

CONTRACT AGENCIES COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Contract Agencies Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York, on June 28, 2007.

Members Present:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay - Chairman
Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice-Chair
Legislator Ricardo Montano
Legislator Lynne Nowick

Members Not Present:

Legislator Lou D'Amaro
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Dan Losquadro

Also in Attendance:

Terry Pearsall - Chief of Staff/P.O. Lindsay's Office
Kara Hahn
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano
Lori Gellerstein - Aide to Legislator Cooper
John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME
Janet Walerstein - Child Care Council of Suffolk
Trevor Davis - Board Chair/Finance Committee-Child Care Council
Juanita Crowe - Financial Department/Child Care Council
Charles Reid - Financial Department/Child Care Council
Frank Petruzzo - Babylon Beautification Society
Sandra Feinberg - Director/Middle County Public Library
Sharon Breen - Assistant Director/Middle Country Public Library
Miron Ebanks - Chief of Staff/Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk
Lucy Fortunato - Nursery Director/Economic Opportunity Council
Songhi Scott - Chief Financial Officer/Economic Opportunity Council
Judith Margolis - Executive Director/Family Counseling Services
Judy Veccia - Comptroller/Family Counseling Services
Lillian Dabney - Chair-Bd of Drcts/Marvin Avery Palmore Center of Hope
Ida Timmons - Program Director/Marvin Avery Palmore Center of Hope
Pastor Roderick Pearson - Director/Marvin Avery Palmore Center of Hope
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Diana Kraus - Court Stenographer.

Minutes Transcribed By:

Diana Kraus & Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographers

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM*)*

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning, everyone. This is our meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Contract Agencies. And like everything we do, if we could rise for a salute to the flag.

Salutation

CHILD CARE COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK

Okay. First one up is the Child Care Council, Janet. Hi, Janet.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning. Janet, if you could introduce the folks with you --

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- we'll get right into this and try and make it as quick and painless as possible.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Okay, to my right is the Board Chair of our Finance Committee, Trevor Davis; to his left is Charles Reid of our Financial Department; and to my left is Juanita Crowe, also of our Financial Department of the Child Care Council.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, thank you very much. I start off by explaining what we're doing here, and I don't think it's any secret that probably over the last year or so we've been engaged in a debate of how we spend our money, in particular with not-for-profit agencies. And I, at the suggestion of Legislator Alden during the budget process last year, agreed to set up this Ad Hoc Committee on Contract Agencies so that we could simply call in a lot of the agencies that we deal with during the course of the year and, you know, find out how our money is being spent because we do literally use hundreds of not-for-profits to provide services to our County citizens. This process has been going on since January and we've probably interviewed more than a hundred not-for-profits so far and we will continue this the rest of the year.

You know, for the most part, we've found what we suspected right along is that our not-for-profit community provides very valuable services to our citizens and as a County, we could not provide the services to our citizens without the not-for-profit community. You know, just a few that we've come across that might not be totally doing the right thing but, you know, we'll adjust as we move forward.

But anyway, that's the purpose for these meetings. Maybe we could start off, if you could give us a brief description of what the Child Care Council does, the programs and what population you serve and what geographical area of our County.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Okay? We are known -- and for the purposes of this, you know, when I say child care, people look at me sometimes and I say, "You know, day care;" "oh". So, it is for child day care services, but -- and we are known as a child care resource and referral agency and we have networks throughout the state and throughout the nation and we're known as CCRR's.

What we do is help parents to find child care, we develop the child care and we basically try to educate parents as to what to look for in high quality child care, to be good consumers of child care. We also have education and technical assistance to be able to help providers in the day-care centers and in family homes to better serve children and parents in the best high quality child care services. We also have employer services where we go into businesses and help them with their human resource pieces of their needs for child care for their employees. Their employees many times are hamstrung by having the ability to have the access to child care and we help them in that process, and we also do seminars on-site.

We also have the Child Care and Adult Care Food Program, CACFP, where we are the agents to -- well, we're the sponsoring agents for the Department of Health through the Department of Agriculture through the State to be able to reimburse family child care homes for the monies they spend on food for the children. We also monitor those as far as USDA standards and they are reimbursed on a per meal/per child basis and we monitor all of those programs which can be -- we have over 400 listed, about 370 are monitored throughout the year.

We also do registration and inspection of family homes for the County. This is -- we are considered agents of the State in this regard and we have over 700 listed, that includes school-age programs and family homes, so we are the monitoring agent for that process. We also do community education and outreach for the community to better educate as to what high quality child care is how to access it. We are -- we serve the population in Suffolk County, but we do, in fact, have links to our contiguous counties and, as I said before, we are a network and so we help parents through that process if they need child care in another county.

We have 53 employees right now, not all are -- some are part-time, some are what we have -- we've learned a new category called casual employees who are not consultants but they are part of our group to be able to give training and technical assistance to the population that we serve.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you have breakdown of how many full-time as opposed to --

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yeah, we have 32 full-time, 15 part-time and casual employees as they are classified by IRS, we have six.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it would be fair, Janet, to say that you assist in the child care delivery system but you don't actually provide child care.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right, right. We are like the support services for both parents and providers. I mean, it's almost like a broker between -- you know, it's a concept that sometimes alludes everybody.

P.O. LINDSAY:

There's no other agencies that provide similar services.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And it's beyond just Suffolk County, your agency, the whole metropolitan area?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

The -- we provide services here, but there are like agencies throughout the State.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, but just for Suffolk County, you just operate in Suffolk County.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes, yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And, you know, I see that your funding level is 859,000 and change; is that -- is that all County money or is that pass-thru money?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

The 859 is our registration and inspection contract with the County and that is all State money.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Is that eight hundred or nine hundred?

MS. CROWE:

It's up to 939.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

It went up to 939, you will be getting an amendment for that, but that's strictly State funding. It's an MOU --

P.O. LINDSAY:

But it's passed through the County, Social Services.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yeah, it's an MOU from the Office of Children and Family Services to the Department of Social Services and they outsource to us.

LEG. NOWICK:

So they don't get any money from the County?

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you don't get any money directly from the County?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes, we do.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

We have SWEP or supportive services that we have a contract with the County for 109,000 and then we have the Child Care Loan Program for 11,474, so it's a total of 120,555 between those two and that's --

P.O. LINDSAY:

County money.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

-- County money.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And again, their contract is with Social Services.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And what would be the consequences if you didn't receive that 120,000?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Well, right now that contract includes us being on-site at the Department of Labor five days a week to help TNAF recipients in their quest for jobs and for their child care. And we are there at the request of the Department of Social Services because the participation rate for TNAF recipients has gone up for the County and it's 50% which is a very high participation rate. And Janet DeMarzo thought that if the impediment of getting a job was child care, if we were on-site, that we could make that happen in a more effective way and I think it has proven to be.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That works pretty well.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

I think it does, and right now the only thing is that we're stretched with that amount of money. So I think that Steve Levy has put in an additional request for a part-time person, to do \$30,000 for a part-time person to be there.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Does anybody else -- someone else want to take over?

LEG. MONTANO:

I have a question. Good morning, Janet.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Good morning.

LEG. MONTANO:

Two things. One is your contract, did you already sign the contract for this year?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

We signed the contract for the -- yes, we signed the contract for the registration and inspection, that's full State money.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's the eight hundred or 900,000?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Well, it will be nine and thirty -- fifty-two, one-fifty eight.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. What about the other two contracts, the eleven thousand --

MS. WALERSTEIN:

The other two contracts we have not seen.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right, you haven't signed them but you also haven't seen them.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

So that tells me that they haven't been delivered to you for signature; am I accurate in that?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

Have you had conversations with the -- when do you expect them?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

It's never -- it's never sure. I mean, it's, you know, pointing this way.

LEG. MONTANO:

I got you.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

So it's -- we're still waiting; I'm correct in that, right, guys?

MS. CROWE:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

And the resolution for the part-time position, I believe that was a \$30,000 allocation for this year.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

So in reality, if it were extended over the year, it would be 60,000. Has that resolution been --

MS. WALERSTEIN:

I don't know. Steve Levy said that he was giving it over to the Legislature to look at, but I haven't -- I mean, I --

LEG. MONTANO:

Right, I understand what you're saying. In other words, you don't know that the resolution has been put forward before the Legislature. And I don't know if it was laid on the table this Tuesday either, but I remember that we spoke about it.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't see Bob, so maybe we'll get answer for you. Thanks.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Okay, that would be nice.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, we'll get an answer as to whether or not it was filed.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right, at least that.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay, Janet?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Some answers are good.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. Thanks for coming down.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Good morning.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you do any outside fund-raising?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes. We have had the last two years two events; one that was a recognition of our 20th Anniversary of being a funded agency and that raised about 75,000, and this year we did about a \$30,000 fundraising event, 35,000. And then we have -- we have another small program that the Town of Huntington gives over the -- one of the beaches for us to raise for parent leadership which is a whole -- which is a separate kind of private funding function.

LEG. ALDEN:

And is that money dedicated to a certain program or does it get comingled?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

The monies for -- that we raise in our events are basically for scholar shipping and helping providers access higher education.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. What percentage of your overall budget goes towards admin?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

What percentage goes toward the --

P.O. LINDSAY:

The administration.

LEG. ALDEN:

Administrative costs.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

To our administrative costs is 12%.

LEG. ALDEN:

Twelve percent. Does your CEO make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

(*Laughter From Panel Members*)

LEG. ALDEN:

I take that as a no?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Two percent.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Total budget, ask the total budget.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, yeah, I'm sorry. How much -- I know it's in your literature; what's your total budget?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

It's four -- four thirty-eight -- four million, three hundred eighty-four thousand, two hundred eighty.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, so the difference between the pass-thru New York State, and that was almost 900,000 or a little over \$900,000.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Then you get another hundred thousand, a hundred and twenty thousand --

MS. WALERSTEIN:

There's other pass-thru dollars that go directly to providers which I explained was the CACFP, the food program which is a million -- whatever.

LEG. ALDEN:

So what is the difference, then, as far as money; it's Federal, you get Federal grants, too

MS. WALERSTEIN:

We get the -- the Child Care Food Program comes down through Federal and to the State and to us.

LEG. ALDEN:

Approximately how much is that?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

That's -- it's two million, eight nine one four and then but one million, seven hundred and fifty-two thousand, six hundred -- two hundred and sixty-two is provider reimbursement out of that.

LEG. ALDEN:

But you reimburse?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

In other words, it flows through you to -- okay.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Right, it's according to how many meals they serve and the attendance of the children, so that we go through -- the monitors monitor all those meals and the attendance to make sure that there's accuracy, and they are serving USDA nutritional meals.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Now, you're audited by the Federal government on that program?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

We're audited by the State Department of Health, it comes through the Department of Health and the State.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And have you been audited by Suffolk County?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

We have been audited by Suffolk County in the past, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you remember how long ago that was?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

How long ago was that?

MR. REID:

Approximately four years ago.

LEG. ALDEN:

Four?

MR. REID:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Does anybody have any other questions? Thank you very much, folks, for coming in; we appreciate it.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

Thank you. I don't make two -- right, after the pass-thru dollars then I make the 2%. They wanted me to clarify that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Pardon.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

That my salary is 2% after the pass-thru is passed through, so it's not on the four million either.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much is it on?

MS. WALERSTEIN:

If you take out the pass-thru dollars -- I mean, I can tell you what the salary is.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, that's fine.

MS. WALERSTEIN:

That would be -- I mean, at this point it was 88,861.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Great. Thank you.

BABYLON BEAUTIFICATION SOCIETY

Babylon Beautification Society, please come forward. Frank?

MR. PETRUZZO:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How are you, Frank?

MR. PETRUZZO:

I'm well. Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning. I'm not going to repeat the explanation because I know you were in the audience.

MR. PETRUZZO:

That's fine.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So why don't we see if we can get you in and out of here as quickly as possible.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Sure.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I ask a question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go right ahead while I find my paper work. Thank you very much, Lynne.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good morning.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Good morning.

LEG. NOWICK:

I figured I would have the nicer person on the panel make you feel more comfortable.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:

Don't be deceived by the nice smile.

LEG. ALDEN:

Wow.

LEG. NOWICK:

You look nervous and we're really very nice.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Okay, I'm fine.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just a brief description, please, of what your agency does.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Sure. The Babylon Beautification Society represent the Babylon Village only, so it's about 7,500 people who live in the village. We're just a small group, we're all volunteers so we don't have any paid employees, but we're really there just to aid in beautifying the village. We work with the Mayor's Office in the village and the community and we would do anything from, you know, providing flowers or trees or anything like that for the village, that's our sole purpose. So we're just a very small organization; again, we're all volunteers.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. How many -- there are no employees then, they're all volunteers.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Exactly, zero employees, all volunteers. And our board is about ten or so people and then, of course, we have so many people in the community who help throughout the year on events.

LEG. NOWICK:

So you do all the planting and the hanging flowers.

MR. PETRUZZO:

We coordinate that. I mean, we coordinate it through the village and then some of the bigger plantings, you know, we pay nurseries to do that, but yes, that's all funded through us. And the village, of course, has their own piece that they do, but yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Are your hanging flowers real flowers or --

MR. PETRUZZO:

They're real flowers, yes; there's about eight hundred of them. So the community --

LEG. NOWICK:

Are you aware of any other agencies in the Babylon area that provides similar services?

MR. PETRUZZO:

Not in Babylon Village, no, that's just strictly us. And again, the Village of Babylon itself does fund some of those flowers and things like that because there are a lot, but we provide most of the funding for that.

LEG. NOWICK:

So then you do receive money from the town?

MR. PETRUZZO:

We don't, no.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, no? Okay.

MR. PETRUZZO:

No, no, no, we don't all.

LEG. NOWICK:

Village, other than the County?

MR. PETRUZZO:

No, only the County once in a while, but no, everything else that we -- we just raise through the community.

LEG. NOWICK:

How much funding do you receive from the County?

MR. PETRUZZO:

It varies, in past years we've received anywhere from like \$10,000 a year or \$30,000, but those grants were very specific and they were for like economic development. We actually purchased like lamp post lighting, lamp posts in the village, so they were very specific; that did not go towards plantings.

LEG. NOWICK:

It did not.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Not the County money, no. They were very specific grants that were written and they were -- went directly toward buying, you know, lamp posts, lighting for the village, for the Business District.

LEG. NOWICK:

So the money that you receive from the County really doesn't go for the beautification as far as flowers go and plantings.

MR. PETRUZZO:

That's correct, right, it just went for those specific things.

LEG. NOWICK:

So then --

LEG. ALDEN:

Legislator Nowick, would you suffer one interruption?

LEG. NOWICK:

Surely.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is that through the Downtown Revitalization Program?

MR. PETRUZZO:

I believe so, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. PETRUZZO:

So they were very specific what they were for.

LEG. NOWICK:

And so the consequences of not receiving County funding would be that these particular projects would not be --

MR. PETRUZZO:

Right, exactly. We would still be able to fund our plantings but we wouldn't be able to do anything like that into the village, anything specific for economic development or for the Business District.

LEG. NOWICK:

Did you get any money in 2006?

MR. PETRUZZO:

I think we received \$10,000.

LEG. NOWICK:

You did, okay.

MR. PETRUZZO:

Yes. And it depends on how -- when they were written and when we record them, but I believe we did, and the year before I think we received more. I think this year we're -- I think we're getting -- we're up for something like \$2,000 that we're working on now.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is that also for a specific project?

MR. PETRUZZO:

It is, I think it's for a specific project, I just received the paper work that I have to complete.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's probably a CSI.

LEG. NOWICK:

And then you do not receive funding from either the Federal, State, Town or Village?

MR. PETRUZZO:

No, we don't.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. I might as well keep going, right?

LEG. ALDEN:

Go ahead.

MR. PETRUZZO:

We're strictly funded by the community.

LEG. NOWICK:

Do you have fund-raisers?

MR. PETRUZZO:

We do, we have membership drives and chances that we sell. And again, we're very small, our annual budget, if we have a grant, is somewhere around \$100,000, if that, so. And then we have one annual fund-raiser a year in the fall, it's a country fair that we work with the village and we raise a lot of money and it's all community volunteers, so that's really our big fund-raiser.

LEG. NOWICK:

And approximately how much do you raise at that fund-raiser?

MR. PETRUZZO:

I think we net about \$30,000, so the gross is probably around 70 or so, and that really -- we use that to really buy the flowers with it, you know, for the village and then whatever else we do.

LEG. NOWICK:

And there are no administrative expenses.

MR. PETRUZZO:

We have some insurance that we have to carry.

LEG. NOWICK:

What percent of your total -- what's your total budget?

MR. PETRUZZO:

If we have a grant, it's probably around \$100,000; it could be a little bit less if we don't get any grant money. So anywhere from probably 98,000 to a little over \$100,000 a year.

LEG. NOWICK:

And your administrative expenses?

MR. PETRUZZO:

They're about a few thousand dollars and it's really insurance, so it's -- say under 5% of the budget.

LEG. NOWICK:

And of course your CEO does not -- you don't have a CEO, so.

MR. PETRUZZO:

We don't have a CEO, right. Again, we don't have any employees, so we have zero salary expense which is nice, it's all volunteers in the village, it's a nice organization.

LEG. NOWICK:

All right. So listen, I can't get my petunias to grow, can you help me out?

MR. PETRUZZO:

Well, you know, it's interesting. The village has a specific truck that they donate to the community and they go around and they water all the flowers and they actually pay for that, the village itself does, so the community is very involved. So, you know, I don't personally know what to do about your petunias, but --

LEG. NOWICK:

I think that we have an idea of what the --

MR. PETRUZZO:

Yeah, right. I mean, we're just a small organization.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Ask him about the Cut Worms.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, oh, the Presiding Officer is having a problem with the Cut Worms; don't you just step on them or something? What is a Cut Worm?

P.O. LINDSAY:

You've got to find them first. They're green things that eat the whole plant.

LEG. ALDEN:

We've got to bring Cornell back in.

LEG. NOWICK:

Are you talking about inch worms?

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, they're fat worms that they just --

LEG. MONTANO:

What's the name of them, cut worms?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think so. We're getting distracted; thank you. Frank, I don't think we have anything else for you. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to come down and chat with us, you've been most helpful. You, like many, many organizations in Suffolk County, is what makes our County great because of your volunteerism.

MR. PETRUZZO:

We thank you. And we also are grateful for any funds that we've received over the years, so it's really our privilege to come here and answer any questions. So thank you again.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you. Bye-bye.

LEG. NOWICK:

Quality of life, right?

MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes. Middle Country Public Library; Sandra?

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes, yes. I'm Sandy Feinberg, or Sandra Feinberg, Director of the Middle Country Public Library --

P.O. LINDSAY:

How are you?

MS. FEINBERG:

Hi -- in Centereach and Selden, and this is Sharon Breen and she's the Assistant Director. Barbara Jordan was taking care of her grand baby, she would have been with me, she does a lot of the fiscal part, but I think I can answer everything and if I can't I can get back to you on it; I didn't want to hold up the whole process.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just missed your name.

MS. BREEN:

Sharon Breen.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, the first standard question, of course, is a brief description of your agency, but it's pretty self-evident that you run the library. What areas does Middle Country cover, what communities?

MS. FEINBERG:

We serve directly about 60,000 residents in Selden, about 90% of Centereach, half of Lake Grove and about 10% of Coram, right in the middle of the Island. It's a big district, about 11,000 students.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And how many employees does the library have?

MS. FEINBERG:

We have three hundred and -- a little over 300 employees, 55 are full-time. We run two buildings and they open, you know, considerable hours, so most of it is manning the floor, literally, you know, being on the floor.

We also, in addition to running the local public library services, we run a national program with the Americans for Libraries Council called Family Place and we do outside fund-raising for that. We train librarians from around the country and also on Long Island, and we provide technical assistance to help them design children services. And we also oversee the community resource database of Long Island which the County does provide funding for, but I'm not sure you have that contract there with you because it passes through the Suffolk Cooperative Library System but it passes right to us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What we have is --

MS. FEINBERG:

The teen services?

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- like \$17,226, that was for a specific program.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes. Well, it's actually to help underwrite our teen services. We have been doing a lot of work with the teens in the district and with the school district to try to provide alternative programs in the library during, you know, after school hours and during the summer time. You know, we've developed a whole Drop-In Teen Center and certainly with this money it's helped us do that.

We're doing a lot of outreach, we work with the Selden -- very closely with Selden/Centereach Youth Association, trying to co-staff the Drop-In Center. You know, the kids in our district really have very, very little to do, just like a lot of the kids on Long Island, especially after school, we're trying to get them off the streets. We work a lot with the Police Department and this money provides salaries to help us underwrite a lot of those efforts.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How long has that program been going on?

MS. FEINBERG:

Well, we really did the building expansion in 2000 based on increasing our services to teens, so I would say the big thrust has been since, what, about 2002, maybe 2001, and Joe helped us get a member item grant initially and then got us in to the County budget.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And that's just -- there's other County funding that isn't indicated here that's pass-thru?

MS. FEINBERG:

Right, that's just the teen services funding, but I didn't want you -- I wanted you to understand that you also give \$45,000 to -- for the Community Resource Database of Long Island and that's been -- you've been supporting that since 1991 through various ways, not for that much money but through various -- you know, through the Department of Social Services. We've received I think one year for that particular program, Vivian Fisher give us a member item so we would do outreach to the high schools on the database so they would -- you know, we could go right into the schools and educate the teens.

The database is a Long Island database that's supported by Suffolk and Nassau County by the same amount. United Way, the Middle Country Library and our foundation raises anywhere from, I would say five -- 15,000 to about 30,000 a year to support the database.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And that's pass-thru through a contract with Social Services, is that --

MS. FEINBERG:

No, it's actually in the general --

P.O. LINDSAY:

The resource center.

MS. FEINBERG:

I just went to meet with the Budget Director for Technology -- I forget his name now, I'm sorry, I'm just blanking out; Sharon Cates-Williams?

MS. BREEN:

Doug Miller?

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes, Doug Miller, and that money goes -- is in their department; I think that's General Services or Technology or something like that.

And I just spoke with Dennis Nowak because they're considering moving it over to the Department of Social Services, but it's always been with General Services. And I don't understand why it goes through the Cooperative Extension -- Cooperative Library System, except when it was first done Paul Greenberg insisted it had to go that way, I really -- I never understood it, but I don't understand all of how the County works with the --

LEG. ALDEN:

We don't either.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We don't either.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, we don't.

MS. FEINBERG:

Okay. We just always hope we get our contract.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And we all agree on that.

MS. FEINBERG:

But I have to say, you know, Joe, anybody we deal with personally who has always supported the projects has been wonderful to work with, you know. You know, the Legislators and the people that work for them have always been very supportive, so.

LEG. ALDEN:

See, that end of it we understand.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

But it's just that when you get to the other end where they want to put certain things and other types of restrictions and things of that nature.

MS. FEINBERG:

And I'm sorry, we did receive another \$12,000 as a member item grant, I don't know if you're interested in that, but that we received this year through Economic Development because we did a documentary on the library. The library -- you might not be familiar because it's not your local library, but it really is a nationally recognized model and we did a documentary on our outreach services and our coalition building efforts with other health and human service agencies, other organizations that work with families. And because libraries are going through a lot of transition and they're looking to firm up their roles in the local community and we really stand out as a model. So the documentary we did was supported, Joe and Vivian actually gave us some money along with -- it actually was totally funded except for some money from the library, mostly through -- collected through the foundation or other outside funds, and so we're just using that now to promote the library.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much is your total budget?

MS. FEINBERG:

About twelve-and-a-half million. And we receive -- I actually got a little bit of information, I think we get about -- usually we raise about \$550,000 outside of our local taxes and local resources.

LEG. ALDEN:

Five hundred and fifty thousand?

MS. FEINBERG:

Uh-huh.

LEG. ALDEN:

What type of fund-raisers do you do?

MS. FEINBERG:

Well, some of the -- we have a golf outing, which doesn't raise as much as we'd like it to raise. We do a lot of fund-raising, again, in cooperation with other agencies, so we work with two other family support organizations and do a golf outing. We run a Women's Expo which is a big trade fair for women entrepreneurs who are really small, let's say, vendors or people who create things in their homes and we're trying to increase their skills so they can, you know, develop better skills to be trades people, they might do jewelry or -- we run that in the library with the Long Island Fun for Women and Girls, and then we do another Distinguished Speaker Series Fund-raiser.

We raise about maybe only 40,000 in actual fund-raisers, most of our outside money comes through grants, we write a lot of grants, and then we get -- we get money when we provide technical support to other libraries. Like, we have a big contract with the County of Los Angeles because they want to do their Family Place Program in 90 of their branches, so that's like an ongoing revenue;

Pennsylvania is up to about 50 library sites. They actually pay the library to provide training and technical assistance.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So you mentioned you do get a lot of grants, though, from Federal, State; that would be program-type income, though, what you just mentioned.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just straight grants from the Federal or State; could you put a number on it, or you don't get any?

MS. FEINBERG:

All we get is direct access money from the State as a public library and that's about 16,000 a year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So the biggest part of the twelve-and-a-half million comes from --

MS. FEINBERG:

Is taxes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- the tax, the library tax, okay.

MS. FEINBERG:

It's just all our outside projects which would be like the database or Family Place that we have to raise all the money for that, because the local tax dollars wouldn't -- would not want to pay for that.

LEG. ALDEN:

But if I ask you a question that's on the -- and it's one of the questions we ask everyone that comes in here; are you aware of any agencies that provide similar services to the same population? So library services, no, but when you start getting into outreach, you say you partner up with almost every -- you've covered almost every base that I could think of in a community.

MS. FEINBERG:

Right. The school -- well, the only other -- schools and the teen -- the Selden/Centereach Youth Association are the -- and the schools are just beginning to do after school, a lot of after school, we partner with them and the Selden/Centereach Youth. Those were the only people or groups that provide any real services, except the sports, a lot of sports groups provide services to the kids.

LEG. ALDEN:

But you partner up with women's business opportunities?

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes, oh, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So you're fairly like almost -- you know, you touch on almost every aspect of the community.

MS. FEINBERG:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MS. FEINBERG:

We rarely do things alone. I mean, we don't try to duplicate. We'll look, if we want to provide a

service, it's usually because it's not there at all. Otherwise, we wouldn't provide it or we'll give space to somebody if they need it, you know, that kind of thing.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, when you say a student Drop-In Center; you provide counseling or you provide resources or a little bit of both?

MS. BREEN:

We provide programming every Friday night, we started with a Friday night series, now we're up to three nights a week during school. We have a skill-building where we're working with Selden/Centereach Youth Association, high school students, 10th and 11th grade, volunteer their time to work on skill-building, reading, spelling, with children in K through 5th grade. We're up to about a hundred high school students, and even more than that, school-age students coming every semester. So we have a teacher and a librarian who work in that arena every Monday and Tuesday, there's 80 students every -- 45 students every semester. We do that, we have programs, large events like Battle of the Bands, we do a play every summer, we have dances that we do. We have a computer place that we offer drop-in for the students and we are about to -- we are trying to open as an open drop-in time on the afternoons during the summer from 1 to 5, and we can't stay open unless we have staff members in that space.

LEG. ALDEN:

Most of that's alternatives to hanging out on the street.

MS. BREEN:

Exactly.

LEG. ALDEN:

But you don't have something where somebody drops in and you give them counseling for whatever, like if they're having a problem with a gang or they're thinking about suicide or something like that?

MS. FEINBERG:

Well, we don't provide -- we -- the librarians aren't qualified to do that kind of counseling. What we have done is we've just started -- you're going to think I'm really -- we've started a new partnership with Family Service League and they provide a social worker on-site and we have her up to 28 hours a week, and so now she's bridging over to the teens and actually is even helping some of our seniors; that's been working very effectively. They were actually going to open a family center which would have been another building -- you know, I don't know if you know, but that's where a lot of money goes into, overhead -- and we suggested they try to do their services right on-site, and that seems to be working very effectively.

LEG. ALDEN:

See, one of the things we're trying to do is if we can provide continuity of services for everybody in Suffolk County and you've got a model that might work, you know, in Legislator Montano's district or Legislator Nowick's or mine, we'd like to see our money going to things that are going to provide, you know, uniform-type of coverage and you guys are linking in, I like that, the partnership end of it.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes. Well, now the Hagadorn Foundation, I don't know if you know Amy and Horace Hagadorn, they're large funders on Long Island, they were based basically in Nassau County. Horris just passed away about three years ago but he had started, gave a lot of money and they started a foundation, Amy runs it, and they're going to fund us to do that model, the Family Service League model in Wyandanch and the Riverhead Public Libraries, along with Family Place. And I find that very dynamic, because it's getting libraries to think out of the box too. You know, you have to be willing to say, "We'll let other groups in and we trust," you know, you build up trust, but it works. The Family Place --

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, some communities don't do that, though.

MS. FEINBERG:

Huh?

LEG. ALDEN:

Some libraries won't do that, they stay pretty tight.

MS. FEINBERG:

Right, you have to keep working at it.

LEG. ALDEN:

And they actually -- I find them cutting their hours and to strange times, when kids are out of school then they cut their hours and they're on vacation time; I don't know if you guys follow that model either.

MS. FEINBERG:

Oh, no, no, no. Well, we don't have Sundays in the summer, we can't. We want to go the beach -- I'm sorry, no, I'm only teasing. We haven't done it. One library is doing Sundays in the summer, but I would have to get my staff to stretch for Sundays, that would be a lot, so I'll think about that. It probably would work because people like air-conditioning.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, it's nice, too, because you look at a resource like that and if they're going to be closed, you know, after 9 to 5, you know, you kind of don't need that because --

MS. FEINBERG:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- you need the extra, I guess, place for a kid to go or even the parents to go. Like if you're at work 9 to 5 and then you come home and the library is closed, too, because everybody in the library worked 9 to 5, that's kind of -- you know, what the idea would be.

MS. FEINBERG:

Right. I think in Suffolk County you're very fortunate. I don't know which districts you're in, you know, which actual -- your library districts, but I think a lot of the libraries are really stretching everything to become more relevant, I mean, really, much more community centers. So I have a list, we have -- Family Place, that's what Family Place does, that's actually what we work on, collaboration and working with other family service organizations and trying to reach parents of very young children, babies and infants and toddlers.

But that concept helps libraries make a big transition into becoming community centers, and once they do that, they seem to be working a lot. We try to get them to not replicate what's there and we try to get them out of their four walls, so they're not silos, so they say, "I'm related to all of the community."

And yes, we would love to share those models, but we do, we work at it very hard. But your money -- I can tell you with the teens, it's helped us do a lot of new and to test new things, too, and you just can't do that all the time? You know, you have to really have -- a little extra resources really help, and Joe's been a great supporter, I have to say, Joe Caracappa.

MS. BREEN:

We also -- talk about cutting hours, we expand hours with the teen services because we don't

close -- although we close at 9, we stay open to 10 or 11 if we're doing events, like the battle of the bands and the plays.

MS. FEINBERG:

Right.

MS. BREEN:

So we're working longer with them because that's when they're out, so we're accommodating that need for that audience.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just a comment, Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just a comment. It's funny that you said that because yesterday I had the Director of my library, which is the Smithtown Library, I had the new Director in and we were talking and his comment was that a library is not just a library anymore, it's cultural, and he would like it to be called the community center. It's just what you said, of course, but the library is -- and let me just ask you one other question. What percent -- what is your overall budget and what percent of that budget goes to administrative expenses?

MS. FEINBERG:

I tried to look and I actually brought up my audit. And I'm sorry, I have to apologize, I've been traveling so I pulled it out this morning to do percentages. I think, I want to say -- I'm sorry, the overall budget was twelve-and-a-half million and I think, I want to say maybe five to 7% was administrative cost. I just added up all the Director and Assistant Director and my Administrative Assistant. We don't spend a lot of money administratively, it's mostly program cost, mostly direct service to the people on the floor, you know.

LEG. NOWICK:

And I assume the Director does not get more than 20% of the agency's total budget.

MS. FEINBERG:

No, I'm the Director and I get about 1%.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. FEINBERG:

One point three percent, I think, of the overall budget, 155,000.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is yours.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:

Quick question. Your address says here Eastwood Boulevard, but you're actually off Middle County Road I think; are you?

MS. FEINBERG:

We have a branch on Middle County Road, that's in Selden.

LEG. MONTANO:

Oh, that's the other --

MS. FEINBERG:

Everybody thinks that's our building but our building is behind Wal-Mart and the Centereach Mall there.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay, right. Because I attended one of your graduations at the Middle Island -- No, the Country Road address or Middle Island --

MS. FEINBERG:

Middle County Road?

LEG. MONTANO:

Middle Country Road, that's correct. Right, I think that was -- you mentioned the Family Service League; were they running a parenting program about two years ago?

MS. FEINBERG:

Oh, I know, you're thinking Cooperative Extension. They run a credentialing program for family development credentials, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. And that's run out of your --

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's run out of your other branch, okay.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes. Yeah, that's it, yeah. Now, we offer our space a lot. We have twelve meeting rooms, some of them are just small for like three or four people, but some -- we have two large ones, and we try to share our space with people who don't have space, you know. Because we're very central, too, so you can kind of get there easy and, you know, you don't get too lost.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right, right. Okay, well, I was struck, it actually is a large facility, I know I had to talk around the back.

MS. FEINBERG:

Oh, yeah. The Selden building is about 30,000 square feet and the Centereach one is 77,000 square feet; we're the largest library on Long Island, really. You all should come and visit, I would love to have you come and visit.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody have anything else? Thank you very much, Ladies, for coming in. And thank you for the work that you do for us and for our communities, and your enthusiasm is catching.

MS. FEINBERG:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And I hope some of our other library systems emulate what you guys are doing over there.

MS. FEINBERG:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome.

MS. FEINBERG:

Thank you very much for your support.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All right. And we're in new ground here, we've never been here before, we're early. Our next person is not due until eleven o'clock.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good, because I have to do something anyway.

LEG. NOWICK:

Coffee is being made, I think.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Coffee is being made.

LEG. NOWICK:

We can do that.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK

P.O. LINDSAY:

Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. Hi, Ladies. How are you doing? We were a little early today, which is like new ground for us. Ah, here we go, two of my Legislators went to get a cup of coffee.

Miron Ebanks?

MS. EBANKS:

That's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Hi, Miron. How are you? And you folks are from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, the Family Court Waiting Room Program specifically. Maybe, Miron, you could introduce your associates.

MS. EBANKS:

Okay. To my left is Songhi Scott, she's our Chief Financial Officer. And I'm Chief of Staff Miron Ebanks. And to my right is Lucy Fortunato and she is the Director at the nursery.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, very good. I'm familiar with your program. But maybe for the benefit of my colleagues you could give us a brief description of your agency and the programs and what population you serve. And, what, you know, geographically is it just a Suffolk program or do you do a similar thing in other -- in our adjoining county or whatever. So if you could do that for us, I'd appreciate it.

MS. EBANKS:

Okay. The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk is a multi-service agency that has been providing services to the community for over 40 years. Our mission really is to promote a goal of self-sufficiency by broadening the minds of children, revitalizing communities and assisting families and children in need through coordination of available federal, state, local and private resources.

EOC of Suffolk has eight locations throughout Suffolk. We have a location in Greenport. We have one in Riverhead. We have one in Patchogue. We have a location in Bay Shore. We also have a location in Amityville. So we're throughout Suffolk County.

We also do provide services to residents of Nassau County for HIV cobra case management services. That's pretty much the only service that we provide in Nassau County. We also have an HIV transportation services which is specifically Suffolk County also.

I'll just give you probably a two minute synopsis of each of our program and what it does. We have a Family Development Program. And the goal of our Family Development Program is to improve working skills. We try to work with families to become more self sufficient, experience personal growth. We have a lot of people in our case load who have relationship issues which between parents and children. We work with them to resolve some of those issues.

Also in this program we help individuals to do their taxes free. So it's really becoming more self sufficient where -- for example, we do a re-entry program also under this contract where individuals are coming out of prison. And we help them to become more self sufficient so they can get employment and so they can be integrated back into society. We have HIV services. We have HIV prevention services where we do a lot of education to individuals throughout Suffolk County on safer sex negotiation skills so as not to spread the virus. We have case management services where we help to get individuals who are HIV positive connected with a primary care services whether that be mental health, substance abuse or primary care physician services just in case -- just to take better care of themselves. We have transportation services for people again who are HIV positive throughout Suffolk County. And these services take them to medical, mental health, pharmacy and substance abuse.

In addition to that we also have OMRDD services where we work with individuals who are mentally retarded on different levels. We have individuals that we work with where we try to integrate them into our community where we take them to the stores, we show them how to do their food shopping, how to prepare a meal, how to set their table. Where some individuals who are more high functioning where he have them volunteering in the community so that they're integrated and is part of the community.

We also have a respite program within the OMRDD where individual, you know, give mom and dad a break where individuals can come to the center and we do skill building exercises with them.

In addition to OMRDD, we do provide child care services as well. We have a child care center in Montauk which is the first child care center in Montauk itself. And we also have a child care center in Patchogue. And the goal of our child care center is we have extensive education in developmental curriculum. We have state of the art learning and play facilities. Our teachers are trained and we do provide nutritional snacks for all the children in our day-care.

I spoke about transportation. We have transportation services. We have approximately, I would say, probably 400 individuals who access our transportation services, mental health, substance abuse and primary care services.

We also have housing program where we purchase foreclosed homes. We rehab them and then sell them to first time home buyers. We also offer mortgage and budget counseling; and first time home buyers club, we also have. We are also acquiring county owned foreclosed properties through local townships for development for affordable homes.

And I would say that's an overview of the services that's provided by EOC of Suffolk in addition to family court. In family court, again, is quality child care. We have toys, we have games, nutritional snacks. We provide parents with information and referral. The Family Court gives the court officials the opportunity to conduct business in such a way that the children are not involved in that and they don't have to see the conflict necessarily between mom, dad or whoever, whatever is going on. We have them in a safe environment where they're able to have a creative day, a day of fun rather than a day of being emotionally involved. And that's an overview of our program at EOC of Suffolk.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And that's just it; Central Islip, right?

MS. EBANKS:

The family court is just at -- that's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right. And I think we all also visited the facility at Central Islip, which is a lovely facility. You do really do a great job.

MS. EBANKS:

Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Presiding officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

This is the room downstairs, right, or is this the one upstairs, the reading room?

MS. FORTUNATO:

This is on the one on the first floor of the family court.

LEG. ALDEN:

You're on the first floor?

MS. EBANKS:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

This is different from that, that reading program.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I got it confused with the child care facility on the second floor.

MS. FORTUNATO:

Okay. That's the one in the district court.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Pardon?

MS. FORTUNATO:

That's the one in the District Court.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Pardon?

MS. FORTUNATO:

That's the one in District Court.

LEG. ALDEN:

The District Court, right.

LEG. MONTANO:

They're in Family Court.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

How many employees does your agency have?

MS. EBANKS:

Eighty-two employees.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you have a breakdown; full-time, part-time?

MS. SCOTT:

We have approximately 52 full-time employees. The additional 30 employees work within our child care programs in Montauk and East Patchogue. And those are flexible works -- workforce which work according to enrollment within the day.

LEG. ALDEN:

Other agencies that provide similar service, are you aware of any? Do you partner with any?

MS. EBANKS:

Any specific area you're looking at or all service areas mentioned?

LEG. ALDEN:

Overall? You have an HIV prevention. There's other agencies that actually are being funded by the county to do HIV prevention. Do you partner with any of them?

MS. EBANKS:

Yes, we do partner with other HIV service providers because the need is so phenomenal and so great that one agency would not be able to meet the needs of the County. Yeah, we do have bilateral agreements with them where we do come together to make sure that services are not duplicated, but that we just enhance what each other are doing in the County.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Because almost everyone of them, like Family Development Programs, you know, there's other agencies that we actually supply money to that do the same thing. How does your agency

work? Is it on -- are people referred to you by county agencies? Are they referred by local agencies, hospitals or --

MS. EBANKS:

A mixture of everything, actually. We have individuals who are referred by friends, word of mouth, health centers, other service providers as well. The needs of the individual sometime might be specific. It could be sometimes why would someone come to EOC -- let's say someone needed a bi-lingual person as your case manager; what might have gone to another service provider that didn't necessarily have a bi-lingual team then they would do that referral to EOC as another service provider if they felt the need of the individual could be better met.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So it's other agencies have to be aware of you and what your strengths and weaknesses are then, I guess, refer --

MS. EBANKS:

Absolutely.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- the appropriate person.

MS. EBANKS:

In our proposal writing and in everything we do, we do have to give an account of services within -- within the County to ensure that there's no duplication of services; and at the same time to show the relationship between ourselves and other serve providers.

LEG. ALDEN:

So health and human resources, you pretty much deal -- do you deal with our health department because of the HIV?

MS. EBANKS:

Yes, we do.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Then the rest of it would through Social Services?

MS. EBANKS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Pretty much. And housing programs, you said you buy and refurbish houses?

MS. EBANKS:

That's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

So you're dealing with a lot of the community development agencies in different towns or you do it on your own mainly?

MS. EBANKS:

No, we have relationship with the rest of -- actually our Director for Housing. And unfortunately she's not here. She's the chair of the housing network in Suffolk County where they meet on a monthly basis. I'm not sure if this is -- I'm not getting the specific question that you're asking me here.

MS. SCOTT:

I might -- I might be able to assist. We do have relationships that we foster with the townships so

that we can receive donated properties from their tax rolls. I know that we're working currently with the Town of Brookhaven to receive some properties.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Now, let's go from there. Brookhaven would have a piece of property that they get -- might have even gotten from us for non-payment of taxes. They would call upon you and you would actually go in there and refurbish the property or rebuild a house?

MS. EBANKS:

It would go to the township and then the township would, you know, I guess, give it to whichever agency whether it's a profit or not-for-profit agency to develop. We would then go, refurbish the house. And then that house would be sold to a first time home buyer person at affordable price.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Where do you get the money to refurbish the house?

MS. SCOTT:

We have -- we have relationships with builders. And we have our own surplus funds that we can use to finance the projects. So we have funding.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, I'm just asking, you know, to find out how you work because I actually worked at the Town of Islip, the CDA for a number of years. Now you also mentioned transportation. Do you contract out or do you own vans?

MS. EBANKS:

We actually have two company vans. And we're funded through United Way. We also work with approximately five cab companies throughout the County. So it's a mixture of both.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you have audited results on those rides?

MS. SCOTT:

Audited results on that specific program?

LEG. ALDEN:

On any of the programs. I'll tell you where I'm going there, because Suffolk County is a large county. And we have a lot of needs. And again if we see something that's working for your group, we might want to transport that and use it as a model to develop other areas of the County. For instance, in the east end where in Montauk where you have your day-care center, if we have a veteran that needs to go for an x-ray or for some kind of special test, where does he go? If he's going to go over the VA, that's all the way in Northport. Or if he can get to a county center or if he can go to some -- there's a transportation need in that regard. So if you got a model that we might be able to, you know, take and use -- and duplicate somewhere else, and if it's, you know, inexpensive or if it's more cost effective than what we're doing now, that might be something -- because I've been an advocate actually for -- for our transportation special needs rides, you know, for a long time, it -- partner up with care companies, you know, rather than run our bus routes because some of our bus routes run, you know, 90% of the time with no one on them. And then there's only, you know, like maybe one or two riders. And if they had specific needs and we can do it with a cab, you know, it'd be a lot cheaper than putting a bus out there.

MS. EBANKS:

One of the things that we do to make it also cost effective is that with the two vans that we have, we use those for our very long distance trips. If somebody was going from Montauk and had to go to Stony Brook, we would not use a cab company because of the sheer cost of it. We would use one of our vans. So we do have different strategies that we use to keep it affordable.

MS. SCOTT:

And just to add to that, we do have policies and procedures and we have a system that has been working for over ten years. We have a computerized automated process for which we dispatch, track and monitor trips.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much actual money do you receive from Suffolk County?

MS. SCOTT:

Direct funding? Specifically from --

LEG. ALDEN:

Suffolk County

MS. SCOTT:

The County? That would be the child care contract which is \$136,119 for fiscal year 2007.

LEG. ALDEN:

For '06?

P.O. LINDSAY:

'07.

LEG. ALDEN:

'07?

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's for the court child chair program.

MS. SCOTT:

Sorry?

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's for the child care center in the courts.

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, are you aware of any other monies that EOC gets from Suffolk County?

MS. SCOTT:

Indirect or direct funding? Because it really -- we have -- the direct funding is only through the family court playroom. We have indirect funding for other programs that that -- as a percentage might be considered county funding. But based upon our A-1 33 audits and the way things are placed, the direct funding --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is that like pass through monies; state money that's passed through Social Services and stuff like that?

MS. EBANKS:

Yes, correct.

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

MS. EBANKS:

That's correct.

MS. SCOTT:

So it's not direct.

LEG. ALDEN:

So the direct result of the county cutting the 136,1 -- whatever it is, it's almost \$137,000 would be that you'd have to close the child care center at the CI courtroom; is that a fair statement?

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

How long has that program been in existence?

MS. SCOTT:

I think since 1994. I've been with the agency since 1994. I have results here that I brought with me from '96 forward, but it could even be prior to that. We would have to confirm that for you but it's at least 12 years.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's good.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's good. We were just trying to get an idea whether it was yesterday or a lot of yesterdays ago. And do you run your own fundraisers? Outside fundraisers?

MS. SCOTT:

Yes, our board does handle fundraising for the agency.

LEG. ALDEN:

And any idea approximation of how much you bring in?

MS. SCOTT:

For fiscal year 2000 it's estimated that fund raising will bring in \$18,653 of our agencies total \$6.2 million budget.

LEG. ALDEN:

So \$6.2 million budget, that's a lot of federal. Do you have break down of how much you get from the feds and how much you get from the state?

MS. SCOTT:

Yes. Our federal funding is 33.48% of our budget, \$2,98,000. Our state funding is 32.67% of our budget, \$2,47,000. And we have local funding which make up 31.68% of our budget, \$1.985 million. And then our county funding is 2.17% of our budget, \$136,000.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. I'm still just a little confused. You got federal two point something million. You got state a little over two million. You said local?

MS. SCOTT:

Local.

LEG. ALDEN:

1.98.

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

What's local, though?

MS. SCOTT:

Local is our fundraising, our Montauk Child Care Center, our Tutor Time Day Care Center.

LEG. ALDEN:

Program income would be included in that. Okay.

MS. SCOTT:

Right, program. United Way and unrestricted funding. It's not directly through the County.

LEG. ALDEN:

And what percentage of your overall budget goes toward administrative expenses?

MS. SCOTT:

Our administrative expenses 11.2% of our budget.

LEG. ALDEN:

Does all your CEO make more than 20% of the agencies total budget.

MS. SCOTT:

No, he doesn't; but he wishes he did.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's been a uniform, same answer; pretty much uniformly supplied.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is his salary? What's his salary?

LEG. ALDEN:

Roughly.

MS. SCOTT:

His salary?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah.

MS. SCOTT:

Right, I can't really --

MS. EBANKS:

We could probably provide it for you.

MS. SCOTT:

We could provide it for you.

MS. EBANKS:

Because we have line staff also sitting at the table. It's a little --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Because you have what sitting at the table? I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

MS. EBANKS:

Different level management.

MS. SCOTT:

We don't share that with everyone within our agency. We know that it's public information but I would not want to state it at this point. We can provide it for you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. That's fine.

LEG. NOWICK:

Put it on a piece of paper.

LEG. ALDEN:

Have you been audited by Suffolk County?

MS. SCOTT:

Yes, we have records checked every year by Suffolk County for the family court playroom.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Anybody have anything else? Thank you very much, ladies, for coming in. I appreciate it.

MS. EBANKS:

Thank you for having us.

LEG. MONTANO:

Do you have any questions of us?

MS. SCOTT:

No, just that we provided all the information that you need.

LEG. MONTANO:

You have. Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Excellent job.

MS. EBANKS:

Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

How many kids do you have actually provide day-care for? Just an approximation?

MS. SCOTT:

You mean yearly?

LEG. ALDEN:

What ever way you want to break it town.

MS. FORTUNATO:

2400. That's unduplicated.

LEG. ALDEN:

2400 kids for the year?

MS. FORTUNATO:

Right. That's Central Islip Family Court.

LEG. MONTANO:

One question. Your contract for this year was executed already?

MS. SCOTT:

It was executed very late. Our contract was executed in May. So the program began in January with no funding, no advance. And payments did not really start to come until the end of May.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me ask you this. You've had this program for -- since 1994. And you say that this year the contract came in late. So in your prior years, you would consider it on time or early; am I accurate in saying that?

MS. SCOTT:

That was extremely late.

LEG. MONTANO:

This was extremely late?

MS. SCOTT:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

In prior years, what would your say the normal contract execution time would be? Would it be in January, February?

MS. SCOTT:

We usually had it early January. Because as an agency we usually do not like to run any programs without an executed contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't blame you. You said if you execute the contract in January, you really don't need an advance, do you? Or do you get an advance with the execution of the contract?

MS. SCOTT:

We need -- we need an advance, but they never have given us an advance on this family court playroom contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right.

MS. SCOTT:

We -- you know, as a larger agency, as we grow, cash flow issues do arise as we grow so it's something that we do need. But we have not been able to obtain from the County.

LEG. MONTANO:

So this year your contract was executed in May and you had no cash flow on this program other

than your own funds until May?

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

And when you got the contract, how much time elapsed between the signing of the contract and the receipt of any funds? Was it simultaneous or --

MS. SCOTT:

Approximately within a week or two because we had all of our claims already submitted. We have a very good relationship with those that process the claims so there wasn't a long delay after the contract execution for the cash to be received.

LEG. MONTANO:

But you essentially had to carry the contract for five months.

MS. SCOTT:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

Do you know -- I'm sorry. Do you know why it was delayed? If you know. And you may not know.

MS. SCOTT:

Well, there were delays in contract approval. The contracts were reviewed and re-reviewed. We got calls with questions on budget lines that never been questioned before. The process was just very slow. It appears -- it appears as though at one point we felt that the contract that had been initially proposed within the budget lines was going to be decreased. But there were a lot of questions. More specific questions than ever in the past about lines within the budget that had been historically in the budget since the program began. We got everything funded within our contract because there wasn't anything in the budget that was inappropriate. But I'm not really sure that that was the case with other agencies.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right.

MS. SCOTT:

But the delays were due to contract review.

LEG. MONTANO:

But aren't the contracts generally the same format? I mean was the contract radically different this year than the contract you had in prior years?

MS. SCOTT:

No different. No different.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. SCOTT:

I know that in 2006 there were some issues with contract process payments and disallowed expenses that had never existed in the past. For instance, if you purchased program supplies and they had shipping on them, they would disallow the shipping charges in 2006. Go figure. I mean you have to -- and they would take it out. And they wouldn't pay it. Little things in 2006 that were inconsistent with prior years started to creep up. And then the 2007 contracting process slowed

down with reviews and reviews of a lot of spending detail. We were also questioned, I think, about insurance. We had an allocated proportion of our liability insurance on the contract. It might have been \$400 out of \$136,000. That was put into question. That's been on the contract historically. We have to have liability insurance to cover the family court playroom in that location. There was a probability put in our mind that that might not have been allowed. But we fought it and it was approved. But that was one of the things that was in question that was holding things up also.

LEG. MONTANO:

With respect to the process, and I'm asking for -- because I had a conversation with another agency head along the same lines so I probably am searching for a particular answer; but just with respect to yourself, now when you're in this negotiation process or when you're being questioned, what format does that take? Do you get a letter from the County saying specify a,b and c or we have questions or do you get a phone call saying justify this, justify that; is it mostly written, is there a paper trail or it is oral?

MS. SCOTT:

There's no paper trail. What would occur is I would call and say where's our contract? You've had it. It's May. We need our money. And then they would say, well, they're being reviewed and there's some questions about such and such and such. Could you give me some more specific information so that I can go back to so and so so that he can decide whether or not he's going to disallow it.

LEG. MONTANO:

I know you don't want to -- could you write those -- could you write "they" and "he" on a piece of paper?

MS. SCOTT:

No, everyone knows who I'm referring to because -- we know what has slowed everything down.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes, we do know. We're aware of that.

MS. SCOTT:

But that was pretty much it. And my -- I guess my contract person was very open and good. And we have a good dialogue. So what she asked me to do was just provide a little verbiage and I'll take it back to so and so and I'll try and push it along. And it worked and we got it. But it was just a long process. But there's no paper trail because if I hadn't solicited the question, I probably would have gotten a contract maybe a month later with deletions in the line.

LEG. MONTANO:

What department are you under? You have answered this before. But your contract falls under which department?

MS. SCOTT:

The Youth Bureau.

LEG. MONTANO:

Youth Bureau? Okay. Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

MS. SCOTT:

You're welcome.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you, ladies.

MS. EBANKS:

Thank you.

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are you ladies with Patchogue, no?

MS. MARGOLIS:

No, Family Counseling Services.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Family Counseling Services?

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Please come forward. Judy Margolis?

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you, Judy, for coming in. I usually start off by just telling everybody why you're here and what we're doing and whatever. I don't think it's any secret, certainly to the not-for-profit community that we've had some differences of opinion over contract agencies and a lot of times the Legislature will put contract agencies back in and the Executive will cut them out and we'll put them back in and it becomes a struggle about the services that the not-for-profit communities supply our citizens. But it -- when we got into this whole issue last year, we found that we literally have hundreds of not-for-profit providing services to the County and we decided to put together this ad hoc committee this year and we've been doing this since January and we probably have interviewed more than a hundred agencies already, just to get a feel where our money is being spent. This isn't something that we intend to do every year, but I guess periodically just to check on ourselves where we're spending our money. So we really appreciate you coming in and chatting with us, you know. Maybe you could introduce your associate for us.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Okay, my name is Judy Margolis, I'm the Executive Director of Family Counseling Services in Westhampton Beach, I've been with the agency probably a year-and-a-half. And the person that's with me is Judy Veccia who's the Comptroller but who's been here 15 years in the agency, so --

MS. VECCIA:

Eighteen.

MS. MARGOLIS:

How many?

MS. VECCIA:

Eighteen.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Eighteen. So we hope that together we'll be able to help you understand what we look like now, what our vision is, what's going on and our financial picture, which I gather is the pieces you're

interested in.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right, but maybe you could start off with a brief description of the agency and the programs, what population you serve and what geographical area you serve for the County.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Okay. We have been in Westhampton Beach for 35 years, so we're now in our 36th year. We have one site in Westhampton Beach, another site in Mastic/Shirley. We are an agency that provides counseling services to adults, children and families, and we have a number of special programs.

The Mental Health Services which we have provide to children, family and adults is something that we are available to all families and all children who need the kinds of services to really deal with mental health problems that are getting in the way of their functioning. We like to look at -- we're the people that come in and help them move on and get on with their lives; sometimes that takes four sessions, sometimes that takes five sessions and sometimes that takes a year, but it all depends in terms of the assessment, the treatment plan and what it looks like.

In our Shirley -- most of it I wrote out for you, but I'm really like highlighting it. In our Shirley office we have a Substance Abuse Program that is funded by OASIS and that serves families, individuals with a drug and alcohol problems; that's mainly where we do our substance abuse program.

We have a number of community funded -- County funded programs that we can go into to tell you what we do that's different, each one is a little bit different and where that money comes from and how that's spent. And we have special projects. One of the special projects is to have a social worker in the Westhampton Beach High School that works directly with the students who were referred to her by the guidance counselor by the Director of Special Ed in self-referral, so the atmosphere is such that Kathy is responsive to students who know she's there, who can come to her and work with her directly. And during the system months when school closes, Kathy moves in to the agency which is like around the block and some of those kids are seen by Kathy during the summer, so it's a 12 month job, it's funded by the high school.

The major concern for our mental health services is psychiatric coverage which is a major problem for Suffolk County. Psychiatrists are not available and when they're available, they're at a very, very high rate of pay. And there is an article that I'd like to bring your attention to that we just took out of yesterday's Newsday quoting Tom MacGilvray in terms of these kinds of outpatient mental health services and the lack of them and the need in Suffolk County, so that we included that for those of you who might not have read the Newsday yesterday so it's -- we did a reprint.

The other special project we have is domestic violence. We have a domestic violence worker who works at our agency in a non-residential domestic violence program which means we do not have a residence. The client come to us, they are provided with counseling in terms of the decisions they want to make in terms of their lives and that's a program that's also funded.

We have a program from developmental -- for the DDSO which is a State agency but funded on a local level where we work with children with associated disorders in social skills groups, services to families, information and referral, and now we are beginning to serve more and more children with Autism which is part of the increasing population throughout New York State.

And the other new initiative which will be coming into play is an initiative from Office of Mental Health which is Child Clinic Plus which we will be operating in the Town of Brookhaven, which will be screening, assessment and treatment which is very new for us, it's also new for New York State and we'll be the agency that has been awarded the grant from OMH to do it in the Town of Brookhaven.

So that's the range of programs and, you know, we basically -- I describe them a little bit more in the printout.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees do you have, Judy?

MS. MARGOLIS:

We probably have 36 now.

MS. VECCIA:

Thirty-six employees and we have five part-time consultants which is how we are able to fill the need for psychiatric and medical supervision, because we hire consultants --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, so the 36 are all full-time.

MS. VECCIA:

Thirty-five combination, full and part-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, you don't have the breakdown on it.

MS. VECCIA:

The part-time staff is approximately 12 and the rest are full-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services to the same population that you guys --

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes, but -- we're aware of the agencies and we could probably identify them for you, but we are the only agency in the Town of Brookhaven that's part of the Youth Bureau that has an OMH license, an Office of Mental Health license, which is -- there are other agencies but they do not have OMH licenses in Town of Brookhaven, so they're not able to serve the range of clients that we can in the Town of Brookhaven.

In Westhampton Beach there is nothing in terms of doing, providing family counseling, except a couple of small -- HUGS, who I know was here before, and they serve a population of acting-out adolescents and we don't serve that population, HUGS serves that population.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What does it mean to have on OMH license; why --

MS. MARGOLIS:

Why is it important to have an OMH license?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Well, I can tell you what the obligations are of an OMH license. It means that we follow and adhere to all the accountability and criteria from New York State. So our agency is set up with rigorous regulations regarding how we keep track of patients, what it looks like when they come, what the treatment plans have to be written, how they're executed and they're constantly reviewed, and we have like a review from OMH like once a month -- once a year.

It also means that we are credible for insurance companies, and Judy can just answer that question

a little bit more. And it also means that we are an agency that can then apply for State programs that come out of Office of Mental Health; you can't do it unless you're an OMH license. Did you want to add anything to that?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go ahead, Legislator Alden.

MS. VECCIA:

It also gives us credibility for Medicaid reimbursement for a population that is otherwise not served or certainly underserved.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's an agency explanation because if you have MSW's working for you, they're licensed by New York State and they have to conform to all those requirements.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Right, it's one step up, it's in terms of one step up. MSW's could come in to an agency and act as if they're conducting their private practice. OMH takes the accountability a couple of -- it notches it up a little bit. And I have to tell you that it's a very rigorous application. I mean, you don't -- you just don't apply and say, "I want to be an OMH license," and have one for your agency. There are agencies -- this was something that took a lot of work to get, so that we have our -- we are an OMH licensed clinic in both Westhampton Beach and in Shirley, and it gave us the way to apply for Child Clinic Plus.

MS. VECCIA:

It also enables us to -- because we're licensed by the State, to see alcohol and substance abuse clients and we are licensed by the State to also do mental health, it helps us to offer the dual diagnosis services that are otherwise not available.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Now, you mentioned that you have a Social worker in Westhampton Beach High School; that's paid for by the school district, right?

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, and then just what you had said is during -- for continuity purposes, they come over to you during the -- when the school is closed?

MS. MARGOLIS:

Well, you can explain how that's done.

MS. VECCIA:

The grant comes from the school. We -- the employee is salaried by us. And yes, the after school, the need for the family counseling, that then become the responsibility of the agency. So she's available in the school during the day to see the children as they need to be seen. It is the type of service that is strictly confidential, there's no sharing outside the arena unless there is an imminent danger solved. So the kids have this freedom to see her. When she needs to involve the family, then the family will come to the agency after school hours in the evening and then they are then engaged by the same Social worker, but she is employed by us, not the school.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, okay. Because the other model is a school, I could think of a lot of schools that have the --

MS. VECCIA:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, is that an MSW that you have or just a social worker?

MS. MARGOLIS:

We right now have an MSW.

LEG. ALDEN:

Doing that, okay. And do you have a number as far as a dollar amount of funding that you receive from the county?

MS. VECCIA:

Yeah, the total County money we receive is \$454,352, the majority of it comes through the Department of Health, the OASIS Program that we have which is \$382,655.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So that's like pass-thru money, it's passed through from the State.

MS. VECCIA:

Correct. And then we also receive funding through the Youth Bureau, Suffolk County Youth Bureau, and that is \$70,640; and then through DSS we have a small grant which we receive \$1,057 and that is County, that's our County contracts.

LEG. ALDEN:

But all that totals up to 455?

MS. VECCIA:

That's correct, it's approximately 30% of our total budget.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, if you didn't receive the County funding, is there any other way that you could make up for those --

MS. VECCIA:

No. As it is now, just to run some figures by you, our total operating budget is \$1.5 million, that's what we're anticipating this year. We operate on a 17% allocation for administrative expenses. Our total government contracts is County, State and town funding, amount to \$714,000; we receive \$11,600 from the United Way, the rest of it comes from our fund-raising, client fees, Medicaid fees and that's the way our budget is put together.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you have it separated out? Because other than programming, do you have just outside fund-raising?

MS. VECCIA:

Yes, our outside fundraising on the average has been \$530,000 a year. I have brought with me the draft of the last two years audit, the 2006 compared to the 2005, but we do average a little over \$500,000 gross fund-raising during the year.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, do you do that at one event or is that --

MS. VECCIA:

No, that's an accumulation of several events, the largest being our summer gala and that usually grosses anywhere between 300 and \$385,000 for the one event. And we put on a golf tournament,

we have our annual holiday party, we have an annual appeal, we put out a newsletter every six months and in that newsletter we always include an envelope for contributions.

LEG. ALDEN:

Who does the newsletter go to, members?

MS. MARGOLIS:

About 7,000 people, that's our -- I'm sure, I mean, I don't recognize the names, but I know that probably it comes to your offices because that's who we send it to; we send it to the school districts and we send it to our donors.

LEG. ALDEN:

But in your catchment areas, do you do a blanket solicitation or an educational piece to, you know, the people in Westhampton Beach or the people in Brookhaven.

MS. MARGOLIS:

We do a lot --

LEG. ALDEN:

That, you know, these are the services we provide, here's some telephone numbers and also, you know, bottom part that if you'd like to make a donation you could --

MS. MARGOLIS:

Right. We have a website, we have a lot of advertising that we get free, pro bono, paid for by somebody at the Southampton Press. We do a lot of stuff with Manorville because we've moving in to -- we're going to have another site in the Town of Brookhaven as a result of child clinic plus. So we do a lot of -- the Westhampton Town does something for us in their little -- you know, in their newsletter.

LEG. ALDEN:

Where would the majority of your referrals come from; word-of-mouth or is it just --

MS. VECCIA:

We actively get referrals through the court system, through probation, through the school districts.

LEG. ALDEN:

And from DSS itself?

MS. VECCIA:

And DSS, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So a clinic, if somebody went to a health center or a health clinic in Suffolk County, they might refer to you?

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes.

MS. VECCIA:

Yes, absolutely.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go ahead.

LEG. MONTANO:

I just want -- good morning. I just wanted to go back to the County portion of the funding, I'm not sure I got the full figures. You said you receive a total County allocation of 454, more or less?

MS. VECCIA:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. That's pass-thru through DOH and the OASIS Program.

MS. VECCIA:

That's correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

Now, the 70,640 from the Youth Bureau, that's included in the 400,000?

MS. VECCIA:

Yes, it is.

LEG. MONTANO:

It is, it is.

MS. VECCIA:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So then -- so we do the math, it's OASIS/DOH is somewhere around three hundred and --

MS. VECCIA:

Eighty-two thousand.

LEG. MONTANO:

-- eighty-two. This 70,000, what is that specifically for and how does that get funded?

MS. VECCIA:

The 70,000 is for a CSW who works strictly with the youth in Suffolk County. It is a non-fee program so we -- and it's not regulated by income, merely by age and address, they have to be living in the catchment area of Suffolk.

LEG. MONTANO:

So that provides a Certified Social Worker, that's a grant for a position?

MS. VECCIA:

Yes, it is a position grant.

MS. MARGOLIS:

Yes, yes. One of the biggest problems we have is with the uninsured and under insured.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. No, I know the reason why, I'm just trying to get the numbers, I understand what it is that you're doing there. So this 70,000, does that -- is that for -- is this person full-time or part-time?

MS. VECCIA:

This is a full-time person, the majority of the grant --

LEG. MONTANO:

So this is for salary, fringe and benefits.

MS. VECCIA:

Correct, correct. And we also have included in that one hour a week, you know, approximately one hour a week of psychiatric evaluation because we have --

LEG. MONTANO:

By the social worker.

MS. VECCIA:

No, by a staff psychiatrist.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right, so this is one social worker and one part-time staff psychiatrist?

MS. VECCIA:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

So there are two people that receive an income from this grant; anything else?

MS. VECCIA:

And also -- yes, a portion of the Clinical Director for the supervision time that she puts in with this counselor.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. VECCIA:

So the --

LEG. MONTANO:

So that's three, that's three people now that are receiving salary and fringe. Does that cover -- does that come up to the 70,000?

MS. VECCIA:

No, it's the majority of it, then we save a small -- a small portion of the grant goes towards the overhead which is the rent, etcetera and so forth.

LEG. MONTANO:

Got you. Right, there's like an administrative override that you take a certain percentage.

MS. VECCIA:

That is correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's small.

MS. VECCIA:

Very small.

LEG. MONTANO:

Now, this grant, if you know, do you know whether or not this particular item was in your -- maybe I'll ask John. John, was this grant in the recommended 2007 budget, or was that something that came through the Omnibus? Do you know what I'm referring to?

MR. ORTIZ:

Yeah, the \$1,000 grant?

LEG. MONTANO:

I know you do, I was asking if they do.

MR. ORTIZ:

No, it wasn't included in Omnibus, it was in the recommended budget.

LEG. MONTANO:

It was in the recommended, okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the last part we have, your total administration expense is 17% and does your CEO make more than 20% of the total budget.

MS. VECCIA:

Our CEO makes less than 7% of our total budget.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Does anybody have anything else? Thank you very much, Ladies, for coming in.

MS. VECCIA:

You're welcome. If I can just make one more comment. We were fortunate enough to come in on the tail-end of the agency that was here before us, and as I -- I've been in the agency for 18 years and this truly was the worst year for contracting and getting money to run these programs. I mean, we are the end of May, the early part of June, we laid out over six months worth of expenses without any money coming in at all.

P.O. LINDSAY:

When did you get your contract?

MS. VECCIA:

Our contract did not come back to us until the end of May, beginning of June, somewhere in there.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And what's the norm?

MS. VECCIA:

The norm, we normally had our contracts back, considering that it was late, in February. So this was the worst year cash-flow wise in all the years I'm at the agency.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, so your contract came back at the end of May and you -- and you applied for reimbursement for the first five months, how did that come in; did that come in quickly once the contract was approved?

MS. MARGOLIS:

It came -- once the contract was signed, yes, the money started, because we had -- again, did the same thing, we had all our claims lined up and ready to be turned in. We did get the advances shortly after because what we did is we vouchered a blank voucher back with the signed contract so they would release our advances. But cash flow wise, this particular year was probably the worst year that I can ever remember. And honestly, what carried us is the fact that we started our fundraising effort much earlier during the year, otherwise we would have been probably looking at a line of credit and then, as you know, interest on lines of credits are not reimbursable. So this was a

tough year for the agencies.

LEG. ALDEN:

Can I interrupt you? Is that comment true for the other program, the pass-thru money also?

MS. VECCIA:

Yeah, we just recently got our OC -- the Office of Children and Family Services, we just got that contract.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's for three hundred eighty some-odd thousand dollars.

MS. VECCIA:

No, that's the OASIS; that big contract, that just came in recently also, held up just as long as the rest were.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just -- and this is just a point that I'm going to make; this is ordinary business in Suffolk County. We refer people to you, that's pass-thru money, it's -- and you didn't just come in to existence yesterday.

MS. VECCIA:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

You've been doing business with the County for how many years?

MS. VECCIA:

Thirty-five years.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thirty-five years, so this is -- it should be pro forma that, you know, we have a budget that we pass in November that, you know, you get your ducks in a row and conduct business in a normal manner.

MS. VECCIA:

Exactly.

LEG. ALDEN:

And there's no reason why people like you and other agencies shouldn't have their money on a timely basis, whether that be January or February, but this is --

MS. VECCIA:

I mean, we turned our budget back around to them back in November, December of last year. Now, they've already asked for the 2008 budget and it's there, so I'm hoping that things will move along much quicker. But --

LEG. ALDEN:

The only thing I can think of, it's the Presiding Officer's fault, as was pointed out at the last meeting.

MS. VECCIA:

Yeah. The Youth Bureau this year were questioning things that were never questioned before. I mean, if I have a budget of \$80,000 and I want to appropriate \$200 towards office supplies, they told me I can't pay for office supplies anymore. I've heard of agencies that have been denied rent. I mean, I don't know how we can continue to run programs that are so needed in Suffolk County when --

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, those kind of -- that makes sense if you're taking some kind of a hallucinogenic drug. But to say that you can cut office supplies and rent out of a program that, you know, those were very necessary to, it's mind-boggling actually.

MS. VECCIA:

Right. Well, this is what we were faced with this year and I think that's what held up the budgets from being approved because it was this type of -- and I'm sorry to use the phrase nitpicking -- that drove us all crazy. And you asked what the communication was; there was no communication. We knew our budgets were being held up, you call, you ask, you hear it's being reviewed, then I get my budget back from the Youth Bureau and this stuff is disallowed. And now I am -- our agency was allowed to put in for insurance, so the consistency this year is not even there. Why is it okay for me to pay liability, this other agency couldn't, but they can get pens and pencils and paper and I can't.

LEG. ALDEN:

And it's a good thing you weren't in the 10th Legislative District.

MS. VECCIA:

So that's all I have to say to you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And it isn't that this was a new program, I mean, these expenses were approvable --

MS. VECCIA:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- year after year after year.

MS. VECCIA:

Absolutely, absolutely. And, you know, I'm looking at 10% of my total budget to go for operating expenses, I don't even think that's unreasonable and yet it is questioned right down to the penny.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me -- are you done, Bill?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, go ahead.

LEG. MONTANO:

You obviously heard the questions of the last group and that's why we're back in this conversation, and from what I'm getting it's the same scenario. Now, you say that this year was the worst. The contract that you signed last year I assume is no different -- well, there's certainly no substantive differences between that contract and the contract you signed this year; is that correct?

MS. VECCIA:

That is absolutely correct. There isn't even a difference in my line item budget, it was exactly the same except for a slight cost of living increase in the salary line, not even in the overhead line but the salary line.

LEG. MONTANO:

And in your budget items, the amounts of money that you requested for pencils, rent, insurance, that really hasn't changed either; I mean, those are the same items that you asked for last year and you had no problems or you didn't have the same problems last year --

MS. VECCIA:
None whatsoever.

LEG. MONTANO:
That you're having this year.

MS. VECCIA:
That is absolutely correct.

LEG. MONTANO:
Do you have an explanation as to -- did anyone explain to you why this year the items that were approved last year, and I gather the year before and the year before that, why have they suddenly become an issue?

MS. VECCIA:
I have no idea.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. I'm actually putting that on the record, I didn't expect you to have any idea.

MS. VECCIA:
You can put it on the record, I have no idea.

LEG. MONTANO:
Thank you very much.

MS. VECCIA:
You're welcome. Thank you all very much.

MARVIN AVERY PALMORE CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Marvin Avery Palmore Center of Hope, Incorporated.

MS. DABNEY:
Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Good morning. Lillian Dabney?

MS. DABNEY:
I am Lillian Dabney.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Hi, Lillian. How are you? First let me apologize, we were on time and even ahead of schedule and we got sidetracked a little bit and we're -- you had to wait a little while.

Before I ask you to introduce your colleagues, Lillian, I've been starting off with an explanation of what this is all about. Some of it became public and in the papers but we've had a difference of opinion over the last year or so of how the Legislature, you know, spends money on not-for-profits and when we started putting the budget together last year, we found that we do business with really hundreds of not-for-profit agencies, big and small. Actually, it was Legislator Alden that suggested that we call in a lot of the agencies and talk to them about what services they're providing and to give us information when we put together the budget primarily. And we have been doing this since January and we probably have interviewed more than a hundred not-for-profits so far this year. And

it's been very informative for us and very productive and, for the most part, our not-for-profit community provides very valuable services to our citizens that the County just couldn't afford to provide if it wasn't for a not-for-profit community.

With that brief explanation, maybe you could introduce your colleagues that are with you today, Lillian.

MS. DABNEY:

Okay, thank you. To my left is our Program Director, Ida Timmons; to my far left is Pastor {Roderick Pearson} who is the Director of the program; and I'm Lillian Dabney, I'm Chair of the Board of Directors for the Center of Hope.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you very much for coming in today. Maybe you folks could describe your agency, the programs you provide our citizens and what population you serve and in what geographical areas of the County.

MS. TIMMONS:

Okay, I'll begin. My name is Ida Timmons, as she said, and I am a Certified Social Worker and Director of the programs. Our major focus is to provide a safe, nurturing and educational environment for the Islip Town community year-round. The services we provide are after school programs for children ages 5 to 15, a summer program for children ages 5 to 12, and a mentoring program that right now is working with teenaged males throughout the year.

The summer -- the after school program is held in the O'Neil School and we provide services for children who probably would have no one to go home to after school because of both parents working. So we provide for them tutoring, completion of homework assignments, also provide snacks for them. And pretty much just have a relationship also with the teachers within the school, if a child is having academic problems, they'll come in and share that with us and we're able to work with those children. We're happy to say that several of those children, as reported by the teachers, have done well in school, improved in all areas in school so, you know, we're really happy about that.

The summer program will be begin July 5th through August 24th and, again, we provide recreational services but also educational services and we make it clear to parents -- again, we're providing services for a lot of parents who again are working, a lot of single-parent homes where they would not have any other place or any other outlet that they could afford for their children to attend. So again, it's a safe atmosphere, it's recreation but it's also educational.

We provide them with reading programs to increase their reading schools. Being a social worker, my emphasis is on social skills and also on life skills; what I mean by that, dealing with their character, working on their character, improving their character, dealing with bullying, such things as bullying that goes on in the school. Life skills, dealing with -- getting them to think about careers and about banking and about college and those kind of things, completing an application, so those are the things that we work with the kids on a daily basis with. I think that kind of sums it up.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is that throughout the Town of Islip or --

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes, we offer those services throughout the Town of Islip. A lot of our referrals come again because we are involved in the after school program. We send out fliers through the children to their parents so many of the referrals that we receive, it was because of parents receiving the fliers during the school year. Also, fliers from DSS, they receive information about us from DSS.

PASTOR PEARSON:

We pretty much service -- we're located in Central Islip, we're working out of two element -- the elementary school, the O'Neil School and the Early Childhood Center in Central Islip, so we're pretty much based in Central Islip, but we offer our services throughout the Town of Islip.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees does the agency have?

MS. TIMMONS:

We have eight employees.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All full-time?

MS. TIMMONS:

They're all part-time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

All part-time.

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So you're part-time as well?

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services to the same population?

MS. DABNEY:

Yes, I believe so. I think we have Pronto and Adelante which serve most of the Latino population, and so far I believe we are the primary agency that's working with the African-Americans in our community.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And how much funding do you get from the County?

PASTOR PEARSON:

Just to clarify something that Ms. Dabney who is the Chair of our board; I'm not the Director, I'm the President and CEO, just for clarify.

Right now, last year we received \$60,000 from the County and this year the -- we're still awaiting a contract, but we have been allocated \$75,000 from the County.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Reverend, where is -- so you haven't received a contract at all?

PASTOR PEARSON:

No, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is the \$75,000 for a specific program like the summer program?

PASTOR PEARSON:

The \$70,000 covers the entire year, 40% of it is salary, is for salaries and the rest of it is operational costs to run our programs. We brought brochures that we wanted to distribute to all of you. We're basically the three programs that Ms. Timmons has already outlined, the after school program, the summer program and the mentoring, so they're used throughout -- the funding is used throughout the year.

I heard the conversation from the last agency and I will just say I concur with those comments. We do not have a contract, a signed contract at this point and have been told that it's under review, and so that's all we know. We have answered a series of questions that have come through telephone conversations and we've answered them. I have personally, because I'm in the Dennison Building so often, I have personally come by to sit down with the Youth Bureau and to answer those questions, I provided documentation on a breakdown of our expenses, our contract has been given to us for the last two years, it is exactly the same. The wording in the contract is exactly what it was two years ago, just the numbers are different. Nothing has changed in our operation, we are the same operation.

The questions were very difficult, the last set of questions were very difficult to answer because I didn't understand them. How does these expenses -- how are they County expenses, and they're not. Particularly they are our operational costs to run our programs that we've been doing for the last three years. That last question I couldn't answer because I wasn't sure. I was told that --

P.O. LINDSAY:

But the point of the matter is, I mean, basically you folks provide child care services, after school, summer.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Exactly, yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And if working folks don't have a place, an adequate place for their child care, one of the two parents or if it's a single-parent can't go to work.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And you know, I know over the last ten years there's been such a stress in this County, as well as all over the nation, about welfare-to-work and keeping people off welfare rolls, but if you can't provide adequate child care, it's impossible for people to become productive workers in the workplace.

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Mr. Lindsay, we --

P.O. LINDSAY:

So the rationale of how does this serve the County --

PASTOR PEARSON:

That was the last question and I -- because I have not --

P.O. LINDSAY:

That seems pretty apparent to me.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Because I have not satisfied the answer, we're still under review.

LEG. MONTANO:

If I may just put on the record, I'm aware of this. So that you know, I still have not received a return call from Mr. Sabatino with respect to the contract and some of the questions that were asked. You just said that you heard the presentation before you, you didn't hear the one before that one. So, you know, this is a constant theme and, you know, I know a lot about the program, I've visited it and, you know, this is something, as you said, you had this program -- this is the third year that you're going in to the program.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Yes, with the County; we've been in existence for seven, eight years.

LEG. MONTANO:

With the County. And this year you still don't have a contract but the program starts when?

PASTOR PEARSON:

We are two weeks away from our busiest season and I've begged everyone, and I'll go on record, that I've even called and spoke to the County Executive.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, what did he say?

PASTOR PEARSON:

He would -- it would be taken care of.

LEG. NOWICK:

That was how long ago?

PASTOR PEARSON:

That was two weeks ago.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe not in our lifetime, but it will be taken care of.

LEG. MONTANO:

They've been busy.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, the point of the matter is, Reverend, if you don't get this contract signed and reimbursed for some of the services that you've provided year-to-date, can you afford to run the summer program?

PASTOR PEARSON:

We're in trouble. We -- our fees are \$95 a week, and because of the County assistance, it -- we even have parents who can't afford \$95, so we have a sliding scale for them and we do work well with the Department of Social Services in getting those families assistance. Our after school program is \$50 a week, and now we've just been hit with a new bill; the school district is charging us \$5,000 from zero to use their school building. So this has been a very difficult year for us, very challenging year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

How many children do you actually serve?

MS. TIMMONS:

Well, right at this moment I have about 65 children that are registered to begin on July 5th.

LEG. ALDEN:

So that would be in that summer program.

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

And how about the after school program?

MS. TIMMONS:

The after school program, we service about -- there's about 20 kids at the O'Neil School and approximately about 10 at the ECC, Early Childhood Center.

LEG. ALDEN:

So about 30.

PASTOR PEARSON:

It fluctuates.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, I'm just getting, you know, an approximation or an average, whichever way you want to phrase it.

PASTOR PEARSON:

And the mentoring program has about 30 young men in that program currently.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's for the teen-age --

PASTOR PEARSON:

Teen-agers, yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

Teen-agers, about 30? And make no mistake about it, I strongly believe in monitoring and I strongly believe in, you know, accountability. And I don't think there's a Legislator that would want to see it any other way where, you know, you just hand money to people and say, "Okay, we trust you to go out and do things." But in a business sense, you know, I'd like to see it done professionally and in a timely fashion. So if we've got a problem with something that, you know, like a cost that you're trying to include, I'd like to see a letter sent to you and give you, you know, the time to answer that letter. This budget wasn't put together yesterday, this budget was put together last year November and it was passed last November, so there's a lot of time that I'm very disappointed that was just wasted, as far I'm concerned, in not having a dialogue with you and getting cleared up. And some of them are problems with some of the agencies, maybe your agency, maybe others, there are problems and things should be cleared up, but there's no reason for this kind of a time delay that puts it, you know, where you guys are stuck; if you don't get this money, you're committed to the program, people are relying on this program so that they can go to work.

This is also -- by the way, this is an -- I think of it as an anti-drug and an anti-gang member program because you're mentoring, you're providing role models, you're doing all the things, you're providing an alternative to go hang out on the street and get involved in gangs and drugs. So, there's some of the answers to the questions that would be asked, and they are legitimate questions to ask but they should be done in a timely manner.

So our question would be what would be the consequence of not receiving County funding? Probably the expiring of the program or --

MS. TIMMONS:

Yes.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Probably.

LEG. ALDEN:

Or cancelling the program. Now, you mentioned a little bit about -- do you receive any other funds from Federal, State or anybody else?

PASTOR PEARSON:

Yes, we receive a grant from the Office of Family & Children Services for \$5,000, and that's the only other grant that we receive, everything else is fee-for-services.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And that's not a pass-thru, that's a direct grant from New York State?

PASTOR PEARSON:

From New York State, yes; Assemblyman Ramos.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you do any fund-raisers?

PASTOR PEARSON:

We basically have been running out of the church until the last three years, and so the church was providing in-kind services, office, utilities, donations from parishioners. And, you know, when we got the assistance from Suffolk County, that helped alleviate a lot of that so that we can now do other programs.

Our church has several other programs that we're running, we run a program and the two of them are licensed social workers, we run a counseling service for families free because families can't afford it, and so we do that free in the church.

LEG. ALDEN:

But it's fair to say that in the past, the fund-raising that you had done was through the church --

PASTOR PEARSON:

Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- and now with the grant, you really don't have to tap into the church's --

PASTOR PEARSON:

Exactly.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- assets as much. So you don't hold -- have a separate barbecue or golf outing or --

PASTOR PEARSON:

We've just been interviewing a fund developer because -- we've interviewed two people. Because of what's going on in the County, we kind of -- and we did get a letter stating that 2008 may be different for you, so we took a proactive --

LEG. ALDEN:

Those were good --

PASTOR PEARSON:

We did get that letter, we got that in writing.

LEG. ALDEN:

Those are good steps to take.

LEG. MONTANO:

"From the Desk Of," I know.

PASTOR PEARSON:

And so we've taken a more proactive way to handle that. We're also -- I mean, our church just -- I mean, this has nothing do with the center, but our church is entering into a multi-million dollar campaign to build a new church so, you know, this was very, very -- you know, just the time of this is really a challenging time.

LEG. MONTANO:

I have one question.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Reverend Pearson, when did you get your contract for this program last year? Because right now we're in -- we're at the end of June, the program starts next week, when did you get -- did you already say you got it in February last year?

PASTOR PEARSON:

Last year we would get contracts --

LEG. MONTANO:

I'm sorry, I didn't hear that.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Last year we got contract and the advance in February.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just -- and maybe John would know the answer to this, but admin expenses, on this it sounds like the whole thing is program expenses, especially since no one is being paid. You pay your --

PASTOR PEARSON:

No, we do have -- we do pay -- the employees are paid. We do pay out --

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, which employees, people that provide a service.

PASTOR PEARSON:

The teachers, yes.

MS. TIMMONS:

Yeah, the counselors.

LEG. ALDEN:

So the teachers; that's a program expense, I wouldn't consider that administrative expense; and maybe I'm wrong, but John --

LEG. MONTANO:

And they get paid very little.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Yeah. The Program Director, Mrs. Timmons, gets \$15 an hour and she is a licensed social worker so, you know; last year, total pay for here was about \$6,000 for the total year. So that's -- that's the breakdown. I'm the President and CEO and last year I got \$2,200, and this year zero, so it's all going into the program.

MS. TIMMONS:

Our counselors after school are teachers, they're certified teachers, they're in school districts during the course of the day and they come after and their salary is \$10 an hour.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So would it be fair to say that your expenses, administrative expenses are zero or -- but now you're going to have to pay the school, I guess; no, that would go under programming.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's a program expense, insurance is a program expense.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Right. Those are the things that are being questioned right now, insurance is being questioned, transportation, buses is being questioned, and those are all expenses we had last year.

I'll give you another example of inconsistency. Last year we were told that the bookkeeper could not be a covered expense under the contract; this year we're told that the bookkeeper is a covered expense. So we didn't put it in our budget, we didn't put the bookkeeper in the Suffolk County budget because last year we were told that's not a chargeable expense.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ouch.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What is your -- what is the total budget for the agency?

PASTOR PEARSON:

About \$150,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:

About 150,000.

PASTOR PEARSON:

We're very, very small.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And again, about half of that is supposed to come from the County.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the rest is from that small State grant --

PASTOR PEARSON:

And fee-for-services.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And fee-for-services, okay.

PASTOR PEARSON:

Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't have anything else, but just -- I mean, you almost wish that they would not put you in the budget if they're going to put you in the budget and then not pay you. It's -- you know, the only thing that I can say to you folks is I apologize for the way the County has been treating you. You, like many, many other agencies in the County, do the right thing, provide the right services, services that we could not replicate within the County, certainly not at the cost levels that you're providing the services to your community, especially with the amount of volunteer time that you put in to the agency. And to donate your time to a good cause and then to be treated as shottedly as you are is just absolutely wrong.

And I know Legislator Montano will carry on the torch of seeing that you get your contract and you get paid, you know, because it is unconscionable.

PASTOR PEARSON:

We thank you, Mr. Lindsay, for those comments. Most of you know me, I have been working in support of Suffolk County government, trying to help Suffolk County government, so it hurts a little harder when I'm -- I feel better hearing that it's -- that there are a lot of others, but --

LEG. MONTANO:

It doesn't help us.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It doesn't pay the salaries.

PASTOR PEARSON:

It just hurts when I've been a champion of helping Suffolk County government, it really just hurts.

LEG. ALDEN:

You weren't singled out, though.

PASTOR PEARSON:

No, no, no. Yeah, that's what I mean.

LEG. ALDEN:

Although there were some of us that were singled out at one time, but you weren't.

PASTOR PEARSON:

No, and I know, that's why I said to find out that there are so many others and to hear the stories behind. You know, it just still, it hurts.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:
I just wanted to make one comment. I am in awe of what you can do with what I consider so little money helping young people, helping their parents, people that go to work and worry about their children, after school programs, teen-agers. What you do is incredible on so little and it saves us in the County, it's -- I thank you.

PASTOR PEARSON:
Thank you.

MS. TIMMONS:
Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
As a Mom, I thank you twice.

PASTOR PEARSON:
Can we leave these with you,

MS. KRAUSS:
I'll take them.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah, we'll be happy to take those pamphlets, an aide is coming over to pick them up now. Thank you very much, folks, for coming in.

LEG. MONTANO:
Thank you and we'll follow up on that and we will talk further.

PASTOR PEARSON:
Thank you.

MS. TIMMONS:
Thank you.

MS. DABNEY:
Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM*)

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically