. BLOCK:

And that's why I said, you know, the YMCAs and the JCCs, if there was anything that either of us could ever do to fix the impressions out there, we would probably both get rid of our names and start from scratch with something else.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right, because -- okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

I actually don't have any questions. I just want to thank you for -- for mentioning the fact that, you know, we have worked with you, I've hosted your students in my office, question and answer from some very bright Jewish and Hispanic kids who we're working together with Kelly, we featured you in our newsletter. But it is a great program. And, you know, thank you for, you know, coming in. But I don't have any specific questions as to your program. I'm familiar with the overall aspects of it.

MR. BLOCK:

And by the way, I'd like to add one quick thanks to you also, because I have to tell you, it's so rare that teens do something and get the kind of positive feedback that we always wish they could. And once you recognized and after which you invited them out to Legislature, they felt like superstars. And they felt like superstars for doing something that we all would love them to do every single day, which is reach across to people that don't know and say, "Let's talk." So thank you very much.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, I look at them as future superstars.

MR. BLOCK:

Absolutely.

LEG. MONTANO:

They're very bright, and they're all going places. And I'm, you know, glad to be a part of that.

MR. BLOCK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Just to echo Legislator Montano, I had the opportunity to tour just yesterday, and was quite impressed. I wanted to ask you very quickly about -- your overall budget you said was roughly \$10 million. And I'm just very interested in the trend of your organization's budget. I usually ask this question of other organizations. Is the budget -- I would assume it's trending upward, and how are you meeting the increased financial demands?

MR. BLOCK:

Well, having heard the question that you asked the last group, I was glad you raised it, because if I was going to -- other than what we all face, which is probably utilities and everything else that we have to do -- our jump in expenses in the last couple of years has been in insurance. And I'm going to give you a staggering number. Four or five years ago, we were paying \$70,000 in insurance for the entire agency. Today, that number is 320,000. Why? I'll give you four good reasons, besides insurance trends in general.

Two weeks ago, there was a fire bombing JCC in Montreal. Last year, there was a shooting, which you probably remember at the Jewish Community Center in Seattle. The year before that was the shooting at the JCC in California. And somewhere sandwiched in there was the bombing of the Jewish Federation Building in Argentina. For better or for worse, insurers consider us as a risk, and they are certainly making us pay for that. How are we dealing with that? That's really been the struggle. If it weren't for the funding that we get from outside sources, I think all of us in the entire not-for-profit world would be in serious jeopardy. And we had, interesting enough -- and I know you've heard from her also -- Pearl Kamer who has said that the not-for-profits are really a bedrock of serving the community, all of us. And it's a challenge.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I can't help thinking when you talk about those figures that maybe it is a good idea to change the name.

MR. BLOCK:

You know, I'm going to tell you a really interesting thing. Right after September 11th, there had been a snowstorm that winter and part of our sign fell down. You probably noticed it when you passed by. The one part of the sign the fell down was the Jewish Star. I'm going to tell you, it's been a couple of years since then, I've not gone out of my way to put it back up. And not because I don't love that part of our agency, but because there's a lot of people in our care. It's a challenging environment for us.

LEG. NOWICK:

It's a sad commentary, it really is.

MR. BLOCK:

It really is.

LEG. NOWICK:

But I just wanted to make one other comment. And when Legislator Montano talks about the young people, having taken that extended tour of that facility and walking with you, I did notice one very important thing, is that it is like a family over there. And as you walked through, everybody knew your name, you knew everybody's children, the children's children, who was having a baby, people that were working for you. So I think that that probably helps the children that come to you also.

MR. BLOCK:

I have to tell you, all of you have been very, very kind in your comments today.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just two things; one, I'm going to be calling you pretty soon, I'd like to do a walk-through also, but I also make you aware of something -- and it sounds like you do, you know, some great things -- and I've been criticized, though, because at one time, there was a YMCA in my Legislative District. I've since been redistricted away from it --

MR. BLOCK:

That's the --

LEG. ALDEN:

Bay Shore.

MR. BLOCK:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, now I don't represent where the Bay Shore is, but a lot of people from my Legislative District actually use the Bay Shore Y, but I've been criticized because I can't get the \$500,000 for the Y that you got for, you know, your facility. So I just want to make you aware of that, that that's something that, you know, we're going to have discussions about in the -- you know, in the upcoming budget. We had a little bit this last budget session. Especially since both of you -- you know, your facilities really do a lot of the same types of programs from just listening to what you said, because I am very aware of what the Bay Shore Y provides. So I don't know what the answer is, whether it's to, you know, raise the funding for the Bay Shore Y. And there's a Huntington Y, I believe, also, right?

MR. BLOCK:

I would tell you -- my answer to that would be this. And you have to understand that the YMCAs and our organizations are very close. In fact, two weeks from now, we're going to be doing a major joint program with them that actually starts at our JCC and ends at the Huntington YMCA. Last year it ended at the Bay Shore YMCA. If Mike Famiglietti, the Executive Director of the YMCAs, was sitting in front of you today, he would say the same thing I'm going to say to you. You could have ten more of us, and it wouldn't be touching the tip of the iceberg that exists out there for service.

I think that if there were ways to make sure that both entities are funded to the fullest, I would support, and I know that the YMCA probably -- and I think theirs are more in contract services, but I seem to remember the last time I spoke to Mike, I think that their agency was also five, six, \$700,000 when you added all the contract services up for what they received. So I think their grants are probably comparable to us. And I would tell you, I wouldn't want to see it be an us or them. I think that we both play critical rolls for you. If either of us weren't not here, there would be a serious issue.

LEG. ALDEN:

And I don't want to see that either. I just want to make sure that, you know -- that's what we're going to have to look at, especially we after we interview all of the contract agencies. So we might be calling upon you for a little bit of wisdom and a little bit of help later on at budget time too, because if it's valid to spend that kind of money, you know, like, in your area, then it's also valid out east, up north, down on the South Shore. So that's one of the things that we are going to be taking a look at to make sure that we're providing the same type of services to everybody in Suffolk County.

MR. BLOCK:

And by the way, I would encourage you that when you get to that point, invite Mike and I in together, because I will tell you, one of the things, I think, that your body from what I understood is really trying to accomplish is if there are those of us providing service, make sure it's not redundant, make sure that you're not seeing overlays. I think if you had Mike and I in a room together, besides just the powerful part of having the Jewish Community and, you know, the YMCA sitting together, I think you would find that we together would make a very effective case for what's needed out there that would help you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. And that's the other part of what we've been criticized for in the past is squandering taxpayers' dollars. And when you come and testify -- and I wish that the same media that picked up on the other criticism was here today, because when you start saying about, you know, like, all the programs and the people before you, the programs that they've provided, that's going to give a little bit of a different view, I'm sure, then the people, the taxpayers would take a little bit of a different view if they heard all the testimony instead of just, like, a blanket statement that we take \$10 million a year and throw it away basically.

MR. BLOCK:

I have to tell you, I don't think there's a not-for-profit out, and I'm sure -- and by the way, I definitely encourage you, Mike -- in case I didn't say it, Mike Famiglietti is the Executive Director of the YMCAs of Long Island. The work that you did and what you provide for us, all of us, not just the YMCAs, but all of us make all the difference in the world, because, you know, people look at the number, but they forget that if that didn't exist, there would be such a tidal wave of people that would suddenly show up saying, "Okay, so that doesn't exist anymore. Where are we going for help?" I think very quickly the public would turn around then and say, "Well, wait a minute, we didn't really mean that." You know, I agree with you 100%.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just two more quick questions, Joel and then we'll let you go. What would be the consequences of not receiving County funding?

MR. BLOCK:

Like I said, immediately, what you'd have is 2300 people at your doorstep saying, "Okay, where do you want us to go now?" And that's not including the 70 employees who as soon as they didn't have their living wage increases would have the same crisis. That's the short answer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So the 2300 you elude to actually, they're subsidized in your programs that come out of the County grant.

MR. BLOCK:

And like I said, I know that the existing agencies that surround us, even if they're providing similar services, we're all stretched. I don't think anybody could absorb those kinds of numbers.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And you are the CEO. Your salary is more than 20%?

MR. BLOCK:

I think we could safely assume if my salary was more than 20%, there would be a beach somewhere that I would be sitting on right now, certainly not here. No. Not even -- not even 2%. Not any small amount of that. But thank you for thinking of me that way.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, we're not offering you a raise, we're commending you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's just, you know, some things that have been suggested that we have to clear up. I thank you both for coming in today. And continue your good work for the community. Thank you.

MR. BLOCK:

Thank you all again for all your work.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome. Tom, you want to bring your crew up. Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Hi, Tom, how are you?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I'm well, thank you. It's a beautiful spring day. Thanks for inviting us here. I am Tom Williams from the Cornell Cooperative Extension. With me is Cathy Berkhan, our finance manager, and Mary Beth Phillips, who is the Vice-President of our Board of Directors. I thought that I would try to go through your questions, which I had received in your letter, and then, of course --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Rather than do that, why don't we just have a discussion. Okay. We will get answer the questions.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Okay. Well they are answered on the material I gave you. So it is written out there.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Maybe you could just give us -- I know Cornell Cooperative provides tremendous amounts of services for Suffolk County, but maybe you can give us an overview of the different services that you provide.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Sure. We have what we call four core services. As you know, we've been around for 90 years. We are originated through the Land Grant University process. And a Legislative resolution in 1916 created Cooperative Extensions across the state. We are an unusual not-for-profit, because we're not incorporated, we are created by the State Legislature. So we're called a subordinate government agency. And we've been a very close partner of the County for many years. I've had a wonderful relationship.

We have an agricultural program area, which provides services to the agriculture industry, which is approximately a \$200 million industry out here in Suffolk County that provides, you know, food, provides horticulture services, provides everything from landscaping to sod to the flora culture industry. So we are a major factor in New York State and throughout the country for our agricultural

industry. So our professional staff provide services to this industry. We talk to them about soil health, we talk to them about crops, we talk to them about integrated pest management, we try to work with them to reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides they use. And we feel that we're a vital part of the industry in helping them by being productive and being economically viable out here.

We've done a lot of work recently in environmental management of farms. We have worked with the Legislature's task force, we have worked with the Farm Bureau and we're working with farmers throughout the County to effectively create agricultural environmental management protocols for farmers so that they, again, as I say, reduce the amount of nitrogen pesticides, fertilizers that they use.

We also have an extensive program with home horticulture. We're working with people on -- at their home levels in terms of their gardens, their lawns, their landscaping to, again, educate folks on reducing fertilizers, pesticides and use best management practices in the home. We have a Marine Program, a secondary. And the Marine Program, again, program provides research-based information for the marine industries. We work with commercial fisherman, we work with recreational fisherman, we do a lot of work in the environmental area.

We're working with the County currently on wetlands restoration work. We have a number of initiatives with the County, as you know, through the Water Quality Protection Program to restore the bay scallops in Peconic Bay, to work on the aquaculture industry. We're working with the County with the underwater leasing agreements that are being developed. We are working -- we've worked for many, many years in developing clams and oysters and scallops throughout the County. We work to restore eel grass beds, we provide a tremendous amount of assistance in looking at water quality issues in the marine environment.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Tom, let me just stop you there. How is the reseeded of the scallops going in the Peconic?

MR. WILLIAMS:

We think it's going well. This is a key year, this is our third year. We're hopeful that there will be a real insert -- a substantial increase. Last year was better than the prior year, so we're hopeful that this will be a good year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It looks like we're starting to make progress?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yes, I would say we are.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All right. Good.

MR. WILLIAMS:

And that's in -- also in cooperation with our eel grass restoration efforts out there. Eel grass is an important aspect of protecting scallops and enabling them to grow. We've also been working closely with the Nature Conservancy on the clam project here in the Great South Bay. And we're looking at increasing our oyster production. We're looking at Bellport Bay, we're doing a project there as well.

