

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, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York on August 9, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay, Chairman
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Daniel P. Losquadro
Legislator Lou D'Amaro
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator Ricardo Montano

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

John Ortiz, Budget Review Office
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Justin Littel, Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Bob Martinez, Aide to Legislator Montano
Cheryl Byrne, Comsewogue Youth Club
Nicole Byrne, Comsewogue Youth Club
Dr. David Hegarty, Executive Director, Hope For Youth
Dawn Tesaro, Director of Finance, Hope For Youth
Reverend Adams, Faith Baptist Church
Rosemarie Dearing, North Amityville Community Economic Council
Maria Jackson, North Amityville Community Economic Council
Dionne Mack, North Amityville Community Economic Council
Kathleen Reilly, Patchogue Medford Youth and Community Services, Inc.
Denise Frabizio, Patchogue Medford Youth and Community Services, Inc.
Dawn Kraus, Islip Arts Council

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 10:15 AM)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Could everyone rise please for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Nowick.

SALUTATION

COMSEWOGUE YOUTH CLUB

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I apologize for the technical difficulties that delayed our start of our ad hoc committee. I'll just go through this explanation of what we're doing here today and repeat it a couple of times throughout the meeting this morning.

The ad hoc committee on contract agencies was started at the beginning of the year. And the purpose of it was, there was a debate on how the Legislature spends its discretionary money to help a lot of community groups -- not-for-profit groups within our communities that provide a tremendous amount of services to our citizens. And there is no doubt about it, that Suffolk County deals with many of not-for-profits.

And we thought it would be good idea if systematically throughout the year we call in a lot of our not-for-profits, just have a chat with them to kind of disspell some statements made about the not-for-profit community, find out where our money is going, how it's being spent and such.

It's been very enlightening for us thus far. And I think we have one more meeting after this one before we conclude this activity for the year. And the information that we get will certainly be used in our 2008 budget process.

Having said that, the first up is Comsewogue Youth Club.

COMSEWOGUE YOUTH GROUP

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Pull that microphone to you. There's a little switch. Just tap it to see if it's on.

MS. BYRNE:

Cheryl Byrne, Executive Director of Comsewoge Youth Group.

MS. N. BYRNE:

Nicole Byrne. I'm the bookkeeper.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Are you related?

MS. BYRNE:

Yes, we are related. We're sisters.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Could you start with what areas you cover?

MS. BYRNE:

Basically we cover most of the Port Jefferson Station-Terryville area. We probably see approximately 100 to 150 children per day with our programs. We run four different programs in this area. The actual location of our agency is located on the grounds at the JFK Middle School which is in the Comswogue school district.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And what kind of programs --

MS. BYRNE:

I have, if you want to take a look, I have some folders I'll leave with you. But we run at present four programs. We run an evening recreation program from seven to nine in the evening. We run an after school program from two 'til six. We have a community garden also on the grounds at the JFK middle school where we, you know, raise vegetables, bring them to soup kitchens and such. And we also have a mentor program that we run during the school year for six, seven and eighth graders. In addition we obviously run work shops for baby-sitting. We, you know, we help specific families that might be in need but those are the four basic programs that we do run.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How many employees does your agency have?

MS. BYRNE:

Twelve.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

All full-time?

MS. BYRNE:

No, we're all considered part-time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

All part time.

MS. BYRNE:

Although we put in full-time hours.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just like us.

MS. BYRNE:

Pretty much. We do that all on our \$100,000 budget.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Does someone want to take over?

LEG. ALDEN:

So you just mentioned \$100,000; that's what your total budget is?

MS. BYRNE:

Our total budget is 102.098.

LEG. ALDEN:

And how much of that do you receive from the County?

MS. N. BYRNE:

41,974.

LEG. ALDEN:

That has been been fairly constant over the years?

MS. BYRNE:

Yeah, it's gone up or down a couple of thousand here or there but pretty much -- I took over in 1998. And the budget has pretty much been about 95 thousand to 100, 102 thousand. It was maybe 103 last year, 104. But we've never really gone over that.

LEG. ALDEN:

The county's usually been about a little less than half of what you --

MS. BYRNE:

Yeah, maybe around a third.

MS. N. BYRNE:

Yeah. It's usually about a third.

MS. BYRNE:

About a third.

MS. N. BYRNE:

It's gotten higher over the years. I think this is a little lower than last year but I think when we started it was around 32. It was lower. It's gotten higher.

LEG. ALDEN:

Any other agencies that perform similar tasks?

MS. BYRNE:

Not in the local area. The school district itself runs an after school program, but they stop at 5th grade. And that was -- what we did was a survey many years ago. And there was a need for it to continue through six, seven and eighth grade. So that's why we actually opened up the after school program.

LEG. ALDEN:

If you didn't receive county funding, what would be the result of that?

MS. BYRNE:

It could be one of many. I mean, you know, we could end up literally probably closing the doors on, you know, some of the programs. There could be -- maybe we wouldn't pay our LIPA bill. I mean, it could be a myriad of things. It's obviously like a, you know, a third of our budget. And even without -- you know a lot of our services are pretty much volunteer so as far as staffing we could probably handle that. But all the other things that come along with it would be gone.

LEG. ALDEN:

And what's your total payroll?

MS. N. BYRNE:

78848.

MS. BYRNE:

That's for 12 employees.

LEG. ALDEN:

And do you receive federal, state or any other type of grants?

MS. N. BYRNE:

The town is 38874. And the federal is 21250.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you do any outside fundraising?

MS. BYRNE:

Yes, we do.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much approximately?

MS. BYRNE:

Again, it depends. There are years that we've had galas where we may have done -- maybe \$10,000 on our 25th year. But this year, it's getting harder and harder. We've done about five -- between five and \$10,000.

LEG. ALDEN:

We may need John to help a little bit with this next one. What percentage of your overall budget goes toward admin expenses?

If the part-timers -- again if the part-timers are program expenses, then that really shouldn't be considered admin, but maybe John could figure -- you give us an answer and then --

MS. N. BYRNE:

Well, do you mean like the directors?

LEG. ALDEN:

You know, administrative expenses would be like copying machines or telephone bill. Directors?

MS. N. BYRNE:

Our LIPA bill is -- that doesn't count?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just to clarify what Legislator Alden is saying, you can include a salary only if that person is not delivering services to your target population; purely administrative.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Are you two ladies the administrators of the fund? Of the program?

MS. BYRNE:

We're all involved in the program itself. I mean I may be the executive director but that doesn't mean that I'm there at the after school program checking in to make sure things are running.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. So you do program work as well as --

MS. BYRNE:

All of us do. We would have to or we would never get -- we would never keep the doors open.

Everybody's got a myriad of -- my program director is out in the garden digging weeds and, you know, it's very -- it's a small agency. And you can't do just one job. You just can't.

LEG. ALDEN:

So then roughly do you pay rent or --

MS. BYRNE:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

You said the electric bill.

MS. N. BYRNE:

Our electric bill -- I mean to run the building it's \$500 a month for electric. And our phone is 130. So just to keep the electric and the phone on it \$630. I mean I think we got a new copying machine this year after ten years of having the same old copy machine. So I would say our administrative expenses as far as to run that building --

LEG. ALDEN:

Less than \$10,000?

MS. N. BYRNE:

Yeah, definitely.

LEG. ALDEN:

So that would be less than 10% of the --

MS. N. BYRNE:

Definitely.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Good.

MS. BYRNE:

We're two bankers so we definitely run a tight shift. That's our real lives.

LEG. ALDEN:

Another question we have to ask does the CEO make more than 20 percent of the agency's total budget or the director?

MS. N. BYRNE:

Yes. The director makes 30%. 20% would be 20,410. Her pay is \$31,174.

LEG. ALDEN:

But out of that you have to -- some of your performances are to do some of the --

MS. BYRNE:

I've up been under the building to fix pipes. I mean we do what we have to.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much would you allocate of your time towards admin as opposed to program?

MS. BYRNE:

I would say, yeah, pretty much half and half. I mean obviously there has to be admin. I mean I have to be there and oversee things but --

LEG. ALDEN:

If it came down to 15 thousand, that's like 15 percent.

MS. N. BYRNE:

It's probably half. She does the -- payroll for the director is 44 hours every two weeks. So I would say a good twenty hours of that is at the building.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to mark your answer down as no then --

MS. N. BYRNE:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because, you know, there's an allocation issue there.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro and then Nowick. Go ahead.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What may make the difference here is you just mentioned that your salary for your CEO or director is tied to hours?

MS. BYRNE:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So --

MS. N. BYRNE:

But the hours are consistent. It's a salary broken down into hours because that's how we have to pay it as far as -- through the budget. So our budget has to be allocated that way. She has a salary. And then she has a consistent 44 hours every two weeks, which equals her salary. We pretty much divide it and figure out what her hours have to be.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Do you put in at least the 22 hours required? It's a rhetorical -- so the point that I'm making is that you're not being compensated by virtue of the position. You're really being compensated hourly. So if you had hired someone to do half the function, let's say, the program functions that you do, then your compensation would be less than the twenty percent of your budget?

MS. N. BYRNE:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just curiously do you both work full-time jobs and then go --

MS. N. BYRNE:

I have two other full -- I'm a teacher. I work at the bank and I'm the bookkeeper.

LEG. NOWICK:

And you look familiar.

MS. BYRNE:

I work for Northfork Bank full-time. I have two jobs there. I do business development and I run an entire region.

LEG. NOWICK:

Well, gees, good for you. That is wonderful.

MS. BYRNE:

Well, you know what? This was done as -- you know, it was supposed to be a side job. And I've been doing it for ten years. And it's very difficult to just let something like this go. If you impact just one child, that's what matters.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Thank you. Anybody else have any other questions? Thank you very much, ladies, for coming in.

MS. BYRNE:

Would you like to see what we really do? I'll leave a few of these.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes, please do.

HOPE FOR YOUTH, INC

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Hope For Youth, Inc. Are you Dr. Hegarty?

DR. HEGARTY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you.

(Passing out documents)

DR. HEGARTY:

We have lots of contracts. I will be laying out some of it as I walk you through it. This is a copy of our assessment report of our Intensive Case Management. I thought it might be of interest.

LEG. ALDEN:

You might as well get started, then. Just as the Chairman said earlier, just a description of your agency, programs and what population you serve and in what geographic area.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

It seems to be all here but if you would articulate it, it would be great.

DR. HEGARTY:

Dr. David Hegarty. I'm the Executive Director at Hope For Youth.

MS. TESARO:

I'm Dawn Tesaro. I'm the Director of Finance.

DR. HEGARTY:

Hope for Youth is a primarily a child welfare agency. We also operate juvenile justice and preventive service programs and an outpatient clinic program. The agency's been around since 1969. We serve both counties; Nassau and Suffolk County. We are what is known as an authorized agency of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, which means our programs are authorized and licensed or otherwise certified by the state to provide child welfare services.

So we work obviously in partnership and cooperation with the Department of Social Services, with the Department of Probation. We operate congregate care programs, which would be group care programs for children and youth, foster care, primarily therapeutic, preventive services and outpatient programs.

We have contracts with -- in Suffolk County with the Department of Social Services, with Probation, Mental Hygiene and very similar contracts in Nassau County.

There's a list of agency facilities and where they're located. So we have a diagnostic and emergency group home that serves boys and girls 12 to 18. That's 12 beds and is located in Amityville. There's a similar diagnostic and emergency program which serves children from six months of age through 18 following CPS removal. And that is located in Bay Shore.

We operate non-secure detention for Suffolk County Probation. That's located in Amityville. That's a 12 bed program serving children seven to 18 is the theoretical age with PINS referral, but most of those youngsters are older. The average age of PINS youngsters is generally with court placements, you know, 13 to around 16. We don't get too many youngsters younger or older than that range.

We have four long-term group homes which serve adolescent boys. Those are in North Babylon, North Bellmore, Farmingdale and Seaford. And then our foster care programs, we have about 50 certified foster homes that are located in both Nassau and Suffolk. We're as far east as the Shirley Mastic area and as far west as West Hempstead in Nassau.

LEG. ALDEN:

Can I stop you for just one second? The four non-secured detention centers --

DR. HEGARTY:

One non-secured detention center.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Three of them are in Nassau county, one of them's in Suffolk County; right?

DR. HEGARTY:

No, there's only one non-secured detention program.

LEG. ALDEN:

Which one? Amityville.

DR. HEGARTY:

That's the detention facility in Amityville.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So the North Babylon, North Bellmore, Farmingdale and Seaford --

DR. HEGARTY:

Those are group homes. They serve children from DSS or probation. So it's a mix of abuse, neglect or PINS youngsters.

LEG. ALDEN:

Can somebody be removed from Suffolk County and put in the Nassau? They would keep them in Suffolk County, wouldn't they?

DR. HEGARTY:

No, really the placement decision is reflective of where we have vacancies as a starting point. What that youngster's individual needs are. Some of the youngsters that we get, particularly some of the probation cases, are gang involved youngsters who need to be separated as far as possible from their home community. In some cases with some of the abuse neglect cases, there is a need to keep that youngster away from family of origin and try to maintain a safety zone if you will. So placement is really reflective of different things.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

But it wasn't but a few years ago that we were sending PINS kids as far as -- out of state, right?

DR. HEGARTY:

Yes. And there are still a significant amount of youngsters, not as many as in the past, but you still have a number of youngsters placed out of state. I sit on Commission DeMarzo's Out-of-State Committee. She has an ad hoc committee of agency execs on her staff that are working on looking at those youngsters that are currently in out of state placement and trying to think through how can we design programs locally to get those youngsters home as quickly as possible, which obviously is in the best interest of those children and significantly less expensive for the County.

LEG. ALDEN:

In your opinion do we need a childrens shelter in Suffolk County?

DR. HEGARTY:

Yes. You have a large number of youngsters moving into secured detention into Nassau County. As you may know the Nassau Shelter is currently under renovation. And they've closed down portions of that. Then when that gets full, you're moving into the City Department of Juvenile Justice facilities or beyond. We're seeing youngsters sometimes transferred back to us coming from Erie County or in facilities upstate. The cost, the expense and the difficulty of doing services with those youngsters when mom and dad and the clinical folks that have been working with this kid are here, and this child is Upstate, there's a significant barrier to moving those cases expeditiously through the court system; not to mention the expense of two probation officers in a car driving a kid to Erie County for an overnight stay. There's safety issues at night on the throughway, the expense of it. Those officers need to be, you know, hoteled. Then they pick the child up the next day to come back to court or they come back and then go back three days later to get them or come back to court. I mean it's just -- it's a chaotic and inefficient way to serve kids and families.

LEG. ALDEN:

Were you privy to the evaluation that New York State did when they kind of pulled the plug on our new detention center?

DR. HEGARTY:

I've been participating in a discussion with John Desmond and with the State Office of Children and Family Services around some interest in potentially trying to look at using a building on the grounds

of Brunswick Hospital for a potential site for secure detention. There obviously was not an outpouring of enthusiasm for that plan in the Amityville community as you can well imagine. And the State Office of Children and Family Services has not really been moving expeditiously to look at that.

We thought it might work because the building we were looking is currently a secure child psychiatry building. So it has all of the architectural and physical plant features you would need to run a secure program for children and have it be local. But there's so many pieces on the table. And the change of administrations in Albany really slowed the process to a crawl. I think we had some momentum with the Pataki administration, but the change of leadership in Albany with all new folks in the agency seats has just slowed the process. And I'm not sure that the State Office of Children and Family Services has a real level of enthusiasm for seeing Suffolk create its own shelter.

LEG. ALDEN:

I think our projections were a substantial savings if we built our own facility.

DR. HEGARTY:

It probably be a lot less expensive. And I think you would definitely get a better level of service for those children. Because those kids are going to be closer to home, you're going to be able -- Law Guardians will be able to see them. They'll be able to do more clinical work locally. You could potentially divert some of the children that you're currently placing in Sagamore Psychiatric and move those children to a secure detention and package more clinical services into that program so, you know, it would be both a better way to serve kids and families; and probably fiscally advantageous to the county on a long term basis.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How many employees do you have?

DR. HEGARTY:

We have about 130 staff that work in our different programs.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

All full-time?

DR. HEGARTY:

It's a mix of part-time and full-time. The ratio?

MS. TESARO:

It's about 25 part-time.

LEG. ALDEN:

All the rest are full-time?

MS. TESARO:

Yes.

DR. HEGARTY:

On page two there's an actual list of the different contracts that we have with Suffolk County. Some of those are fee-for-service contracts. Foster care, for example, is all fee-for-service. So when you place a child in one of our diagnostic programs or in a group home or in a foster home, you are buying that service day by day by day. Some of our other programs non-secured detention or the Intensive Case Management Program are contract programs. You own those programs one hundred percent. So those are fully funded contracts. So for us it's a mix. So our level of revenue from Suffolk County will change based on program utilization by the capacity you need and only the capacity you need. For us it's a blend of placements primarily from Suffolk County and Nassau

County into those congregate care for foster care programs.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

What has Suffolk been averaging?

DR. HEGARTY:

I think we pegged it at around 65 percent. 65 percent of our total budget, which is about 9.1 million, is probably attributable to those contracts or the placements that move through our programs. And your use of those program is significant. In the last calendar year 217 children into the group homes, the diagnostic programs or foster care representing 15,000 individual care days. So that's a whole lot of activity.

We have a lot of your kids -- a lot of young kids that go through our sibling diagnostic program. We have a lot of children in therapeutic foster care which serves kids from six and up who have significant medical, psychiatric or behavioral needs. So those are very complicated cases where foster parents are especially trained. They get an additional amount of training from the agency before we certify them. And they get a lot of push in service. They have access to our nursing staff. They see our psychiatrist on a regular basis, our psychologist, they see a therapist on a regular basis. The caseworker's in the house at least once if not twice a week. So those are -- those are your very high profile children. And we're seeing a lot of therapeutic foster care children now that -- kids coming back from out-of-state placements or that the County is attempting to stabilize locally to avoid those expensive out-of-state placements.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

It sounds like your agency's kind of a specialized agency for this. Is there other agencies that provide similar services?

DR. HEGARTY:

There are other child welfare agencies in the area on Long Island. There are really only -- we're the largest provider on the Island that does not have a very large contract with New York City. Proximity to the city kind of changes the marketplace for lack of a better word. So you have some very big agencies like Mercy First, Little Flower. They are primarily contract agencies for the City of New York. But they also do, you know, business out here even though some of them may be geographically located out here, most of their work is with the city. Most of our work is with Nassau Suffolk County.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

So are you the largest agency that deals with Suffolk in this field?

DR. HEGARTY:

Yes, exclusively. It does not really have a big business relationship with the City of New York.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And I guess there's always unfortunately a demand for the services that you provide?

DR. HEGARTY:

Regrettably, yes. You know, the level of referrals to Child Protective Services are fairly consistent. The level of indicated cases through Child Protective Services is fairly consistent overtime. What's changing is the number of PINS youngsters coming into care. Those kids we're seeing at different access points. We're seeing them more through the mental health.

We do a lot of crisis respite work. We do preventive respite for you so that when probation or DSS has a child whose family is in crisis but the kid is relatively stable, they can use preventive respite as a short term placement. So although that child is not at home and is placed temporarily with us, mom and dad haven't given up custody. There's been no court case to revoke their parental rights. That's a case where we're trying to intervene, stabilize. In some cases mom or dad needs to be

psychiatrically hospitalized. Sometimes it's as simple as a medical issue for a parent who just has no other resources and the department assists them with a temporary respite placement.

And in many cases there are children who are involved with the mental health crisis respite network. So there are kids that are teetering on the brink of a psychiatric hospitalization. And many of those are PINS involved youngsters as well. And we do a short term crisis placement, stabilize them; and then reintegrate them back into the family.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Is the program that came into effect a couple of years ago that's kind of reduced the number of people that have been put on the PINS petitions?

DR. HEGARTY:

That's the AFY program. EAC is your primary contractor for AFY, Alternatives For Youth. So we're a -- we do pieces of the program for AFY. So we do crisis respite placements. We also do family therapy for AFY, you know.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

What do you think of that program? Do you think it's working?

DR. HEGARTY:

AFY has been a remarkably successful -- you know, the --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I mean not just financially in terms of the relationship with the County, but does it work in terms of the human --

DR. HEGARTY:

I think that's the piece that still needs to be understood. And that's going to take a little longer to tease out. My theory with these things is always that these problems are like a balloon. And you squeeze the balloon here. And it doesn't mean that we reduce the amount of air in it. It means we moved the problem. Historically what used to happen with a lot of these kids would be the parents would go to the Department of Social Services and ask for assistance. And they would become what we call voluntary placements, which means that mom or dad voluntarily placed their problem child in the custody of the Department of Social Services. That doorway began to close in the '80's and '90's as a result of some federal and state initiatives.

So what we began to see was a significant increase in the amount of kids coming into the PINS system. Same kids that used to be DSS voluntaries became PINS youngsters. So now you've squeezed that piece of the balloon.

What we are now seeing is a concurrent increase in JD petitions. JD petitions are up. Some of those may be cases that might have become a PINS case in the past but judges are reluctant to plead them down so they're pushing those kids into the system as JD's.

And we're also hearing anecdotally that the number of youngsters referred through school districts CSE's are increasing. So, you know, you look at the incidents which occur that get a lot of media attention, kids making threatening statements in schools, kids acting out in dangerous ways in the community. Historically in the past a lot of those cases would have been pushed earlier into the probation network. But now they get diverted to AFY but the school districts still have to deal with those problem kids on a day to day basis. So you see more CSE placements. So, you know, it's an endless series of teeter toters that try and maintain equilibrium in the system.

And to add further complication to it, if I can digress, another major issue in the system is the penetration of managed care plans, private insurance companies. Fifteen, twenty years ago you would see most of these very problematic kids placed into psychiatric facilities. If you look at where Brunswick Hospital and South Oaks Hospital were twenty years ago and what their patient loads

looked like and who the primary payers were, they were private insurance companies. South Oaks used to have a little group home for substance abusing adolescents that were what we call comorbid youngsters. They're dual diagnosed, mental health and substance abuse.

All those programs have been shut down. And there are fewer and fewer private insurance companies willing to pay for psychiatric hospitalization. The best payer in the market place is now Medicaid. So people get smart to that after a while. And that's why, one of the reasons, I think, why your PINS load went up so high. And why it happened throughout the state. Because you close down the ability of parents to get help for their kids through their private insurance company because the insurance company says your kid's been in the hospital three days, we're not going to pay any more. This kid needs to go home. Well, this problem is not solved. It can't get them connected to out patient services. You know, they're still potentially a risk to themselves. So parents would go to the Family Court and get a PINS petition.

So, you know, there's so many pieces of this that interact when we try and manage the needs of these kids in the community. Ultimately that's what we're trying to do. And the strategy that AFY has is conceptually sound; to get to those kids early, to work with them aggressively in the community as early as we can and connect them to services in a meaningful way. And that's -- you know where -- that's the strength of AFY is to cut through the red tape and get those kids into services as quickly as you can.

How it's going to play out in the long run, you know, is probably going -- there's going to be a balancing somewhere. Because those very problematic kids are still going to be an issue at home or in school. And somebody's got to figure out what to do with them. Some system has got to mobilize around getting those kids to a place where they're not dangerous to themselves or somebody else.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
All right.

DR. HEGARTY:
So just moving through the rest of this, we kind have talked about other contracts and administrator expenses. I don't know if you had any questions on any of those. I tried to kind of hit the major points.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
No. The dialogue was very helpful to us because, you know, a lot of times we hear a lot of the terms you're talking about, about the PINS petition and they've been reduced by early intervention and all these other things. But to kind of grasp the whole problem, it's very informative for us to talk to someone like yourself.

DR. HEGARTY:
Thank you. There is another report there. It's an Assessment Report on our Intensive Case Management Program. That's a fully funded preventive program under contract of the Department of Social Services, which we are very proud of. It's in its third year now. One of the things that we've done with that program, which is a little bit unusual, is to try and calculate cost versus benefit to the County. Because fundamentally when you do preventive services, how do you know that you've saved anything in the long run?

So that's a program that serves children who are about to be placed. And the strategy the department has we're literally about to remove these children from home. And if we don't remove them, we're going to send them to this Intensive Case Management Program. Those are all master level social workers. They are literally in and out of the house once, twice a week. They work with kids in school, at home, in the community. We're all over the place with them. And what we've done is kind of track savings from day one on a case by case basis. So if the County was going to place, the County tells us we're about to place this child at a group home level or in RTC or in foster

care. Instead we're going to send them to you. So we can calculate the difference between the cost to provide preventive services versus what would have been the cost to place.

It's not an ideal formula, but it kind of works to give everybody a way of assessing what is the County getting back? And in the last year we did the report, we calculate that the cost of place would have been a little over 700,000. The cost to operate the program was about 400,000 with a net savings to the County of about 350,000 in that year. And it was a great year in terms of preventive placements. 100% of the kids that were placed at the preventive level were kept at home with their parents. They did not have to enter foster care. There was not another abuse neglect indicated case. And we worked very successfully through some very, very difficult cases. So we're really proud of that. We want to include that report as well as a separate piece of information. It never hurts to have a little commercial in there.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No, no, it doesn't. You guys don't do any outside fundraising, do you?

DR. HEGARTY:

We do very little outside fundraising. You know, the County contracts include language that says if you raise money and put it into the contract, the County has the option to reduce the amount of money that goes into it. And our rates set system that we have with the state basically works the same way. If we put private dollars into our operating programs and foster care, it has the net effect down the road of reducing the amount of money in the rates in the future. So our board of directors does not have a huge amount of enthusiasm for fundraising. They see it as expensive to hire a decent fundraiser and compete in a very tough fundraising market place. It costs you a lot of money.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And your agency differs from some of the other agencies that are on our agenda today. Not that they're not all very worthwhile, but you guys are really a provider for us rather than a contract agency. I mean I don't -- I mean if your agency didn't exist, would the County even have the capability of providing the services that you provide?

DR. HEGARTY:

I think some of those services you could -- like preventive services you could certainly pick up yourself. The outpatient -- there are other outpatient providers. The residential programs and foster care you'd have to -- those would have to be picked up by other agencies, which means those kids would have to go out of the region. Creating new group programs is very tough on Long Island. So they would need to be placed elsewhere.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes, Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

If I could just follow up on one point. I've never heard that language in a contract for the disincentive so to speak for the private fundraising. It would seem that if you could augment your services through that private fundraising -- how long has that language been in place? Is that something fairly new or --

DR. HEGARTY:

It's been -- in our rates set world it's been there for as long as that system has existed.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just haven't heard that before.

DR. HEGARTY:

In the 80's. And I believe it's been in county contracts for a while under the operating theory that the program costs a fixed amount, X amount. And if the County, you know, if you reduced the amount of money you need to fund that program, the County would proportionately reduce the amount of money it needs to put into the program.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon. Quick question. In terms of the fee for services and the contracts, how is your pay or your reimbursement structured? You do the service, you submit a voucher or you get an advance from the County? How does that work?

DR. HEGARTY:

The direct contract programs like non-secure detention and Intensive Case Management are paid -- once the contract is approved, we get a voucher. Regrettably I must tell you that the process for approval of those contracts is tortuously long. The Intensive Case Management program started January 1st. We still don't have a signed contract, which means Hope For Youth has now advanced -- where are we? August. So, we're 75 percent through the calendar year and we've been laying out this money since January to run this program with no reimbursements.

LEG. ALDEN:

There's a solution, though, for that. Paul gave a solution. Paul Sabatino. You've been dealing with Paul?

DR. HEGARTY:

We've had a couple conversations with Mr. Sabatino about this issue, yes. So it's very long and slow.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me ask you this. In comparison to other years, has the process gotten -- excuse me. What I was asking you was in comparison to other years, and really other -- going back other administrations, has the process gotten better, worse, remained the same? And I don't want to put you on the spot. But I'm just talking in terms of, you know, we allocate the money in September. I'm sorry. We get the budget in September. We allocate the funding in November. Your contract is supposed to commence January 1st. Your services commenced January 1st. We're somewhere in August and you're telling me that you don't have a contract for this year; yet you've been providing services. Has that always been the case?

DR. HEGARTY:

There is always a delay. This is the latest the Intensive Case Management contract has ever run. We're in our third year of that. It's usually processed through in April or May. This is the latest it's been.

LEG. MONTANO:

Do you have any -- do you know why it's late? Or do you have any -- is there a change in the contract? Were there issues? Because from what I understand most of these contracts are boiler plate. And the language doesn't change. Once you have a contract, the language doesn't change much from year to year. There may be some numbers and some dates and some names but essentially the contract is the same. Am I correct in that?

DR. HEGARTY:

It changes very little. I mean the budget -- it changes the budget to reflect additional costs or changes. But there is not dramatic changes from year to year. Our preference -- we have a very strong preference for multi-year contracts. I think they're in the best interest of the County and of the agencies.

LEG. MONTANO:

Are they permissible?

DR. HEGARTY:

Yes, they are. Because -- for example the non-secure detention contract is a multi-year contract. So although last year it took four or five months for that contract to process through, now it's a three-year contract. So that in January we're not starting the process all over again. I know that the County's concern is what if we have a dramatic change in our fiscal picture? What if somebody does something to change the sales tax revenue stream and we need to make dramatic changes? I believe the County contracts contain kind of a get-out-of-jail-free clause that says you have the right to break it.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. When I worked with the Attorney General's Office and we handled contracts, most state contracts had a clause that the state could unilaterally -- you know, terminate the contract within three -- by three month's notice. So I don't think that's a major issue.

DR. HEGARTY:

Our preference, and I'm fairly certain I speak for a number of other contract agencies, would be to move towards more of a multi-year contracting model. That reduces your cost. I mean the County Exec's Office, I think, has quoted a number around \$7,000 to process a contract. So if that number is a valid number, then why would you spend \$21,000 for three years when you could spend \$7,000 once? And if you need to break it, break it; and we'll all deal with the consequences.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me ask you another question. I think your statement says your funding from the County is approximately \$9.1 million.

DR. HEGARTY:

Total funding's about 9.1. 65 percent of that is Suffolk County money.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that's for total contracts?

DR. HEGARTY:

Well, in the 9.1 million are our Nassau contracts, Suffolk contracts, Medicaid revenue, private fee for service payments. In our outpatient clinics we have some insurance plans and private money and that kind of thing.

LEG. MONTANO:

Would you just focus in on the Suffolk contracts. Approximately how much of your revenue's derived from the Suffolk contracts?

DR. HEGARTY:

About 65 percent.

LEG. MONTANO:

65 percent of the 9.1?

DR. HEGARTY:

9.1 million, yeah.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So that's about 500,000 a month; am I correct? You know, quick math. And at this point --

DR. HEGARTY:

I'll let the Director of Finance --

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I'll stand corrected very quickly. But my point is do you have any contracts for this year signed with Suffolk or is it one contract, is it multiple? I'm not clear on that.

DR. HEGARTY:

Well, the foster care contract expired but payments will continue. Because of the nature of foster care, it's not as much of an issue because it's all fee-for-service reimbursement. So DSS is working on getting those contracts executed. And OCFS has a big role in what those contracts say. The Intensive Case Management contract is a multi-year contract so -- I'm sorry. The non-secure detention contract is a multi-year contract. So we're in year two of that. So that one's okay.

It's the Intensive Case Management contract that's a problem. In fact we just went through an RFP cycle with New York State. The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services requested proposals from agencies to provide some innovative adolescent substance abuse treatment programs. So we submitted a proposal. We were one of 11 agencies funded in the state. We're going to be operating multi-dimensional family therapy for substance abusing adolescents who are at risk of juvenile justice placement. That's about a \$250,000 contract.

Now, we went through this process with the state. And then we went to Albany. And they said, well, we can't contract with anybody directly. So we want to put all these contracts through your local division of mental hygiene. And I said please don't do that to me, you know. I can't afford to have the delay that's going to come with another county contract. We would much prefer to contract with the state, who is slow, but by comparison it's like the tortoise and the hare.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Let me cut to the chase because I don't want to belabor the point. The thing is, what I'm understanding is that -- if my math is right, it's about 500,000 a year give or take a couple of -- I mean a month.

MS. TESARO:

5.4.

LEG. MONTANO:

So we're in August. That's eight months. And you front-loaded this -- basically you have X amount of dollars in the street. And you don't have a contract. If you don't get a contract you're basically out of luck. And I don't think that's going to happen. It's really a question of the delay. But the other question is how much does this cost you additionally to carry, you know, this kind of revenue on a month-to-month basis going into August, possibly September? I don't know when you're going to get your first -- if you get your contract today, when are you getting your advance? Probably in September so --

DR. HEGARTY:

September to October.

LEG. MONTANO:

So you got street money out. What does it cost you?

DR. HEGARTY:

We're at our credit line -- we have a million dollar credit line. We've used 250,000 of that. And we've actually -- we brought it down because the bank wanted to bring it down to 250,000 and hold that for 30 days.

LEG. MONTANO:

And you're eating the interest on the credit line.

DR. HEGARTY:

Yeah. The interest is not a reimbursable expense under the contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

And if you fundraise for that interest, you'd wind up giving it back to the County anyway; right?

DR. HEGARTY:

Potentially, yes. It could be considered as additional --

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you. We get it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'm sorry that we're keeping you so long.

DR. HEGARTY:

It's all right. I'm happy to talk with you about it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And most of the money that we pay you is pass-thru money from the state or a lot of it?

DR. HEGARTY:

The programs are all -- the new program, the multi-dimensional family therapy will be 100 percent state pass-thru money. The aide rate on the preventive service program is 65 percent state money. And the balance is local. And on foster care it's about 75 percent state and federal and 25 percent local. Federal law requires a match on these programs. So it's a mix of local state and federal money on all levels.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. I want to thank Legislator Montano for having that dialogue with you. I just want to clarify in my mind, then, while your contract is pending from January one through today, you are not getting any payment from the County for services that you provided pursuant to a contract that you may or may not get?

DR. HEGARTY:

That's correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You probably will. And very quickly, what was the purpose -- what was the justification on the delay? To your knowledge that you know of?

DR. HEGARTY:

I don't really know where it's held up. I think there was some processing issues at DSS. But it moved through. And it's somewhere else in the system. I got a call -- we got a call the other day ironically. One of the items in the contract is bottled water. And so -- my understanding is the

entire contract is now stopped because there's a question about the \$2.86 a month that we spend on bottled water.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Who's raising that question?

DR. HEGARTY:

I don't know.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. I don't want to take up more of this committee's time. But as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee in the Legislature, and we do have the primary responsibility for oversight of county operations, I think it may be appropriate to maybe have some special presentations during that committee in order to try and get into these delays and the reasons for them and see if we can help out. And if we decide to do that, I would invite you to participate in that as well.

DR. HEGARTY:

Thank you. Just so you're aware, there is a group of agencies that have been pulled together with funding from the Hagadoran Foundation. A group of Suffolk agencies have gathered together under the umbrella of the Health and Welfare Council with funding from the Hagadoran Foundation to look at this issue. Because it's not problem just for us. It's a problem for all agencies that contract with Suffolk.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

So roughly we owe you \$4 million right now?

DR. HEGARTY:

No. You owe us for Intensive Case Management at this point.

MS. TESARO:

The fund -- it's usually about 25,000 a month. So it's eight -- well, seven months at 25,000 for that program.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Is that all we owe you? Is that the total amount we owe you?

DR. HEGARTY:

There's always a certain amount that takes a while to get paid.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

So we owe you a couple hundred thousand dollars.

DR. HEGARTY:

Our total for suffolk -- our total, yeah, it's about a million dollars that we're owed across all programs. Some of that pays quickly. But foster care cases tend to pay slowly when there's a problem with the case --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We have to get the issue about the bottled water defined.

DR. HEGARTY:

We'll be happy to donate the bottled water.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. I'm just going to wrap up real quick because this went longer than we anticipated. Do you know what percentage of your overall budget goes towards administrative expenses?

DR. HEGARTY:

I think we calculated it about 14 and a half.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. And CEO doesn't make more than 20 percent?

DR. HEGARTY:

No, sir.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Doctor, I thank you very much for coming in and sharing. Very informative discussion. Was very helpful to us.

DR. HEGARTY:

Thanks for the chance to come in. I appreciate it.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

The Faith Baptist Church. How are you this morning? I'm sorry we're running a little behind. We'll try to speed it up and get you out of here as fast as we can.

I think you were in the room before when I gave a description of what we're doing here this morning?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Can you give a brief description of the services that your agency provides; the programs, the population you serve and what geographic area?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Yes. We have an after school program that provides services; life skill services, tutoring, counseling to the Gordon Heights area and the area surrounding Gordon Heights. And we have a senior citizen program that services the same area.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. And do you have any full-time -- any employees?

REVEREND ADAMS:

No.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No employees?

REVEREND ADAMS:

No full-time employees.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you have any part-time employees?

REVERAND ADAMS:

All part-time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How many is that?

REVERAND ADAMS:

The after school program we have five part-time employees. For the senior citizen program we have four part-time employees.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Is there anyone in your community that provides similar services?

REVEREND ADAMS:

No.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And how much funding do you receive from the county?

REVERAND ADAMS:

For the after school program \$36,000. And for the senior citizens program \$52,000.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're totally county funded so if you lost your county funding, the program would have to be abolished?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Yes, because what the county allow us to do essentially is to pay people, to run the program. But all the inkind and administration, fundraising and other things, that comes from the church. The church heavily subsidizes the program, but the church could not afford to pay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you receive any federal, state, town, village funding?

REVERAND ADAMS:

Yes, we receive a small amount from the Town of Brookhaven for the after school program of \$5,000 a year. We receive about \$2000 from the state for the after school program. We always ask for member items which we get from time to time. The senior citizen program is pass through money from state and from the federal government.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Is that the money that we give you; is pass through from the state and the federal?

REVEREND ADAMS:

The senior citizen program is pass through from the state.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. You do any outside fundraising?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Oh, yes. The church fundraises. And the members of the church come through.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Any idea how much that would amount to in a year?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Well, the total budget for both programs about \$150,000 so I would say the church contribute about \$200,000 between inkind, providing transportation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yeah, that's what we're trying to get at. A lot of times -- and your program is an example of it -- is that the County provides some money but that money is used to expand it with matching funds from either private sector or other government agencies. So through inkind services and private, probably another 200,000. Okay.

REVEREND ADAMS:

The program pays no rent, no electricity, buys no equipment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yep.

REVEREND ADAMS:

All provided by the church.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Do you have any idea what the administrative -- percentage of administrative expenses are?

REVEREND ADAMS:

Actually not in the sense because all the administration was done by the church itself.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And does the CEO earn more than 20 percent of the budget?

REVEREND ADAMS:

No. Nobody gets paid.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. I don't have any other questions. Thanks, Reverend Adams. Does anyone else have any comments or questions? Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I just wanted to say I missed your activity on Sunday but Maxine Wilson called me. We were in contact. I was trying to get out there. You called me when she got back to Atlanta so I'm sorry I missed it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I thank you very much for what you do and for being with us and being patient with us this morning.

REVEREND ADAMS:

Thank you. Bye.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

North Amityville Community Economic Council, are you folks here? Rosemarie Dearing? Yes. Hi, Rosemarie, how are you? Sorry we had to make you ladies wait a little while. We just get carried away with ourselves sometimes.

Were you folks here before we started the meeting? That I explained what we were doing here?

MS. DEARING:

No.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. The Legislators on my left and right are assigned to the ad hoc committee on Contract Agencies that has been running all this year. I think we have one more meeting after this. And it came about as a result of a lot of, I guess, accusations about our contract agencies, that a lot of them put into the budget by the Legislature, that they're not using county taxpayers' money to their ability. And when we started looking at it and putting together our budget, there's no doubt about it. There are Suffolk County contracts with many, many contract agencies. And so many that some of us weren't familiar with the -- where we were spending a lot of our money. And the suggestion was made to me that we create this Committee to, you know, systematically talk to a lot of our contract agencies over the course of the year to try and ascertain the facts whether our money's being spent properly or not. And that's what this is all about. Okay.

So you'll see us writing up here. And the reason for that is in about a month we start on the 2008 budget. And these interviews all year long will be of great value to us when we put together the budget.

Rosemarie, maybe you could introduce your colleagues.

MS. DEARING:

On my right is Dionne Mack who is the Chair of North Amityville Community Economic Council. And on my left is Maria Jackson who is the project director and also our financial officer. And I'm Rosemarie Dearing, director.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Maybe one of you ladies could give us a brief description of your agency, the programs and what populations you serve and what geographical area.

MS. DEARING:

Okay. NACEC has been in operation for almost 20 years now. We organized in 1988 and became a corporation in 1989. NACEC saw a need for -- first was the corner in North Amityville, which was labeled by one of our now deceased newsmen as the seventh worst areas -- crime areas in the nation. And NACEC pulled together at that time to see what we could do in that particular area.

We have since then through the County donating the land to the town, we have renovated those two areas. We've brought in a child care agency Tutortime. We have the first bank ever in our community which is Citibank. It started as EAB. We have a police substation in one area. Then we worked with a pharmacy -- Rite-Aid Pharmacy to develop on the other plot.

The third plot has to be developed. And we are looking at putting in a business incubator for minorities and women. And we had hoped that it would have been built by this year, but because of funding that hasn't happened yet. But it's still on the table.

In the meantime we've also become a state certified business school. And we also partner with Western Suffolk BOCES to train people in our community. Well, actually people from all over the County and Nassau County region as far as Queens. We do vocational training. We have a certified nursing assistance program. We have office technology. We have computer programs, medical terminology. We have the GED, the EDP program. We have many programs.

And we train people from all walks of life, mostly single mothers, people that are not financially able to get training in other places, people that have lost their jobs for whatever reason or have never been employed. People come to us that have hardly any education whatsoever.

And one example that comes to me, one person came to us that I think he was an adult that had gone to maybe the third grade. And he came to us to work at the building as a cleaner. And he saw what we were doing and he said he was interested in getting his education, his high school diploma. But he had never had any training. So he was afraid. And we talked him into doing this; to go there. And he got his EDP and is doing very well. So we have people from all walks of life from ages 17 to 60, 65 coming to our classes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How many employees do you have?

MS. DEARING:

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

LEG. ALDEN:

Total budget?

MS. DEARING:

Total budget is 167,000. I did bring brochures and other information, flyers that I'd like to leave with you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yep, we'd be happy to take them. How much funding do you get from the County?

MS. DEARING:

For 2006 we got 43,000. For the current year 48,000.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

48,000. Okay. What would be the consequences if you didn't get any County money?

MS. DEARING:

We'd probably have to close our doors.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good answer.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And do you receive any federal, state, town money?

MS. DEARING:

We receive state money through Legislator Sweeny.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How much is that?

MS. DEARING:

10,000. We do receive CDBG funds through the Town of Babylon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How much is that?

MS. DEARING:

65,000.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And do you do any outside fundraising or private fundraising?

MS. DEARING:

The problem -- we have done fundraising. But the problem with fundraising in our small community because we have -- most of the agencies are CBO's. I mean -- yeah, community based organizations. We're -- all of us are going after the same people. And people are tired of this. So they don't attend our functions any more. So it's not easy to fundraise.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Very little.

MS. DEARING:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. What percentage of the overall budget goes towards administrative expenses?

MS. JACKSON:

About 60 percent.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How much?

MS. JACKSON:

60 percent.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I think you're probably figuring something wrong here.

LEG. ALDEN:

The way you might figure it might not be the way we figure it. So, John, have you taken a look at their numbers?

MR. ORTIZ:

I have not but I'm happy to do afterwards.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

What happens with small agencies is, is there's confusion of what's administrative expenses and what's actual program expenses, you know.

LEG. ALDEN:

So, for instance if your director is involved in, you know, some kind of running a program, training or doing any of those kinds of things, you might list it as admin. But you know, as far as we're concerned it's not. It's a program expense.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Does your CEO make more than 20 percent of the agency's total?

MS. DEARING:

No.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Does anyone have any other questions? Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good morning. Just one question. Have you gotten your signed contract for this year and your advances or your money?

MS. DEARING:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Ladies, Rob is going to come over and get the brochures from you. John, you know, maybe what you can do is in the interest of time is to get their card; and maybe you could have a chat on the phone or copy whatever information they have here and you could look it over and get back to them if that's acceptable to everybody.

Thank you very much, ladies, for coming in and sharing your program; what you do with your program.

PATCHOGUE MEDFORD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Patchogue Medford Youth and Community Services? Come on forward, ladies. Kathleen Reilly?

MS. REILLY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How are you today?

MS. REILLY:

Good. How are you?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you for coming in. I believe you were in the audience before when I gave an explanatin of what we were doing?

MS. REILLY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Great. Kathleen, would you be so kind to introduce your colleague to us?

MS. REILLY:

Yes. Denise Frabizio is our bookkeeper at the agency.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Thank you for coming in, ladies. I'm sorry we're running a little behind time but we'll try and get you out of here as quick as possible and as painless as possible.

Could you give us a brief description of your agency, the programs that you provide and what population you serve and what geographical area.

MS. REILLY:

Sure. We are a private not-for-profit. We were founded in 1982 so this is our 25th anniversary year. All of our services are free to the participants. We provide counseling, individual group and family counseling, case management for families in the Patchogue Medford school district. We offer tutoring, music workshops, sports, acting and art workshops. Those particular programs the sports, music and acting are supervised by volunteers that are professionals in those fields.

We also provide services for parents and community workshops to educate parents and the community on a variety of services that are available. Programs like Child Health Plus to make sure that all of our children in the community do have medical insurance because we don't want to see them going without.

We have supervised recreation programs to keep our teenagers occupied after school hours so that they're in a safe supervised environment rather than hanging out on Main Street in Patchogue. We also run a few programs for adolescents, Youth Alliance and a Youth Council, which is developmentally focused on providing them the information that they need to make positive decisions for themselves regarding the variety of issues that teenagers face now days.

Our programs start at the elementary school level focusing on positive decision making, positive self esteem and communication and social skills. And then as the kids get a little older, we start to incorporate the information on drug, alcohol, sexuality, bullying, violence, domestic violence, etcetera. The goal of our programs is to give our kids the positive opportunities for growth.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How many employees does your agency have?

MS. REILLY:

We have three full-time and six part-time.

LEG. ALDEN:

Overall budget?

MS. REILLY:

Jump in whenever you want, Denise. Here we go. 2007 was \$267,423.64.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

How much of that comes from the County?

MS. FRABIZIO:

\$123,917.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You have to pull the mike up.

MS. REILLY:
\$123,917.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
Are you aware of any agencies in your area that provide similar services to the same population?

MS. REILLY:
Not free of charge. There are a couple of churches in the area that have youth groups, you know, on a Friday night. And the library has a game night that is free of charge. But all of our programs are free so we don't know of another agency in the area that is providing the same counseling and developmental programs free of charge.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
Is there a demand for the services?

MS. REILLY:
Absolutely. We serve over 12 -- last year we served over 1200 children and their families.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
And what would be the consequences of losing the County funding?

MS. REILLY:
There wouldn't be an agency for the children to go to.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:
Okay. Do you receive any town, state, federal money as well?

MS. REILLY:
Yes. From the town -- from the Youth Development Delinquency Prevention we receive \$33,680. And \$6500 from PINS as well as a Community Development Block Grant for \$25,189. The state also provides us \$39,250.

LEG. ALDEN:
What was the last one?

MS. REILLY:
The state number? 39,250.

LEG. ALDEN:
Community Development Block Grant, that comes through your town?

MS. REILLY:
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
The community agency; right?

MS. REILLY:
Yes. The Town of Brookhaven Community Development.

LEG. NOWICK:
How much was that?

MS. REILLY:
25,189.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Do you do any outside fundraising?

MS. REILLY:

Yes, we do. We have a formal dinner and a golf outing. And last year we raised \$17,188. The year before about 14,5.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

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

MS. REILLY:

It's 37 percent. But after listening to what you said to the last group, I am the director of the agency but I also provide direct services to clients. So if we had to work that out, it probably would be a little less.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Probably a lot less.

MS. REILLY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And does the CEO make more than twenty percent of the agency's total budget?

MS. REILLY:

No. It's 19 percent. But again with the direct services that I provide, I don't know if that would change the number because I am the chief executive officer of the agency. About half of my time is youth spent.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Right. That's where the confusion comes with small agencies. It isn't so easy to define where your administrative hat ends and where your program hat starts, you know. It's a little hard to judge. Anybody have any other questions? Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

For the youth services and the community services that you provide, is there an umbrella group that would -- that you would meet with over Suffolk County or Nassau/Suffolk, is there some organization that you belong to that would have other similar types of --

MS. REILLY:

Yes. There's a Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau Project Director Association as well as the Suffolk County Youth Services Project Director's Association. So the Town of Brookhaven -- it's all of the agencies that are contracted through the Town of Brookhaven, youth Bureaus. The directors meet on a monthly basis. And for Suffolk County it's every other month the director of agencies providing youth services meet.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is that with a Suffolk County agency or -- that's a not-for-profit also; right?

MS. REILLY:

The association itself?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

MS. REILLY:

Is a not-for-profit agency in and of itself. It's a membership type agency. And we do invite members from the Suffolk County Youth Bureau to attend as well just to hear, you know, what's going on in the community.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because one thing I raised on the budget last year was, you know, we're looking for uniformity of basically programs throughout all Suffolk County. So if Brookhaven has something that's working and you can see a decrease in maybe juvenile delinquency and things of that nature, maybe it should be funded in, you know, like the other --

MS. REILLY:

Why not share the idea.

LEG. ALDEN:

Exactly. Right. And get something that would be more uniform across all Suffolk County. Because Nassau, while we care about Nassau County, they have their own budget and they can deal with their own problems.

MS. REILLY:

Well, we do share ideas. And I would love to say that some of the programs that I put into place since I've been the director were my ideas but -- I borrowed them and they're successful. And our kids are, you know responding very well to a lot of the programs that we provided.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good morning. Have you already signed your contract for 2007 --

MS. REILLY:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

-- with the County. And when was that, do you remember?

MS. REILLY:

It comes through the Youth Bureau. I think I received the executed contract back already. I think it was in May that we actually signed the contract.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

MS. REILLY:

You're welcome.

LEG. ALDEN:

Did you get money?

MS. REILLY:

Yes. We've gotten reimbursal. So that's a good sign, right?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yeah, yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

You're way ahead of the game.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. We don't have anything else for you. Thank you very much, ladies, for coming in and waiting and being patient with us.

MS. REILLY:

Just to clarify, we do vouch for -- the County money gets funneled to us through the town. We don't have a separate vouching system for the county. I don't know if that matters to you guys; no?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. So you're better off. Okay. Thank you very much.

**ROUTE 110 REDEVELOPMENT CORP.
(No one in attendance)**

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Route 110 Revelopment Corp? Nope. Islip Arts Council? Nope. Who are you with? AME? Oh, you're just observing. Okay. The Route 110 Development was supposed to be at 11:15. And Islip Arts Council is scheduled for 11:30. So one of them still might be in.

But while I have everybody here, our next meeting is scheduled for the 23rd, which I'm not going to be here. And I wanted to see if you wanted to move the meeting to the 20th. All right? 10:00.

MR. ORTIZ:

Just looking at the form 990 for North Amityville, it looks like their administrative expenses are just under 20 percent.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. ORTIZ:

But they were including all their payroll in that 60 percent.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yeah, that's what I figured.

LEG. MONTANO:

With respect to 110, what's their budget? Could you just look it up for me?

MR. ORTIZ:

Sure.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't have anything in front me.

MS. ORTIZ:

46,250.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What is that number for?

MS. ORTIZ:

The 2007 adopted. It was 100,000 back in 2005.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We'll take a short recess.

(RECESS TAKEN)