In our 4-H Youth Development Program, we provide youth development services to many youth. We have life skill programs, we do some works with programs on anti gangs, we have a juvenile day representing reporting center where we work with about 20 kids who come to us every day, and we provide them with traditional learning and reading and math and science. And we do it in an environmental context where they can get out of the classroom. These are kids who are on probation. They would be -- their next stop would be a residential treatment center. And we're able to provide them with a wide variety of projects that gets them out of the classroom. We've had a

very good success. We are partnered with the the Probation Department there. And that's a program that's located on our Suffolk County Farm.

We also provide a lot of youth camping, a lot of environmental outdoor programming for kids. We serve kids in camps, in marine centers, in the Vanderbilt Museum, at the Babylon Center and the Sports Fishing Center over there are the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center and the Peconic Dunes Camp out in Southold.

Family Consumer Sciences is our fourth core program area. And there, we provide services such as diabetes education and self management, we provide a lot of parent education throughout the County to libraries, youth agencies. We do a lot of nutrition education. We work to -- we work with the farmers markets that are throughout the County. We work in schools, we work especially in low-income areas to provide nutrition education to recipients of food stamps so they can make their food stamp dollar go a little further. And we also provide education of nutrition for little folks, again, through libraries, community groups, community centers and the like. Many of these programs are partners with others. We're working closely with our partner agencies throughout the County.

We employee approximately 220 people; about 112 of them are full time, the rest are part time-seasonal workers. We don't think there are any other agencies that provide what we have. We think we are pretty unique, especially in agriculture and marine work. Our 4-H Youth Development work is always working on concert with youth agencies. We do a lot of training, we have about 54 clubs throughout the County that look at youth leadership activities. Many of them work with animal husbandry, they learn how to take care of animals. We find that kids working with animals is a very productive process. They learn something about nurturing, about taking care of others that can't be done in quite the same way.

So we -- our 4-H programs are very special, as you know, you've honored some of our kids. They've also gone to the State Fair and won prizes with their cows and their sheep that they take up to the State Fair in Syracuse each year. Our funding from the County is about \$5.9 million, which includes our core programming, water quality programs. We also receive grants through different departments like the Health Department, Probation. Youth Bureau. Office of the Aging and what have you. The funds that you --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden has questions.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

On top of the 5.9 million?

MR. WILLIAMS:

No, that's inclusive.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's inclusive, okay.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yeah. The funds we receive are mainly for salaries and program support. We are -- you had asked before about the administrative. Our administrative percentage is about 15%. We do have an outside audit that comes in every year that audits us. We also manage four major County facilities, as you know. We manage Peconic Dunes Camp out in Southold, we manage the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center. We manage the Extension Education Center in Riverhead and the Suffolk County Marine Extension and Learning Center in Southold.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Tom, Legislator Alden just wants to stop you here too.

LEG. ALDEN:

Can I just jump in for a minute? Five point nine from the County, how much do you receive from New York State?

MR. WILLIAMS:

We receive about \$2 million from New York State.

LEG. ALDEN:

And what's your total budget?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Our total budget is about 11, 12 million.

LEG. ALDEN:

Eleven million even? Now, do you get anything from the Feds?

MR. WILLIAMS:

We get about eight, 900 from the Feds. That varies a lot.

LEG. ALDEN:

Tom, I don't know if you can answer this, but what was the history? When you formed -- okay. So in 1916, New York State passed -- it was an act of the Legislature, 1917 you guys were formed, were you funded originally from just New York State?

MR. WILLIAMS:

No. We got County funding from the very beginning. It was a partnership from the beginning. What the legislation did was to enable counties to create an Extension Association. And the idea was the counties would fund it and the state would provide matching funds with it.

LEG. ALDEN:

In this instance, though, it doesn't look like the state is providing matching funds though, if we're going with 5.9 million and they're coming in with two.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, it's not a one-for-one match, no.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, okay.

MR. WILLIAMS:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right. Do you do any outside fund raising?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yes, we do.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much do you get through those efforts?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I would say last year we brought in maybe around 66,000 gross. That's not net, there are some

expenses associated with it. We had an annual appeal that brought in about 17,000. And tomorrow night we're having our 90th Gala Fund Raiser at the {Borne} Mansion, and we hope to raise some -- some good money there. We also do raise money through fees; we charge school groups and libraries for our services. So we raise money through that process as well.

LEG. ALDEN:

And do make more than -- as the CEO, do you make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, as Joel pointed out, that would be nice. No, I don't. It's less than 1%.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's all I have.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Another thing we do for the County is we provide a lot of the meat Suffolk County Jail, as you know. We have a Meat Production Program at the County Farm. We engage inmates there, we train inmates in meat production, and we provide over 250,000 pounds of meat to the jail.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Wow. Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of meat, that's a lot of meat.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Our farm is organic. We don't use pesticides, we don't use herbicides on the farm, so it is an organic farm. I think that the jail inmates are treated very well.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. We wouldn't want to risk the health of the inmates. That would be terrible.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees do you have?

MR. WILLIAMS:

We have 220 and about 112 full time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I have a question that I have to ask you. Please don't laugh, it was a debate we had in my house last night. What does organic mean?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, that's worthy of debate.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS:

You were right in the thick of it. There's a tremendous controversy over what is organic. One of the issues that we're dealing a lot with is, for instance, nitrogen input into our farms. But organic farmers can use organic nitrogen in the form of manure and compost that has as much nitrogen as many commercial fertilizers. So it's a complicated issue. I think that's one of the reasons we at Cornell talk about integrated pest management and soil health and talk about when you put nitrogen on, you don't just load it on, you put it on strategic times so it can be used by the plants rather than

leached out through the ground and washed off.

So it's a pretty complicated affair. The NAOFA Group, the North American Organic Farmers Association is very concerned about the Federal guidelines about organic and what is organic. Because it's become a cachet, a lot of the larger farm operations have said they're going organic, people are questioning that; what does it mean? I'm not an expert in it, but we do have an organic plot that we do experiments on up at the Horticultural Research Lab in Riverhead, and we look at some of these organic products that have come out like garlic spray and things like that.

LEG. NOWICK:

So is organic -- does that mean containing nitrogen?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, nitrogen is an organic substance.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it would be using all natural substances.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Right. Natural substances rather than synthetic fertilizers, synthetic material.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Good morning. You know, I'm looking at your fact sheet that you handed out along with the other material, and I just had a couple of questions. I'm becoming more and more acquainted with what CCE offers, but one of the things that catches my eye and maybe you could educate me a little this morning, is the Grape and Viniculture Program that servicing a growing wine industry. And the question I have in my mind, especially when we're talking about dollars and cents, is, you know, how is there a need for a program like that, and isn't a program like that more appropriately funded through the industry as opposed to through government? Or perhaps it is. I'm just looking for information.

MR. WILLIAMS:

The industry does support us to an extent. We also receive -- there's a statewide wine industry that also gives us some matching funds. What we do for the industry is we grow new cultivar's, we look at ways to manage grapes. We were very instrumental in helping farmers look at what soil health needs they had when they started out here.

I think without Extension we would not have a wine industry out in Suffolk. We provide a lot of information. And it was a typical land grant initiative to look at developing this industry out here in Suffolk. I think that even though a lot of the vineyards appear to be very well off and very high-end operations, there's not a large profit margin for these wineries and these vineyards out here. So the help they receive from us and from government, I think it's very critical for the industry.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Clearly there's a benefit to maintaining that industry in Suffolk County, and I'm not questioning that. But what I'm thinking about is, you know, usually you would provide support services for a fee. So I guess the first question in my mind for a program such as this, how much of the budget or your organization is put into that program, and how much, if any, of the County's funds are put into that program?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Into the Viniculture Program?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, just for example.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, we have two staff people there. And I would say the County provides the salary for one of those staff people. The state -- one of ways the state provides funding for us is through the fringe benefit package. So the fringe benefit, provided which is about 40% of that salary, is provided by the state. And the fees that we generate from the program from either the vineyards or for some of the work, the specialized work we do, supports an additional technician that works with us. So maybe the County provides maybe 45% of the cost of that program.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And you just stated before that to this day, in your opinion, without this program, you think that the wine industry as we know it here on Long Island would not be able to go forward.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, I may be reaching out myself, but I think we've been very supportive. I think we've -- the wine industry feels what we provide to them is extremely valuable. And they've certainly been supportive of our program. We've had fund raisers with them. They are in major support of our gala tomorrow. In fact, we're honoring the Mudd Family that's been very involved in developing vineyards and working with us out here.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I don't question the efficacy of any program, I just question how we fund them or whether or not the industry has matured enough where perhaps more of the funding should come from within the industry itself if it's targeted towards that one particular industry. It's just a thought.

The other question I had, again, looking at your fact sheet, was the environmental science education provided, and you named four sites in the fact sheet. Can you tell me how many visitors per year actually -- roughly visit the sites and what the funding is targeted to maintain each of them or together?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, at our -- at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center where we have a lot of different programs, we have between 25 and 40,000 kids coming there each year; school groups, camping programs in the summer. So there's lot of traffic at the County Farm. And I have -- I would like just an idea on that. I've proposed through the Capital Budget that the farm develop a visitors center that could be a showcase for Suffolk County agriculture as well as an alternative energy site. At the County Farm, for instance, we are working with DPW to hopefully install some wind turbines. We have some geothermal units there. We have some solar rays that are going to be installed, and we're installing a small green roof as a demonstration project. So I've proposed to -- you know, through DPW and through the County Capital Budget that we could use it as a showcase for environmental alternative energy projects. That's just an idea that's floating out there, I hope.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Certainly one that we would take a look at.

MR. WILLIAMS:

I think it would be kind of exciting. It's very accessible, we do have a tremendous number of people going through the farm on a yearly basis. And it would be compatible.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. But I was speaking about -- it says the Marine Program provides research-based education

and information to support the \$1 billion marine industry. And then it goes on to say it offers environmental science education at sites in Southold, Riverhead, Centerport and Babylon. And what I was asking is how many visitors roughly per year do you get to those sites and how much funding is providing to maintain them and run them?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I didn't specifically look at that. The Marine Program itself from the County gets about \$483,000 that's broken out to the Marine Program.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's the entire program.

MR. WILLIAMS:

That's the entire program. And so that supports those four program sites. And with our camping program, there's a summer camp Environmental Education Program at Southold, at Babylon and Vanderbilt, and I'd say each of those camps maybe had a couple of hundreds kids in the summer. And then throughout the year, we reach out to schools. And all tolled, I didn't break it out individually at those sites, but maybe they reach, you know, several thousand kids at each site, I would say.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And how do you qualify to go to a site? How does a child qualify?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, we go out to schools, and then our camping program, we have a small fee and then we also have some scholarships for kids who need it. So we are booked up already for the summer. So the programs are well -- you know, well subscribed to. Our summer camp in Peconic Dunes is still being filled up, we're still looking for people. And there is a fee to go to the camp. It's an overnight camp. So that camp is not funding by the County, it's funded only by fees. We do get a small Legislative item to help us with that, but basically, that's a fee-based program.

So we get about 800 kids that go to the camp in the summer, and then on the off season we also offer the schools to come out for two or three nights to do environmental work or retreats. We've had groups like HUGS come out and school districts, the YES Program has come out there and spent three days to do leadership development at the camp. So the County doesn't provide any funding. We work with them to maintain it. Again, that's a site that we manage that does need some capital improvement. So the Parks Department will be putting in a capital request for the camp.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

With respect to this Capital Project, this is something that you're initiating in the existing or the proposed Capital Budget, or is it something that was already included?

MR. WILLIAMS:

The visitors center-alternative energy demonstration would be -- it's proposed.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's a initiative?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

For this year's Capital budget.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, it's for this year's consideration, but it would be 2009 or 2000 -- you know, it's a couple of years out. There's some planning that would have to occur.

LEG. MONTANO:

Do you know if it is in the -- is it in the proposed County Executive's recommendation this year?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I do not know. I haven't seen it yet.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just two more questions, then we'll get you out of here, Tom. I mean, this is kind of a silly question, but what would be the consequences of not receiving any County funding?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, clearly, we would have to layoff a lot of our staff. As I tried to point out in the -- in the piece that I gave you, I think we provide a lot of very vital services to two of our major industries out here. I think they would suffer. And they do produce a lot back. We do believe that there's a multiplier affect for what we do, and that the amount of money that we get from the County generates grants additional grants, we're able to bring in many millions of dollars of State, Federal and other grants. So the loss of that would be an economic loss to the County. But our services, I think, are very important to children, youth and families, agricultural marine, and --

P.O. LINDSAY:

You had a number before about the agriculture industry on Long Island, what -- the revenue that it generates. Do you have a breakout of what wine industry alone generates on the East End?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I probably could get that. I don't have it with me.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And what was the number on the agricultural industry as a whole?

MR. WILLIAMS:

As a whole, it was about 200 million. And we do lead the State of New York in that. And that includes horticulture.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yep. The whole gamut. Okay. I thank you very much for coming. Your presentation was very informative, Tom.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Thank you. And we appreciate your support. It's always a pleasure to talk before you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Are the Bay Street Theatre folks here. How are you doing? Come on up.

MR. HAMILTON:

Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning. You're Stephen?

MR. HAMILTON:

Steve Hamilton.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

MR. HAMILTON:

Steve Hamilton. I'm the founder and Executive Director of the Bay Street Theatre. My colleague is our general manager, William Burford.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very good. Maybe you could start off by just describing, you know, your non-for-profit and what population you serve, geographical area, what services you provide.

MR. HAMILTON:

I'd be happy to.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sure.

MR. HAMILTON:

Bay Street Theatre is non profit professional performing arts and arts and education provider unique, we believe, to Suffolk County. We are located in a former Grumman Plant in downtown Sag Harbor, historic Sag Harbor, and we're just beginning our 16th season there. As I said before, I'm one of the founders. Our programs at Bay Street include a main stage which presents four major productions every year. Representative of that, this year specifically, is an American premier of an English play called the "Night Season," a world premier of a new musical that we're working on.

The main stage employs established and emerging artists from all over the American theatre, the New York market most specifically. We have an educational outreach that includes a couple of different programs. The flagship of our educational outreach is the Young Play Wrights Program, which each year for the last 14 years has served approximately 250 kids in high schools and middle schools with a unique in-school curriculum. As presently, right now, we're running in nine schools. Mostly on the East End, but extending to Manorville, I believe, is coming on in the high school program this year. But we also have part of the Young Play Wrights Program, which a section of the program is called intensive, which includes a group of students from New York, South Bronx.

LEG. NOWICK:

How many kids?

MR. HAMILTON:

It varies each year, but it's approximately 250 kids each year in high schools and middle schools. Some of the school districts involved include Southampton School District, Shelter Island School District, Sag Harbor, East Hampton and extending to Westhampton Beach. And the new school in Manorville -- what is that district -- anyway, our internship program welcomes anywhere from 15 to 20 committed usually college students from all over the country who are in professional -- usually design -- theatre design tracks, from universities all over the country.

And we have a Continuing Classes Programs, which at present includes acting classes and play writing workshops for adults. Another important presenting program of the theatre is the Kids Street Program, which is a popular presenting program for kids from ages five to 12. We have a comedy club which involves top name stand-up comics and comedians from all over the country. And we

have a classic film series, the Picture Show at Bay Street. That's pretty much sort of an overview of what we --

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees do you have, Steve? Bill, could you pick that up, please?

MR. BURFORD:

We have ten who are full-time year-round. We have four who are either part-time or seasonal, but are on staff for most of the year. And then during the summer, when most of our activity takes place, we can have anywhere from 50 to 60 people on payroll between the two shows and our regular staff.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And then you have some interns that work at the theatre too?

MR. BURFORD:

That would include the interns.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MR. HAMILTON:

During the Young Play Wrights Program, we can also, in addition to the ten full-time staff, we can sometimes have as many as another 12 or 15 teaching artists in the schools. Those are the ones who execute the curriculum in the schools.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How much money do you receive from the County?

MR. BURFORD:

Last year we received \$44,000. It was in two groups of money; one was \$20,000, it was our regular grant, which actually went up from \$7000 in 2006, I believe. And then we received \$24,000, I believe 9000 of that was from Jay Schneiderman and \$15,000 was from Steve Levy. And this year, we expect that portion to be about \$22,000; \$2000 from Jay Schneiderman and \$20,000 from Steve Levy. And that money -- the Schneiderman money is targeted for Kid Street, and the Levy money is targeted toward support of your musical, which is the biggest show that we do and also the largest revenue generator in our season.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is your total budget?

MR. BURFORD:

Last year it was \$3.3 million.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you get any other Federal or State money?

MR. BURFORD:

We do.

MR. HAMILTON:

Did you say State and Federal?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

MR. HAMILTON:

There's no Federal money at this point, but we're working on it. State money we receive from a couple of different streams; from the New York State Council and from --

P.O. LINDSAY:

How much roughly?

MR. HAMILTON:

It's about 12,000, I think, from NYSCA, but we also receive from -- line items from Fred Thiel's Office, and we hope to include Senator LaValle this year as well.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the rest of your revenue is raised through ticket sales and charity events and private fund raising, I guess you would classify it as?

MR. HAMILTON:

Yes. There's a lot of fund raising.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Any idea what private fund raising brings in?

MR. HAMILTON:

Yes. Last year, it brought in 1.4 million.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very good.

MR. HAMILTON:

It breaks down in a variety of different ways.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's fine. Is there any other agencies on the East End that provide similar services?

MR. HAMILTON:

No. I think what makes Bay Street most unique is that we're a production house. There are professional performing arts presenters on the East End, including Westhampton Beach, although that's not really the East End, but the Guild Hall.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But they don't have same type of educational programs that you're talking about, right?

MR. HAMILTON:

Bill just reminded me, it might be helpful for me to describe what the difference is between a presenting house and a producing house. What Bay Street does, especially in our main stage season, which the County supports, is that we create productions, we create shows, we find the material, hire the directors and all of the creative artists that come together and do it. That differs from a presenter who takes extent materials and presents them on their stage for a fee.

We also do that in our Kids Programs and our comedy too, but I think what makes us unique is the fact that we produce shows. A lot of them are world premiers and American premiers. You just asked another question about --

P.O. LINDSAY:

I asked -- the questioning started off whether you were aware of any other not-for-profit in that catchment area, the East End, that provides similar services, and the answer was no. You're not

aware of anybody else that --

MR. HAMILTON:

Well, there are similar services. I don't want to -- they're similar in the fact that we do present performing arts services to the community. But I do believe that we're unique for the reasons that I stated before.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And the County funding of your overall budget is very small. What would be the affect if you didn't have it?

MR. BURFORD:

It would probably reduce to some extent the number of Kid Street and/or comedian acts that we could book in. As far as the main stage goes, it might reduce the number of cast members we could have in one of our shows. It's probably money that we would need to go to our endowment to supply out something that we do everything in our power to avoid.

MR. HAMILTON:

Could I add to that? There is something sometimes more difficult to quantify, but when we're in the fund raising market, which is very competitive as you can imagine, the addition of having a jurisdiction, an entity, such as Suffolk County represented in such a way, is very important, because when funders look to see the worthiness of the organization, they want to see what levels of funding they receive, where they receive money. And the more dynamic that group of funders are, they more likely they are.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you leverage County money for more private contributors?

MR. HAMILTON:

Exactly. Exactly. And we use it all the time. We're being supported by this organization, this County, we use it to help leverage more money. Exactly. You get it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And do you know what your administrative costs is of your overall budget?

MR. BURFORD:

I do. We spend -- last year we spent \$590,000 in salaries. We spent \$350,000 on facilities. Our overall administrative expenses were a million-four-three-four. So it's -- one of the things, as you know, on the East End, it's very expensive real estate-wise.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't think that's quite the number that we're looking for. You're including all the salaries that you pay, but that isn't -- I mean, a lot of that's programmatic, it isn't just all for administration.

MR. BURFORD:

If you take all of that out, it's 15% of our overall budget.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Stephen, you're the CEO. Do you make more than 20% of your overall budget?

MR. HAMILTON:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't have any other questions. Does the committee have any other questions? I thank you very much for coming in, making this long trek, and I hope you have a great season.

MR. HAMILTON:

Not at all. It was our pleasure. It was a nice drive in.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good. Thank you.

MR. BURFORD:

Thank you for support.

MR. HAMILTON:

Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome. Adelante.

MR. ORTIZ:

Presiding Officer Lindsay, I just want to clear up a point that was asked before. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Visitors Center was requested in the proposed Capital Program, but was not included.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you. Miriam.

MS. GARCIA:

Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning. How are you?

MS. GARCIA:

I am fine. Thank you very much for having us. My name is Miriam Garcia. I'm the Executive Director of Adelante. And with me is George Fua, our Comptroller. Would you like me just to tell you a little bit?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah. If you could start off with just a brief description of the agency and the programs and what population you serve and what geographical area of our County you serve.

MS. GARCIA:

Actually, Adelante has been in Suffolk County for 41 years, originally started as a cultural and civic organization. In the last 16 years, it had developed into a multi-service agency, particularly for the Hispanic community. The programs which are being provided through Adelante is our supported housing, life skills, vocational and drop-in, that is to serve mentally ill -- the mentally ill population. We have the mental retardation programs, we have family and youth programs, including mentoring. We have the Seniors Nutrition Program, we have housing prevention of homelessness and tenant counseling.

We provide overall to the different populations and the community, computer classes, ESL, career counseling, and, of course, we still provide culturally diverse programs or services, but we majority service the very diverse community that we are in, which is Brentwood, Bay Shore, Central Islip. But in occasions, we do have students have coming from as far as Amityville, Patchogue. And we are able to assist them in many different ways.

Our agency employes 28 full-time persons and four part time. There are many other agencies providing the same type of services that we do, but we are unique in the sense that we basically --

not totally -- but we do service majority of the Hispanic community. And we have 90% of our staff --

P.O. LINDSAY:

So in other words, there's other agencies in the same catchment area that provide similar services, but you guys are unique in that your services are geared toward the Hispanic community.

MS. GARCIA:

Yes. Hispanic community and diverse. Like, there are many agencies like Concerns, Holly Free, who provide services for people with mental disabilities. The same thing goes for family nutrition. We are the only Seniors Nutrition Program in Suffolk County, which we serve culturally sensitive food. Most of the students that we service are Hispanic, but we do have other students from Haitians, African-American, you name it, Indian descent, Pakistani descent. So in as much as we -- the majority of the population we serve is Hispanic, but we do service a whole diverse community that we are in.

At this time we receive \$585,000 from the County; 162,748 comes from Suffolk County Mental Hygiene, and that pays for the programs serving the persons with mental disabilities, the drop-in center, life skills and vocational. Then we have \$146,653 funded by Suffolk County Office of the Aging. And we have 258,000 Suffolk County Youth Bureau.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

That makes up the 585,000, is that how you were --

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

Of that, we have two member items. For the mental health, we had a \$20,000 member item from --

LEG. NOWICK:

Additionally?

MS. GARCIA:

Included from our County Exec. And we had 20,000 from Legislator Montano assisting our youth programs.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is the total budget, Miriam?

MS. GARCIA:

Our total budget is 1,728,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

We receive 758,954 from the State. We also are going to be receiving -- we have received some, but not all, capital funds from the State. Between last year and this year, we should be receiving another \$770,000 for capital funds. And we received \$25,000 from the Town of Islip.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much?

MS. GARCIA:

Twenty-five.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go right ahead, Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Hi. I'm very familiar with Adelante. This 25,000 you get from the State -- this 25,000 from the -- you said from the town?

MS. GARCIA:

From the town.

LEG. MONTANO:

Is that a specific --

MS. GARCIA:

Yes, it is.

LEG. MONTANO:

And what it's specific to? I'm not aware of that?

MS. GARCIA:

Okay. One is computer training, and the other one is towards the youth programs, 10,000.

LEG. MONTANO:

Oh, it's ten and ten?

MS. GARCIA:

Ten and 15.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's right. Ten and 15 equals 25. You said capital funds from the State?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. The capital funds from the State, you said this year you anticipate 700 --

MS. GARCIA:

Seventy-thousand.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

Capital funds.

LEG. MONTANO:

Capital funds, but what is the -- what is that going to be used for? Is that for the development of a site?

MS. GARCIA:

Two hundred and fifty-thousand will be used towards the purchase building for our agency.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's because you are outgrowing the physical space you have now.

MS. GARCIA:

We have outgrown it tremendously. And then another 200,000 is for the expansion of the existing building.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

And another 50,000 to purchase another property for our supported housing, the independent living that we operate for supported housing.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. Thank you, Miriam.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Does Adelante do any outside fund raising?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes, we do. We had our first fund raiser last year, and we grossed 59,000 and we netted 19. But I would just like to mention that the -- out of the \$1.7 million, of that, we have corporate and foundation support for 269,900.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Well, that would qualify as outside fund raising as well.

MS. GARCIA:

Our administration expenses for the overall budget is 11.12, but the only programs that it pays administration from the County funds are the ones -- Suffolk County Mental Hygiene. All the other programs have no administration.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And what would be the affect of the County funding not being there?

MS. GARCIA:

Well, we would not be able to have the Senior Nutrition Program. We will not be able to assist the youth and families and the supplemental programs for mentally ill, the drop-in, life skills, vocational training. We will not able to implement that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody have any other questions?

MS. GARCIA:

The only other thing, I believe, is do I make 20% of the budget? No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Bill, can I ask another question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Good morning.

MS. GARCIA:

Good morning.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I apologize if this was already asked, but I may have missed it. Did you tell us how many total clients your organization services or sees in a year?

MS. GARCIA:

The direct services are 44,444.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Forty-four thousand four hundred and forty four.

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

MR. FUA:

The 44,444, those are duplicated services. But the unduplicated services, we have services, we have 4128.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. The 44,000 could be more -- it's one person in several different --

MR. FUA:

Yes. Duplicated services.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Still serving a need, however. But the total clientele individuals would be roughly over -- a little over 4000?

MR. FUA:

Four thousand-one hundred.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And your funding from the County of Suffolk has been trending upward, downward or staying constant other say the last five years?

MR. FUA:

In 2005, it goes up. In 2004, it goes down. In 2006, it goes up another 20,000. It's just like -- for Department of Youth Services. The reason it goes -- it's supposed to be, like, a steady 230,000 a year. But 2006, we received an additional 20,000 from Legislator Montano to support our Gang Prevention Program, Drop-Out Prevention Program for the youth, because we are servicing a lot of youth within our community area.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So the 585 that you received in '06 was the highest amount you've received from the County so far?

MR. FUA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It is. And during that same time period, the clientele that you're servicing, what you say now is 4128, has that been growing or has that been staying same or shrinking?

MS. GARCIA:

Definitely. There are many things that we are not able to provide because of the lack of funds and staffing.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You turn people away?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You do?

MS. GARCIA:

We refer them to any other services available or similar.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just on that, Adelante is located in my Legislative District, I've been there many times, I know the building well. In fact, I secured your 501(C)3 when Paul Irizzary was the Director.

MS. GARCIA:

That's 1989, I think it was.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes, in the '80s when I was on the Human Rights Commission. So the point I'm making is I'm very familiar with the program. You're busting out of your seams there in that building, it's -- you walk in there, you know, there's no space. One of the ideas that we had talked about was the Liberty Plating Property. We're still working on that.

With respect to -- you and I have had many conversations, you've called my office many times with respect to the County funding. And I believe that one of the issues that we talked about many times was the ability to access the grants that are allocated in a timely fashion, because of your fiscal situation in terms of not being able to sometimes commence a program that's funded where the money isn't -- isn't forwarded, or it doesn't come in on a, you know, on a quick basis, am I accurate in that?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes. I believe right now, we finally are getting our County contracts now. And it has been a major concern because we're supposed to start the programs by January, but yet, we don't actually see the contracts under the last month or so. And that put us in a very difficult situation. Do you stop doing the service? It would mean me letting staff go. And then if we wait for that, I would have to start all over again, because the communities are accustomed to getting certain services, so you can't really stop it. And it puts a very tight situation in our agency with, you know, funds.

Before we used to receive start-up amounts by January, late January. Now, it's April, and in some cases, we haven't received any funding yet as of now.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Even for '06?

MS. GARCIA:

No, 2007. This year. We still haven't seen any funds yet from the County programs.

LEG. MONTANO:

The money we approved in the budget to commence services on January 1st of '07, some of that -- some of that money, if not all of it hasn't been received yet?

MS. GARCIA:

Most of it has not been received.

LEG. MONTANO:

And you're using your funds, existing funds in the program, to sort of, you know, advance the programs to continue providing services?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes. Because if we don't --

LEG. MONTANO:

There's a gap in services.

MS. GARCIA:

-- then we will eventually lose that County money if we did not provide those services even though we have no contract and we do not have any funds yet.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Legislator Montano, if I could just jump in there.

LEG. MONTANO:

Sure. Go ahead.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's an important point. You need continuity of operations, which means you need continuity of funding. What department of the County do you receive your funding through, and who are you dealing with and where do you make your application for the funding once it's in the budget?

MS. GARCIA:

Well, you know, we get the funding from Suffolk County Mental Hygiene.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

Then Suffolk County Office of the Aging and Suffolk County Youth Bureau.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Have you completed all your paperwork on your end and send it in so to speak?

MR. FUA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You have?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes. But we didn't receive it until recently.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The actual applications, you mean?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The invite, so to speak, to actually make the application for the grant --

MS. GARCIA:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- from the County.

MS. GARCIA:

And that is always a concern, because if there's going to be any changes on the budget, okay, we've been operating based on last year's budget. If there's any changes on the line items, okay, then you put us in a very difficult situation on that end.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Sure.

MS. GARCIA:

Some of the offices like Office of the Suffolk County Youth Bureau had -- one of the assistants to Mr. Levy told us that the advance -- advances will not be most like coming in until April.

MR. FUA:

May.

MS. GARCIA:

It's May.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The advances, you mean in advance of the total funding?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So the County still had a policy of providing what you call SEED money or start-up money for the season?

MS. GARCIA:

Well, it used to. You know, say they give you start-up money, because then afterwards it becomes a reimbursement.

MR. FUA:

We submit a reimbursement.

MS. GARCIA:

The reimbursement monthly.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. GARCIA:

So the reason we continue doing the work and then continue to report is that when eventually the contract gets approved and everything else, we will be reimbursed the whole amount that we have laid out already.

LEG. MONTANO:

Miriam, if I may.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Sorry. You were done, were you not?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes, go ahead.

LEG. MONTANO:

You said earlier that your administrative cost for the agency was 11.1%, am I correct?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

You also indicated that the program money that comes in from the County does not provide administrative cost money.

MS. GARCIA:

Only the one coming from Mental Hygiene, because it's tied in with our State contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So then how do you support the administrative component of these programs if, in fact, the allocation doesn't provide for administrative costs.

MS. GARCIA:

Corporate.

LEG. MONTANO:

Is that the way -- to your knowledge, you may not know the answer -- that other agencies who receive similar grants also operate, that they simply get the program money and they're not allowed to use any administrative costs for these programs?

MS. GARCIA:

Yes. That seems to be the case. And it's getting more difficult because one of the things we've been struggling through in the last two years has been where a program doesn't want to pay for utilities, doesn't want to rent, and that makes it very difficult. Also in the last year, we lost a fee for an outside auditor to come in. And even though the program requires you to have an outside auditor aside from our general audit, the program won't pay for it.

LEG. MONTANO:

This is not -- what we're discussing is not necessarily the focus of this committee presentation, but I have been hearing that similar type situations or problems from other not-for-profit agencies. I'm

just more familiar with your agency, and I've seen it -- the parade, you run the parade. I don't know if you mentioned that the --

MS. GARCIA:

No, I did not mention the parade. For that we reach approximately 80,000 during the parade.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Miriam, we will talk further. Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much for coming in and informing us of what you guys do. It was very informative.

MS. GARCIA:

Thank you very much for having us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome. St. James Fire Department. Ed?

MR. KALETA:

Actually, we're the St. James Fire District. There's a difference between the department and the district. I represent the district.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MR. KALTA:

We're here, because over the past couple of years, we've received grants from the County for defibrillators. Just so you know, we did use one, and we saved a life with it. And I just thought this committee would like to know that. We responded to a call in the Village of Head of the Harbor, and our first responder was there, and we did, in fact, we are able to use it to -- of a great value, and it saved someone's life.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very good.

MR. KALTA:

And we also, this year, I believe, we received grants for thermal-imaging cameras that are now in services on your vehicles, and that entitles us a lot more -- you know, when we go in structure fires and alarms to, you know, do a better --

P.O. LINDSAY:

What kind of cameras?

MR. KALETA:

They're called thermal imaging cameras. They're new cameras that detect heat in, like, over 100 degrees, you're able to see where the fire is or where the person is.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you pull up to a building, you take a photo, and you know exactly where the fire is?

MR. KALETA:

We can pinpoint them. Everything is done by numbers. You can tell the people where to go. And it helps us in that way. So we have received a couple of grants over the last couple of years from the County. And we're very, very pleased, and we put them to very good use.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. You guys were not here at the beginning of the presentation, but I kind of start out with an explanation of what we're trying to do here. The County funds a number of not-for-profit organizations throughout the County. And there's been some criticism of the Legislature on how we spend the money. And there is a lot of not-for-profits, and we thought it would be a good idea if we -- it was actually Cameron Alden's idea, but I established the committee as the Presiding Officer, this ad hoc meeting, and we've been meeting all year long, and we'll continue to meet until of end of the year.

You know, systematically talk to as many not-for-profits as possible from a variety of different agencies. If you're sitting in the back, you can see the variety. And, you know, we asked you to come in, because we do give grants from time to time to a number of fire districts to provide equipment primarily that they're struggling with their own budgets.

MR. KALETA:

Especially in the smaller fire districts. It's hard to come up with stuff to purchase some equipment like this. With all the new State mandates, I'm sure you all know that we're required by law with all these mandates, that takes up a decent amount of our budgets now between OSHA training and physicals and NFPA training. It takes a lot of your budget, so a lot of times we're running out of funds to purchase this necessary equipment. That's why these grants are very important to us, and they help us a lot.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You said you received two grants in total, Ed, over the last few years?

MR. KALETA:

I believe two years ago, we received one for the defibrillator. At the end of last year or this year, we received one to purchase two thermal imaging cameras, which we have -- we have received all items, and they are in service at this time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Let me get through this fairly quickly. Does the fire district have any full-time employees?

MR. KALETA:

Yes. We have about -- we have two full-timers, the rest are part timers. We have part-time first responders. Under the new REMSCO Law, we're required to be on the scene less than nine minutes. So in some areas, we have first responders on that critical care that are there to meet the requirements. And then we have a part-time district manager and a part-time clerk secretary and a treasurer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Two full-time, two part-time.

MR. KALETA:

We have two full-time and about eight part-time.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Two full-time, six part time, eight total.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. How much funding did you get last year from us.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

From the County, I believe it was 10,000.

MR. KALETA:

Ten thousand.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Ten thousand dollars.

MR. KAELTA:

And we don't receive any other grants from anyone else. We have applied for them, but have never received anything else, other than that County.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And, of course, the fire district is going to continue without the \$10,000, but it just helps you with the --

MR. KALETA:

Yes. Eventually, we would have been able to purchase them. It just would have taken longer and something else would have been left out to meet this requirement. So it did fall into and help us a lot and keep them on our eye. We do have some old equipment we're trying to replace right now. So we have applied for a Federal grant, but that takes a considerable amount of work.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You know, the funny thing about the AEDs, I've secured grants for a couple of the departments in my district to purchase AEDs, and almost -- both times, within a year, they were used to save a life in that particular district.

MR. KALETA:

They are one of better more important items that are on the market right now. They're very critical to the fire service and even the schools. You find them all over, but they use them in schools now and see them -- find them hanging in the halls. They are an excellent piece of equipment.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Did you want to say something, Lynne?

LEG. NOWICK:

No. But I do remember when you first got the defibrillators, I think that one of the members of the fire department actually had a heart attack at a parade service almost immediately after you got it.

MR. KALETA:

It was a while ago, I don't remember who it was. Yeah, we've used them quite a few times. But this is the -- this is the latest save that we've had. We have quite a few saves with defibrillators, even some of the older ones. We did have some -- the older type that we used and the old type thumper that we used, but this is the most recent save we had.

LEG. NOWICK:

While I do have the microphone, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the St. James Fire Department. Of course, as you know, I live in St. James, and to thank all of you for your dedication, for your volunteerism, for all the work you do, for getting up in the middle of the night, for leaving your Thanksgiving dinners and your barbecues. And I would like to say this on the record, because I'm sick and tired of the bad press that you all get. You deserve more than that, and I thank you.

MR. KALETA:

We appreciate that very much. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I really don't have -- do you know what your administrative costs are?

MR. KALETA:

Yes. It's 13.69% of our budget, which is -- our budget is 1.6 million 644,000. So our salaries are between 22 and 27,000 for the year. Like I said, that's because some of it's mandated. We have to be on the on the scene in a certain amount of time so we're required to have the first responders on-call.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, I think, you know, more and more departments are unfortunately having to pay, you know, the EMTs or someone in the ambulance-end of it, because of the extensive requirements for training. It's really getting to a point where it is a tremendous strain on the departments.

MR. KALETA:

The EMT training right now is over 600 hours every three years. And people working two jobs, that's our problem. It's hard keeping people in the service. With the cost of housing, to get people to stay, that's another -- but we're holding our own right now.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very good. I don't really have any more questions. I appreciate you folks coming in here.

MR. KALETA:

We thank you for having us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And having a conversation with us about this. I would like to echo Legislator Nowick's comments that the volunteer community -- you know, not everybody does the right thing. A few people might have went astray a little bit, but that broad brush isn't fair. It isn't fair to the thousands --

MR. KALETA:

We all suffer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah. I mean, one of fellows here that works in the Legislature part time, Bobby Knight, he's an ex-Chief.

MR. KALETA:

I know Bobby very well.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And, you know, we were talking the other day, there's like 10,000 volunteer firemen and ambulance responders in Suffolk County.

MR. KALETA:

There's 110 departments and 20 -- I believe 26 rescue squads. So our numbers are high. And like I say, if the people has to -- taxpayers had to start paying us a salary, like the City does, our taxes would be quite high.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Ed, how long have you been in service with St. James?

MR. KALETA:

Since -- 1961 I joined, so about 46 years, 45 years.

LEG. NOWICK:

Pretty dedicated.

MR. KAELTA:

I've been the Commissioner now for, I think, 22. And I'm still active by the way. In the last five days, I've responded on 26 rescue calls. So I'm still active.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you for the service.

MR. KAELTA:

I appreciate you having us. Thank you very much.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you for coming.

MR. KALETA:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't have anybody until one o'clock. Break time.

(*A RECESS WAS HELD FROM 12:03 P.M. UNTIL 1:02 P.M.*)

LEG. D'AMARO:

Come on up, please. Welcome, and good afternoon. I assume this is Second Chance Wildlife Rescue. You can have a seat right at the table. Make yourself comfortable. Okay. Ladies, good morning. This is what we call our Ad Hoc Committee on Contract Agencies. It's an arm of our Legislature. And what we're here really to do is just fact finding.

Our overall plan, our overall mission, is to exam a little more closely then we would if you weren't here, your budget and what you are doing especially with our County taxpayer dollars and how they are spent and also to educate ourselves. Really, we need to know more about what you do and what your mission is and how you are servicing the people of Suffolk County.

Our Presiding Officer normally Chairs this Commission. He's in a meeting right now, but I expect him to be joining us in a few minutes, but we'd like to start anyway. So I'd like to invite you to first tell us a little bit about your organization, what you do, and how you help out here in Suffolk County.

MS. MULNARD:

Okay. We're a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. We do -- it's animal rescue in general. We do wildlife, wild and exotic animals. That includes confiscations through the Police Department, the SPCA. Sometimes we do reach out of Suffolk into Nassau and the five boroughs. We deal a lot with the CACC in Manhattan. It's wildlife -- the wildlife end of it is what's indigenous to the area of Suffolk County and New York State.

We take in, we rehabilitate and we re-release Suffolk County's wildlife. We've just recently expanded. Because of what we do, we get a lot of domestic issues; dogs, cats, rabbits that come to us, and now we take them in, they get evaluated by a veterinarian. Through obedience and handling, they get replaced and adopted out through our agency. So we kind of touch base with everything with animals at this point. We also do educational exhibits, because we're licensed through the State and the Federal Government. We do educational exhibits for schools, we do them for fire departments, occasionally the Boy Scouts and Girl Scout Troops will use us to earn badges. It's about wildlife, it's about domestic animals.

LEG. NOWICK:

I have a question.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Sure. Legislator Nowick, please.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm sure you're going to hate that I'm going to ask this question, but you rescue wild animals and/or domestic animals, and you find homes?

MS. MULNARD:

For the domestic animals.

LEG. NOWICK:

Are you successful in doing that?

MS. MULNARD:

Very.

LEG. NOWICK:

You have to know I have a reason for asking this. I have a really good reason for asking this. I'm going to get you later.

MS. MULNARD:

We included a copy of our adoption form. We take the animals in after we evaluate them. People will come in to visit with the animal, see the animal. If we feel they are a candidate for adoption they fill out a form; it includes vet references, employment references, we do home visits to make sure that what we need for the animal to have is there, and we look to permanently place the animals in the homes.

LEG. NOWICK:

So would it be any specific kind of animal you would be looking for? Does it have to be one that's in distress or?

MS. MULNARD:

We have people that unfortunately turn over unwanted pets, neglected, abused animals. We deal a lot with Brookhaven Animal Shelter and some of the other animal shelters in Suffolk County.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. But animal shelters, don't they euthanize their animals?

MS. CURTAIN:

That's what we do, we take them sometimes from the animals shelters, because they have a better chance of being adopted and placed with us than from a shelter.

LEG. NOWICK:

And when they're with you, they stay outside, inside, how do you keep them --

MS. MULNARD:

No. They're inside. They get to go out for exercise time to do their business, you know, they need to do outside.

LEG. NOWICK:

But you really can't do that with cats, though.

MS. MULNARD:

No. The cats are inside. They get vet checked, feline leukemia checked, they get their vaccinations, including rabies, we spay and neuter. They get their exercise time and play time, we integrate them with other cats, dogs, people to see how they do.

MS. CURTAIN:

On a daily basis, because some cats may not get along with dogs, and then you can't place that cat in a home with a dog.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm not going to monopolize this, but before you leave --

MS. CURTAIN:

She has something to be placed.

LEG. NOWICK:

No. I don't have one thing.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Legislator Montano, please.

LEG. MONTANO:

I just want to be clear. If there is an animal out there wounded, distressed, your group actually goes out and does climb the tree, grabs the hawk or --

MS. MULNARD:

I try not to climb too many trees.

LEG. MONTANO:

What was that?

MS. MULNARD:

We try not to climb too many trees. We had an incident Monday morning. We got a call through -- the Fifth Precinct called, there was a hawk that was hit by a car. So at 7:30 in the morning we went out and we found the police officer, they had the hawk in a secured area, and we went and took the hawk, took it to an animal hospital. He had to have his wing amputated. Now, he's unreleasable. So we also have another division of our organization that does the exhibits, the educational exhibits for the schools or people that come to us that want to learn about the animals. He'll now be trained and worked with to be handled, and we'll use him for that exhibit, and he'll live out his life with us.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right, but just so I'm clear -- and I think I am -- but just -- maybe not. If this hawk were hit by the car but somehow were able to get up and fly into a tree and was sitting there wounded, you would be the ones either -- you know, to go -- I don't know how you do it, but --

MS. MULNARD:

Correct. We have equipment.

LEG. MONTANO:

But you basically actually rescue the animal and then take it to the shelter.

MS. MULNARD:

Correct. Yes.

MS. CURTAIN:

A couple of years ago we had --

MS. MULNARD:

Nothing goes to the shelter that doesn't have to. It usually ends up with us, because we're licensed.

LEG. MONTANO:

When I say shelter, I mean you shelter it.

MS. MULNARD:

Correct. We also provide emergency care and first aid as much as we can up until it gets to the point where we do need a veterinarian to intervene.

LEG. MONTANO:

And the animals, some of them -- I just came back from Florida, so some of them there would be alligators.

MS. MULNARD:

We have three.

LEG. MONTANO:

And I saw a show there, planet -- "Animal Planet."

MS. MULNARD:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

And what was the other one? Muskatt Family (sic) or something like that.

MS. MULNARD:

The muskrats.

LEG. MONTANO:

Muskrat Manor, I think the show is. But in any event, that's the kind of work you do?

MS. CURTAIN:

Those kinds of animals too. Yes, exotic.

MS. MULNARD:

We're one of the few that are licensed in the State of New York for exotic and wild. And the wild animals are wolves, cougars, leopards, alligators. And there are a lot of people, believe it or not, in Suffolk-Nassau and the City that do purchase these animals illegally and they house them until the SPCA finds out or somebody gets bit. There was just an alligator that was taken, I think, three days ago -- it might have been in the paper -- that somebody found. That's what we do also. We also take those. We rehabilitate them and work with them, and then they'll either go to a sanctuary or a zoo. If they -- you know, if they can't be utilized here and there's not another licensed facility within New York that can take them, then we have to transport them out of the State.

LEG. MONTANO:

How many employees do you have in your agency?

MS. MULNARD:

We have about seven volunteers, not including the five directors that also volunteer.

LEG. MONTANO:

Paid employees?

MS. MULNARD:

Nobody's paid.

LEG. MONTANO:

Nobody's paid.

MS. MULNARD:

No.

MS. CURTAIN:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So nobody's paid? They're all volunteers?

MS. MULNARD:

We're all volunteers. We'll try and reimburse if somebody lays out money for formula. We also own an animal center now in Farmingville, which we opened to help us offset some costs. We'll purchase the food that way, because we can get it cheaper for ourselves.

MS. CURTAIN:

A lot of veterinarians will donate their care.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. I've seen that.

MS. CURTAIN:

They will help.

LEG. NOWICK:

You have a 24 hour service?

MS. MULNARD:

Yes. We're available 24 hours a day. If you can't reach us because somebody's out on a call or just simply not available, because they are volunteers, we have a website you can refer to, and it will tell you how to temporarily house or take care of, say, a squirrel or an opossum. Any of the illegals, we always advise that they call the Police Department, the SPCA or whoever else that they need to call.

MS. CURTAIN:

A lot of them bring into the emergency animal clinics, and then come seven o'clock in the morning, the animals clinic will call us, and then we will go and pick it up from there.

P.O. LINDSAY:

If you guys weren't around, who would do this?

MS. MULNARD:

There are other foundations that do it. Not that many that do the illegal things, the exotic animals that are not legal in the states.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But I mean, normally, the SPCA?

MS. MULNARD:

They can only house so much. They're more dogs and cats. They really can't deal with the wildlife. The wildlife, you need to take a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation test every year that you have to take to get your rehabilitators license to legally do the work. Most animals hospitals don't take in wildlife, they're not obligated to. If they do it, they do it as a curtesy. And they usually only do it if they're dealing with an organization like ours, there's the Star Foundation, there's Sweet Bryer in Smithtown. They're all organizations that do this type of work.

MS. CURTAIN:

They're basically on wildlife. When it comes to the dangerous or the wild animals, the SPCA can seize them, they can pick them up, but after that, they can't do anything with them, because they don't have a housing facility. That's when they call us and we come and take them because we can house them legally.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So your services are unique?

MS. MULNARD:

Very, yes.

MS. CURTAIN:

Very.

LEG. MONTANO:

Can I tell a story, Bill?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go right ahead.

LEG. MONTANO:

What is that animal -- the name escapes me now. It looks like --

MS. MULNARD:

A ferret.

LEG. MONTANO:

A ferret. Several years ago, my daughter was young, a ferret got hit by -- got run over in front of my house. I went outside, and I found the animal. We picked it up, and we rescued it. We kept it in the house for a while, and then we called the ASPCA. You know, they said that we could keep it, but I had to get a license from the State Environmental Department to keep it.

MS. CURTAIN:

New York is now a No-Exotic State.

LEG. MONTANO:

So I should have called you -- at that time I should have called you, and you would have come and rescued the animal.

MS. MULNARD:

Yep.

LEG. MONTANO:

And I had a Rottweiler in the house at that time, and it was a problem keeping them separated. That's what you do?

MS. MULNARD:

Yes.

MS. CURTAIN:

That's what we do.

MS. MULNARD:

We're State licensed through the DEC, we have our pet dealers license through the Department of Agriculture, we have a license to possess, a license to exhibit.

MS. CURTAIN:

That's the Federal Government.

LEG. MONTANO:

What is your overall funding for the 501(c)(3)?

MS. MULNARD:

We do a lot of fund raising.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What's your total budget?

LEG. MONTANO:

What's your budget, right?

MS. MULNARD:

It varies so much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

In '06.

MS. MULNARD:

I'm sorry?

P.O. LINDSAY:

In '06.

MS. MULNARD:

I guess we did about 36,000. We had a contract last year with the County for 20,000, because we also do horse rescue as well. The more money that we have that's available to us, the more we expand our --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Could I interrupt?

MS. MULNARD:

Sure.

LEG. D'AMARO:

We get some information in advance, and our report is indicating that you have zero funding in '07, is that accurate, from the County?

MS. CURTAIN:

So far.

MS. MULNARD:

We were told it was zero and then we were told \$10,000 was reinstated. And then we got your little letter in the mail to come see you, so we're not exactly sure where we stand at this point.

MS. CURTAIN:

We have been functioning in '07 from the bits and pieces left of '06.

MR. ORTIZ:

The adopted budget provides \$10,000 for this contract agency.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, it does? Okay.

MR. ORTIZ:

Last year it was 20, this year it was ten.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Did you get your contracts yet?

MS. MULNARD:

No. I had to send in all the information they request every year prior to getting the contracts written, which that was just submitted this past week.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. NOWICK:

While I have you, if you could ask a question.

MS. MULNARD:

Absolutely.

LEG. NOWICK:

I know that you rescue animals that are alive, and I know this might sound strange, I recently looked out my back window and saw a huge raccoon in my backyard dead. And, you know, raccoons when they're dead they kind of belly-up, they're kind of -- how do you remove something -- I have to tell you, I just didn't know what to do with it. It's big, it's intimidating.

MS. CURTAIN:

With that you should call the Health Department, because the Health Department really is in charge of raccoons.

LEG. NOWICK:

But the Health Department isn't open on Sunday morning when you need them.

MS. MULNARD:

No. They have an emergency number you can call that they give us to call. You're not going to really get anybody on a Sunday to come and get it. We'll basically walk people through it.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's the thing, how long do you leave a dead raccoon in your backyard?

MS. MULNARD:

If somebody calls us, we'll tell them how to walk it through -- you know, how to clean it up.

LEG. NOWICK:

What would you do with it? Where you put it?

MS. MULNARD:

In a garbage pail, black bag, tie it off, garbage pail. I mean, we've had people call us, and, you know, I'm 70 years old, I can't do this, if they're just in the next town over, we'll go and take care of it.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's kind of the way I felt, but I'm not 70.

MS. MULNARD:

We had a woman that has an opossum that she was pretty sure was dead in her yard, but she was so afraid that it might not be, she wouldn't come out of her house.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How much money do you raise privately?

MS. MULNARD:

Between five and 6000, maybe 7000. We do layout a lot of the money, all of the volunteers. You can't help it, because when it's in your care, you just do.

MS. CURTAIN:

Once you have it, you're really committed to it.

MS. MULNARD:

We also get a lot of donations as far as during hunting season, because we have a lot of meat eaters, we get a lot of hunters that will donate venison. We'll have fund raising, fund drives, where we put out a wish list for paper towels and supplies and blankets, and we'll get people to come into the store and drop them off. So we get through, we manage.

We're trying to come up with new ways now to do more fund raising, because just now taking the responsibility of a horse that's been abused -- we had a horse that was taken from a feed lot that was going to be destroyed that we took in, and that cost between five and \$600 itself a month.

MS. CURTAIN:

A month.

MS. MULNARD:

And it's not something that you can very easily adopt back out because it's an expensive animal to keep. About five to \$600 a month. So we end up personally taking responsibility each for an animal. You want a horse?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you have any administrative expenses?

MS. MULNARD:

Not really.

MS. CURTAIN:

Not really.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I didn't think so.

MS. MULNARD:

Because we opened the animal center that we did now, we kind of push off a lot of our supply -- you know, office supply kind of things for when we have our meetings and things like that. We just kind of push it off on ourselves.

MS. CURTAIN:

And a lot of people know what we do, and they do donate to Second Chance Rescue.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Where are you located again?

MS. MULNARD:

Farmingville.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Farmingville, okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody have anything else?

LEG. MONTANO:

Just a quick question. Maybe John can answer. Which agency or department rather, division, do you contract with? Where does that come out of?

MR. ORTIZ:

It's through the Parks Department.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. CURTAIN:

They know us well.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you ladies for coming down and --

MS. MULNARD:

Thank you for having us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- being so informative.

LEG. MONTANO:

Leave your cards, please.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The Retreat, come on forward. Tracy. How are you, Tracy?

MS. LUTZ:

I'm good. How are you?

P.O. LINDSAY:

If you could introduce yourselves and give us a little description of your agency and what services they provide to the County, geographical area and the population that you serve.

MS. LUTZ:

Certainly. Tracy Lutz, Executive Director of the Retreat, and this is Jennifer Critcher, Finance Director for the agency. We're based on the East End. We serve the five eastern most towns of Suffolk County. It's about 350 square miles of road that we travel on separated by bodies of water, so we spend a lot of time in satellite offices and borrowed space just to make sure that we're accessible to our clients.

We are a domestic violence organization. We have a residential program and a non residential program. Residential program is an 18 bed shelter located Amagansett, which is usually about 90% occupancy. Right now, I think we're at 100%. Usually six women, 12 children. While they're with us, they can stay with us for 90 days. We do have a contract with the County to provide that service. It's a per diem fee for service. Every night that a bed is used we get paid a rate that's set

by the State. That's how we're reimbursed for that program.

We provide them with counseling, housing assistance, financing assistance. It's a congregate living facility, so everything that they need while they're with us, we provide. The program -- I think we fund raise for about \$250,000 every year to supplement that program.

MS. CRITCHER:

It varies from year to year, depending on occupancy.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Like last year, you raised 250 privately?

MS. LUTZ:

Last year we raised over a million dollars privately to fund all of our programs, which I'll get into in a moment. Our non residential programs are -- all of the services that we provide; counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment, assistance with housing, violence prevention services, we have a 24 hour hotline, we have a Batterers Intervention Program, and these are services that are available to anyone living on the East End who is a victim of domestic violence and is in need of our services. And in order to provide those services, we raise in excess of a million dollars every year privately.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. How many employees do you have.

MS. CRITCHER:

Thirty-five, but it does vary.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All full time?

MS. LUTZ:

No. Actually in your packet you will see, we answered all of your questions, so you can refer back to it at a later date, but as of April 3rd, we had 14 part-time and 20 full-time employees.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is your total budget.

MS. LUTZ:

Our total budget for 2007 is --

MS. CRITCHER:

It's 2.285 million.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Two point --

MS. CRITCHER:

285.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What do you get from the County?

MS. CRITCHER:

Suffolk County alone?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

MS. CRITCHER:

For 2007, it's projected at 570,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And you said you raised over a million privately.

MS. LUTZ:

Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you receive any other State or Federal grants?

MS. LUTZ:

Yes. We get funded through the Crimes Victim Board, it's \$121,554 for 2007, is our projection.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is that Federal or State?

MS. LUTZ:

It's through New York State, but it's -- some of the money, I believe, is Federal pass-through. Also, the office of -- the Federal Family Violence Prevention Fund, but that's also through the State, but it's Federal money. That's 38,000 and change. We get \$10,000 a year from the Town of East Hampton. This year, we're getting 7000 from the Town of Southampton. And we get some Legislative member items also from State Senator LaValle and Fred Thiele. I believe it was about 25,000. And then also for our shelters, I was explaining previously, since we get a per diem rate, depending on the county of origin of the women and children who are in the shelter, we get reimbursement also from Nassau County for our shelter program and New York City primarily.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are there any other agencies on the East End that provide these services?

MS. LUTZ:

I believe Family Counseling Service provides some counseling services, but not the comprehensive services that we provide.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Not residency or anything like that?

MS. LUTZ:

No. No shelter, no hotline, no court advocacy services that I'm aware of.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What would be the consequences of not receiving County fund?

MS. LUTZ:

Well, we would have to slash our programs dramatically.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you know what your overall administrative expenses are?

MS. LUTZ:

Approximately 15%.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I don't have anything else. Anybody else have anything?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I have one question.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Similar services, correct me if I'm wrong, but wouldn't VIBS also provide similar service?

MS. LUTZ:

VIBS primarily provides services in the western most part of the Suffolk County as does Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Brighter Tomorrows.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So it's a geographical --

MS. LUTZ:

Yes. And actually, we do collaborate on programs whenever possible. In fact, one of our grants through Suffolk County Probation Office is a collaboration with VIBS, Probation, the Sheriff's Department, ourselves and the Coalition. And we all work together providing similar services, but in our own geographic areas.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. So there's really no overlap there. You work with each other, there may be some, but you're servicing just the East End, the five eastern towns.

MS. LUTZ:

For the most part. You know, most people don't travel that far, so we're the only service provider there.

LEG. D'AMARO:

How many people a year do you actually help out, roughly?

MS. LUTZ:

Well, I've attached our statistics also in this packet. We receive -- in fact, I'll run through them for you just so you know what we did last year. Our occupancy rate in the shelter was 86%, we provided 4680 counseling services, almost 1200 legal advocacy services, a little under 3000 hotline calls. We also have a Police Report Program. We receive all of the police reports for every domestic incident on the East End, and we follow up on those. That was over 3000. We reached over 20 -- about over 2500 people in community education. Our Batterers Program, we worked with 185 men mandated to that program, and about 3500 students with our Violence Prevention Education Programs in the schools.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very good. And are you finding that even with all of those services provided there's still more demand?

MS. LUTZ:

You know, it's an interesting question, because we do a lot of -- because we have to do so much fund raising, we also do a lot of marketing of our services, and we have radio advertising and things of that nature, so I think because of greater awareness, we're getting more calls. And our funding, you know, hasn't increased at all in years.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. That was my next question. As, of course, expenses are going up, we know the trend there, what's the trend in your budget and what's the trend in the County portion of your budget funding-wise?

MS. LUTZ:

The County portion of our budget, one contract, we haven't had an increase since I've been with the agency, and I've been there nine years.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. LUTZ:

Another, our largest contract, which is our non residential program, every year it goes back to this, you know, \$180,000 and then we have to come to the Legislature and ask to have something put in the Omnibus and on and on and on. And also, the restrictions on how we can spend the money; if we need to change a line or hire a different type of person, it's very, very, very difficult for us to do that.

In addition, we don't even have signed contracts yet. We're going into May now, and we've been putting out our own money. We're in a better position than some organizations because we do raise so much of our own money, but we're taking it out of our reserve and we're losing the interest on the money that we would otherwise be able to put back into our programs.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Is that on a reimbursement basis, or is that funding that's provided once you get all the paperwork approved?

MS. LUTZ:

It's funding that's provided once all the paperwork is approved, but on our end, for example, we submitted everything -- in fact, we've submitted our request for 2008 already. It's already gone to the Department of Social Services. Everything that needs to be done for our contracts to be in place and for our reimbursements to occur are done well before the 1st of the year. Then we have to wait for the County to put the contract together. I finally got one contract last week for my signature only. It still hasn't even been signed off at the County level.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. I think the contract agency signs first.

MS. LUTZ:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

In all cases.

MS. LUTZ:

So, you know, we're supposed to get an advance --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Did that happen? Did you get an advance?

MS. LUTZ:

No, because we don't have a signed contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't know if you were here earlier, but you're not the first agency to be in this problem. And

you're correct, with the outside money that you raise, you're able to advance the money, but that has -- you know, that shouldn't happen. Now, you say that your request and your paperwork is in well before the fiscal year. I guess you start January 1st, 2007, this past year. Your paperwork was in probably before that, is what you are saying?

MS. LUTZ:

Absolutely. Jennifer can tell you exactly how that whole process works.

LEG. MONTANO:

Why don't you just briefly -- I did have some questions, but you may answer them.

MS. CRITCHER:

Sure. I guess basically, I would think, October-November we start getting the paperwork for the next year. And we already have our whole budget in place. So we know what we're going to request, we know exactly what salary lines --

LEG. MONTANO:

So right after the budget is passed, you know exactly how much you can anticipate for the following year.

MS. CRITCHER:

Well, we base it on what we currently get, because we so rarely get an increase that we know that it's just going to be the same amount as our current contract. So, I mean, I could see if there were lots of changes every year and we kept getting increases that it might be a very tedious task on the County's end, but when it's the same amount --

LEG. MONTANO:

I think we pass our budget -- Operating Budget for the next year in October.

MS. LUTZ:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

So you have an idea, you know, going into November and December how much you're going to have. You get your paperwork in, when do you hear back from the County?

MS. CRITCHER:

Well, usually I have to call them. And usually I'll start calling in February to see, you know, what the status is with the contracts. And I think about a week ago, we just got one of our contracts for us to sign, but we're still waiting for the large one. And, you know, we already spent four months of expenses that we're laying out the money for.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just so I'm clear, just for the record, you start calling in February for a contract that's to commence in January. And we're at the end of April, and last week you got your response from the County with a contract for you to sign, then it has to go back to the County for signatures, and then you have to go through a reimbursement process or submission of documents. How long -- when are you going to get a check?

MS. CRITCHER:

Well, basically, we try to be as organized as possible. They already have our --

LEG. MONTANO:

You sound it, by the way.

MS. CRITCHER:

They already have all our vouchers for January, February, March and April. So they have everything that they need.

LEG. MONTANO:

They being the Department of Social Services?

MS. CRITCHER:

Yes, the Department of Social Services. Because we have to submit payroll journals, copies of checks, all the things -- reimbursement items that we're requesting to be reimbursed. So they have all that. The administrative assistance and difference accounts payable, they are already processing that paperwork. So it's just a matter of getting the signed contract. That's the only thing that's really holding up the process.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. After you get the signed contract, your paperwork is already in, which is way ahead of lot of organizations, when do you get your first check? When do you think you can make a deposit in your account for the money that you've been spending this year on the program?

MS. LUTZ:

Four weeks, four to six weeks, even with all of our paperwork in.

LEG. MONTANO:

So you figure you're not going to receive a penny of the County's money until June 1st at the very earliest?

MS. LUTZ:

That would be a good guess, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Thank you.

MS. CRITCHER:

Thank you, Legislator Montano. Any other questions? I think that answers most of them. Thank you very much for coming down. We appreciate it.

MS. LUTZ:

Thank you for putting effort into this. The contract agencies appreciate you looking into this situation.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The last agency that we've asked to come today is Colonial Youth and Family Services. Is that you folks in the back? Take your time.

You're welcome to make a presentation as long as it's not too long. We'd appreciate that. While you're doing that, I'd just welcome you to Ad Hoc Committee on Contract Agencies this afternoon. You're the last contract agency we're going to be interviewing this afternoon as well.

I just want to let you know that our real primary mission here is just fact finding. We appreciate you coming here and sharing some information about your agency with us. It's really about educating ourselves so when we go into our County budget process, we will have more pertinent information and know you little better when we start talking about the County budget. So with that said, you

want to hand out -- give that to Justin, he'll take care of that for you. Whenever you are ready you may just tell us a little bit about yourself, make a brief presentation if you would like to.

MR. LASKOE:

Hi.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Good afternoon, again. If you want to introduce yourself and then go ahead.

MR. LASKOE:

I'm Steve Laskoe. I'm the Director of Colonial Youth and Family Services. Linda Rakvin is next to me, she is my Clerk of the Works. She's the Assistant Executive Director, she's been with the organization for --

MS. RAKVIN:

Almost 14 years.

MR. LASKOE:

Fourteen years. She is the equivalent within Colonial, a small agency, as the Chief Financial Officer, she is the Assistant Executive Director, and she is the Comptroller and the principal point person for all of our contracts. So I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here. Colonial is an agency that's been in existence for over 30 years. And we feel that we meet a broad array of services needs in the Mastic-Shirley area, William Floyd School District.

In order to conserve time, since I think there are, obviously, many things you may want to ask us, I'd like to be able to have Linda speak to what you see there describing who we are and what we do, how we -- so the who we are and what we do, Linda is going to describe. And also, I guess, in the beginning of your questioning, how we maintain ourselves and how we manage that which we use to maintain ourselves.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very good. Please, go ahead.

MS. RAKVIN:

Okay. Colonial Youth started out as a grassroots organization that worked on the grounds of and in conjunction with the William Floyd School District. It started out as a drop-in center. Many of you guys, you know, might remember that concept back in the late '70s, early '80s. From there we're kind of grown with the needs of the community. As the population has probably close to doubled in the past 20 years in the William Floyd School District, Colonial's programs have more than doubled in the past 20 years that we've been in existence.

We have several different departments. I don't know if I'm going to follow exactly on the board, because I can't see it right now, but I'll go through the different departments as briefly as possible. We have a Clinical Services Department where we have four school-based social workers, three within the elementary schools in William Floyd and one that goes between the two middle schools in the William Floyd School District. Those social work positions are paid partly by the school district and partly through funds that we receive through the Suffolk County Youth Bureau. They do programs, they see mandated students that are mandated through the Special Ed Departments in the school districts as well as run after-school programs that work with anger management groups, socialization groups, banana splits, you know, some of the basic elementary level socialization groups that you would know through many school districts.

Then we also -- in part of our Clinical Department we take in at least anywhere from three to six interns from the college levels, Bachelors, Associates as well as Masters level social work students. And our Clinical Director is {CIFY} certified to be able to supervise them and provide free counseling to people in the community who either don't have health insurance or are unable to access any kind

of counseling services due to lack of transportation or many other issues in the community.

One of our highlighted programs is our -- Colonial's Community Volunteer Corps, which is a program that probably started about 15 years ago, and it's funded through the Community Development Block Grant through the Town of Brookhaven. And with that grant, we're able to service an average of 50 to 60 children a year. Some come to us -- it's a community service-based project. They work on different projects throughout the community. They do graffiti removal, tutoring, you know, a variety of different activities and needs that are within the community.

We have two populations that fill up that group. Some of them come to us, they're Honor Society students that just like to do community service, people that just hear about us through the library or word of mouth. And then we also have a population that comes to us from Red Cross that are mandated to do community service hours. We are -- you know, we are an agency that is recognized by the Red Cross to be able to take their students in and have them provide their community service through us.

Our advocacy or Concrete Services Department, which we call our Family Services, is basically all of our walk-in crisis situations that come in. We're part of the community food pantry, we run a Holiday Assistance Program, where we service approximately 250 to 300 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas through donations and we coordinate interviews to make sure that they are indeed in need of services, and then we provide for them what we can for Thanksgiving and for Christmas.

In addition to that, we will, on a limited basis whenever donations do come in, provide prescription vouchers or if -- you know, if a social worker calls and says they have a kid in the school that needs shoes, a coat, things like that, we'll provide whatever type of concrete services we're able to with the donations that we have coming in. And we also work with two to three sleep-away camps where we're able to provide anywhere from 50 to 80 children each summer the opportunity, free of charge, to go away to a sleep-away camp. We work with the Sheriff's Department, Camp Kiwanis as well as a camp in New Jersey called Camp Vacamas. And then I think our last department, which is probably one of our biggest is our Child Care Department.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What department was that? I'm sorry.

MS. RAKVIN:

Child Care.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Child Care.

MS. RAKVIN:

We offer before and after-school child care as well as daycare services within the William Floyd School District. We have -- we have licensing and permits to allow -- I believe, we're up to 26 -- that we're able to house in our building right now for anywhere from 18 months to four years old. And then we have use of one of the school buildings as well as the building that we lease from the school district to do before and after school, and there we're able to help 144. Right now we have 72 on each site that we're licensed and able to provide before and after-care services.

A small portion of what we do is we work with the TASA Program through New York State, which is the Teenage Services Act, for pregnant and parenting teenagers. So we have two case managers on staff that work with anybody from the ages of 12 to 21 that's Medicaid eligible and has -- either is pregnant or parenting or at risk of being pregnant or parenting through referrals from Suffolk County. That's basically as much of a nutshell that I can give you of the programs that we have.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very nicely done. Thank you. And that gives us a great overview. Questions?

LEG. NOWICK:

Can you tell me how many employees your agency has?

MS. RAKVIN:

We have 17 full-time employees and approximately 30 part-time staff, which three of them work in our office, the other 27 are child care staff that work split shift and just per diem.

LEG. NOWICK:

And how much funding do you receive from the County?

MS. RAKVIN:

Currently right now, we have four grants that receive money from the County. Our largest grant is our SDPP Grant.

LEG. NOWICK:

What's the total of the grants for the 2007 Year?

MS. RAKVIN:

About \$350,000.

LEG. NOWICK:

From the County?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And do you receive grants from any other entities; Federal, State, Village?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much, from what?

MS. RAKVIN:

Well, the other, I would say, about 800,000.

LEG. NOWICK:

From?

MS. RAKVIN:

We have -- through the State.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much through the State?

MS. RAKVIN:

That's our Snap Grant, that's 34,000 for the year. And the TASA Program varies by how much it's billable. So it varies each year. We're averaging about 95,000 on that grant.

LEG. NOWICK:

For the State.

MR. LASKOE:

That's service revenue, that's through the Medicaid system.

LEG. NOWICK:

All right. Well, that's a little different.

MR. LASKOE:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's different. But you receive a \$34,000 grant from the State?

MS. RAKVIN:

Right. We're a subcontractor for the Suffolk Network on Adolescent Pregnancy, and that money comes through the State.

LEG. NOWICK:

And Federal grants?

MS. RAKVIN:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Member item, anything, village, town?

MR. LASKOE:

CDBG is a pass-through of Federal funds, which comes through the town.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Then what is your total budget?

MS. RAKVIN:

One million-four hundred thousand dollars.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. And how much of that is administrative expenses?

MS. RAKVIN:

Administrative salaries equal about 15% of the budget. It comes out to about 216,000 for the year.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. And your CEO does not make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

MS. RAKVIN:

No, 4.2 to be exact.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. I might as well go through this, right? Do you do outside fund raising?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And annually, how much does your agency raise through outside fundraising?

MS. RAKVIN:

Well, we hold a golf tournament every year, and we get donations from the holidays, so I average it out to about 20,000 per year.

LEG. NOWICK:

Twenty thousand. I guess there are other agencies, similar agencies, that do the same, but maybe not in your area.

MS. RAKVIN:

Right. Not in our geographic location.

LEG. NOWICK:

And there's the one question that we do know the answer to, but we ask anyway, what would be the consequence of not receiving County funding?

MS. RAKVIN:

We would not be able to run the programs. I mean, our Child Care Program alone that we receive a small portion of the funds from Suffolk County is enough to be able to keep our prices affordable so that we can keep the -- you know, keep that program filled to capacity, which is, you know, basically what our agency runs on.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm sure you would be devastated. Would there be any other questions?

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon. I was just curious. It's not a primary focus of the committee, but we've been hearing -- I don't know. Did you hear the last comments, the last conversation, with the group that was before you in terms of getting -- once the grant is awarded by the County and the process you go through to secure the funding, basically, are -- did you hear that conversation or that dialog?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Are you in the same category in terms of having a similar wait to start receiving funds for the programs that you administer?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes. I think that our wait time is as limited as it can be, just because, like Steve mentioned, I've been doing the vouchers and the process, that process, for about eight years now.

LEG. MONTANO:

You have the experience, you know what to expect, and you've had contracts.

MS. RAKVIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

So what is your wait period with the experience -- what is your wait period?

MS. RAKVIN:

Generally, I would say, within 30 days if I -- if the voucher -- like say at the end of February, if I mail in the voucher by the second week in March to cover February's vouchers, before the second week in April I will have the check.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that's presuming that you have a contract executed in January or February. And do you have

the contract executed?

MS. RAKVIN:

No.

LEG. MONTANO:

When is the contract executed, you know, generally? This is just so we have no sense of the process.

MS. RAKVIN:

I would say generally by the end of March. Right now, our two bigger contracts through Suffolk County, we've received one fully executed and have gotten our 20% advance, the other one we still haven't. The other one, we're still waiting.

LEG. MONTANO:

So this 20% advance, is that something that goes through every year? You get a contract -- so if I understand the process, you get the award, you -- whatever point in time you execute your contract, at that point, you received a 20% advance?

MS. RAKVIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

And you get that on -- you know, that's been repeating every year?

MS. RAKVIN:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Has the wait time consistently been the same throughout the eight years that you -- you know, you've been receiving money?

MS. RAKVIN:

Pretty much.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. RAKVIN:

I know we usually don't count on that money coming in until, you know, the end of March, beginning of April.

LEG. MONTANO:

And do you have to request the advance or is that automatic?

MS. RAKVIN:

I believe it's automatic.

MR. LASKOE:

It's on the first voucher. It's a retroactive advance is what it turns out to be.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. It's not really an advance, it's because it goes back to January 1st of the -- the contract is retro to the 1st of the year.

MR. LASKOE:

Right. It's a presumptive payment to which there are -- in its initial submission, there are no vouchered services.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right.

MR. LASKOE:

They're anticipating that these services would be provided as a proportion of what your annual expense and experience has been. It's a little bit of a game.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me ask you a side question, because it came up earlier. In terms of -- you're in the William Floyd School District primarily. I just want to get a sense -- I have some friends that live out there -- but just get a sense of the diversity of the school district in William Floyd. Because some of the school districts have obviously seen some changes in the demographics. William Floyd if how diverse, how not diverse?

MR. LASKOE:

Let me try to give you my perspective as a person who's looked at in responding to grants. We had to do some pretty -- as much as we can -- some current demographic analysis. And then Linda, as a life-long resident of the district, can also speak to it in her way. The William Floyd School District has a 27 -- I believe it's 27.3% experience of families living at or below the poverty level. That is significantly higher than the -- again, these are rough figures from my memory -- 12% statewide and 14% nationally, 6% for Suffolk County as a whole.

What you have seen in the William Floyd School District is -- and in that region -- is -- since the '70s, you see an environment which had significant singly family homeownership. A major change in the economy resulted in a lot of foreclosures and those houses being picked up by owners who then turned them into rental properties. And the region became somewhat identified as place in which you could place people. And so you have a lot of influx of lower socioeconomic populations, very diverse.

That's been shifting back slowly, because it seen as an area where you can purchase a home as your first home on Long Island. So it's slowly shifting back. Along with that influx, what you saw a significant increase in the associated social factors; gang violence, drugs, crime, violent crime. So I think what you are seeing is a microcosm of what took place in other communities over the course of a number of years compressed into a very short period of time.

What we see on our side is a significant pent up demand for behavioral services, particularly in the presence of children and families. Certainly William Floyd is not unique, but it -- everyone out there seems now to be experiencing greater and greater difficulty surviving. I mean, that pressure is moving way up into the middle class. And how you see it manifested frequently is in breakdown of the family unit, family violence, drug abuse, neglect issues. In its simplest and most innocuous terms, you very seldom have an intact two-person family where both of the adults don't have to work in order to continue to live on Long Island. And how that plays out is in the form of certain aspects of where do the messages come from as to how to live. They're usually generated at this point from peers and media and not always the healthiest of messages.

So what we're looking at now is a significant demand for services in an area in which there are very few of those services. In a progressive sense, we at Colonial looked around and said, "Well, how can we meet this need?" And also, "How can we potentially use this as a way to shift some of our dependance on grant funding into a revenue producing area in behavioral services?" And I think we are a pretty creative agency in that what we saw was that another provider in the community -- you asked about areas of duplication and opportunities for collaboration. So that's where I come from, that's part of my strength and part of my background is looking at community in a broad

perspective.

We saw another entity out there, which is Family Counseling Service, which had its historical name of Westhampton Family Counseling Service. They opened a satellite on William Floyd Parkway, which contained both Oasis, which is Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, as well as OMH, Office of Mental Health Services. They're a licensed facility. For Colonial to enter that playing field, in effect, as a potentially licensed entity would be cost prohibitive. It would cost us well in excess of a quarter of a million dollars simply to go through the application process and establish the assurances administratively by adding cost to our system. It would be astronomical.

I approached them as I did all of the other providers in our region with the objective -- two objectives; one is to create warm and fuzzy borders. I'd rather have that than have hostile borders with those out there. And that seemed to work okay. But particularly with Family Counseling Service, there was a receptivity of working together collaboratively. We're well down the road now in establishing a joint facility whereby we would become a contract provider under their operating license, and consequently they do not have to absorb the cost of additional staff, because it's our business. We can share the costs to the new facility, we can share the administrative costs of the reception staff, of the computer system, of everything involved, which makes a significant difference.

I think what we're doing actually is creating the paradigm for which other agencies can and should be taking a look as to how to create affiliations without having to go all of way down the road to merger, where you're able to maintain your identity. What I've seen -- and I'm on a lot of committees. One of the things that Colonial did in hiring me, they said they wanted someone who could be out there promoting Colonial in the larger world as well as dealing with the nuts and bolts. Fortunately, for a small agency, I have the backing of Linda as, in effect, the COO, the Chief Operating Officer. My 40 years of experience enables me to get out there and communicate wearing the coat of Colonial, and with its respect in the community gaining entree in a short period of time to a lot of different things.

So, some of them are -- I'm Co-Chair of the South Brookhaven Health Advisory Council, I'm a co-liaison to the Suffolk County Health Department from that entity, I'm on the Board of the New York State Association of Family Service Agencies. You know, my list goes on and on and on. I'm on the Long Island Association's Not-For-Profit Committee, legislative committees, things of that nature, whereby a small agency can have a big voice.

What I'm seeing is something that happened with the hospitals, under what you're seeing recently, was the result of a process that started with them being told very clearly, "You must come up with ways of economizing and consolidating and sharing and creating rational delivery system." And they said, "Sorry, we're really not that interested, we like it just the way it is." This commission came along and said, "We're sorry, you're going to have to do it this way." That commission's report is now going to be turning into legislation. And you can see how much pain it's going to cause in a lot of communities.

We were told a year and a half ago that the handwriting is clearly on the wall for the other not-for-profits, us, the smaller ones. And there are 5000 of us on Long Island, small agencies, small not-for-profits. I don't have to be told things two or three times. It was part of the what I was thinking in going out there, who can I find that are like-minded progress thinkers who are really willing to see this as an opportunity and get passed it as adversity.

LEG. MONTANO:

I want to thank you. We have heard that from other agencies. We're aware that this is something, you know, is out there. We just wanted to get your perspective on it. Thank you.

MR. LASKOE:

You're welcome.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. I had just a couple of quick points to clarify going back to the number crunching. You had mentioned a total budget of roughly 1.4 million. You had mentioned grants totaling 350,000 from the County, but our paperwork indicates about 50,000 from County. So is that including some pass-through funds? How are you getting up to the amount? Or maybe Budget Review might want to just -- if they're still back there -- confirm that our 2007 -- unless -- I just have the 2007 requested amount, so that may have changed.

MR. ORTIZ:

The adopted amount is actually 82,000, because there was 32,000 added in the Omnibus Bill.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So the total County outlay in our budget is 82,000?

MS. RAKVIN:

That's the contract that we have executed at this time. We also have another contract through the Suffolk County Youth Bureau for the SDPP Program, and that is \$254,711.

MR. ORTIZ:

The reason I don't have that is because I was just looking at Colonial Youth. That's a different program.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. All right.

MR. LASKOE:

Some of those dollars may also be filtering down from the State. So you may be seeing them as pass-through where you're have revenue offsetting it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. And then your source is -- you had mentioned a smaller grant or funding from the State of 34, the 350 from the County, no Federal source at this time. So I would assume the balance of your budget is fee for service and reimbursement.

MS. RAKVIN:

We also have a contract with William Floyd School District. So we have contracted services through them for 58,000. We have a small United Way Grant of 12,400. The TASA, the billing Medicaid for our services, we average out to about 90 to 95,000 a year. And then our Child Care Program fee for service does make up the remainder.

LEG. D'AMARO:

One other thing I was interested in, before we break, you were speaking of reaching out the Westhampton agency and, in effect, consolidating and joining forces, they were contracting out your services and --

MR. LASKOE:

It's in the prospective state.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. That's what you're working on. The goal being that you can become more efficient, I would assume, and deliver -- have an economy of scale where you're delivering more services, but costing less, because you're not duplicating administrative costs.

MR. LASKOE:

Right. Simply stated, we want to be able to do more, do it less expensively and do it better. We

each bring different expertise to the table. They're more experienced in the in-depth OMH type of case. We are more experienced in the family and child related services. So we bring different expertise to the table.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. I appreciate that you said that and are looking into that. Just on an unrelated topic, I have a commission that I am chairing on school districts that is also not looking to consolidate the districts themselves, but to consolidate functionality or services and things like that to try to be more efficient. So I think you're right, I think it's a trend. And if there 5000 smaller contract agencies on Long Island alone, it's something that -- whose day has probably arrived or arriving very shortly when it comes to consolidating, because, you know, we see it with taxing jurisdictions, 471 taxing jurisdictions. There's a movement now, I think rightfully so, to try and make those more efficient, same thing with school districts. And it's just a matter of time before it happens with the contract agencies as well.

MR. LASKOE:

On the one side, I think you're going to hear a lot of human cry from those that are suffering and struggling, and that includes those that are being served and those that are attempting to serve them, that you're going to pay for what you do and you're going to pay for what you don't do. And that's true. I think societally when we see the impact of something like you see at Virginia Tech, it's an example at some level of two things; one is that we are becoming enured to a certain level, we are expecting higher and higher levels of social pain.

And on the other level is that behavior was somewhat tolerated. So we're accepting higher and higher levels of dysfunctional behavior in our society. I think that is also potentially a function -- it be illogically -- of people's necessity to work very hard at surviving. When your head is always down, you can't keep it up and look at those things happening around you. Everybody is struggling very hard. And those kinds of other things take place, and they may come across somebody's radar screen, but something else is pushing it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. And the point is if you lift your head and think about it, the goal is not to necessarily cut funding. But if you consolidate functions and operate more efficiently and save money, you can more into the programs as opposed to the administration. And that's really the goal.

MR. LASKOE:

I'm on the Board of the Suffolk County Program Directors Association for Youth Agencies. And we would like to be able to create a public private partnership with the County and others in addressing this issue so that no one can stand on the outside and throw rocks and say with a one-way accountability thing, "Show us how you can do it." Let's all come together and see how we can address this problem.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. Okay. That's a little beyond the scope of what we're doing here today, but I do appreciate your thoughts on that. It's very insightful.

MR. LASKOE:

Sorry for the polemics.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No. That's okay. It's great that you're interested and you care enough to talk about it, I appreciate it. Are there any other questions? Okay. Then I want to -- is there anything else you want to add before we conclude? I want to thank you very much again for coming down. We appreciate not only you being here today, but all the work you do for the community as well. Thank you.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:02 P.M. *)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY